

SSC BANKING MANTHAN

Current Affairs Supplement

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Preface

Dear Readers,

The “Current Affairs” section is an integral part of any examination. This edition of Manthan has been developed by our team to help you cover all the important events of the month for the upcoming exams like Banking, Insurance, CLAT, MBA etc. This comprehensive bulletin will help you prepare the section in a vivid manner. We hope that our sincere efforts will serve you in a better way to fulfil aspirations.

Happy Reading!

Best Wishes

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POLITY AND GOVERNANCE

National



The first Asian Buddhist Summit held in New Delhi

- In November 2024, the **first Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS)** was organised by India's Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in New Delhi, India. It's a significant international gathering aimed at fostering dialogue, promoting understanding, and addressing contemporary challenges in the Buddhist community across Asia. **The theme of this summit is on 'Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia'.**
- Key Themes of the Summit: **Buddhist Art, Architecture, and Heritage:** Highlights the rich cultural legacy of Buddhist landmarks like Sanchi Stupa and Ajanta caves. **Buddha Carika and Dissemination of Buddha Dhamma:** Focuses on Buddha's travels (Buddha Carika) and his role in spreading teachings across India. **Role of Buddhist Relics and its Relevance in Society:** Buddha relics inspire devotion and mindfulness, support local economies through pilgrimage tourism, and promote peace and compassion. **Role of Buddhist Literature and Philosophy in the 21st Century:** Demonstrates Buddhism's enduring relevance in modern philosophical discourse. **Buddha Dhamma in Scientific Research and Well-being:** Integrates Buddhist principles with scientific research to enhance mental and physical health.
- A special exhibition titled **"India as the Dhamma Setu (Bridge) connecting Asia"** highlighted India's role in spreading Buddhism across Asia. The summit supports India's Act East Policy and Neighborhood First Policy, focusing on collective, inclusive, and spiritual development in Asia. The journey of Buddha Dhamma began in the 6th century BCE when Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment and began sharing his profound insights. Following the Buddha's Mahaparinirvana, his teachings were preserved and disseminated by his followers, leading to the emergence of the three major Buddhist traditions: **Theravada, Mahayana, and Vajrayana.**

Buddhism started in India over 2,600 years ago as a way life that had a potential of transforming a person. It is one of the important religions of South and South-Eastern Asian countries. The religion is based upon the teachings, life experiences of its founder Siddhartha Gautam, born in circa 563 BCE. He was born into royal family of Sakya clan who ruled from Kapilvastu, in Lumbini which is situated near the Indo-Nepal Border. At the age of 29, Gautama left home and rejected his life of riches and embraced a lifestyle of asceticism, or extreme self-discipline. After 49 consecutive days of meditation, Gautama attained Bodhi (enlightenment) under a pipal tree at Bodhgaya, a village in Bihar. Buddha gave his first sermon in the village of Sarnath, near the city of Benares in Uttar Pradesh. This event is known as Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana (turning of the wheel of law). He died at the age of 80 in 483 BCE at a place called Kushinagara a town in Uttar Pradesh. The event is known as Mahaparinibban. The main teachings of Buddhism are encapsulated in the basic concept of four noble truths or ariya-sachchani and eightfold path or astangika marg. Four noble truths: 1. Suffering (dukkha) is the essence of the world. 2. Every suffering has a cause – Samudya. 3. Suffering could be extinguished – Nirodha. 4. It can be achieved by following the Atthanga Magga (Eight Fold Path). The essence of Buddhism is the attainment of enlightenment. It points to a way of life that avoids self-indulgence and self-denial. There is no supreme god or deity in Buddhism.

7th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held in New Delhi

- The 7th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), which was held in New Delhi from November 3 to 6, 2024, focused on accelerating solar energy deployment across its Member Countries, particularly in regions with limited energy access.
- The ISA launched several key initiatives to advance global solar energy adoption. The **SolarX Startup Challenge**, introduced at COP27, supported innovative solar businesses in ISA Member Countries. The **STAR-C Initiative** strengthened solar technology skills in developing economies, while the **Global Solar Facility** catalyzed investment in underserved regions, particularly Africa. The **Viability Gap Funding Scheme** provided grants to solar projects in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, easing financial barriers. The **Solar Data Portal** offered real-time data to inform investment decisions, and the **International Solar Festival** fostered global collaboration on solar solutions. Additionally, the **Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre** explored synergies between solar energy and hydrogen, and the **ISA Knowledge Series** and **World Solar Reports** promoted research, insights, and market trends, positioning ISA as a leading advocate for solar energy worldwide.
- The seventh session of the ISA Assembly elected **Mr. Ashish Khanna from India as its third Director General**. The other office candidates included Mr Wisdom Ahiataku —Togobo from Ghana and Mr Gosaye Mengistie Abayneh from Ethiopia. **The Director General of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) played a pivotal role in advancing the organization’s mandate**. This included supporting member countries in addressing shared challenges and fostering coordinated efforts to accelerate the global deployment of solar energy. The seventh session also elected its **President** and **Co-President** for 2024–2026. **India** was the sole candidate for President, while **France** won the Co-Presidency over **Grenada**. **The International Solar Alliance is an international organisation with 120 Member and Signatory countries**.
- It works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promote solar power as a sustainable transition to a carbon-neutral future. **ISA’s mission is to unlock US\$1 trillion of investments in solar by 2030 while reducing the cost of the technology and its financing**. It promotes the use of solar energy in the agriculture, health, transport, and power generation sectors. ISA Member Countries are driving change by enacting policies and regulations, sharing best practices, agreeing on common standards, and mobilising investments. **ISA aims to transform lives, bring clean, reliable, and affordable energy to community’s worldwide, fuel sustainable growth, and improve quality of life**.

The genesis of ISA came from a shared vision between India and France to combat climate change through the widespread adoption of solar energy technologies. The founding conference of ISA was held on March 11, 2018, in India marked a significant step in mobilizing international efforts toward solar deployment. **The ISA aims to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in the areas of affordable and clean energy (SDG 7) and climate action (SDG 13)**. Initially focused on developing countries, **the ISA’s Framework Agreement was amended in 2020 to allow all United Nations member states to join, further broadening its reach and reinforcing the global nature of the alliance**. Today, the ISA represents 120 signatories, including 102 fully ratified member countries, making it a vital global coalition in the renewable energy landscape¹. The Assembly meets annually at the ISA’s headquarters to assess the impact of programs and activities on solar energy deployment, performance, reliability, cost, and financing scale. **The International Solar Alliance (ISA) aims to unlock US\$1 trillion in solar investments by 2030 through its ‘Towards 1000’ strategy, focusing on reducing both technology and financing costs**. This ambitious plan aims to provide energy access to 1 billion people and install 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity. Achieving these targets would significantly mitigate global carbon emissions, **reducing 1,000 million tonnes of CO₂ annually**.

ISA releases World Solar Report series

- The 3rd edition of the World Solar Report series was released at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance focusing on global solar growth; investment trends, technological advancements, and Africa’s green hydrogen potential were released.
- The newly launched 4 reports namely World Solar Market Report, World Investment Report, World Technology Report, and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries each highlight a crucial area in the global shift towards sustainable energy.

- **The World Solar report series was released by President of the ISA Assembly and India’s Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Joshi. First introduced in 2022**, this report series provides a concise and comprehensive overview of global progress in solar technology, key challenges, and investment trends in the sector. The latest edition emphasizes the vital role of solar energy in advancing sustainable energy solutions worldwide, offering stakeholders valuable insights into the industry’s rapid evolution.
- **The World Solar Market Report reveals exceptional solar growth, with global capacity soaring from 1.22 GW in 2000 to 1,418.97 GW in 2023.** Manufacturing is set to exceed demand, making solar more affordable. Solar jobs have surged to 7.1 million, and **global capacity may reach 7,203 GW by 2030.** India’s commitment to renewable energy and climate action laid the groundwork for the formation of the ISA. **India’s ambitious renewable energy goals, mainly its target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy by 2030,** align closely with the ISA’s mission to drive solar energy adoption worldwide. This goal is part of the broader **Panchamrit Initiative**, which aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable development
- **The latest World Investment Report highlights a global shift toward sustainable energy, with energy investments rising from \$2.4 trillion in 2018 to \$3.1 trillion by 2024.** Solar leads renewable energy investments, accounting for 59% of the total, driven by lower costs, with APAC emerging as the top investing region. **The World Technology Report showcases advancements in solar technology, emphasising breakthroughs in efficiency, sustainability, and affordability.** Highlights include record-setting 24.9% efficiency in solar PV modules, an 88% reduction in silicon usage since 2004, and a 90% drop in utility-scale solar PV costs, fostering resilient, cost-effective energy solutions. **Readiness Assessment of Green Hydrogen African Countries highlights green hydrogen’s potential to decarbonise industries heavily reliant on fossil fuels,** such as steel and fertilizer production. Produced via renewable-powered electrolysis, green hydrogen offers a viable alternative to coal, oil, and gas, supporting Africa’s transition to cleaner energy.

The Prime Minister of India at the COP-26 Glasgow summit presented five nectar elements, Panchamrit, to deal with climate change: 1. India will reach its non-fossil installed electricity capacity to 500 GW by 2030. 2. India will meet 50% of its electricity requirements from renewable energy by 2030. 3. India will reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes from now onwards till 2030. 4. By 2030, India will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by less than 45%. 5. By the year 2070, India will achieve the target of Net-zero.

World’s first geothermal CA store to be built in Kinnaur with Iceland’s help

- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** announced that the **world’s first controlled atmosphere storage facility (CA store) with geothermal technology** would be **constructed at Tapri in Kinnaur district in collaboration with Iceland.** He presided over the closing ceremony of the four-day state-level Kinnaur Mahotsav. Sukhu said that the state government had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iceland for the CA store. He added that a heliport and a sports complex would also be constructed in the district. The sports complex would be constructed at a cost of Rs. 28 crore to keep the youth away from drug abuse. **He provided ownership rights to the poor and landless people of the district by giving them land leases under the Forest Rights Act, 2006.**

Jaishankar visited Australia, Singapore from November 3-November 8

- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar reached Brisbane on a six day visit to Australia and Singapore.** During the visit, **Dr Jaishankar inaugurated India’s 4th consulate in Australia in Brisbane.** He also **co-chaired the 15th Foreign Ministers’ Framework Dialogue** with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong in Canberra. **The External Affairs Minister will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural session of the 2nd Raisina Down Under to be held in the Australian Parliament House,** who said ties between the two countries have been transformed in recent years by developments such as a trade deal that opened numerous opportunities.
- **India’s External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, arrived in Singapore and held discussions with Singapore’s Foreign Minister, Vivian Balakrishnan, to review the progress of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations.** Earlier, Jaishankar met with Singapore’s Deputy Prime Minister, Gan Kim Yong, to focus on advancing bilateral cooperation in industrial parks, innovation, and semiconductor development. Jaishankar also addressed the ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks at its 8th Roundtable, reiterating India’s dedication to ASEAN centrality as part of its broader engagement in the Indo-Pacific and with the Quad.

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar is an Indian diplomat, politician and author, who is **-serving the thirtieth Minister of External Affairs of the Government of India** since 31 May 2019. He is a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party and has been a **Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha since 5 July 2019**. He previously served as the Foreign Secretary from January 2015 to January 2018. **Jaishankar is the first former Foreign Secretary of India to head the Ministry of External Affairs as the Cabinet Minister.**

Nagaland becomes first state to implement Disaster Insurance

- **Nagaland has become the first Indian state to implement a comprehensive disaster insurance scheme.** The state signed an agreement with SBI General Insurance to implement the program. The scheme is named the Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS). The scheme is a significant step towards strengthening disaster preparedness and resilience. It addresses the state's vulnerability to natural disasters like landslides, floods, and earthquakes. The initiative is expected to serve as a model for other states in India.

Nagaland is a state in the north-eastern region of India. It is bordered by the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh to the north, Assam to the west, Manipur to the south, and the Naga Self-Administered Zone of the Sagaing Region of Myanmar (Burma) to the east. **Its capital city is Kohima. Neiphiu Guolhoulie Rio is the current Chief Minister of Nagaland. La Ganesan Iyer serves as the current Governor of Nagaland.**

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Regional Conference held in New Delhi

- **Members of Parliament from the federal and state level in India met for the 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Regional Conference,** held in New Delhi, India from 23 to 24 September 2024. The Regional Conference was hosted in Parliament House by the CPA India Union Branch and brought together Commonwealth Parliamentarians from across India. This is the second time that New Delhi has hosted the CPA India Regional Conference. Participants shared their experiences of parliamentary democracy and attended panels on the theme of 'The role of legislative bodies in the attainment of sustainable and inclusive development'.
- **The Chairperson of the CPA India Region, Hon. Om Birla, MP, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha of India** officially opened the CPA Regional Conference and spoke to delegates on the main theme: "Legislative institutions play a crucial role in promoting sustainable development. I urge **Legislators to reflect on their contributions to public welfare over the past seven decades since Indian Independence and call for collective efforts to achieve inclusive progress.**" Forty-six Presiding Officers, including 4 Chairpersons, 25 Speakers, 3 Deputy Chairpersons and 14 Deputy Speakers from all Indian State and Territorial Legislatures were in attendance. Before the Regional Conference, an Executive Committee meeting of the CPA India Region also took place.

Indian Air Force Approves Production of Astra Mark 1 Missiles

- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently given Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) the go-ahead to manufacture 200 Astra Mark 1 air-to-air missiles.** This is a big step forward for India's homegrown missile production abilities. The decision was made when Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, the IAF Deputy Chief, visited the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Hyderabad.
- The Astra Mark 1 missiles were developed by DRDO, and BDL is the main company chosen to produce them. The project received funding approval from the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) of **over Rs. 2,900 crore during the 2022-23 fiscal year, after the missiles successfully passed all required tests.**

India Successfully Launches Agni-4 Ballistic Missile in Odisha

- **India recently conducted a successful test of the Agni-4 ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.** The test was carried out by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), confirming the missile's performance and technical abilities. **Agni-4 is an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) and surface-to-surface missile developed by India.** It is a key part of India's strategy to strengthen its defense capabilities. The missile is designed to enhance India's ability to respond to threats with precision and effectiveness. **The range increased even further with Agni-4, which can hit as far as 4,000 kilometres. The 20-metre-long missile can carry a payload of 1,000 kg and can be fired from a road-mobile launcher.**

The Agni missile was developed as part of India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) in 1983, which also produced the Prithvi, Nag, Akash, and Trishul missiles. Agni-1 to 5 missiles are designed & developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Agni I: Range of 700-800 km. Agni II: Range more than 2000 km. Agni III: Range of more than 2,500 Km. Agni IV: Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher. Agni-V: The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

Rajasthan Approves 33% Women's Reservation In Police Force

- **The Government of Rajasthan**, led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), made a significant decision on September 4, 2024, to reserve **33% of jobs in the police force for women**. This decision was part of the BJP's promise made during the 2023 election campaign to increase the number of women in important state jobs.

Rajasthan is a state in northern India. It is the **largest Indian state by area** and the **seventh largest by population**. It is on India's northwestern side, where it comprises most of the wide and **inhospitable Thar Desert (also known as the Great Indian Desert)** and shares a border with the Pakistani provinces of Punjab to the northwest and Sindh to the west, along the Sutlej-Indus River valley. **Kalraj Mishra is serving as the Governor of Rajasthan.** **Bhajan Lal Sharma is current chief minister of Rajasthan since December 2023.**

Indian Navy Hosts Goa Maritime Symposium 2024

- **The Indian Navy hosts the fifth edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS-24) at the Naval War College in Goa** from September 23 to 24, 2024. The symposium is focused on strengthening cooperation and security among countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). **The theme for GMS-24 is "Common Maritime Security Challenges in the Indian Ocean Region."** The symposium will focus on addressing threats such as Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing, along with other illegal activities that threaten maritime safety and security. **The Goa Maritime Symposium began in 2016 as an annual event organized by the Indian Navy.**

India, Vietnam hold first bilateral military exercise involving armies and air forces

- Adding to the growing trajectory of the India-Vietnam defence relationship, the militaries of both countries began their bilateral exercise Vinbax 2024 at an enhanced level for the first time. **The fifth edition of the Vietnam Indian Bilateral Army Exercise "Vinbax 2024" commenced at Ambala.** **The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from November 4-23 at Ambala and Chandimandir.** This is a sequel to the bilateral exercise in Vietnam in 2023. The aim of Vinbax 2024 is to enhance joint military capability of both sides in employment and deployment of Engineer Company and Medical Teams to undertake engineering tasks as part of United Nations Contingent in Peace Keeping Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

- **The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025: Embracing Unity in the Sacred Waters of Prayagraj** In a world marked by the hustle of modernity, few events hold the power to bring millions together in pursuit of something greater than themselves. **The Maha Kumbh Mela, a sacred pilgrimage that is celebrated four times over a course of 12 years,** stands as a unique embodiment of such power. Kumbh Mela, the world's largest peaceful gathering, draws millions of pilgrims who bathe in sacred rivers seeking to purify themselves from sins and attain spiritual liberation. As pilgrims prepare for their journey to Prayagraj from January 13 to February 26, **they will not only engage in a series of spiritual rituals but also embark on an odyssey that transcends physical, cultural, and even spiritual boundaries.**
- **Kumbh Mela or Kumbha Mela is a major pilgrimage and festival in Hinduism.** On 4 February 2019, Kumbh Mela witnessed the largest peaceful public gathering of humans ever recorded. **It is celebrated in a cycle of approximately 12 years, to celebrate every revolution Brihaspati (Jupiter) completes, at four river-bank pilgrimage sites: Prayagraj (Ganges-Yamuna-Sarasvati rivers confluence), Haridwar (Ganges), Nashik (Godavari), and Ujjain (Shipra).** The festival is marked by a ritual dip in the waters. The festival is traditionally credited to the 8th-century Hindu philosopher and saint Adi Shankara, as a part of his efforts to start major Hindu gatherings for philosophical discussions and debates along with Hindu monasteries across the Indian subcontinent.

Telangana, Tamil Nadu Top in GSDP Growth

- **Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan have been recognized as the fastest-growing large states in India by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).** These states have achieved impressive economic growth, surpassing the national average GDP growth rate of 8.2%. This means their economies are expanding at a faster pace than the country's overall economic growth.
- **Telangana's economy grew by 9.2%, reaching a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of Rs. 7.9 lakh crore.** This is a significant increase, showing that the state's economy is strong and growing rapidly. Tamil Nadu's economy grew by 8.2%, with its GSDP reaching ₹15.7 lakh crore. This makes Tamil Nadu one of the top-performing states in terms of economic growth.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is defined as the total monetary or market value of all the finished goods and services produced within a country's borders in a specific time period. It measures the value of total output in the economy by tracking the total demand. Nominal GDP measures the total value of a country's goods and services at current market prices, while real GDP is the same value adjusted for inflation

Centre, Tripura sign peace pact with Tripura insurgent groups

- **Recently, the Central Government, the state government of Tripura, and two major insurgent groups namely the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) signed a peace agreement to end violence in the state.** This agreement will end a 35-year-long conflict in the state, renouncing violence and committing to build a prosperous and developed Tripura.
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that more than 300 armed cadres of two insurgent groups in Tripura have given up violence to join the mainstream and will "contribute not only in building a developed Tripura but also in building a developed India".** He said that the **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was removed from Tripura in 2015 itself and it has also been withdrawn from many parts of the Northeast.** "Instead of deployment of armed forces, Modi government is committed to the development of the entire Northeast by preservation and development of the culture, languages, identity of Northeast, especially the tribal groups," Mr. Shah said. **A Memorandum of Settlement was signed between the Government of India, Government of Tripura and the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) in the presence of Mr. Shah.**
- **"Under the agreement signed with NLFT and ATTF, more than 328 armed cadres will give up violence and join the mainstream of society and contribute not only in building a developed Tripura but also in building a developed India.** Government is making wholehearted efforts with due consideration to all sensitivities in implementation of all the agreements to ensure development of the area and eliminate the reasons responsible for people to take up arms," Mr. Shah said. He added that the **Centre has approved a special package of Rs. 250 crore for the overall development of the tribal population of Tripura.**

Ganga Utsav 2024 at Haridwar

- **Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri C R Patil inaugurates Ganga Utsav 2024 at Chandi Ghat in Haridwar** in presence of Minister of State for Jal Shakti Shri Raj Bhushan Chaudhary and Uttarakhand Minister for Women & Child Welfare Smt. Rekha Arya.
- **Ganga Utsav 2024 is organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) to mark the anniversary of declaring the Ganga River as the National River.** The primary aim of this festival is to promote the conservation of the Ganga River, emphasize its cultural and spiritual importance, and raise public awareness about cleanliness. This eighth edition of the event was the first to be held on the riverbank, with celebrations extending across 139 districts in the Ganga basin states. Each state hosted a main event organized by District Ganga Committees.

Third edition of the high-level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR

- **The third edition of the high-level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR was conducted by the Indian Navy.** The interaction's theme was **'Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR'**, which highlights the present and necessary imperatives for Training Corporation towards mitigation of common maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean Region.

- **MAHASAGAR** which stands for vast ocean in Hindi is the Indian Navy's flagship outreach for high-level virtual interaction between Maritime Heads for Active Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). The initiative, started by the Indian Navy, is conducted bi-annually and has garnered wide acceptance among the participating nations ever since its inception in 2023. During the current edition, the principals candidly dwelled on the imperatives of quality training and opportunities for training collaboration between IOR littorals towards developing requisite capacities and skilled manpower to tackle Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR.

Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) is India's maritime policy that aims to enhance cooperation and trust with its neighboring countries in the Indian Ocean region. The policy was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015. The goals of SAGAR include: Maritime cooperation: Increasing maritime cooperation and resolving maritime issues peacefully. International law: Ensuring that all countries in the region adhere to international maritime rules and norms. Economic growth: Promoting sustainable development and economic growth. Cultural ties: Strengthening cultural and people-to-people ties between nations.

NITI Aayog launches 15-Day 'Jal Utsav' To Create Awareness and Sensitivity towards Water Conservation

- NITI Aayog has launched the 15-day 'Jal Utsav' to create awareness and sensitivity towards water management, conservation and sustainability. The campaign follows the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who mooted the idea of 'Jal Utsav' on the lines of 'Nadi Utsav' during the 3rd Chief Secretaries Conference held.
- NITI Aayog said, **Jal Utsav is being implemented in 20 Aspirational Districts and Blocks.** This is in partnership with National Jal Jeevan Mission, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The Festival being launched across 20 states, envisages community participation in preservation and protection of water resources. It seeks to instill a sense of responsibility towards efficient water use among households and water management among utilities and agencies. School students are being enrolled in this initiative in water management activities, empowering them to act as catalysts for change within their families and communities. **The fortnight-long festival is being launched with 'Jal Bandhan' – the symbolic tying of sacred thread on water assets by eminent personalities and local leaders.** They would also launch "Fact Sheet on Jal Sampada" of their blocks and districts.

Agrivoltaic Farming Focuses On Simultaneous Use of Land for Agriculture & Solar Energy

- The Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) culminated in New Delhi. A visit to a farm site at Najafgarh was organized on the concluding day. During the site visit, the practical implementation of agrivoltaic systems was showcased to the delegates of various countries. **Agrivoltaic farming primarily focuses on the simultaneous use of land for both agriculture and solar energy generation.** Uganda's Minister of State for Energy, Okaasai Opolot called India an innovative country and said that he is impressed by the practice of growing crops on the same land with solar panels.
- Another delegate from the Democratic Republic of Congo expressed happiness at attending the ISA assembly and said that he is very impressed by the way energy is being utilized. **The seventh session of the ISA was held in New Delhi under the presidency of India and the co-presidency of France.** Ministers, mission heads and delegates from 120 Member and Signatory Countries, along with partner organizations and stakeholders, attended the Assembly. The major focus of the three-day event was on initiatives to improve energy access, security, and transition. The alliance works with governments to improve energy access and security worldwide and promotes solar power as a sustainable transition to a carbon-neutral future.

Madhya Pradesh Increases Women's Reservation To 35% In All Government Jobs

- **In Madhya Pradesh, women will now get 35 percent reservation instead of 33 percent in all government jobs in the state.** The increased reservation for women in Madhya Pradesh will apply to all categories including SC, ST and OBC. As per the notification, **35 percent of the reserved posts for each category will be given to women candidates of the same category.** Actually, the then Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan had announced to increase the reservation for women to 35 percent just before the assembly elections last year, but due to the assembly elections, it could not get the approval of the cabinet.

Project Shaurya Gatha to conserve and promote India's military heritage launched

- Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan inaugurated the 2nd edition of the annual Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) in New Delhi. The two-day festival being held on November 08-09, 2024 aims to engage global and Indian think tanks, corporations, public and private sector undertakings, non-profits, academicians, and research scholars focusing on India's national security, foreign policy, military history and military heritage.
- CDS also launched Project 'Shaurya Gatha', an initiative of the Department of Military Affairs and the USI of India, which aims to conserve and promote India's military heritage through education and tourism. Gen Chauhan also released prominent publications on military topics including Because of this: A History of the Indo-Pak Air War December 1971 by Air Marshal Vikram Singh (Retd); Valour and Honour – a joint publication of the Indian Army and USI of India; and War-wounded, Disabled Soldiers, And Cadets – a joint publication of USI and War Wounded Federation.

Gujarat becomes India's first state to implement a dedicated semiconductor policy

- In alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious vision for a Viksit Bharat@2047, the Gujarat government, led by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, has launched the nation's first 'Gujarat Semiconductor Policy 2022-2027'.
- Under CM Patel's leadership, the foundation stone for Micron's advanced semiconductor ATMP plant was laid in Sanand, marking an investment of over Rs. 22,500 crore. In Dholera, known as 'Semicon City', Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) and Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC) are collaborating to build India's first AI-enabled semiconductor fabrication plant, an investment exceeding Rs. 91,000 crore. Additionally, CG Power and Renesas have committed to setting up a state-of-the-art Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) facility in Sanand with a project investment of over Rs. 7,500 crore.

First Integrated Check Post along India-Bhutan opened in Assam

- The first Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the India-Bhutan border was inaugurated at Darranga in Assam. Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya inaugurated the ICP in presence of Prime Minister of Bhutan Dasho Tshering Tobgay.
- ICP Darranga, sprawling across 14.5 acres and located about 700 metres from the India-Bhutan border, is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including an office complex, parking areas, loading and unloading zones, a weighbridge, a warehouse, and residential quarters for officials. Developed by Land Ports Authority of India, it also features inspection spaces, plant quarantine systems and parking facilities to ensure efficient operations. The strategic location of Darranga is further boosted by its connectivity. On the Indian side, it is well-connected to National Highway 27 near Rangia, while on the Bhutanese side, robust customs infrastructure at Samdrup-Jongkhar ensures efficient trade.

7 Indian Institutions Make It to Top 100 of QS World University Rankings- Asia 2025

- Seven Indian institutions have secured a place in the Top 100 of the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025. India is home to two universities in the top 50 and seven in the top 100, with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi leading at 44th place. The Ministry of Education said in a statement that this edition highlights India's impressive upward trajectory in higher education across the continent. IIT Bombay is ranked 48th, while IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, the Indian Institute of Science, IIT Kanpur, and the University of Delhi are the other Indian institutes in the Top 100, showcasing India's robust academic standing.
- Institutions such as IIT Guwahati, IIT Roorkee, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chandigarh University, UPES, and Vellore Institute of Technology are in the Top 150. This ranking assesses 984 institutions across 25 countries in Eastern, Southern, South-Eastern, and Central Asia. India stands out with the highest number of institutes in the latest rankings, showcasing a diverse array of both emerging and well-established universities.
- The Indian education sector has made impressive strides, both globally and within Asia, as evidenced by the QS World University Rankings 2025. India earlier saw the inclusion of 46 institutions in the 2025 edition compared to just 11 in 2015 edition showcasing a 318 per cent increase in last 10 years among G20 nations.

India Gifts 2 Water-Jet-Propelled FICs to Mozambique

- **India gifted two water-jet-propelled Fast Interceptor Crafts (FICs) to Mozambique as part of its capacity-building engagements with friendly foreign nations of the Indian Ocean Region.** The FICs were transhipped from India by INS Gharial. The Defence Ministry said these water-jet-propelled boats have a top speed of 45 knots and a range of 200 nautical miles at 12 knots. They can carry a crew of five personnel and are equipped with machine guns and bullet-resistant cabins. The two FICs will significantly aid Mozambique in its efforts to combat maritime terrorism and the ongoing insurgency in Cabo Delgado province.

PM-Vidyalaxmi for collateral-free loans to students

- The Union Cabinet, led by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi, has **approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme to support meritorious students by providing financial assistance for quality higher education.** This scheme **offers collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans for students** admitted to the top 860 institutions across India, benefiting over 22 lakh students each year. **With a budget allocation of Rs. 3,600 crore from 2024-25 to 2030-31, the scheme aims to assist an additional 7 lakh students.** Implemented through a fully digital, transparent, and student-centric platform, PM-Vidyalaxmi ensures easy access and smooth interoperability for students nationwide. Students will be provided a 75% credit guarantee by the central government for loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh. Students, with an annual family income of up to Rs. 8 lakh, who are ineligible for benefits under any other government scholarship or interest subvention schemes, will be provided 3% interest subvention for loan up to Rs.. 10 lakh during the moratorium period.
- **It aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and aims to provide collateral-free, guarantor-free loans to students.** Students enrolled in institutions ranked within the **top 100 by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)**, and those in the 101-200 range from state government and all central government governed institutions. The Department of Higher Education will launch the **“PM-Vidyalaxmi” portal** for students to apply for education loans and interest subvention, with payments made via **E-voucher and Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) wallets.** The scheme supplements the two components, **Credit Guarantee Fund for Education Loans (CGFSEL)** and **Central Sector Interest Subsidy (CSIS)**, under the existing **PM-Uchchatar Shiksha Protsahan (PM-USP) scheme.** PM-USP CSIS offers full interest subvention for loans up to Rs. 10 lakh to students with family income up to Rs. 4.5 lakh, pursuing technical courses.

Accessibility for disabled persons is a human and a fundamental right: SC judgment

- **The Supreme Court has confirmed that disabled persons’ right to access environments, services and opportunities is an essential human and fundamental right** which has hardly been realised on the ground. Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, in a judgment quoted that **disability was a tragedy only if society failed to provide the differently abled with things essential to lead their lives.**
- **The Supreme Court said the society does not even bother to enquire into the ‘right to relationships’ of persons with disabilities.** “The emotional and relational challenges faced by PWDs, particularly regarding access to love, desire, and intimac. Emotional needs, such as privacy and self-pleasure, are often overlooked, leaving disabled individuals, especially those living with families, without private spaces to express these needs.
- The court urged the government to **create universal accessible public and private spaces, services, and products as mandated in Rule 15 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017.** Rule 15 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules, 2017 covers **accessibility of physical environment, transport, and information and communication technology.**
- **The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 aims to protect and promote the rights of persons with disabilities (PwDs).** It aims to give effect to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which India ratified in 2007. **A person with a benchmark disability is defined as someone with at least 40% of a specified disability.** Initiatives Related to the Empowerment of the Disabled: Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances, Accessible India Campaign, and Unique Disability Identification Portal.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna sworn in as 51st Chief Justice of India

- **President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) to Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjiv Khanna on November 11, 2024.** The swearing-in ceremony of the 51st

Chief Justice of India at Rashtrapati Bhavan saw Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, government Ministers, former Chief Justices of India, sitting and retired judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts in attendance.

- After being sworn in, Chief Justice Khanna acknowledged the gathered audience before travelling the short distance to the Supreme Court to preside at court one — as the Chief Justice’s court is called— to hear the 47 cases listed before him and his Bench companion, Justice Sanjay Kumar. **Justice Khanna succeeds Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, who retired on November 10, 2024, and his term will last until May 13, 2025.**
- **Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who was elevated as a judge of the Supreme Court on January 18, 2019, was a third-generation lawyer before being appointed as judge of the High Court.** He is driven by the zeal to reduce pendency and speed up justice delivery. **Justice Sanjiv Khanna**, who has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgments such as the scrapping of the electoral bonds scheme and upholding abrogation of Article 370.
- Next door, in court two, where he had presided for months before his appointment as Chief Justice on November 11, hangs the **life-size portrait of his uncle, the legendary Justice H.R. Khanna, whose championing of personal liberty during the dark days of Emergency in 1977 cost him his Chief Justiceship of India.** The story of the elder Justice Khanna still resonates as activists and citizens booked under draconian laws struggle for bail.
- **Chief Justice Khanna, in his decision to grant former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal interim bail, had termed personal liberty a sacrosanct right on finding that the latter had been incarcerated for over 90 days in the liquor policy case.** Justice Khanna (as he was then) had also asked a larger Bench to decide bail conditions that could be applied in cases similar to Mr. Kejriwal’s, when the sitting Chief Minister, in an unprecedented move by the Central agencies, was arrested and remanded on money-laundering charges.
- Another notable judgment of Justice Khanna, who had sat in over 450 Benches in the apex court, was his verdict **giving the thumbs-up to EVMs while declining to revive paper ballots.** Justice Khanna, in that judgment, had favoured maintaining balance and criticised the tendency to blindly distrust institutions and systems, saying such an attitude would only breed “unwarranted skepticism and impede progress”.
- Recently Justice Khanna made a point while hearing petitions **challenging the inclusion of ‘secularism’ and ‘socialism’ in the Preamble through the 42nd Amendment.** He had observed that secularism was always a part of the Constitution and an ingredient of its Basic Structure. In the past five years as Supreme Court judge, Justice Khanna’s experience on the Bench has varied. **He was part of the Bench headed by then Chief Justice Gogoi that heard on, April 20, 2019, sexual harassment allegations levelled by a former Supreme Court staffer against the Chief Justice.** His court refused to intervene in a case against the elevation of Madras High Court judge, Justice Lekshmana Chandra Victoria Gowri.
- As a lawyer, he was a senior standing Counsel for the Income Tax Department and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. He had appeared as Additional Public Prosecutor and amicus curiae in the High Court. **He was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and made a Permanent Judge in 2006.** He was one of the few judges elevated to the Supreme Court directly from his parent High Court. He had never functioned as a Chief Justice of a State High Court. **He had superseded 32 High Court judges ahead of him in seniority to be appointed apex court judge.** Justice Khanna assumed office as Supreme Court judge on January 18, 2019.

The Supreme Court of India came into being on 28 January 1950. It replaced both the Federal Court of India and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council which were then at the apex of the Indian court system. The first Chief Justice of India was Sir H J Kania. Originally, the Constitution of India envisaged a supreme court with a chief justice and seven judges; leaving it to parliament to increase this number. At present, SC is consisting of the Chief Justice of India and 33 sanctioned other judges. The motto of the Supreme Court is ‘Yato Dharmastato Jayah’, means “whence law (dharma), thence victory”. It is also referred to – as the wheel of righteousness, encompassing truth, goodness and equity. Sanjiv Khanna is an Indian jurist currently serving as the 51st Chief Justice of India. He is ex-officio Patron-in-Chief of the National Legal Services Authority and the de facto Chancellor of the National Law School of India University.

Galathea Bay on Great Nicobar Island has been designated as India's 13th major port

- **The mega International Container Transshipment Port (ICTP) at Galathea Bay, located on Great Nicobar Island in the Bay of Bengal, has been officially designated as the 13th major port in India.** Kamarajar Port located on the Coromandel Coast (Chennai) was named the country's 12th major port.
- **Currently, nearly 75% of India's transshipped cargo is handled at foreign ports, the ICTP aims to reduce this dependency.** It could help Indian ports save an estimated USD 200-220 million annually in transshipment charges. As a major port, Galathea Bay is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways. Major ports are owned and managed by the central government and receive direct administrative oversight and central funding. **Great Nicobar Island is the southernmost and largest of the Nicobar Islands.** The Andaman and Nicobar Islands consist of 836 islands, divided into two groups: **the northern Andaman Islands and the southern Nicobar Islands separated by the 10° Channel.**

The Government of India has approved the project proposal for setting up a Major Port at Vadhavan, Palghar District, Maharashtra, at an estimated total project cost, including the land acquisition component, of Rs. 76,220 crore on 19.06.2024. The shareholding between the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority and Maharashtra Maritime Board is 74% and 26%, respectively, for construction of the project involving development of core infrastructure, terminals, and other commercial infrastructure through public-private partnership (PPP) mode with various benefits such as creation of a total capacity of 298 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA); EXIM trade flow facilitation through the India Middle East Europe Economic Corridor and the International North South Transportation Corridor; accommodation of mainline mega vessels operating on international shipping routes connecting the Far East, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and America. **There are 13 Major Ports, viz., Major Ports of Chennai, Cochin, Deendayal (Kandla), Jawaharlal Nehru (Nhava Sheva), Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (erstwhile Kolkata Port), Mormugao, Mumbai, New Mangalore, Paradip, V. O. Chidambaram (Tuticorin), Visakhapatnam, Kamarajar Port Limited and Galathea Bay in Great Nicobar Island of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, under the Government of India (Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways).** **Mundra Port is India's first private port, largest container port and largest commercial port,** located on the northern shores of the Gulf of Kutch near Mundra, Kutch district, Gujarat. Jawaharlal Nehru Port, also known as JNPT and Nhava Sheva Port, is the second largest container port in India after Mundra Port. **Visakhapatnam Port is the largest harbor in Andhra Pradesh. The oldest port in India is the Port of Kolkata, also known as the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port. Krishnapatnam Port is known as the deepest port in India and it's made up of a draft of 18.5 meters.**

Supreme Court, In 4-3 Verdict, Overturns 1967 Ruling Denying Minority Status to AMU

- **A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court, by a 4-3 majority overruled the 1967 judgment in S. Azeez Basha vs. Union of India case that became the basis for denying the minority status to the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).** The 1967 judgment in the case had held that an institution incorporated by a statute cannot claim to be a minority institution.
- **The Apex court said that an institution will not lose its minority status merely because it was created by a statute.** The majority held that the Court must examine who established the University and who was the "brain" behind it. **If that enquiry is pointing towards minority community, then the institution can claim minority status as per Article 30 of the Constitution.** For this factual determination, the Constitution Bench relegated the matter to a regular bench. However, while the court dismantled the precedent, it left the final decision on AMU's minority status to a separate three-judge bench, to be constituted based on this ruling.
- **The majority opinion authored by Chief Justice Chandrachud and supported by Justices Sanjiv Khanna, J.B. Pardiwala, and Manoj Misra, rejects a rigid interpretation of the word "established" as used in Article 30(1) of the Constitution.** The 1967 ruling had narrowly interpreted "established and administered" to mean that an institution formed under legislative authority could not claim to be established by a minority group. The current majority judgment disputes this restrictive view, emphasising that incorporation through legislation does not automatically negate the minority status of an institution. The majority judgment asserts that determining an institution's minority status requires examining its historical origins and the intent behind its establishment.
- **The court must consider who initiated the institution, who provided the funds, and whether the founders were members of a minority community.** For instance, AMU, initially established as Muhammadan Anglo-

Oriental College in 1875 by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, aimed to uplift the Muslim community educationally and socially. It is not essential that the institution's sole purpose was to benefit only a minority group. An institution can be created primarily for a minority community's benefit without being exclusively for them.

- **The court clarified that administrative changes or control by non-minority members do not undermine the minority status if the institution was established by a minority.** Chief Justice Chandrachud reasoned that institutions emphasising on secular education might involve non-minority administrators, but this does not detract from their minority character. Thus, even if AMU's administration includes non-Muslim members, its minority status remains intact if it was established by the Muslim community for their benefit.
- According to the majority decision, **adhering strictly to legislative language would subjugate Fundamental Rights (like Article 30(1)) to statutory provisions**, a position the court deemed unacceptable. For example, the Aligarh Muslim University Act of 1920 incorporated AMU but did not diminish its roots in the Muslim community's educational vision. The court argued that an institution does not lose its minority character merely due to formal incorporation by the government.

Article 28 in Constitution of India: Freedom as to attendance at religious instruction or religious worship in certain educational institutions. (1) No religious instruction shall be provided in any educational institution wholly maintained out of State funds. (2) Nothing in clause (1) shall apply to an educational institution which is administered by the State but has been established under any endowment or trust which requires that religious instruction shall be imparted in such institution. (3) No person attending any educational institution recognised by the State or receiving aid out of State funds shall be required to take part in any religious instruction that may be imparted in such institution or to attend any religious worship that may be conducted in such institution or in any premises attached thereto unless such person or, if such person is a minor, his guardian has given his consent thereto. Under Article 30 of the Constitution, religious and linguistic minorities are granted the fundamental right to establish and administer educational institutions.

Amaravati Drone Summit 2024

- **The Amaravati Drone Summit 2024 is an initiative aimed at establishing Andhra Pradesh as a hub for drone technology in India.** Organized by the Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Drone Federation of India, the summit took place on October 22 and 23 at the CK Convention in Mangalagiri with over 6,900 participants, including industry experts, researchers, and students, the summit highlights the growing interest in drone technology.
- **A drone show was held at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada, featuring more than 5,500 drones, which is set to be the largest in India.** This show will include live music, fireworks, and a laser display, which set a milestone with five Guinness World Records. The summit aims to attract investments worth Rs. 2,000 crore and generate Rs. 6,000 crore in revenue over the next five years. Ultimately, the Amaravati Drone Summit 2024 aims to foster innovation and collaboration in the rapidly evolving drone sector. **It took place on the banks of the River Krishna in Vijayawada.**

The Drone Rules, 2021 replaced the Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021. As per Drone Rules, 2021, any person who intends to **obtain the authorisation to establish a Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO)** shall submit an application to the Director General of Civil Aviation in Form D5 **on the Digital Sky Platform**, along with the specified fees. The ministry had on August 25 notified the Drone Rules, 2021 that eased the regulation of drone operations in India by reducing the number of forms that need to be filled to operate them from 25 to five and decreasing the types of fees charged from the operator from 72 to four. New drone rules: **Digital sky platform shall be developed as a business-friendly single-window online system. No flight permission required upto 400 feet in green zones and upto 200 feet in the area between 8 and 12 km from the airport perimeter.** No pilot licence required for micro drones (for non-commercial use), nano drones and for R&D organisations. **No restriction on drone operations by foreign-owned companies registered in India. Coverage of drones under Drone Rules, 2021 increased from 300 kg to 500 kg.** This will cover drone taxis also. **Maximum penalty under Drone Rules, 2021 reduced to INR 1 lakh.** This shall, however, not apply to penalties in respect of violation of other laws.

India hosts south Asian nations, including Afghanistan, for telecom regulation event

- **The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India hosted South Asian nations for a multilateral event in New Delhi.** Notably, the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council, the three-day event organised by the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT), includes a delegation from Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. At the plenary session, TRAI chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti was voted the chair of SATRC for the coming year, a customary appointment as India hosted this year's session.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a regulatory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India. **It consists of a chairperson and not more than two full-time members and not more than two part-time members.** The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI. It is **headquartered in New Delhi. Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti, Chairman,** Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers from the 1984 batch.

Indian Constitution's Original Manuscript Replica Showcased at Sharjah International Book Fair 2024

- **The National Book Trust (NBT) of India has showcased a prestigious replica of the original handwritten Indian Constitution manuscript at the 43rd Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF).** The exhibit is part of India's comprehensive literary showcase at the event, which runs from November 6 to 17.
- This A3-sized copy of the Constitution of India is certified by the Lok Sabha Secretariat and features superior quality and clarity in the presentation of Acts and Stanzas. **The Trust, an autonomous publishing body under India's Ministry of Education, joins over 2,500 publishers from 112 countries at this year's fair.** India's presence at SIBF is substantial with 52 major publishers participating. The UAE leads Arab participation with 234 publishers and the United Kingdom leads international participation with 81 publishers.
- The 43rd edition brings together an impressive array of literary figures, including 49 international speakers from 14 nations among a distinguished assembly of 134 guests. **Morocco, this year's Guest of Honour, showcased its rich literary and cultural legacy at the event organized by the Sharjah Book Authority.**
- **Under the theme "It Starts with a Book,"** SIBF 2024 features more than 400 authors and hosts 600 workshops for all age groups, including exclusive pre-booked sessions led by leading global experts in creative writing. The event continues to strengthen its position as one of the region's premier literary gatherings, fostering international cultural exchange and celebrating literary diversity.

The original handwritten Constitution of India was written by Prem Behari Narayan Raizada, a calligrapher with exceptional skills. The Drafting Committee under Jawaharlal Nehru tasked Raizada with writing the constitution. **The manuscript was completed on November 26, 1949, and signed on January 26, 1950. Artists from Shantiniketan, including Nand Lal Bose and Beohar Rammanohar Sinha, decorated the original version. The original text of the Constitution contained 395 articles in 22 parts and eight schedules. At present, Indian Constitution 448 articles in 25 parts, 12 schedules, and 106 amendments.**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended G20 Summit in Brazil and 3 nation tour

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has undertaken a three-nation tour from November 16 to participate in the G20 Summit in Brazil and to bolster bilateral ties with Nigeria and Guyana.** PM Modi was first travel to Nigeria during November 16-17 at the invitation of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.
- The Prime Minister has been on a three-nation visit that included a "productive" trip to Nigeria, **where he held bilateral talks with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and interacted with the Indian community.** The Prime Minister was also conferred with the country's national award - the **Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON).** It was the 17th international award conferred on Mr. Modi by a country.
- **Mr. Modi's visit to Nigeria was the first trip to the West African country by an Indian Prime Minister in 17 years.** From Nigeria, the Prime Minister travelled to Brazil to attend the G20 Summit. **India is part of the G20**

troika along with Brazil, the current chair of G20, and South Africa, which will host next year's summit. In Brazil, he met global leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

- Mr. Modi briefly interacted with U.S. President Biden on the summit's sidelines in their first exchanges following the U.S. presidential election. During an address at a session of the summit on November 18, 2024, PM Modi said **India's G20 theme of "One Earth, One Family, One Future" was as relevant at the latest summit as it was last year.** "The countries of the Global South are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertiliser crisis caused by global conflicts and the G20 must focus on addressing it," the Prime Minister said.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Guyana on November 20, 2024 on the last leg of his three-nation visit** after attending the G20 Summit in Brazil. "In an unprecedented gesture, the Prime Minister was received at the airport by President Irfan Ali and over a dozen cabinet Ministers," officials said. **Mr. Modi's arrival marks the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Guyana in more than 50 years.** Mr. Modi will also join leaders from the **Caribbean partner countries for the second India-CARICOM Summit.**

Nigeria is a country in West Africa. It is the most populous country in Africa. Abuja is the capital and eighth most populous city of Nigeria. The naira is the currency of Nigeria. Guyana is a country on the northern coast of South America, part of the historic mainland British West Indies. Georgetown is the capital of Guyana. The Guyanese dollar is the currency of it.

In a first, space exercise 'Antariksha Abhyas' gets underway in Delhi

- **'Antariksha Abhyas – 2024', an exercise to "war-game the growing threats from and to space-based assets and services", is being conducted by the Defence Space Agency of Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff** from November 11-13. **The first-of-its-kind exercise** is expected to help secure national strategic objectives in space and integrate India's space capability in military operations. The space exercise aims to provide enhanced understanding of space-based assets and services, and to gain understanding of operational dependency on space segment between stakeholders.

3rd India-Australia Joint Military Exercise 'AUSTRAHIND' Begins In Maharashtra

- **The third edition of the India-Australia joint military exercise, AUSTRAHIND, commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Pune.** Running until November 21, the exercise marks an ongoing collaborative effort to strengthen defense ties and interoperability between the two nations' armed forces.
- **AUSTRAHIND, which launched in 2022 in Rajasthan, has grown into an annual event, alternating between India and Australia.** This year's edition focuses on enhancing joint capabilities in sub-conventional operations within semi-urban and semi-desert environments, in accordance with Chapter VII of the UN mandate. **The Indian contingent comprises 140 personnel, primarily from the DOGRA Regiment and the Indian Air Force,** while the Australian side is represented by 120 soldiers from the 13th Light Horse Regiment of the 10th Brigade.
- Key drills include counter-terrorism tactics, establishing a Joint Operations Centre, search and destroy missions, securing helipads, and employing both drones and counter-drone strategies. The exercise will proceed in two phases: combat conditioning and tactical training, followed by a validation phase. **Special Heli-Borne Operations will also be conducted, allowing both nations to share tactical expertise and operational practices.**

Indian Navy to conduct 4th Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea-Vigil-24'

- **The Indian Navy is set to conduct the fourth edition of the 'Pan-India' Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-24' on 20 & 21 Nov 24.** The fourth edition of Ex Sea Vigil will span an unprecedented scale, both in terms of geographical reach and the magnitude of participation, with involvement of 06 Ministries and 21 Organisations/agencies. The Coastal Defence & Security Readiness Evaluation (CDSRE) phase of the exercise is being conducted by **Naval Officer-in-Charges of all coastal states and UTs (incl Lakshadweep & A&N Island)** since end Oct 24, where in thorough audit of complete coastal defence and security infrastructure is being carried out. This year, **National Security Council Secretariat officials will also be part of Indian Navy led CDSRE teams for the first time,** along with personnel from State Marine Police, Coast Guard, Customs, Fisheries, etc. **The exercise will focus on strengthening the security of coastal assets like ports, oil rigs, Single Point Moorings, Cable Landing Points and critical coastal infrastructure including the coastal population.** This

year participation by other Services (**Indian Army and Air Force**) and planned deployment of large number of ships and aircraft have enhanced the tempo of the exercise.

- Originally conceptualised in 2018, **Sea Vigil was designed to validate and enhance measures adopted to bolster Coastal Defence, post the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.** Encompassing the entire **11,098 km** coastline and vast Exclusive Economic Zone of **2.4 million** square kilometres, this comprehensive exercise will engage complete coastal security infrastructure and all maritime stakeholders, including the fishing community and coastal populace, simultaneously. **One of the aims of the exercise is to raise awareness amongst coastal communities about maritime security,** and thus, involvement of fishing communities, coastal populace, and students from NCC and Bharat Scouts and Guides will add to the fervour of the endeavour.
- While coastal security exercises are conducted by individual coastal states and maritime security agencies regularly, **Exercise Sea Vigil coordinated by the Indian Navy stands out as a national level initiative that provides a holistic appraisal of India’s maritime defence and security capabilities.** The exercise offers a significant opportunity to assess current preparedness of all maritime security agencies, identify their strengths and weaknesses and enhance the nation’s overall maritime defence framework. Serving as a precursor to the **Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX),** conducted **biennially** by the Indian Navy, Sea Vigil-24 will serve as an essential measure in reinforcing India’s commitment to safeguarding its maritime boundaries and ensuring coordinated efforts among all stakeholders in Coastal defence.

India has a land boundary of about 15,200 km and the total length of the coast line of the mainland including Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep is 7,516.6 km. Coastline of India stretches across nine states and four union territories, and it is bordered to the west by the Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean and to the East by the Bay of Bengal. **The Coastal States of India are Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Odisha.** Daman & Diu, Puducherry, Lakshadweep Islands, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands are the coastal Union territories. **Gujarat has the longest Coastline among states, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have the longest Coastline among UTs.**

Jaishankar, Odisha CM launch website for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

- The website for the **18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention** was jointly launched by **Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and external affairs minister S Jaishankar,** who said the government, **accords the highest priority to the well-being of the Indian diaspora of more than 35 million.** The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention is a flagship event of the government that **provides a key platform for engaging with the Indian diaspora around the world.** The convention will be held on January 8-10 next year at **Bhubaneswar in collaboration with the state government of Odisha.**

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-Resident Indian Day) is a celebratory day observed (starting in 2003) on **9 January** by the Republic of India to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community towards the development of India. **The day commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915, led India’s freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.** **Established in 2000, it is sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Confederation of Indian Industries and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.** **This day came into effect in 2003, but in 2015 it was revised and was decided to be celebrated every two years.**

Indian Army Conducts High-Intensity Tri-Services Exercise ‘Poorvi Prahar’ in Arunachal Pradesh

- **The Indian Army is conducting a high-intensity tri-services exercise Poorvi Prahar in the forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh.** This joint exercise aims to hone the combat effectiveness of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force in executing Integrated Joint Operations in the challenging mountainous terrain of the region.
- According to the Indian Army, the exercise brings together a wide spectrum of cutting-edge military platforms and systems, showcasing the country’s advancements in modern warfare technology. **All three services utilise advanced fighter aircraft, reconnaissance platforms, helicopters such as the Chinook and Advanced Light Helicopter (Rudra), along with M777 Ultra-Light Howitzers during the exercise.**

- These state-of-the-art assets provide an unprecedented level of mobility, firepower, and precision in the region's challenging topography. **Poorvi Prahar is the integration of innovative technologies that are reshaping the future of military operations.** Troops are operating and refining skills with Swarm Drones, Loitering Munitions, and cutting-edge technologies that enhance situational awareness, precision strikes, and operational flexibility. The exercise underscores the country's determination to maintain a robust and adaptable defence posture along its Eastern frontier, especially in light of evolving regional dynamics. With Poorvi Prahar, the Indian Armed Forces are enhancing their ability to execute seamless, multi-domain operations across land, air, and sea, reinforcing India's strategic deterrence capabilities.

Govt sanctions first all-women reserve battalion for CISF

- **A first-ever all-women CISF reserve battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel has been sanctioned by the Union government** keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force at airports and other vital installations. The Union home ministry issued a sanction order this week approving an exclusive women reserve unit in the force with a total strength of 1,025 personnel led by a senior commandant-rank officer. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has 12 reserve battalions under its establishment at present.
- **Apart from these installations, the 1969-raised CISF provides a counter-terrorist security cover to a number of facilities in the nuclear and aerospace domain** apart from those in the private sector like the Infosys offices in Bengaluru and Pune, Reliance refinery in Jamnagar (Gujarat), among others.

43rd IITF Begins At Bharat Mandapam, Inaugurated By Union Minister Piyush Goyal

- **The 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) has begun at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.** Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the 14-day event. **The theme of this year's fair is Viksit Bharat @ 2047.** The focus state this year is Jharkhand, while Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the partner states. This year, 11 countries including China, Egypt, Iran, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, and UAE are participating in this international fair. The first five days of the fair till 18th November, will be open for business trade. Thereafter, it will be open to the general public till the 27th of November.

PM Narendra Modi launched commemorative stamp, coin to mark 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a commemorative stamp and coin to mark the 150th birth anniversary of tribal icon and freedom fighter Birsa Munda** at an event scheduled in Bihar's Jamui district. The Centre had in 2021 decided to **celebrate November 15, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, making the celebrations the fourth year of the festivities.** The event on the day also marked the beginning of year-long celebrations of the 150th anniversary. The stamp, designed by Shri Sankha Samanta, features a powerful portrayal of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, set against a backdrop depicting him addressing his followers.
- **Born on 15th November 1875 in Ulihatu, Bihar (present-day Jharkhand), Birsa Munda led the historic Ulgulan (Great Rebellion) from 1899 to 1900, rallying thousands in the fight to reclaim tribal lands and resist colonial oppression.** His advocacy for "Munda Raj" symbolized his dream of a just and self-governed society free from exploitation. Though he tragically passed at just 25, his message of courage and resilience continues to inspire communities throughout India.

CAG compendium on implementation of 74th Constitutional Amendment Act released

- **The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, which mandated the devolution of powers to urban local bodies so they serve citizens directly and effectively, has not been fully implemented by 18 states** even after three decades after Parliament amended the Constitution, **performance audits by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India have revealed.**
- A compendium of the performance audit reports on **implementation of the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act**, released on November 11, said **while 17 of the 18 municipal functions have been transferred to urban local self-governments (ULSGs) by law, only four functions have been effectively devolved with complete autonomy.** Ten out of the 14 states have overriding powers over ULSGs on more than five of the 16 factors

CAG analysed. The Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution outlines municipal functions such as urban planning, land-use and building regulations, public health, civic amenities, and parking management. The CAG report found urban planning and fire services are the least devolved functions by law.

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 (74th CAA) came into effect on 1 June 1993, introduced Part IX A (the Municipalities) which deals with the issues relating to municipalities. The Act provided constitutional status to the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). **Article 243W of the 74th CAA authorised the State Legislatures to enact laws to endow local bodies with powers and authority as necessary to enable them to function as institutions of Self-Government and make provisions for devolution of powers and responsibilities.** The 12th Schedule of the Constitution enumerates 18 specific functions to be devolved to ULBs. Under the Indian structure of urban local governance, there are various types of urban local bodies (ULBs) as described below: **Municipal Corporations:** These are the largest ULBs, responsible for managing the affairs of metropolitan cities with a population of over one million. They are governed by a Mayor-in-Council system, with a Mayor as the head and a Deputy Mayor to assist him/her. **Municipal Councils:** These are intermediate ULBs, responsible for managing the affairs of cities with a population of less than one million. They are governed by a President-in-Council system, with a President as the head and a Vice-President to assist him/her. **Nagar Panchayats:** These are smaller ULBs, responsible for managing the affairs of towns with a population of less than 100,000. They are governed by a Chairperson-in-Council system, with a Chairperson as the head and a Vice-Chairperson to assist him/her. In addition to these categories, there are also special-purpose ULBs, such as Port Trusts, Industrial Development Authorities, Townships and Cantonment Boards, that are responsible for specific urban development projects.

India-Kazakhstan business partnership in manufacturing sector gets a big boost

- **The India-Kazakhstan Business Conference on Electronics Equipment and Engineering Goods was held in Astana, at the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC).** The event brought together prominent business leaders, government officials, and industry experts to discuss opportunities for increased trade, joint ventures, and collaboration in the electronics and engineering sectors. Indian and Kazakh business leaders convened at the India-Kazakhstan Business Conference in Astana to explore partnerships in electronics and engineering. The conference aimed to boost bilateral trade and foster joint ventures between companies from both nations.

Kerala Launches India's First Supercapacitor Manufacturing Facility

- **Kerala's Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, recently inaugurated India's first supercapacitor manufacturing facility at Keltron Component Complex Limited (KCCL) in Kallyassery, Kannur.** This marks an important milestone for both Keltron and India's electronics industry. Keltron, founded in 1974, is known as one of the first government-owned companies in the electronics and IT sectors in India. It set a high standard for other government-run companies in the country. With this new supercapacitor facility, Keltron continues to show leadership in the industry.

GRAP Stage-4 restrictions in Delhi-NCR to come into force from November 18 as pollution worsens

- **The Centre's air quality panel has announced stricter pollution control measures for the Delhi-NCR under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP),** effective from 8 a.m. including a ban on truck entry and a temporary halt on construction at public projects. **The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) issued the order as Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) worsened,** reaching 441 at 4 p.m. and rising to 457 by 7 p.m. due to unfavourable weather conditions.

Due to severe air pollution conditions, the Commission for Air Quality Management imposed Stage-IV measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). Delhi-NCR region is suffering from severe air quality right now. Considering this issue on the topmost priority the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to impose Stage-IV (Severe+) measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). **The Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) designed the plan in 2017 and the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) is responsible for implementing it.** Delhi's air quality is categorized into four stages: Stage I is "poor" (AQI 201-300); Stage II is "very poor" (AQI 301-400); Stage III is "severe" (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV is "severe plus" (AQI >450).

PM Narendra Modi becomes first Indian PM to visit Nigeria in 17 years; gets highest award

- India and Nigeria agreed to work together to address the priorities and developmental aspirations of the Global South even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu discussed ways to enhance cooperation in defence, security and trade.
- Modi, the first Indian premier to visit the West African country in 17 years, was honoured with the Grand Commander of the Order of Niger, the nation's highest award for his contributions to strengthening bilateral ties. The two sides signed three agreements for cooperation in customs matters and surveys and cultural exchanges. The two leaders agreed to work together to meet the developmental aspirations of the Global South and Modi appreciated Nigeria's role as chair of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and its contribution to multilateral and bodies.

South Asia's Largest Maritime Thought Leadership Forum - Sagarmanthan held in Delhi

- Sagarmanthan, South Asia's largest maritime thought leadership forum held in Delhi. Organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India, in association with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), the maiden edition of 'Sagarmanthan - The Great Oceans Dialogue' aims to foster knowledge on maritime sector and provide a premier global platform for global leaders, policy makers, business moguls, thought leaders and visionaries to share, learn and shape actionable insights towards effective decisions for a future ready, sustainable and efficient marine sector.
- Identified as the region's first of its kind thought leadership event on maritime sector, 'Sagarmanthan - the Great Oceans Dialogue', has been designed around four central themes which are New Frontiers, Blue Growth Partnerships for Progress, Green and Blue, and Coasts & Communities.
- The New Frontiers will explore subjects around connectivity, infrastructure and development in a dynamic world. The second theme, Blue Growth, is aimed at fostering partnerships for progress. The Green & Blue theme will dabble at important issues of sustainability, technology and innovation. The discussion will also hover around maritime governance and social impact, which is covered under the Coasts and Communities theme.

Sagarmala is the flagship Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to promote port-led development in the country through harnessing India's 7,516.6 km long coastline, and 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways. Under the Sagarmala Scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UT Governments for Port infrastructure projects, Coastal berth projects, Road & Rail projects, fish harbours, skill development projects, Coastal community development, cruise terminal and projects such as Ro-Pax ferry services etc. Under the Sagarmala Scheme, National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCWPC) has been established in IIT Chennai at a cost of Rs. 77 Crore. The institute acts as a technological arm of the Ministry and develops cutting-edge technologies and application products to effectively resolve various issues and challenges faced by Ports & Shipping Sector. Bharatmala Pariyojana is an umbrella programme launched under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The first-phase of Bharatmala was announced in 2017 and was to be completed by 2022, but it could not be completed due to slow implementation and financial constraints. Bharatmala, Sagarmala, dry/land ports, and other infrastructure projects have been incorporated under PM Gati-Shakti Plan to enhance connectivity and logistics efficiency. While Bharatmala project aims to improve road connectivity, enhancing freight and passenger movement, Sagarmala project focuses on modernising ports and promoting coastal shipping to boost trade and maritime activities.

Ghoramara Island in the Sunderbans has become the country's first solar island

- Ghoramara Island in the Sunderbans has become the country's first solar island with a 170 KWH solar and wind power plant, India's largest that has started functioning at full capacity. About 650 families on the island will now get electricity, drinking water, high solar lighting, electric three-wheeler charging stations, a 24-hour electric boat service, and street lights.
- Funded by the ministry of science and technology, the plant was set up by experts from IIT Kharagpur and CMERI Durgapur, under the guidance of solar power expert Santi Pada Gon Chaudhuri, the chairman of the

committee set up for the project. “Ghoramara is an isolated island in the South 24 Parganas, with Sagar Island on one side and Kakdwip on the other, with a population of 5,000. Until now, only a few families on the island used personal solar lights.

Sunderban national park is located at the South Eastern tip of the 24 Paraganas district **in the state of West Bengal**. It got its name from one of the mangrove plants known as Sundari (Heritiera Minor). **The Sundarbans are a part of the world’s largest delta formed by the rivers Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna. Sunderban is a vast area covering 4262 square kms in India alone, with a larger portion in Bangladesh. 2585 sq. kms of the Indian Sundarban forms the largest Tiger Reserve and National Park in India.**

World’s First All-Women Bus Depot Inaugurated in Delhi

- **Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot inaugurated the world’s first all-women bus depot, named ‘Sakhi Depot’ in Sarojini Nagar.** Sakhi Depot’ employs 223 women, comprising 89 drivers and 134 conductors. The depot operates a fleet of 70 buses, including 40 air-conditioned and 30 non-air-conditioned buses, that serve 17 routes across Delhi.

Rajasthan Launches Investment Promotion Scheme 2024

- **The Rajasthan government launched the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024.** This initiative aims to boost private investment across various sectors. It is an important upgrade from the previous RIPS 2022. The scheme was introduced ahead of the ‘Rising Rajasthan’ Global Investment Summit, scheduled for December 2024 in Jaipur.

Rajasthan is a state in northern India. It is the **largest Indian state by area** and the **seventh largest by population**. It is on India’s northwestern side, where it comprises most of the wide and **inhospitable Thar Desert (also known as the Great Indian Desert)** and shares a border with the Pakistani provinces of Punjab to the northwest and Sindh to the west, along the Sutlej-Indus River valley. **Kalraj Mishra is serving as the Governor of Rajasthan. Bhajan Lal Sharma is current chief minister of Rajasthan since December 2023.**

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Thottiyar Hydroelectric scheme in Idukki, Kerala

- **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Thottiyar Hydroelectric scheme in Idukki, Kerala** on October 28, 2024. The 40 megawatt (MW) project is located on the Thottiyar River, a tributary of the Periyar River. The project is expected to generate 99 million units of power annually. The project uses water from the Deviyar River, which connects to the Periyar. Inaugurating the 40 megawatts (MW) Thottiyar scheme at Lower Periyar in Idukki on Monday, **Mr Vijayan said that the government hopes to make the State a fully renewable energy-based State by 2040.**

Kerala is a state on the southwestern, Malabar Coast of India. It was **formed on 1 November 1956 following the States Reorganisation Act** by combining Malayalam-speaking regions. **Kerala has the highest literacy rate 93.91% in the 2011 census; the highest life expectancy, 77 years; and the highest sex ratio, 1,084 women per 1,000 men.** **Arif Mohammad Khan is the current Governor of Kerala. Kerala is known as “God’s own country”** and is one of the **popular tourist destinations in India.** **Pinarayi Vijayan is the current Chief Minister of Kerala, in office since 25 May 2016.** As per the census 2011, **Haryana has the lowest child sex ratio i.e.834 per thousand males. Kerala is the largest producer of the rubber in the India.**

MHA Declares Hizb-ut-Tahrir Terrorist Organization in India

- **The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently declared Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) a terrorist organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).** This decision is a major step in India’s efforts to combat radicalism and terrorism. The MHA explained that Hizb-ut-Tahrir is involved in terrorist activities, including radicalizing young people to join extremist groups and raising money for terrorism. The group is considered a serious threat to India’s national security and its sovereignty as a nation.

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was passed in 1967. It aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India. Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India. The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so. It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments. Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court. The 2004 amendment, added “terrorist act” to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities. Till 2004, “unlawful” activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory. In August 2019, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act. The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency. The Act empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.

SAMARTHAK- The First Ship of Multi-Purpose Vessel

- **India’s first Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project ship, built by L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy, has been launched at L&T Kattupalli.** This is a significant achievement for Indian shipbuilding, with Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, the Chief of Naval Staff, leading the ceremony. Mrs. Shashi Tripathi, President of the Naval Wives Welfare Association, **launched the vessel, named ‘Samarthak’, which means ‘Supporter’ in Hindi.** The project to build two MPVs was started on 25 March 2022, when a contract was signed between India’s Ministry of Defence and L&T Shipyard. These vessels are designed to handle many different tasks for the Navy, showing the comprehensive role modern naval ships are expected to play.
- **It aligns with the Indian government’s efforts toward ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’ (Self-Reliant India) and the ‘Make in India’ campaign, which aims to boost domestic production in various sectors, including defense.** This launch shows India’s growing ability to build advanced ships on its own, strengthening the country’s maritime capabilities. Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) are special types of ships that can carry many different types of cargo, such as containers, large machinery, or heavy loads. They are used for both commercial and offshore operations, such as helping in oil and gas exploration.

PM-YASASVI Scheme

- **The PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.** This scheme aims to uplift students from **Other Backward Classes (OBC), Economically Backward Classes (EBC), and Denotified Tribes (DNT).** It provides access to quality education, addresses financial barriers, and supports academic growth. PM-YASASVI consolidates previous scholarship initiatives. It includes the Dr. Ambedkar Post-Matric Scholarship for EBCs and the Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Scholarship for DNTs. These initiatives were merged into PM-YASASVI in 2021-22 to streamline support for disadvantaged students.

Swavlamban Shakti Exercise

- **The Indian Army concluded the Swavlamban Shakti exercise.** This integrated training event **took place at Babina Field Firing Ranges.** The exercise lasted six days, starting on October 17. It involved over 1,800 personnel and a variety of military assets, including armoured vehicles and aviation support. **Swavlamban Shakti aimed to test new technologies developed by the Indian defence industry.** The White Tiger Division conducted the exercise under the Sudarshan Chakra Corps. This corps is a strike unit based in Bhopal.

Andhra Pradesh to Scrap 2 Child Policy for Local Elections

- On October 20, 2024, **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced plans to introduce legislation requiring local body election candidates to have two or more children.** This move aims to address concerns about the state’s ageing population and declining birth rates. **The government previously enforced a two-child policy that restricted candidates with more than two children from contesting elections.** Chief Minister Naidu brought into light alarming trends in Andhra Pradesh’s demographics. **The**

fertility rate in the state has dropped to 1.5, below the national average of 2.1. This decline raised concerns about the future population balance, particularly regarding the proportion of elderly residents. Naidu warned that if current trends continue, Andhra Pradesh could face a severe ageing crisis by 2047.

Andhra Pradesh is a state in the southern coastal region of India. It is the **seventh-largest state**. It shares borders with Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and the Bay of Bengal. It has the second-longest coastline in India at about 974 km (605 mi). **After existence as Andhra State and unified Andhra Pradesh, the state took its present form on 2 June 2014**, when the new state of Telangana was formed through bifurcation. **Amaravati is the capital of the state.** Telugu, one of the classical languages of India used by the majority of people, is the first official language. **Nara Chandrababu Naidu is currently serving as the 13th Chief Minister** of Andhra Pradesh. **Syed Abdul Nazeer is the 24th Governor of Andhra Pradesh.** He is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India and a former judge of the Karnataka High Court. **Andhra Pradesh is the first state to be formed on a linguistic basis in India on 1 October 1953.** **On 2 June 2014, Telangana was separated from the northwestern part of Andhra Pradesh as the newly formed state with Hyderabad as its capital. Hyderabad is no more capital of the Andhra Pradesh with a transitional arrangement ended in 2024.**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Inaugurates Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Mumbai

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai.** This institute is designed to train people for the future, **focusing on skills that will be important for Industry 4.0, equipped with cutting-edge technology** and hands-on training across a range of trades including factory automation, digital manufacturing, mechatronics, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and additive manufacturing catering to both the services and manufacturing sectors, as well as other emerging businesses. **Established through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, the institute is a collaboration between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India and Tata IIS (a section 8 company under Tata Trusts).** **Shri Vishwakarma Skill University (SVSU), established in Palwal, Haryana, is India's first Government Skill University,** dedicated to providing high-quality skill education.

16th century copper inscriptions discovered in Tamil Nadu

- **A remarkable discovery was made at the Sri Singeeswarar temple in Mappedu village, Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu with the unearthing of copper plate inscriptions dating back to the 16th century.** These inscriptions narrate a village donation by the Raja of Chandragiri to Brahmins. The inscriptions, engraved in the year 1513, during the time of King Krishnadevaraya, are in Sanskrit and the Nandinagari script and thus tell us much about the administrative and cultural practices of the period.
- **The Vijayanagara Empire was founded in 1336 by Harihara I (Hakka) and Bukka Raya I in the Deccan region of Southern India. Hampi, known for its architectural grandeur and strategic location, served as the capital and was later recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1986.** The empire was governed by four major dynasties: Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, and Aravidu, each contributing to its development and expansion.

Tamil Nadu lies in the southernmost part of the Indian subcontinent and is bordered by the union territory of Puducherry and the South Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. Its capital and largest city is **Chennai.** Its official language is **Tamil,** which is **one of the longest-surviving classical languages in the world.** **Ravindra Narayana Ravi is the current Governor of Tamil Nadu. M.K. Stalin is the current Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.** **Kanyakumari (also known as Cape Comorin) is a town in Kanyakumari District in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. Cape Comorin is the southern tip of Indian subcontinent. The southernmost town in mainland India, it is sometimes referred to as 'The Land's End'.**

Australia, Japan & US Reaffirm Commitment to Support India's Maritime Surveillance Efforts in Indo-Pacific Region

- **Australia, Japan, and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to support India's maritime surveillance efforts in the Indo-Pacific region** while recognising the importance of closer collaboration in the field. In a joint statement issued after the meeting, they showed their **commitment to enhance Australia-Japan-India-United States maritime domain awareness in the Indo-Pacific from 2025.**

- They also acknowledged India’s leadership role in conceptualizing the idea of closer collaboration in maritime surveillance. India’s maritime surveillance in the **Indo-Pacific region focuses on bolstering its naval and maritime security while developing a comprehensive Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) framework.**
- The trilateral leaders also expressed satisfaction over recent joint initiatives as they welcomed the success of their **maritime patrol aircraft collaboration activity with India on the sidelines of Exercise KAKADU** in September this year. Earlier in September, the Wilmington Declaration, released following the Quad leaders’ meeting, **highlighted India’s leadership in finalising the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (IOIP).** The Quad expressed its support for the implementation of this framework.
- **The Quad, comprising the US, Japan, India, and Australia, has committed to implementing the ‘Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific’ (MAITRI) to enhance monitoring, law enforcement, and deterrence of unlawful activities in the region.**

The **Indo-Pacific** is a vast biogeographic region of Earth. In a narrow sense, sometimes known as the **Indo-West Pacific** or **Indo-Pacific Asia**, it comprises the **tropical waters of the Indian Ocean, the western and central Pacific Ocean, and the seas connecting the two.** It does not include the temperate and polar regions of the Indian and Pacific oceans, nor the Tropical Eastern Pacific, along the Pacific coast of the Americas, which is also a distinct marine realm. The term is especially useful in marine biology, ichthyology, and similar fields, since many marine habitats are continuously connected from Madagascar to Japan and Oceania, and a number of species occur over that range, but are not found in the Atlantic Ocean. The **Indian Ocean is the third-largest of the world’s five oceanic divisions, covering approximately 20% of the water area of Earth’s surface.** The **Pacific Ocean is the largest and deepest of Earth’s five oceanic divisions.** This is the largest division of the World Ocean and the hydrosphere covers about 46% of Earth’s water surface and about 32% of the planet’s total surface area. **2+2 Ministerial is the highest-level institutional mechanism between the two countries.** It is a format of dialogue where the defence/foreign ministers or secretaries meet with their counterparts from another country. **India has 2+2 dialogues with four key strategic partners: the US, Australia, Japan, and Russia.** **AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, announced on 15 September 2021 for the Indo-Pacific region.** Under the pact, the US and the UK will help Australia to acquire nuclear-powered submarines. The pact also includes cooperation on “cyber capabilities, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies and additional undersea capabilities”.

Prime Minister Narendra Narendra Modi attended G20 Summit in Brazil

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Brazil on the second leg of his three-nation visit, during which he attended the G20 Summit 2024.** Mr. Modi arrived in the South American country after wrapping up a “productive” visit to Nigeria, where he held bilateral talks with President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and interacted with the Indian community. **In Brazil, he attended the 19th G20 Summit as a member of the Troika. India is part of the G20 Troika along with Brazil and South Africa.**
- **Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged the priorities of the Global South at the G20 summit in Brazil. Addressing at the G20 session on “social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty,”** Modi stated that countries of the Global south are most adversely impacted by the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis caused by global conflicts. “We support Brazil’s initiative for a global alliance against hunger and poverty,” he said, calling it an “important step” towards the implementation of the **Deccan high level principles for food security, adopted at the New Delhi Summit of G20 held last year.** “Our discussions can only be successful,” Modi said, “when we keep in mind the challenges and priorities” of the Global South. He added, “**we amplified the voice of the Global South**” by **granting permanent membership of G20 to the African Union during the New Delhi Summit.** During his address, the Indian Prime Minister noted that India had pulled 250 million people out of poverty in the last ten years and was distributing free food grains to 800 million people in the country.

The **2023 G20 New Delhi summit** was the **eighteenth meeting of the G20 (Group of Twenty), a Head of State and Government meeting held at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi** on 9–10 September 2023. It was the **first G20 summit held in India.** The **African Union joined the G20 as a permanent member, the first since the G20’s formation in 1999.** A new organization called the **Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) was launched, to promote the development and adoption of sustainable biofuels,** and set relevant standards and certification. A group of countries made a joint agreement to build a rail and shipping corridor linking India with the Middle East and Europe called the

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. The group comprises India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Israel and the European Union. Under the Indian Presidency, the G20 in 2023 will focus on the theme, ‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’. The theme affirms the value of human, animal, plant, and microorganisms and their interconnectedness on planet Earth and in the wider universe.

PM Narendra Modi unveils development projects worth Rs. 6,640 crore from Bihar’s Jamui

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled development projects worth Rs. 6,640 crore from Bihar’s Jamui district.** Modi was in the district to attend a function organised on the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, which is celebrated as ‘Janjatiya Gaurav Divas’. He unveiled a commemorative coin and postal stamp in honour of Munda. He also virtually participated in the ‘Grih Pravesh’ of 11,000 houses built for tribal families under the PM Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN). The projects unveiled by the PM were focused on improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, and livelihood generation in tribal regions.
- **The Centre declared November 15, Birsa Munda’s birth anniversary, as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas in 2021.** The 2024 event also initiates year-long celebrations for the 150th anniversary of Birsa Munda’s birth. **The Munda Rebellion, also known as the Ulgulan (The Great Rebellion), was a significant uprising led by Birsa Munda against British colonial rule and feudal exploitation in the late 19th century.** This movement, which began in 1899-1900, primarily took place in the Chotanagpur region (present-day Jharkhand) and was a pivotal event in the history of India’s tribal resistance movements.

Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) was launched on 15th November 2023, to improve the socio-economic welfare of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). It is implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, in collaboration with the State governments and the PVTGs communities. It encompasses various sectors, including safe housing under the PM-Awas Scheme, access to clean drinking water, improved healthcare, education, nutrition, road and telecommunications connectivity, as well as opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The plan also includes the establishment of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras for trading in forest produce, off-grid solar power systems for 1 lakh households, and solar street lights. The scheme is expected to enhance the quality of life and well-being of the PVTGs, by addressing their multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion, and by recognizing and valuing their unique and valuable contribution to national and global development.

India’s First 24x7 Online Court to Open in Kerala’s Kollam

- **India’s first round-the-clock (24/7) online court, conceptualised with the aim of helping reduce the mammoth backlog of cases, has started functioning at Kollam in Kerala.** On November 21, judicial first class magistrate Soorya S. Sukumaran, who is in charge of the court, presided over the first proceedings. The innovative digital courtroom will offer round-the-clock access to the justice system, allowing litigants to file and resolve cases entirely online—without the need for physical presence, paperwork, or in-person hearings. An initiative of the Kerala High Court, and supported by the Supreme Court, the system is supposed to operate across three judicial first class courts and the chief judicial magistrate’s court in Kollam.
- **The court operates in hybrid mode and is primarily mandated to handle cases related to dishonouring of cheques, under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.** Cases can be filed in the court throughout the day. The maximum punishment in a cheque-bounce case is a fine, which can extend to twice the amount of the cheque, or imprisonment for a term not more than two years, or both. However, it takes years to complete the trial. **The online court, which will initially handle cases related to cheque dishonour under the Negotiable Instruments Act, aims to streamline legal proceedings, reduce case backlogs, and provide faster resolutions for litigants.** Cases will be processed across the three Judicial First Class Courts and the Chief Judicial Magistrate’s Court in Kollam, with the online platform supporting both hearings and case management.

The High Courts of India are the highest courts of appellate jurisdiction in each state and union territory of India. The work of most high courts primarily consists of appeals from lower courts and writ petitions in terms of Articles 226 and 227 of the constitution. Writ jurisdiction is also an original jurisdiction of a high court. **The First High Court in India is the Calcutta High Court. It was established on 01 July 1862,** following the enactment of the Indian High Courts Act of 1861. The High Court of Calcutta was followed by the High Courts of Bombay and Madras in 1862 and 1864, respectively. **There are 25 high courts in India. The Andhra Pradesh High Court is the**

25th High Court in India. It is established on 1st January 2019, under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act 2014. Earlier, this court was established on 05 December 1956, under the State Recognition Act 1956 which led to the formation of the Andhra Pradesh state by merging the Telugu-speaking areas of the erstwhile state of Madras with the state of Hyderabad. **However, due to the bifurcation of the state into Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, a separate High Court for Andhra Pradesh was established in 2019. There are 6 common high courts in India viz.,** Bombay high court, Madras high court, Kerala high court, Punjab and Haryana high court, Kolkata high court, and Guwahati high court.

National Youth Festival 2025 to be celebrated In Jan 2025

- **The National Youth Festival 2025 will be celebrated as Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue** on the 11th and 12th of January of the Next year. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya announced this while addressing a press conference in New Delhi.
- Mr Mandaviya said, this platform will provide an opportunity for the nation's Yuva Shakti to interact and present their vision before Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Mandaviya said that the **objective of this dialogue is to identify talent among youth from across the country and nurture them, also to provide them with an effective platform to share their vision for Viksit Bharat.** He said this platform will connect the youth with top decision-makers and eminent global and national personalities. Mr Mandaviya noted that the dialogue will play an important role in empowering the nation's youth to become drivers of Viksit Bharat.

Small village in Chhattisgarh's Bastar just made it to the UN's list of potential tourism picks

- **A small village in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, Dhudmaras has been selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) for its Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme,** highlighting its **potential for sustainable tourism development.** This year, 55 villages across the world received the recognition of Best Tourism Village under the UNWTO initiative.
- **Another 20 villages, including Dhudmaras, were chosen for the Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme,** under which they will receive support to enhance tourism infrastructure, promote cultural heritage, and improve the quality of life for residents. **Dhudmaras is situated in the heart of Kanger Valley National Park.** Nestled in dense forests with the Kanger River flowing through it, Dhudmaras offers an idyllic setting for eco-tourism. It is known for its natural beauty, biodiversity, traditional lifestyle, and local cuisine.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches India's first Indigenous Antibiotic Drug Named Nafithromycin for Resistant Infections

- **Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched the first indigenous antibiotic drug named 'Nafithromycin' for resistant infections.** Mr Singh said that the three-day treatment regimen of Nafithromycin is a game-changer against drug-resistant pneumonia, a condition responsible for over two million deaths worldwide annually.
- The minister added that after 2014, researchers received the right kind of support to explore their potential. Dr. Singh stated that Prime Minister's personal intervention has made the task far easier now. **The Made in India Antibiotic Nafithromycin has been developed with the support of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a unit of the Department of Biotechnology and has been brought to market under the trade name Mignaf.** It is the country's first indigenously developed antibiotic aimed at tackling Antimicrobial Resistance-AMR.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial medicines. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become difficult or impossible to treat, increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, disability and death. AMR is one of the top global public health and development threats. It is estimated that bacterial AMR was directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019 and contributed to 4.95 million deaths. Economic Cost of AMR: The World Bank estimates that AMR could result in USD 1 trillion additional healthcare costs by 2050. It can lead to USD 1 trillion to USD 3.4 trillion gross domestic product (GDP) losses per year by 2030.

Indian Army Concludes ‘Sanyukt Vimochan 2024’ Multilateral HADR Exercise in Gujarat

- **The Indian Army** successfully concluded the Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, ‘Sanyukt Vimochan 2024’ held in Ahmedabad and Porbandar, Gujarat. Meanwhile, in a significant display of military prowess, **the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force jointly conducted the exercise ‘Poorvi Prahar’ at Mechuka in Arunachal Pradesh.**
- The exercise conducted from Nov 10 to 18, marked a **significant milestone in joint warfare capabilities, featuring unprecedented coordination between the Army, Navy and Air Force in the Eastern Theatre.** The exercise was a full-fledged display of the might of the Indian Armed Forces, featuring advanced weapons systems such as the M-777 Howitzer, the Navy’s Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance aircraft P-8I, swarm drones, First Person View (FPV) drones, and loitering munitions.

27th edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit inaugurated

- **Karnataka, which has unveiled a Global Capability Centre (GCC) policy, will set up global innovation districts in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Belagavi as a continued part of the GCC policy,** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced on November 19. **The event is billed as the largest of its kind in Asia. Karnataka, which has unveiled a Global Capability Centre (GCC) policy, will set up Global Innovation Districts in Bengaluru, Mysuru and Belagavi as a continued part of the GCC policy.** “The Bengaluru innovation district will aid in establishing GCC. It will be part of knowledge, health and innovation cities being planned.
- Being in close proximity to Kempegowda International Airport, **the Bengaluru centre will help foster innovation and research,”** the Chief Minister said after inauguration of the three-day 27th edition of **Bengaluru Tech Summit 2024: Technology Unbound - Uniting Global Innovation, Creating Impact for the World.**

Haryana inaugurates India’s first traffic engineering centre in Gurugram

- **Haryana Police and the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) jointly inaugurated India’s first Traffic Engineering Centre (TEC) and Organisational Development Centre (ODC) at the Traffic Towers, Gurugram.** The centres, which is already operational, **aim to improve traffic management and road safety.** The initiative, supported by Hyundai Motor India Foundation (HMIF) through its corporate social responsibility (CRS) funding, focuses on improving traffic management efficiency, reducing accidents, and enhancing road safety standards in Gurugram and other metropolitan cities.

General Dwivedi Conferred Honorary General Rank by Nepali Army

- On November 21, 2024, **the President of Nepal, Ram Chandra Paudel, conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army on General Upendra Dwivedi, the Chief of the Army Staff of the Indian Army.** This exchange of honorary ranks is a long-standing tradition between the two armies that symbolizes the deep-rooted ties between the two countries. **The tradition began in the 1950s, and the Chief of the Indian Army and the Chief of the Nepali Army are each made an Honorary General of the other army every three years.**
- The ceremony was attended by many high-ranking officials from both countries, including the Prime Minister, Vice President, and Defence Minister of Nepal. **The Indian Ambassador to Nepal, Naveen Srivastava, also attended. The exchange of honorary ranks is a reflection of the shared values and commitment to regional security of both armies.** It also highlights the resilience of the military relationship between the two countries, even when there are political disagreements. **Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army General Upendra Dwivedi is in Kathmandu on a five-day official visit at the invitation of Chief of Army Staff, Nepali Army General Ashok Raj Sigdel. General Dwivedi led a five-member delegation including his spouse Sunita Dwivedi, the Chairperson of the Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA) of the Indian Army.**

The Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army, and its professional head is the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), who is a four-star general. Two officers have been conferred with the rank of field marshal, a five-star rank, which is a ceremonial position of great honour. Sam Manekshaw was the first field marshal of India, and was conferred the rank on 1 January 1973. The second was Kodandera M. Cariappa,

who was conferred the rank on 15 January 1986. The Indian Army was formed in 1895 alongside the long established presidency armies of the East India Company, which too were absorbed into it in 1903. General Upendra Dwivedi is a serving four star general officer of the Indian Army. He is the current and 30th Chief of the Army Staff. He took over as the 30th COAS succeeding General Manoj Pande on 30 June 2024.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches VISION Portal, for nurturing skill development in underprivileged children

- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the “Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network” (VISION), aimed at nurturing education, skill development, and innovation among underprivileged children. “An initiative like VISION provides an opportunity for even the most underprivileged to get a feel of what is happening in the mainland,” the Minister remarked, adding that it symbolises the broader effort to make the startup ecosystem accessible to all. The Minister reflected on India’s remarkable growth in the startup sector, which has expanded from just 350 to 400 startups in 2014 to over 1.67 lakh, making the country the third-largest startup ecosystem globally.

Jitendra Singh Rana is an Indian physician and politician who is serving as the 18th minister of Science and Technology and minister of Earth Sciences since 2024. He is also the Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office; Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions; Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space. He was elected to 18th Lok Sabha from Udampur with the majority of 124,373 votes.

9th Amur Falcon Festival Celebrated With Great Fervour in Manipur

- The 9th Amur Falcon Festival was celebrated with great fervour at the Lower Ground of Tamenglong district in Manipur. The event was organized by the District Administration of Tamenglong, the State Forest Department, and the Rainforest Club of Tamenglong.
- The Amur Falcon Festival is celebrated annually in Tamenglong district of Manipur to raise awareness of the migratory bird Amur falcon, which roosts in Tamenglong district during October-November every year when it flies to the southern and eastern parts of Africa. The one-day festival commenced with vibrant performances, including cultural dances by various troupes. It may be noted that two Amur falcons were satellite-tagged by the Wildlife Trust of India this year and released from Tamenglong district as part of ongoing efforts to study and protect these migratory birds.

Department of Posts Releases Commemorative Postage Stamp on the 125th Birth Anniversary of Harekrushna Mahtab

- The Department of Posts proudly released a commemorative postage stamp to honour the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab, fondly known as Utkal Keshari. The stamp was released by the Hon’ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu in the gracious presence of Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Mohan Charan Majhi, Member of Parliament Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab and other esteemed dignitaries in New Delhi. Born on November 21, 1899, in Agarpara village, Bhadrak district, Odisha, Mahtab’s journey was marked by his commitment to Gandhian ideals and his relentless efforts toward national integration. From joining the Indian National Congress during the Non-Cooperation Movement to leading the salt satyagraha in Odisha, Mahtab stood as a steadfast pillar in India’s freedom struggle.
- His contributions as the first Chief Minister of Odisha (1946–1950, 1956–1960) were transformative, focusing on uniting Odia-speaking princely states, relocating the state capital to Bhubaneswar, and spearheading development projects like the Hirakud Dam and Rourkela Steel Plant. His vision for Odisha remains a benchmark of progress and industrialization. The commemorative postage stamp, designed by Shri Sankha Samanta, beautifully encapsulates Harekrushna Mahtab’s contributions towards the development of Odisha. The accompanying First Day Cover (FDC) and Brochure further enrich the collection, making it a cherished memento for philatelists and admirers.

Govt launches Bhu-Neer portal, a centralized platform for managing groundwater withdrawal permits

- The Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Paatil digitally launched the newly developed “Bhu-Neer” portal during the concluding ceremony of India Water Week 2024. The “Bhu-Neer” is an advanced portal developed by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), for improved groundwater regulation across the country.
- This portal will serve as a one-stop platform for managing and regulating groundwater resources, aimed at ensuring transparency, efficiency, and sustainability in groundwater usage. “Bhu-Neer” is designed to provide comprehensive details regarding the legal framework governing groundwater extraction, regulations at the state and national levels. Its centralized database will allow users to access critical information on groundwater compliance, policies, and sustainable practices. The portal is developed with several user-friendly features to offer streamlined process flow to the project proponents seeking groundwater withdrawal permits.
- Having a simplified yet informative interface, and features like PAN based single Id system, NOC with QR code etc., “Bhu-Neer” marks a significant improvement over its previous version NOCAP. The “Bhu-Neer” portal, is another step towards promoting the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Ease of Doing Business by making ground water regulation a seamless and faceless exercise. The portal is now live for public use and all project proponents can visit the portal for ground water withdrawal related queries, clarifications, tracking application status, payment of statutory charges.

Union Minister Smt. Annpurna Devi to launch National campaign “#AbKoiBahanaNahi”

- The Union Minister, Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi, launched a national campaign “#AbKoiBahanaNahi”, scheduled at Rang Bhawan, All India Radio, New Delhi. The campaign, which calls on the public, government, and key stakeholders to take actionable steps to eliminate gender-based violence, is a collaborative effort between the Ministries of Women and Child Development and Rural Development, with support from UN Women.
- The campaign is launched along with the ‘Nayi Chetna 3.0 campaign,’ led by the Ministry of Rural Development, to ensure a wide reach on spreading the call to action on ending gender-based violence, leaving no one behind. Globally, every year, from 25th November, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10th December, which is Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism campaign is observed to raise awareness on ending gender-based violence.
- This year, building on the Global Campaign of the United Nations of #NoExcuse, which draws attention to the alarming escalation of violence against women to revitalize commitments, call for accountability and action, the Government of India is launching #AbKoiBahanaNahi with the aim to highlight the message of urgency of ending violence against women and girls, and underscoring national zero-tolerance stance towards any and all forms of gender-based violence. At the campaign, a film on #AbKoiBahanaNahi will be released to showcase the need for accountability from all stakeholders, including each citizen, to pledge against ending gender-based violence.

Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju Launches Haj Suvidha App 2.0

- Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijju has launched the Haj Suvidha App 2.0 in New Delhi. Presiding over a conference of chairpersons of Haj Committees of states and union territories, the Minister said, every follower of Islam wish to go for the Haj Yatra at least once in their lifetime. Mr Rijju said, this time government has set a target to provide best facilities, services and experience to the Haj Pilgrims. He highlighted that last year, 4,500 Indian Muslim women went for Haj Yatra without Mehram.

India hosted global conference of cooperatives for the first time

- India hosted the global conference of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ‘United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025’ at the conference. First time in the 130-year-long history of the ICA, the premier body for global cooperative movement, with

the initiative of IFFCO, the ICA General Assembly and Global Cooperative Conference hosted by India. The event is held from November 25 to 30. Bhutan Prime Minister Dasho Tshering Tobgay and Fiji Deputy Prime Minister Manoa Kamikamica also attended the event as esteemed guests. Union Cooperation Minister Amit Shah attended the event on November 25. He chaired the inaugural session of the Global Cooperative Conference as Chief Guest.

Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal inaugurates India's first Constitution Museum

- **India's first Constitution Museum was inaugurated at the O P Jindal Global University by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.** Addressing a gathering at the varsity, Speaker Birla said this marks a historic milestone and credited the university's Chancellor Naveen Jindal, who is also a BJP MP, for doing such work. This museum will acquaint present and coming generations with our constitution, how it was framed and what discussions and debates took place then.

Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched 3rd Edition of Nayi Chetna- Pahal Badlaav Ki

- **Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the third edition of Nayi Chetna- Pahal Badlaav Ki.** The event also attended by Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi. **Nayi Chetna is a National Campaign that aims to amplify awareness and drive informed action against gender-based violence through grassroots initiatives.**
- The Month campaign will run across all States and Union Territories till the 23rd of December. **The slogan for this year's campaign is Ek Saath, Ek Awaaz, Hinsa Ke Khilaaf.** It is **organized by the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission** under the aegis of the Rural Development Ministry. The initiative is led by an extensive Self-Help Group network under this mission.

Union Minister Manohar Lal Flags Off NTPC's Green Hydrogen Buses In Ladakh

- **Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal flagged-off the fleet of green hydrogen buses of National Thermal Power Corporation in Ladakh. Ladakh has become the first place in the country, plying hydrogen buses for public transport.** Green hydrogen buses are part of the Green Hydrogen Mobility Project in Ladakh and the Project comprises 1.7 MW solar Plant, Green Hydrogen filling Station of capacity of 80 per day and 5 hydrogen intra city buses. Each bus has capacity to cover the distance of 300 km per single filling of hydrogen of 25 kg. Green Hydrogen Mobility Project is envisioned to mitigate the carbon emissions of approximately 350 metrics tonnes per year.

SC upholds 'secular, socialist' in Preamble of the Constitution

- **The Supreme Court in an order upheld the inclusion of 'socialist, secular' with retrospective effect in the Preamble of the Constitution.** A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna held the power to amend the Constitution under Article 368 extended to the Preamble of the Constitution. **The Preamble was not alien to the Constitution, but a part and parcel of it.**
- **"The power under Article 368 cannot be curtailed. It will equally apply to the Preamble,"** Chief Justice Khanna read excerpts of the court order. **The court confirmed the retrospective amendment to the Preamble. The 42nd Constitution Amendment had included the words in the Preamble in 1976 with retrospective effect from November 26, 1949 when "the people of India gave the Constitution to themselves".**
- **The court said the word 'socialism' referred to the 'welfare state' which afforded equal opportunity to all. The inclusion of 'socialism' did not prevent the government of the day to follow any economic theory for the benefit of the nation's growth.** Chief Justice had reasoned that the concept of socialism in India did not negate the participation of private players or negate individualism.
- **The order was based on a batch of petitions filed in 2020 challenging the validity of the inclusion of 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble through the 42nd Constitution Amendment in 1976.** The petitioners, who included Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Subramanian Swamy, argued that the insertions made with retrospective effect, that is, from the date of adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949 amounted to a fraud on the Constitution. Besides, they

argued, the word ‘secular’ was deliberately eschewed by the Constituent Assembly and the word ‘socialist’ fettered the economic policy choice of the elected government, which represents the will of the people.

- **The apex court said**, in its seven-page order, that the case was not worth a detailed adjudication as the flaws in the petitioners’ arguments were manifest. Moreover, the court found the motives of the petitions, filed nearly 44 years after ‘secular’ and ‘socialist’ were inserted in the Preamble, “questionable”.
- **The court held that the Preamble was an inalienable part of the Constitution. The Parliament had an unquestionable power to amend the Constitution under Article 368. Its power to amend extended to the Preamble.** The court confirmed the retrospective amendment to the Preamble, saying the date of adoption would not curtail the power under Article 368. **The court explained that the Constitution was a “living document”, and open to changes according to the needs of the time.** Though the Constituent Assembly was not sure about what ‘secularism’ should entail in India, the court said, over time the nation has developed its own interpretation of the term, which has become a basic feature of the Constitution.
- **“Over time, India has developed its own interpretation of secularism, wherein the State neither supports any religion nor penalises the profession and practice of any faith.** This principle is enshrined in Articles 14, 15, and 16 of the Constitution, which prohibit discrimination against citizens on religious grounds while guaranteeing equal protection of laws and equal opportunity in public employment,” the Supreme Court observed. The court said the **Preamble’s original tenets of equality of status and opportunity, fraternity, dignity and liberty reflect the secular ethos of the Constitution.**
- **The apex court clarified that ‘socialism’ in the Indian context meant the commitment to function as a welfare state.** “Neither the Constitution nor the Preamble mandates a specific economic policy or structure, whether left or right. Rather, ‘socialist’ denotes the state’s commitment to be a welfare state and its commitment to ensuring equality of opportunity. India has consistently embraced a mixed economy model, where the private sector has flourished, expanded, and grown over the years,” the apex court highlighted.

Preamble of the Indian Constitution

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a **SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC** and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity;

and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.

The Preamble was amended only once by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976, which added the words “socialist,” “secular,” and “integrity”.

Hemant Soren takes oath as Jharkhand CM for fourth term on November 28

- In a grand event, **Hemant Soren** on November 28, 2024 was **sworn in as 14th Chief Minister of Jharkhand at Morabadi Ground in Ranchi.** Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Soren. **He took oath as Chief Minister for the fourth term and with this, Mr. Soren is the only leader to win the term for the second time in succession.**
- **Mr. Soren was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on January 31, 2024, followed by resignation and Champai Soren, now with the BJP, was made the Chief Minister.** He later won the legal battle and Jharkhand High Court granted him bail on June 28, 2024 and came out of jail. After his release from the jail, he was sworn as Jharkhand Chief Minister for the third term on July 4, 2024 and INDIA bloc emerged victorious by winning a whopping 56 out of 81 assembly seats in recently concluded assembly election.

- Mr. Soren inherited politics after the death of Shibu Soren's elder son Durga Soren and played a pivotal role in Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM). For some time, he was also a Rajya Sabha member and Deputy Chief Minister of Jharkhand during the coalition government of Arjun Munda. **He took charge as Chief Minister for the first time 2013 with the help of Congress, RJD and others.**

Jharkhand (meaning 'the land of forests') is a state in eastern India. The state shares its border with the states of Bihar to the north, Uttar Pradesh to the northwest, Chhattisgarh to the west, Odisha to the south and West Bengal to the east. **The city of Ranchi is its capital and Dumka its sub-capital. Hemant Soren is the current Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Santosh Kumar Gangwar is serving as the current Governor of Jharkhand. The state was formed on 15 November 2000, from the territory that had previously been part of Bihar. Babulal Marandi was the first Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Shibu Soren is the father of Hemant Soren served as 3rd Chief Minister of Jharkhand, first in 2005 for 10 days (2 March to 12 March), then from 2008 to 2009 and again from 2009 to 2010.**

Young Leaders Dialogue on Jan 11 to connect them with politics

- A 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' will be held on January 11-12 in Delhi to coincide with Swami Vivekananda's 162nd birth anniversary (January 12), Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in the 116th episode of his monthly "Mann Ki Baat" radio broadcast and said the initiative was part of efforts to connect youths having no political background with politics. The event, which the PM called "Maha Kumbh" of young minds, will be held at Delhi's Bharat Mandapam.

Karnataka Celebrates Bali Padyami Festival

- **Karnataka celebrates Bali Padyami festival on the fourth day of Deepavali. It is believed that the Asura king Bali Chakravarty comes out of Pathala loka and visits Bhuloka as per the boon given by Lord Vishnu during Vamana Avatar. After worshipping Ganga matha on the first day, Naraka Chaturdashi on the second and Lakshmi Pooja on the third day of Deepavali, the festival of Bali Padyami derives significance. The temples are adorned with colourful rangoli and thousands of lamps are lit around them at night. Special Abhisheka of the diety is performed with milk and other auspicious ingredients. The houses are adorned with pillaries or a triangular-shaped image of King Bali, made from clay or cow dung and decorated with flowers. The day is symbolic of prosperity and welfare representing the then flourishing kingdom of Bali Chakravarty.**

Karnataka is a state in the south western region of India. It was formed on 1 November 1956, with the passage of the States Reorganisation Act. Originally known as the State of Mysore, it was renamed Karnataka in 1973. The capital and largest city is Bengaluru. Siddaramaiah is serving as the current Chief Minister of Karnataka. Thaawarchand Gehlot is currently serving as the Governor of Karnataka. Coffee production in India is dominated in the hill tracts of South Indian states, with Karnataka accounting for 71%, followed by Kerala with 21% and Tamil Nadu (5% of overall production with 8,200 tonnes).

Bengaluru's annual peanut fair 'Kadlekai Parishe' celebrated

- **Bengaluru's annual peanut fair, Kadlekai Parishe, celebrated since the 16th century, formally opened on 26 November 2024.** Thousands of people flocked to Basavanagudi to witness the grand festival that is held every year to mark the first groundnut harvest. **Kadalekayi Parishe, also known as the Groundnut Festival, is a yearly fair held in Bengaluru, Karnataka, India. The festival is held on the last Monday of Karthika Masa, which is usually in November or December.** The festival is deeply rooted in the history and culture of the region. Vendors usually arrive earlier to get the good spots and remain till their stock is gone, so the festival can go on for almost a week. Organizers often ask the vendors to use only cloth bags or paper bags for packing items and groundnuts to promote a plastic-free environment.

The first linguistic-literature-cultural museum in India

- **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Aksharam Museum set up by the cooperation department at the Nattakam India Press compound under the custody of Sahitya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham. The museum is touted as the first linguistic-literature-cultural museum in the country. About 6,000**

languages from around the world are displayed in the museum. The exhibition of alphabet evolution charts is in the corridor leading to the World Language Gallery. Each letter's transformation over time is recorded in the chart. This is one of the main features of the Aksharam Museum as a language museum. Inside the Aksharam Museum, a theatre and hologram system built with modern technology have been installed.

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat inaugurated International Tourism Mart

- The Union Ministry of Tourism is organised the 12th edition of the International Tourism Mart at the UNESCO World Heritage site Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve to highlight the tourism potential of the North Eastern region for both domestic and international audiences.
- This event serves as a vital platform, bringing together tourism businesses and entrepreneurs from the eight North Eastern States-Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, and Sikkim-to foster collaboration and interactions among buyers, sellers, media, government agencies, and other stakeholders as this event is being held rotationally across these states highlighting the unique cultural, historical and ecological wealth of this region.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat is serving as Minister of Culture and Minister of Tourism since 2024. Shekhawat became the first Minister of Jal Shakti on 31 May 2019 and served till June 2024. Ministry of Jal Shakti was formed in May 2019 by merging of two ministries; the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. He is a member of parliament from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) representing Jodhpur in the Lok Sabha.

'One Nation One Subscription': Govt's Rs. 6,000 Cr plan to give varsities access to 13,000 research journals on one platform

- The Union Cabinet approved the 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme, under which all centrally-run and state-run higher education institutions will have access to reputed journals published by international publishers on a single platform. Access will be provided through a national subscription, coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET), an autonomous inter-university center under the University Grants Commission (UGC).
- Currently, there are ten separate library consortia under different ministries that provide access to journals for higher education institutions within their administrative remit. In addition, individual institutions subscribe to journals separately. However, with ONOS, all government higher education institutions, including universities, colleges, and institutions of national importance, will have unified access to national and international journal publications covering all academic disciplines on one platform.
- The scheme involves an outlay of ₹6,000 crore for three years, until 2027, and will provide subscriptions to around 13,000 journals published by 30 international publishers. Apart from higher education institutions run by the Centre and states, research and development institutions under the Centre will also be included, covering around 6,300 institutions. All 13,000 journals will be accessible to these institutions under the scheme.
- INFLIBNET will make central payments to the 30 publishers, while institutions can continue to use their own budgets to subscribe to publishers not covered under the scheme. The scheme is expected to provide broader access to research journals for institutions that previously lacked sufficient resources. The platform is set to become operational on January 1, 2025.

Centre launched National Campaign 'Bal Vivah Mukh Bharat' in New Delhi

- Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi launched a national campaign, Bal Vivah Mukh Bharat, in New Delhi. The primary agenda of the program is to make India a child marriage-free nation. During the event, the Minister also unveiled the Child Marriage-Free Bharat portal.
- The online platform has been developed to support the campaign's mission of raising awareness, preventing child marriage, and effectively reporting incidents of child marriage. The Union Minister will also lead a collective pledge against child marriage, which is expected to reach up to twenty-five crore citizens during the campaign.

The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December 2021 to increase the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years. This would bring the minimum age of marriage for men and women into parity. However, the bill lapsed when the 17th Lok Sabha dissolved. The bill is expected to be revived and reintroduced by the new government after the elections. The bill was based on recommendations from a four-member task force led by former Samata Party chief Jaya Jaitly. According to the statement of objects and reasons (SOR) of the Bill, increasing the age of marriage will help in achieving various goals including improvement of maternal and infant mortality rates (IMR and MMR), nutrition levels, sex ratio at birth (SRB), female labour force participation, and gender equality, and will lead to empowerment of women.

India Signs Riyadh Design Law Treaty to Promote Inclusive Growth and Intellectual Property Protection

- India has signed the final Act of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty to reaffirm its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring equitable access to intellectual property protection. The treaty seeks to harmonise the procedural frameworks for industrial design protection, improving the efficiency and accessibility of registration processes across multiple jurisdictions.
- The Commerce and Industry Ministry said, by standardising procedural requirements, the Design Law Treaty reduces administrative burdens to promote global creativity in design. Its goal is to ensure that the benefits of streamlined design protection are accessible to all stakeholders, with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises, startups, and independent designers. Over the past decade, the design registrations in India have tripled, with domestic filings increased by 120 per cent in the last two years alone.

The term “intellectual property” (IP) refers to any original work of the human mind, including those in the arts, sciences, literature, technology, or other fields. Intellectual property rights (IPR) are the legal privileges granted to the inventor or creator to safeguard their intellectual work (in the arts, sciences, literature, etc.) for a specific period of time. These legal rights grant the inventor or creator, or his assignee, the sole right to fully exploit their invention or creation for a specific amount of time. These Intellectual property rights are outlined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which grants the right to gain protection for one’s material and moral interests as a result of the authorship of works of science, literature, or the arts. The significant body that oversees the global protection of IPRs is the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). It oversees the first international treaties to acknowledge the significance of intellectual property, which were the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property (1883) and the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1886).

Home Ministry Establishes Permanent NSG Hub in Jammu to Counter Terror Attack

- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has permanently created a hub of National Security Guards (NSG) in the Jammu City to counter any major terror-attack. A special component of the NSG is now permanently in place in the City to act within minutes in case such a situation arises to take on the terrorists. The NSG hub was created following terror attacks in different districts of the Jammu region on security forces and reports that the terrorists could also target Jammu. The deployment of the NSG commandos is part of an anti-terror plan formulated for Jammu and Kashmir by the J&K Police especially for the high-rise buildings, security installations and public places of sensitive nature if there is any kind of terror attack.

Jammu and Kashmir is a region administered by India as a union territory and consists of the southern portion of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of a dispute between India and Pakistan since 1947 and between India and China since 1962. The region of Jammu and Kashmir is separated by the Line of Control from the Pakistani-administered territories of Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan in the west and north, respectively. A resolution to repeal Article 370 was passed by both the houses of the Parliament of India in August 2019. All provisions of the Indian Constitution are now equally applicable to it. Provisions for the formation of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir were contained within the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, which was passed by both houses of the Parliament of India in August 2019. The act re-constituted the former state of Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, ‘Jammu and Kashmir’ and

‘Ladakh’, with effect from 31 October 2019. The union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is administered under the provisions of Article 239 of the Constitution of India. The Article 239A, originally formulated for the union territory of Puduchery, will also be applicable to Jammu and Kashmir. Manoj Sinha is the current Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Girish Chandra Murmu was the first Lieutenant Governor. Omar Abdullah is currently serving as the Chief Minister of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He had previously served as the Chief Minister of the state of Jammu and Kashmir between 2009 and 2014, and is the current vice president of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference, a position he has held since 2009. Despite initially refusing to run for a seat, Abdullah was elected as an MLA following the 2024 union territory elections, being elected the first Chief Minister of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in alliance with the INDIA bloc. He took office in October 2024.

Indian Coast Guard’s SAREX-24 Maritime Exercise held in Kerala

- The 11th edition of Indian Coast Guard’s National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise and Workshop (SAREX-24) was held in Kochi, Kerala. The exercise is being held alongside the 22nd National Maritime Search and Rescue Board meeting.
- The event featured the largest ever real time simulations aimed at honing the skills for effective Search and Rescue Operations and collaborative efforts among the regional and international maritime stakeholders. Response operations to large-scale contingencies at sea is the essence of the current edition of SAREX, based on the theme “Enhancing Search and Rescue Capabilities through Regional Collaboration.”
- A sea exercise involving two large-scale contingencies carried out off the coast of Kochi, with the participation of ships, aircraft and boats of the Coast Guard, Navy, Air Force, Cochin Port Authority and Customs. The exercise evaluated the efficiency of operations and coordination between national stakeholders, and also focus on cooperative engagements with littoral states and friendly foreign countries.

India, ISA ink agreement for solar projects in four Indo-Pacific countries

- A Project Implementation Agreement has been signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to execute new solar projects in Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles. The Wilmington Declaration released at the Quad Leaders’ Summit in Delaware in the U.S. stated that the Quad countries will work together, through policy and public finance, to operationalise their commitment to catalyse complementary and high-standard private sector investment in allied and partner clean energy supply chains. The ISA, as the Project Implementing Agency, would provide programmatic assistance to Comoros, Fiji, Madagascar and Seychelles with financial support from India.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Urges Deeper Collaboration with French and Asia-Pacific Partners to Boost Trade and Technological Cooperation

- Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal called upon French and Asia-Pacific partners to deepen collaboration for enhancing trade relations through bilateral agreements and multilateral platforms. He also called for strengthening technological cooperation to address global challenges like climate change and promoting cultural and educational exchanges. Speaking at the Annual Conference of French Foreign Trade Commissioners of the Asia Pacific region in New Delhi, the Minister said that the bilateral trades between India and France in the financial year 2024 reached 15 billion dollars.

Indian Army Launches ‘Eklavya’ Online Digital Platform for Officers Training

- Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General, Upendra Dwivedi launched Eklavya, an online digital platform for officers training. This initiative launched in New Delhi aligns with the Indian Army propelling itself into the “Decade of Transformation and also with the Indian Army’s theme for 2024 as the Year of Technology Absorption.
- Ministry of Defence in a statement said that this platform has been hosted on the Army Data Network and features a scalable architecture. This enables Headquarters Army Training Command to seamlessly integrate any

number of training establishments of the Indian Army, each capable of hosting an extensive range of courses. Student officers are permitted to register for multiple courses simultaneously. A total of 96 courses by 17 Category ‘A’ Training Establishments of the Indian Army have already been hosted on the platform.

India and Russia Agree To Increase Joint Military Exercises

- **The fourth meeting of the Working Group on Military Cooperation under the India – Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation, concluded successfully in Moscow Russia.** Defence Ministry said, the meeting marked a significant milestone in advancing the long-standing Strategic Partnership between the two countries.
- **The Working Group emphasised the importance of continued knowledge-sharing and collaboration in areas of strategic interest.** It also agreed upon expanding joint exercises to further solidifying the operational synergy between the two forces. **The Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership was signed in 2000, which was elevated to the level of Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership in 2010.** The Working Group, a crucial forum for India-Russia defence cooperation, provides a platform to assess existing military engagements and identified new areas for collaboration to address evolving security challenges.

India’s first large-scale ocean floor cleanup operation has been launched in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra

- **India’s first large-scale ocean floor cleanup operation has been launched in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.** This pioneering initiative addresses the alarming accumulation of marine debris on ocean floors and coral reefs, which poses a grave threat to marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
- **Marine debris, including ghost nets abandoned or lost during fishing operations, often drifts with ocean currents, entangling corals and devastating marine life.** Animals such as crabs, fish, and turtles frequently become ensnared in this debris, leading to painful fatalities and severe disruption of the ecosystem.

SC seeks report on dispute between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka over sharing of Pennaiyar river water

- **The Supreme Court asked the Union government to place on record the report prepared by a committee negotiating a dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the sharing of the Pennaiyar river water.** The matter was before a Bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and S.V.N. Bhatti, which granted two weeks’ time to the Union (which facilitated the mediation) to produce the Negotiation Committee’s report.
- **In 2018, Tamil Nadu moved the court against Karnataka’s work on check dams and diversions’ structures on the river.** The State had told the Supreme Court that Karnataka had no right to utilise the waters of Pennaiyar River to the detriment of the people of Tamil Nadu. **The flowing water of an Inter-State river is a national asset and no single State can claim exclusive ownership of its water, Tamil Nadu had argued.**
- **Tamil Nadu had argued that an 1892 agreement over the river water was “valid and binding” on the party States.** It had said a river even included the stream, tributaries and other streams contributing water directly or indirectly into it.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Asthalakshmi Mahotsav

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day Asthalakshmi Mahotsav 2024 at Bharat Mandapam** in New Delhi. The festival will showcase the cultural, natural and artisanal wealth of all the eight North-East states – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura, and Sikkim.
- **The Asthalakshmi Mahotsav is named after the eight avatars of Goddess Lakshmi, symbolizing prosperity, wealth, knowledge, dharma, agriculture, and other features.** The festival’s mascot is Purvi, a young girl representing the North-East, with elements from each state featured in her attire. The biggest attraction will certainly be the Rural Haat Bazaar, showcasing produce and art from 320 farmers and artisans of the region. Each state will have a dedicated pavilion along with a GI Pavilion, North-East tourism gallery, and Muga and Eri Silk Galleries.

Govt Says, 7.43 Crore Beneficiaries Registered Under Universal Immunization Programme

- **The Government has said approximately 7.43 crore beneficiaries have been registered under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).** This program provides life-saving vaccines to pregnant women and children (from birth to 16 years) for 12 vaccine-preventable diseases. Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel stated that 1.26 crore vaccination sessions have been held, and nearly 27.77 crore vaccine doses have been administered.

UP Agriculture Minister launches Syngenta's first I-CLEAN project in Varanasi

- A renovated marketplace, **the Barora Haat Bazaar, opened in Varanasi, as part of Syngenta India's I-CLEAN initiative.** Uttar Pradesh agriculture minister Surya Pratap Shahi inaugurated the facility, designed to boost rural development. The market features upgraded infrastructure and amenities for local vendors, farmers, and the community. **The project is part of Syngenta India's I-CLEAN initiative, a corporate social responsibility program focusing on rural hygiene, dignity, and economic growth.** This is the 25th such market developed by I-CLEAN since 2014, and the first in Uttar Pradesh. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the NGO Haritika partnered with Syngenta for the project.

India's First Hydrogen Train Set for Trial Run from Jind to Sonipat

- **India is poised to revolutionise rail transport with the launch of its first hydrogen-powered train,** which is set to undergo trial runs between Haryana's Jind and Sonipat stations. **Designed by the Research, Design, and Standard Organisation (RDSO),** this groundbreaking initiative aligns India with a select group of nations exploring hydrogen as a sustainable energy source for railways.
- **The hydrogen train, a first-of-its-kind large-scale endeavour globally, is expected to complete its final trials in the first quarter of the upcoming year.** RDSO has meticulously crafted the design, incorporating modern utility and innovation to ensure it meets global standards. The project's roots date back to December 2021, when the design was unveiled during the International Innovative Rail Expo in Lucknow.

World Artificial Intelligence Centre will establish in Haryana with the help of World Bank

- Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has said that the **World Artificial Intelligence Centre will soon be established in the state with the help of the World Bank.** The Chief Minister said it will help provide training in artificial intelligence and modern skills to the youth. Mr. Saini added that the establishment of the center will boost the technical capabilities of the state as well as increase the possibilities of contributing to the development of the digital economy. He said that **this initiative will give Haryana a special identity at the international level as a center for research and innovation in the field of Artificial Intelligence.**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the intelligence of machines or software, as opposed to the intelligence of humans or animals. It is a field of study in computer science that develops and studies intelligent machines. "AI" may also refer to the machines themselves. **AI technology is widely used throughout industry, government and science. Some high-profile applications are: advanced web search engines (e.g., Google Search), recommendation systems (used by YouTube, Amazon, and Netflix), understanding human speech (such as Siri and Alexa), self-driving cars (e.g., Waymo), generative or creative tools (ChatGPT and AI art), and competing at the highest level in strategy games (such as chess and Go).** AI founder John McCarthy agreed, writing that "Artificial intelligence is not, by definition, simulation of human intelligence".

India's first glass-enclosed Aviary opens at Alipore Zoo, Kolkata

- **The historic Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata has introduced an exciting new feature: India's first Glass-enclosed Open-air Walk-In Aviary.** This modern marvel offers visitors a chance to walk inside a spacious glass enclosure where 200 birds from 14 species fly freely in a natural, open-air environment. From colorful peafowls and cockatiels to nesting lovebirds, the aviary showcases a vibrant array of avian life.
- **Best of all, entry to this unique attraction is included in the general zoo admission, making it an affordable yet enriching experience for all.** The aviary is designed to provide an immersive encounter with nature. Its transparent glass walls allow visitors to observe the birds without barriers, creating a seamless connection with the environment. Families, wildlife enthusiasts, and photographers are bound to be captivated by the sight of birds soaring overhead or interacting in their habitat.

Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) New Delhi, India

- The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) is being held from December in New Delhi, India. The conference is hosted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences, and will feature high-quality oral and poster presentations, panel discussions, and a training workshop focused on applying current satellite data for meteorological and climatological applications.

India-Singapore Bilateral Exercise AgniWarrior 2024 concluded

- The 13th edition of the India-Singapore joint military exercise, Agni Warrior 2024, concluded on 30th November 2024 in Maharashtra, focusing on joint firepower planning, execution, and advanced artillery coordination between the two nations. The 13th edition of Exercise Agni Warrior (XAW-2024) between the Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces concluded on 30th November 2024 at the Field Firing Ranges in Devlali, Maharashtra. The exercise spanned three days (28–30 November 2024) and involved 182 personnel from the Singapore Artillery and 114 from the Indian Army's Regiment of Artillery. The primary goal was to enhance mutual understanding of drills, procedures, and joint operations under the UN Charter.

Singapore is a sovereign city-state and island country in Southeast Asia. Singapore dollar is the official currency of Singapore. Lawrence Wong is the current Prime Minister of Singapore. Halimah binti Yacob served as the first female President in the country's history. Tharman Shanmugaratnam has been serving as the current President of Singapore since 2023.

International



Trump becomes 47th US President, returns to White House after 4-yr hiatus

- **Donald Trump was elected the 47th president of the United States**, an extraordinary comeback for a former president who refused to accept defeat four years ago, **sparked a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, was convicted of felony charges and survived two assassination attempts**. With a win in Wisconsin, Trump cleared the 270 electoral votes needed to clinch the presidency. **He won Michigan, sweeping the “blue wall” along with Pennsylvania — the one-time Democrat-leaning, swing states that all went for Trump in 2016 before flipping to President Joe Biden in 2020**. His Democratic rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, called Trump on Wednesday afternoon to concede the race and congratulate him.
- Donald Trump’s second presidential victory has comprehensively defied the popular polls and underlined the Democrats’ pre-poll misgivings. Far from being a narrow contest, Mr Trump has romped home not just in the red states but also in swing states. **Unlike 2016, Mr Trump has also won the popular vote, the first time a Republican has done so since George W Bush’s re-election in 2004**. His victory is remarkable when set against the momentum Ms Harris generated from a late, standing start — at 107 days it was the shortest presidential campaign in post-war history.
- **Trump is the first former president to return to power since Grover Cleveland regained the White House in the 1892 election**. He is the **first person convicted of a felony to be elected president and, at 78, is the oldest person elected to the office**. His vice president, 40-year-old Ohio Sen. JD Vance, will become the **highest-ranking member of the millennial generation** in the U.S. government.
- US President-elect Donald Trump has won in Arizona, defeating Democratic candidate Kamala Harris in the final state call of the presidential election, completing a sweep of **all seven key battleground states: Arizona, Nevada, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Georgia**. With Arizona’s 11 electoral votes, **Trump’s Electoral College total rises to 312, compared to 226 for Vice President Kamala Harris**.
- **The 2024 United States elections were held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. In the presidential election, **former President Donald Trump, running as the Republican nominee, defeated the incumbent Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris**. Republicans gained control of the Senate and held a narrow control of the House, winning a government trifecta for the first time since 2016. This election cycle was notable for the attempted assassination of President Donald Trump, in which he was shot while campaigning in Butler, Pennsylvania. **This marked the first time a US President (current or former) had been shot since the 1981 shooting of then-President Ronald Reagan, and the first time a US Presidential candidate had been shot on the campaign trail since the 1972 shooting of Democratic Presidential candidate George Wallace**. This was the first presidential election held after the overturn of Roe v. Wade, and the third overall election cycle after the 2022 midterm elections and the 2023 off-year elections. Republican-controlled states predominantly passed near-total bans on abortion in the aftermath of the Supreme Court’s June 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization decision. By April 2023, abortion was “largely illegal” in several states.

The President of the United States is the head of state and head of government of the United States indirectly elected to a four-year term via the Electoral College. The officeholder leads the executive branch of the federal government and is the commander-in-chief of the United States Armed Forces. Since the office was established in 1789, 45 men have served in 46 presidencies. **The first president, George Washington, won a unanimous vote of the Electoral College**. Grover Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms and is therefore counted as the 22nd and 24th president of the United States, giving rise to the discrepancy between the number of presidencies and the number of individuals who have served as president. The presidency of William Henry Harrison, who died

31 days after taking office in 1841, was the shortest in American history. Franklin D. Roosevelt served the longest, over twelve years, before dying early in his fourth term in 1945. He is the only U.S. president to have served more than two terms. Since the ratification of the Twenty-second Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1951, no person may be elected president more than twice, and no one who has served more than two years of a term to which someone else was elected may be elected more than once. Four presidents died in office of natural causes (William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Warren G. Harding, and Franklin D. Roosevelt), four were assassinated (Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, William McKinley, and John F. Kennedy), and one resigned (Richard Nixon, facing impeachment and removal from office). John Tyler was the first vice president to assume the presidency during a presidential term, and set the precedent that a vice president who does so becomes the fully functioning president with their own administration.

UDC Presidential Candidate Duma Boko Declared As 6th President of Botswana

- **Duma Boko of the Umbrella for Democratic Change (UDC) was declared Botswana's sixth President by Chief Justice Terence Rannowane.** UDC secured 34 National Assembly seats, surpassing the ruling Botswana Democratic Party (BDP), which won only four seats. Outgoing President Mokgweetsi Masisi conceded defeat, marking the end of BDP's nearly six-decade rule in Botswana.

Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa. **Gaborone is the capital** and largest city of Botswana. **The pula is the currency** of Botswana. **Duma Gideon Boko is currently serving as President of Botswana.**

Taiwan Legalizes Marriage Registration for Same-Sex Cross-Strait Couples

- **Taiwan has officially recognized same-sex marriages between Taiwanese and Chinese partners, which is a big step in supporting the rights of LGBTQ individuals in cross-strait relationships.** This decision comes after **Taiwan made history in 2019 by becoming the first country in Asia to legalize same-sex marriage.** Taiwan has been a leader in the fight for LGBTQ rights in Asia. When it legalized same-sex marriage in 2019, it set an example for equality across the region. However, the law at the time didn't cover couples where one partner was from mainland China because of the political tensions between Taiwan and China.

Indonesia's Mount Lewotobi erupts

- **Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a volcano in the East Flores district, erupted sending ash plumes over 2 kilometres (1.24 miles) into the sky and scattering volcanic debris across several nearby villages.** The eruption destroyed numerous homes, including a convent, and led to widespread panic as villagers evacuated under a darkened sky filled with ash.

Brazil's police commissioner Valdecy Urquiza appointed new Interpol chief

- **Brazil's Federal Police Commissioner Valdecy Urquiza has been elected as new secretary general of Interpol at the global police organisation's 92nd General Assembly, currently ongoing in Glasgow.** Valdecy Urquiza will take over from the incumbent, Jurgen Stock, who has been at the helm of the world's largest police organisation for the past 10 years, on November 7.

The International Criminal Police Organization – INTERPOL (ICPO–INTERPOL), commonly known as Interpol is an international organization that facilitates worldwide police cooperation and crime control. It is the world's largest international police organization. **It is headquartered in Lyon, France,** with seven regional bureaus worldwide, and a National Central Bureau in all 196 member states. **CBI is India's officially designated single point of contact to act as the liaison with Interpol.**

Walkie-talkies explode in Lebanon day after deadly pager attack

- **Nearly 3,000 people were injured, and more than 30 people were killed in Lebanon due to a series of explosions involving pagers operated by Hezbollah.** Israel says its war focus is "moving north," tacitly acknowledging its role in **shock twin attacks on Hezbollah in which pagers and walkie-talkies used exploded across Lebanon on consecutive days.** **Hezbollah is an ally of Palestinian militant group Hamas, which has been fighting a war in Gaza since its October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.**

Lebanon is a country in the Levant region of West Asia, bordered by Syria to the north and east, Israel to the south, and the Mediterranean Sea to the west; Cyprus lies a short distance from the country's coastline. Beirut is the country's capital and largest city. The lira or pound is the currency of Lebanon. Najib Azmi Mikati has served as the Prime Minister of Lebanon since September 2021. Hezbollah is a Lebanese Shia Islamist political party and paramilitary group. Hezbollah's paramilitary wing is the Jihad Council, and its political wing is the Loyalty to the Resistance Bloc party in the Lebanese Parliament. Its armed strength was assessed to be equivalent to that of a medium-sized army in 2016. Hezbollah was founded in 1982 by Lebanese clerics in response to the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Inspired by the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's model of Islamic governance, Hezbollah established strong ties with Iran.

UN launch first-ever Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility at World Urban Forum

- **The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-Habitat, and the World Health Organization (WHO) have launched the first-ever Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility (PAAPAM) at the World Urban Forum in Cairo, Egypt, marking a significant milestone in ensuring a just transition in the transport sector.**
- **The action plan was developed in partnership with the FIA Foundation through extensive regional, national and local consultation with over 1,300 stakeholders across Africa. It provides a comprehensive framework that emphasizes the importance of investing in walking and cycling and other non-motorized transport modes for health, environmental, air quality, road safety, and social equity - and ensures that no one is left behind in the mobility transition.**

Angkor Wat Named Most Photogenic UNESCO Site in Asia

- **Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet shared exciting news: Angkor Wat was named the most photogenic UNESCO World Heritage site in Asia by Times Travel. This recognition was highlighted in a list published by the Times of India, which also included other famous landmarks across Asia. Angkor Wat was built in the early 12th century and is the largest religious monument in the world. Originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu, it later became a Buddhist site. From India: Taj Mahal (India) – Known for its breathtaking beauty and marble architecture. Hampi (India) – An ancient city filled with temples and historic ruins.**

Australian Government to Ban Children under Age of 16 from Accessing Social Media

- **The Australian government has announced plans to introduce legislation to ban children under the age of 16 from using social media, with penalties for platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok if they fail to enforce it. The groundbreaking legislation comes amid the growing concerns over the impact of social media on young people's mental health and safety. The initiative is designed to enhance online safety for young people and hold tech companies accountable. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese emphasized the government's commitment to protecting children online. However, it has not been specified how platforms should enforce the age limit.**

Australia is the largest country in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country by total area. Australia's capital is Canberra, and its largest city is Sydney. Charles III (Charles Philip Arthur George) is King of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms. He acceded to the throne on 8 September 2022 upon the death of his mother, Elizabeth II: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. The Australian dollar is the currency of Australia. Anthony Albanese is the current Prime Minister of Australia.

Usha Chilukuri Vance, Set to Become First Indian-Origin Second Lady of US

- **Usha Chilukuri Vance, the wife of Donald Trump's running mate, J.D. Vance, is set to become the first Indian-origin Second Lady of the United States. Her roots trace back to India's Andhra Pradesh. As Donald Trump addressed a roaring crowd of his supporters at Palm Beach County Convention Centre in Florida ahead of a historic election victory, he heaped praise on his running mate JD Vance and his Indian-American wife Usha Chilukuri Vance. Usha Vance was born to Indian immigrant parents in 1986 in San Diego and was raised in an upper-middle-class suburb. She has an impressive academic background and works as a corporate litigator at a prestigious firm in San Francisco. She holds a bachelor's degree in History from Yale**

University and a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Cambridge, according to the New York Times.

James David Vance is an American politician, attorney, author, and former United States Marine who is the vice president-elect of the United States. A member of the Republican Party, he has served since 2023 as the junior United States senator from Ohio. He was Donald Trump's running mate in the 2024 presidential election. After high school, Vance joined the United States Marine Corps, where he served as a military journalist from 2003 to 2007.

Germany's coalition government collapse

- **Germany's governing coalition has imploded after Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner**, prompting Lindner to pull his Free Democrats Party (FDP) out of the coalition with Scholz's Social Democratic Party (SPD). This move leaves Scholz leading a minority government alongside the Green Party. The rift between Scholz and Lindner stems from disagreements over how to address Germany's struggling economy, which has been stagnant for years. Scholz has announced a confidence vote for January 15, and if he loses, the country may head to elections as early as March 2025 – six months ahead of schedule. This sudden shift has raised concerns about Germany's ability to tackle its economic woes, which have been exacerbated by the ongoing Ukraine war and rising energy costs.

Germany is a country in Central Europe. It is the second-most populous country in Europe after Russia, and the most populous member state of the European Union. The nation's capital and largest city is Berlin, and its financial centre is Frankfurt; the largest urban area is the Ruhr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier is serving as the President of Germany since 19 March 2017. Euro is the official currency of it. Olaf Scholz is the chancellor of Germany.

China unveils new 'hidden debt' scheme for local governments

- **China has unveiled an ambitious plan to relieve public debt, aiming to turn local governments away from belt-tightening practices that have exacerbated a domestic downturn.** Policymakers gathered in Beijing this past week approved a proposal to swap six trillion yuan (\$840 billion) of hidden debt belonging to local governments for official loans with more favourable terms. Much of local governments' hidden debt in the past two decades was accumulated through state-owned companies known as local government financing vehicles (LGFVs). While the provincial and regional authorities themselves faced restraints on their own borrowing, LGFVs were less regulated and used for taking out loans and issuing bonds in order to finance infrastructure projects.

US President-Elect Trump Appoints Susie Wiles as First Female White House Chief Of Staff

- **US President-elect Donald Trump has appointed his campaign manager, Susie Wiles, as his Chief of Staff, making her the first woman to hold this influential cabinet position, heading the White House executive office.** Mr Trump described it as a well-deserved honour to have Ms Susie as the first-ever female Chief of Staff in US history. The appointment marks the first of several expected staffing announcements as Trump prepares for his return to the White House on January 20. **The Chief of Staff serves as the gatekeeper for the President**, the liaison to Congress and government departments, and plays a key role in steering policy decisions.

Ahead of COP29, India to emphasise Paris Agreement red lines on climate finance

- With the 29th edition of the Conference of Parties expected to commence in Baku, **India is expected to stick to its stance of getting developed countries to increase climate finance – a broad term for money for adapting to the impacts of climate change – but without deviating from the principles agreed to in the Paris Agreement text.**
- In COP15 at Copenhagen, countries agreed on a climate finance target whereby **developed countries would collectively mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2020 to meet the needs of developing countries.** However there was never clarity on how climate finance would be defined.

- Countries differed on whether conventional business investments in clean energy projects ought to be counted as climate finance or whether these sums would be over and above money that was anyway being channelled to economic development. **In 2022, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) claimed that the target of \$100 billion had been achieved.**

Raja Krishnamoorthi, Shri Thanedar, Ro Khanna among other Indian Americans who won in polls

- In a notable electoral victory, **six Indian Americans, popularly referred to as Samosa Caucus, have secured seats in the US House of Representatives, marking an increase from five in the current Congress.** Among the newly elected is Suhas Subramanyam, who has made history by becoming the first Indian American representative from Virginia and the entire East Coast. **Subramanyam, a Virginia State Senator, triumphed over Republican candidate Mike Clancy in a hard-fought race.**
- Subramanyam, a former White House advisor under President Barack Obama and a member of the Hindu faith, emphasized his deep connections to the community, having built his life and family in Virginia. **He will join the “Samosa Caucus,” which includes five re-elected Indian American members: Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna, Pramila Jayapal, and Shri Thanedar.**
- **The “Samosa Caucus” is a nickname for a group of Indian-American lawmakers in the US Congress.** This term highlights the increasing number of legislators of South Asian descent, especially those of Indian origin. **Coined around 2018 by Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi from Illinois, the name playfully references the popular Indian snack, the samosa.** The Caucus consists of members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate, all having roots in India or South Asia. They collaborate on issues important to the Indian-American community and broader matters affecting South Asian constituents in the US.

India to receive first stealth frigate Tushil from Russia in December

- **India will finally receive the stealth frigate Tushil from Russia in December 2024 after a long delay.** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will induct the guided-missile warship on December 9 at the Yantar Shipyard in Russia’s Kaliningrad. The delivery of the first of four state-of-the-art frigates which are under construction for the Indian Navy was delayed due to supply constraints following the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war. **The Tushil, an advanced stealth frigate, is equipped with cutting-edge weapons systems and can perform multiple functions, including air defence, anti-submarine warfare, and surface combat.**
- **Its design and weaponry will provide the Indian Navy with enhanced operational capabilities,** allowing it to effectively respond to a range of threats. **The ship’s name, Tushil, means “protector” in Sanskrit, underscoring its mission to safeguard India’s maritime borders and interests.**
- **Russia and India signed an agreement for the acquisition of four stealth frigates in October 2016.** Under the agreement, two of the frigates were to be imported directly, while the remaining two were designated for local construction by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

Russia or the Russian Federation is a transcontinental country spanning Eastern Europe and Northern Asia. It is the largest country in the world; covering over 17,125,191 square kilometres (6,612,073 sq mi), consisting of more than one-eighth of the Earth’s inhabited land area, extending to eleven time zones, and has bordering sixteen sovereign nations, the most of any country in the world. Vladimir Putin is serving as the current President of Russia since 2012, previously being in the office from 1999 until 2008. He was also Prime Minister from 1999 to 2000 and again from 2008 to 2012. Russian ruble or rouble is the currency of the Russian Federation. Mikhail Mishustin is serving as Prime Minister of Russia since 16 January 2020.

Iran village records Earth’s highest ever heat index at 82.2°C

- **A village in southern Iran has recorded the earth’s highest ever heat index at 82.2°C (180°F) with a dew point of 97°F (36.1°C).** This data was recorded by a weather station near Dayrestan Airport and shared by US-based meteorologist **Colin McCarthy** on Twitter. However, McCarthy added that an “official investigation will need to be completed to determine if these readings are accurate”.

Iran also known as Persia and officially the Islamic Republic of Iran is a country located in Western Asia. Tehran is the capital and largest city of Iran. The rial is the official currency of Iran. Seyyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei is the second and current supreme leader of Iran, in office since 1989. Khamenei is the longest-serving head of state in the Middle East, as well as the second-longest-serving Iranian leader of the last century, after Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. Masoud Pezeshkian currently serves as the president of Iran.

World Leaders Adopt UN ‘Pact for the Future’

- World leaders kicked off a new UN initiative designed to address an era of global transformation and catastrophic risk by adopting a “pact for the future” that includes renewed promises to uphold long-standing disarmament obligations and commitments. The leaders convened the first Summit for the Future on Sept. 22-23 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York.
- The groundwork for the meeting was laid in 2022 when the General Assembly adopted a resolution authorizing a summit process that is intended to **reaffirm the UN Charter, reinvigorate multilateralism, boost implementation of existing commitments, agree on concrete solutions to challenges, and restore trust among member states.** “Our collective security system is threatened by geopolitical divides, nuclear posturing, and the development of new weapons and threats of war,” UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned in a statement opening the summit on Sept. 22.

World Free Zones Organisation (World FZO) Congress held in Dubai

- The 10th annual World Free Zones Organisation (World FZO) Congress was held from September 23rd to 25th at the Madinat Jumeirah in Dubai. This important event brings together leaders and experts from free zones, logistics, and global trade. The main theme of the congress is “Zones and the Shifting Global Economic Structures – Unlocking New Investment Avenues.” This theme looks at how the world economy is changing and what that means for free zones, which are special areas designed to encourage trade and investment.
- The primary goal of the congress is to explore recent trends, new technologies, and innovations that are affecting free zones. It provides a space for people to share ideas and discuss the challenges faced by the industry. India has a significant role in the Congress, with several Indian companies and free zones taking part. This participation allows Indian businesses to connect with international partners and discover new investment opportunities.

India, EU held regional conference on countering terrorism online

- The European Union (EU), in collaboration with organising partner Global Counter-Terrorism Council (GCTC) and with India’s Ministry of External Affairs as a strategic partner, hosted a crucial regional conference on August 21-22, to discuss the current and emerging threats in online radicalisation and find ways to jointly counter the exploitation of online spaces by extremist and terrorist actors.
- The two-day EU-India Track 1.5 Conference in New Delhi brings together experts, policymakers, academia and law enforcement officials from South Asia (India, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka) and Europe, who are at the forefront of the fight against digital extremism. The conference aims to enhance counter-terrorism dialogues and partnerships in the region, consistent with the EU’s Indo-Pacific Strategy, which foresees a deeper and stronger engagement with partners which share common goals and face common challenges.

The European Union (EU) is a political and economic union of 27 member states that are located primarily in Europe. A monetary union was established in 1999, coming into full force in 2002, and is composed of 19 member states which use the euro currency. The union and EU citizenship were established when the Maastricht Treaty came into force in 1993. The EU traces its origins to the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the European Economic Community (EEC), established, respectively, by the 1951 Treaty of Paris and 1957 Treaty of Rome. The original member states of what came to be known as the European Communities were the Inner Six: Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany. The United Kingdom became the first member state to leave the EU on 31 January 2020. Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen is a German politician and physician who has been President of the European Commission since 1 December 2019. Charles Michel is a Belgian politician serving as President of the European Council.

Russian President Vladimir Putin Signs Treaty Establishing Comprehensive Strategic Partnership with North Korea

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a treaty establishing a comprehensive strategic partnership with North Korea.** The treaty, originally signed by the top leaders of the two countries in Pyongyang on June 19, was ratified by the lower house of parliament on October 24. Russia's upper house of parliament approved the bill.
- The preamble to the treaty said that the document aligns with the core interests of the two peoples, aiming to ensure regional and global peace, security, and stability. **Under the terms of the agreement, Russia and North Korea are committed to developing a sustained partnership based on mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, equality, and other principles of international law** that support friendly relations and cooperation among nations. The treaty also **includes provisions for immediate military and other forms of assistance if either nation faces an armed attack, as stipulated by Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.** The treaty will come into effect upon the exchange of ratification instruments.

Dubai Secures top spot in Middle East and climbs to fifth Globally In 2024 Global City Index

- **Dubai has emerged as the highest-ranked city in West Asia and Africa in the '2024 Global City Index'** by Brand Finance, maintaining its regional lead for the second consecutive year. The city has also made impressive strides globally, rising to fifth place, surpassing major cities like Singapore, Los Angeles, Sydney, San Francisco, and Amsterdam.
- **The report highlights Dubai's global reputation, ranking it first, worldwide in this category, ahead of Sydney and London.** The city has also shown remarkable progress in local and remote work opportunities, jumping from 24th to 4th place. Dubai's strategic position as a global trade hub and its strong economy were key factors in its recognition as the second most significant city globally. With a score of 86 out of 100, Dubai's performance across various key indicators underscores its economic strength and strategic vision.

1st Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children

- Violence does more than harm individual children; it undermines the fabric of our society. It makes it harder for children to build happy, healthy lives and costs the global economy billions of dollars each year. To address this global tragedy, **the Governments of Colombia and Sweden, in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on ending violence against children, will host the first-ever Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, in Bogota, Colombia, from 7 to 8 November 2024.** The conference should also help **secure a step-change in support for proven prevention solutions and reset collective ambitions to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development target for every child to live free from violence.**

Buddhist Bhutan to build 'Mindfulness City' To Woo Investment, Create Jobs

- **Bhutan, the Himalayan kingdom that brought the world the concept of gross national happiness, is set to build a "mindfulness city"** and will launch a \$100 million bond issue to help start the project. **The 'Gelephu Mindfulness City' (GMC) will lie in a special administrative region** with separate rules and laws that will aim to be an economic corridor linking South Asia to Southeast Asia.
- **The city will promote walking and cycling to reduce emissions, green spaces for meditation and relaxation, mindfulness-based education, public community activities, healthcare and wellness centres, and eco-tourism.** GMC will be spread over an area of more than 2,500 sq km (965 sq miles) on the border with giant neighbour India and offer space to businesses in finance, tourism, green energy, technology, healthcare, agriculture, aviation, logistics, education and spirituality.
- The 10-year GMC 'Nation Building Bond' that opens will be available for subscription by non-resident Bhutanese. The funds raised will be used to build initial infrastructure, for green energy and connectivity, among others, it says. **The goal is to attract investment, develop skills and create jobs in the Buddhist-majority country known for its Gross National Happiness (GNH) index** – an economic gauge that counts factors ignored by gross domestic product measures, such as recreation, emotional well-being and the environment.

- A country of less than 800,000 people that is wedged between Asian giants India and China, **Bhutan has been struggling to boost its \$3 billion economy that is heavily reliant on aid, hydropower and tourism**, and was **badly hit by COVID-19 restrictions**. Employment woes, with youth unemployment touching nearly 30% in 2022, triggered an exodus of young people seeking opportunities abroad, with thousands moving to Australia alone.

India, Russia sign MoU to cooperate on Pantsir air defence systems

- **Russia's main armaments export firm and an Indian state-run defence company have signed an agreement to cooperate on jointly developing variants of the Pantsir air defence missile and gun system**, a move aimed at bolstering the country's air defence capabilities.
- **This is not the first time the Russian side has offered the Pantsir system**, which combines missile and guns and is **designed to defend small military, administrative and industrial facilities against aircraft and cruise missiles**. It was a contender for an earlier Indian Army contract for self-propelled air defence systems that is yet to be finalised. The intergovernmental commission for defence cooperation, which is chaired by the defence ministers of the two countries, is expected to meet soon.
- People familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity that the agreement is aimed at jointly developing new variants of the Pantsir system more suited to India's needs. **This follows India's \$5.4-billion deal with Russia in October 2018 for five batteries of the S-400 air defence systems**. Russia has so far provided three batteries while deliveries of the remaining two have been delayed because of the war in Ukraine.

Haiti replaces Prime Minister

- **A transitional council created to reestablish democratic order in Haiti signed a decree firing interim Prime Minister Garry Conille and replacing him with Alix Didier Fils-Aimé**, a businessman who was previously considered for the job. Mr. Fils-Aimé is the former President of Haiti's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and in 2015 ran an unsuccessful campaign for Senate. The businessman studied at Boston University and was previously considered for the position as a private sector candidate for the post before Conille took the seat.

President-elect Trump to appoint former ICE director Tom Homan as U.S. 'border czar'

- U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said that Tom Homan, **the former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), will be in charge of the country's borders in his new administration**. Mr. Homan, who served in the Trump administration for a year and a half during his first term, **is also a contender for secretary of homeland security**. Mr. Trump made cracking down on illegal immigration the central element of his campaign, promising mass deportations.

Japan's parliament re-elects struggling leader Ishiba as Prime Minister

- **Japan's parliament re-elected Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba after his governing coalition suffered the worst election loss in more than a decade**. Mr. Ishiba's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior partner Komeito together lost their majority in the 465-seat Lower House, the more powerful of Japan's two-house parliament, in the October 27 election due to continued voter outrage over financial misconduct by his party and its lukewarm response. Mr. Ishiba beat top opposition leader Yoshihiko Noda 221-160 in the first runoff in 30 years. Mr. Ishiba's government is preparing for his trip later this month to ASEAN and Group of 20 summits, as well as a possible meeting with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on his way home.

Opposition secures landslide victory in Mauritius election

- **Opposition leader Navin Ramgoolam has won a landslide victory in Mauritius's parliamentary vote**. The Office of the Electoral Commissioner said that Rangoolam and his Alliance of Change (ADC) coalition won 62.6 percent of the vote, securing the three-time former prime minister a fourth term. **Ramgoolam served as prime minister from 1995 to 2000 and again from 2005 to 2014**.
- **Mauritius, which sits about 2,000 km (1,240 miles) off Africa's east coast, is recognised as one of the continent's most stable democracies** and has developed a successful economy underpinned by its finance, tourism and agricultural sectors since gaining independence. Both Jugnauth and Ramgoolam are members of the dynasties that have dominated the leadership of Mauritius since independence. Ramgoolam, who previously worked as a doctor and a lawyer, is the son of Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, who led Mauritius to independence from Britain.

Sweden becomes first country in the world to apply for Trademark

- **Sweden is stepping up to protect its identity and has applied to the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) to protect its name from international duplicates** that might confuse unsuspecting travellers who want to experience the original Sweden. It is calling on people around the world to support its application to prevent travel mix-ups by signing the online petition.

Elise Stefanik, New York congresswoman now Trump's choice for ambassador to UN

- **President-elect Donald Trump has selected Representative Elise Stefanik as his ambassador to the United Nations.** Stefanik, currently serves as the **House Republican Conference Chair** and has been one of Trump's most loyal allies in the House, with her name previously floated as a possible vice-presidential contender. Initially recognised as a more moderate conservative, Stefanik soon aligned herself closely with Trump, adopting a strong MAGA stance and seeing her influence within the party grow. In 2021, she was appointed as House Republican Conference Chair.

U.S. President-Elect Donald Trump Establishes 'Department Of Government Efficiency'

- **U.S. President-elect Donald Trump announces the establishment of a new "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE), to be led by Tesla CEO Elon Musk and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy.** The department is tasked with reducing government bureaucracy, cutting excess regulations, and eliminating wasteful spending.
- **Trump states that DOGE will provide "advice and guidance from outside of government" to improve efficiency across federal agencies.** Trump has also chosen South Dakota Governor **Kristi Noem as Secretary of Homeland Security.** Ms. Noem will oversee areas such as border protection and disaster response. Susie Wiles, a longtime adviser in Trump's campaign, will serve as White House Chief of Staff, marking the first time a woman will hold this position. Former Director of National Intelligence John Ratcliffe has been appointed CIA Director, while Republican Representative and former Army Green Beret Mike Waltz will serve as National Security Advisor.

Argentina 'withdraws' from COP29, fuels rumours that country may pull out of Paris Agreement

- **The Argentinian delegation at COP29 has reportedly withdrawn itself from the climate conference.** Climatica reported that the **withdrawal happened on the orders of Argentinian President Javier Milei, who took charge of the country and is considered to be cultivating a friendship with US President-elect Donald Trump.**
- The Argentinians pulling out, just three days after the two-week conference began, coupled with Milei's known admiration for Trump, triggered rumours that the country was considering withdrawing itself from the Paris Agreement. **Trump is widely expected to once again pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement after he assumes charge in January.** He had done so the previous time he had become President, in 2016. The Argentinian decision to leave the conference mid-way is unprecedented in climate negotiations.
- **Argentina's neighbour Brazil, meanwhile, became the first G20 country to submit its climate action plan for 2035.** Under the Paris Agreement, countries have to update their climate plans, called Nationally-Determined Contributions (NDCs), every five years with newer and stronger actions.
- **The cycle for these NDCs had begun in 2020, during which most countries had announced plans for 2030.** By next year, all countries need to update their NDCs for the 2035 time-frame. UAE, which hosted last year's climate meeting, was the first country to announce its 2035 NDC. Brazil is supposed to host year's meeting.

Indonesia and Australia hold joint military drills after signing a new defense agreement

- **The Indonesian and Australian militaries began joint combat drills off Indonesia's main island of Java with about 2,000 troops training in air, maritime, amphibious and land operations.** They'll participate in a live-fire exercise near **Banongan beach of East Java's Situbondo district** with tanks, artillery, infantry and attack helicopters, a joint landing operation and a non-combat evacuation used for a disaster.

- The four-day Keris Woomera 2024 exercise highlighted the cooperation between the countries strengthened by the recent signing of the Australia-Indonesia Defense Cooperation Agreement. Although Indonesia is often presented as one of Australia's most important neighbors and strategic allies, the relationship has fluctuated. The exercise is also part of Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2024, Australia's largest international engagement activity in the region, taking place in Australia and Indonesia.

US President-Elect Donald Trump Appoints Former Democrat Tulsi Gabbard as Director of National Intelligence

- US President-elect Donald Trump has named a former Democrat Tulsi Gabbard to his Cabinet as Director of National Intelligence. A four-term Congresswoman and 2020 presidential candidate, Colonel Gabbard is a veteran with three deployments to war zones in West Asia and Africa. She recently moved from being a Democrat to a Republican member. Mr Trump also nominated Congressman Matt Gaetz to be the Attorney General of the United States. US President-elect has also announced the appointment of Senator Marco Rubio as Secretary of State.
- Meanwhile, President Joe Biden received Mr Trump to the Oval Office at the White House in a customary gesture marking the peaceful transfer of power. The practice of the sitting President receiving their incoming successor signals the start of a peaceful transfer of power, which is completed with the inauguration of the new President on January 21 with the ceremonial swearing-in on the steps of the Capitol.

New Zealand: Maori Lawmakers Protest in Parliament Over Controversial Treaty Bill

- New Zealand's parliament was briefly suspended after Maori lawmakers staged a ceremonial haka dance in protest of a vote on a controversial bill that would redefine the country's founding agreement between Indigenous Maori and the British Crown.
- The 1840 Treaty of Waitangi granted Maori tribes extensive rights to retain their lands and safeguard their interests in exchange for ceding governance to the British. The proposed bill, however, seeks to extend these special rights to all New Zealanders. Although the bill passed its first reading, it is unlikely to gain enough support to become law. Introduced last week by the ACT New Zealand party, a junior partner in the ruling centre-right coalition, it received initial backing from coalition partners National and New Zealand First under the coalition agreement.
- However, both parties have confirmed they will not support it beyond the first reading, making its passage highly improbable. The legislation has sparked strong opposition among Maori and their advocates, who view it as a threat to the rights of New Zealand's Indigenous people, who make up about 20% of the country's 5.3 million population.

Brazil launches global anti-hunger alliance before G20 summit

- Brazil launched the Global Alliance for Hunger and Poverty at the G20 Summit in Rio, with an initial 41 participating members pledging to lift 500 million people out of poverty through cash transfers and social protection systems. The initiative brings together developed nations, NGOs, and financial institutions to donate money and expertise to countries in need. The intention is to remove all nations from the Food and Agriculture Organization's hunger map by 2030.

The G20 Summit 2024 Concluded with adoption of Rio de Janeiro Declaration

- The G20 summit held at Rio de Janeiro's Modern Art Museum, hosted by Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Key leaders, including India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, US President Joe Biden, and China's Xi Jinping were participated in discussions on trade, climate change, and international security. The G20 Rio de Janeiro Declaration aimed at addressing major global challenges and crises and promotes strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth. The theme of G20 Summit 2024 was 'Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet'. The Summit focused on 3 priorities:
- 1. Social inclusion & fight against hunger and poverty: Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty: Launched to eradicate poverty and hunger. Reaching 500 million people with cash transfer programs in low- and lower-middle-income countries by 2030. Expand high-quality school meals to an additional 150 million

children in vulnerable countries. **Global Coalition for Local and Regional Production, Innovation and Equitable Access:** Launched to promote access to vaccines, diagnostics, and other health technologies for neglected diseases and vulnerable persons.

- **2. Sustainable development, energy transitions & climate action:** It welcomed the **establishment of Task Force on a Global Mobilization against Climate Change.** Established to identify & address structural barriers to foster private capital flows for climate action, particularly for developing countries.
- **3. Reform of Global Governance Institutions:** Pledged to reform UN Security Council aligning with realities & demands of 21st century, which is more inclusive, effective, democratic, accountable etc. Endorsed G20 Roadmap towards Better, Bigger, and More Effective Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).

The 2024 G20 Rio de Janeiro summit was the nineteenth meeting of Group of Twenty (G20), a Heads of State and Government meeting held at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro from 18–19 November 2024. It was the first G20 summit to be hosted in Brazil. Additionally, It marked the first full G20 summit with the African Union as a member, following its inclusion during the previous summit in 2023. The next G20 summit is scheduled to be hosted in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2025. Spain attends the G20 Summits as a permanent guest.

UAE develops world's first ChatGPT tool for farmers

- **The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced the development of the world's first "ChatGPT" tool, dedicated to the agricultural community.** The tool is expected to significantly improve the lives of farmers worldwide, particularly those working in challenging climatic conditions.

US, Japan, South Korea Launch Digital Infrastructure Initiative

- **The United States, Japan, and South Korea announced a new framework aimed at enhancing collaboration with the Indian private sector.** This initiative focuses on supporting India's digital infrastructure. The announcement was made by key financial institutions, including the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Korea Eximbank.

SIMBEX 2024

- **The 31st edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) took place from 23 to 29 October 2024 in Visakhapatnam.** The Republic of Singapore Navy Ship RSS Tenacious arrived on 23 October to participate in this event. SIMBEX started in 1994 as 'Exercise Lion King'. It has evolved into a key maritime collaboration between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). Over the years, it has grown in scope and complexity.

Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024

- **A high-level Indian delegation, led by Shri Nityanand Rai, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, attended the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) 2024 in Manila, Philippines.** The conference was officially opened by President Bongbong Marcos and focused on the theme, "Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction."

G20 Leaders Adopt Rio De Janeiro Declaration

- **The 2024 G20 Rio de Janeiro summit was the nineteenth meeting of Group of Twenty (G20), a Heads of State and Government meeting held at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro from 18–19 November 2024. It was the first G20 summit to be hosted in Brazil. Additionally, it marked the first full G20 summit with the African Union as a member, following its inclusion during the previous summit in 2023.**
- **The theme of G20 Summit 2024 was 'Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet'.** G20 leaders have adopted the Rio de Janeiro Declaration at its 19th Summit in the Brazilian city. They have called for action on Climate Change and wars in Ukraine and West Asia. The Declaration released is aimed at addressing major global challenges and crises and promote strong, sustainable, and inclusive growth. **The declaration called for an enlarged Security Council composition** that improves the representation of the underrepresented and unrepresented regions and groups. The declaration condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Expressing the deep concern about the situation in the **Gaza Strip and the escalation in Lebanon**, the **declaration emphasized on the urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarian assistance and to reinforce the protection of civilians**. It called for peaceful resolution of conflicts and efforts to address crises with diplomacy and dialogue. It reaffirmed the strong commitment to multilateralism, especially in light of the progress made under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

- **The Summit focused on 3 priorities: 1. Social inclusion & fight against hunger and poverty: Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty:** The Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty was officially launched during the G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Its primary objective is to accelerate efforts toward the eradication of hunger and poverty globally while promoting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015 by all UN Member States, set targets to end poverty, hunger, and ensure food security by 2030. Global Coalition for Local and Regional Production, Innovation and Equitable Access:** Launched to promote access to vaccines, diagnostics, and other health technologies for neglected diseases and vulnerable persons.
- **2. Sustainable development, energy transitions & climate action:** It welcomed the establishment of Task Force on a Global Mobilization against Climate Change. Established to identify & address structural barriers to foster private capital flows for climate action, particularly for developing countries. **3. Reform of Global Governance Institutions:** Pledged to reform UN Security Council aligning with realities & demands of 21st century, which is more inclusive, effective, democratic, accountable etc. **Endorsed G20 Roadmap towards Better, Bigger, and More Effective Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs).**

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU) and African Union. Founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability, the G20 has expanded its agenda since 2008 and heads of government or heads of state, as well as finance ministers, foreign ministers and think tanks, have periodically conferred at summits ever since. It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any single nation. In 2023, during its 2023 summit, the African Union joined as its 21st member. The G20 members are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union and African Union. The G20 has no permanent secretariat. The first G20 Summit took place in 2008 in Washington DC, US.

UAE Launches Global Energy Efficiency Alliance at COP29

- **The UAE has unveiled an ambitious initiative to establish the 'Global Energy Efficiency Alliance' during COP29, hosted in Azerbaijan.** This move aims to double global energy efficiency rates by 2030 and contribute to significant emission reductions.
- **The initiative builds on the 'UAE Consensus' from COP28**, a commitment that brought together countries, organizations, and corporations to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable resource management. The UAE plans to lead the alliance by sharing its expertise in energy efficiency, fostering knowledge transfer, and building effective partnership models with the private sector.
- **The alliance is designed to support the reduction of carbon emissions and the sustainable use of natural resources through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and standardization efforts.** It aims to encourage strategic public-private partnerships and bolster investments in energy efficiency initiatives. The alliance will focus on compiling and disseminating best practices, with a particular emphasis on assisting African nations. This support will extend to developing financing options and technological solutions vital for the continent's progress in energy sustainability.

President-Elect Donald Trump Announces Chris Wright as His Choice to Head Department of Energy

- **President-elect Donald Trump announced Chris Wright as his choice to head the Department of Energy.** Wright, the founder and CEO of Liberty Energy, is a vocal supporter of fossil fuel use and is expected to align with Trump's goals of maximizing oil and gas production. Beyond production, Wright is likely to echo Trump's skepticism towards international climate change efforts. Known for dismissing climate change concerns as

exaggerated, Wright has notably compared attempts to tackle global warming to Soviet-style communism, insisting that no energy transition is currently underway.

A first in 15 years, India dethrones China as top source of international students in US

- For the first time in 15 years, the number of students from India in the US has surpassed that of Chinese students, making Indians the largest international student cohort in America in 2023-24, according to data from the Open Doors 2024 report.
- There were 3.31 lakh Indian students and 2.77 lakh Chinese students in the US in 2023-24. While this is the lowest number of Chinese students in the US in about a decade (a lower figure of 2.74 lakh students was recorded in 2013-14), it is the highest number of Indian students in the US from at least 2000-01 onwards. The number of Indian students in the US is now a little more than three times what it was a decade ago — 1.02 lakh in 2013-14.

Donald Trump picks Linda McMahon for Secretary of Education

- President-elect Donald Trump has announced Linda McMahon as his pick for Secretary of Education. Although she was initially considered for the Commerce Department. McMahon, a former administrator of the Small Business Administration (SBA) and co-founder of World Wrestling Entertainment, will become the Education Secretary. Trump had promised to cut this agency down and reallocate its functions to the states.

Gabonese Voters Approves New Constitution in Referendum

- Gabonese voters have approved of a new constitution by a landslide 91.8 per cent proposed by the country's military rulers. The proposed new constitution introduces a limit of two terms on the presidency, while also increasing the length of terms from five to seven years.
- The Central African Country's new constitution also abolishes the position of prime minister and stipulates that family members cannot succeed a president. The constitutional change will also require presidential candidates to be exclusively Gabonese, with at least one Gabon-born parent and to have a Gabonese spouse. The criterion disqualifies ousted ruler Ali Bongo Ondimba, who has a French-born wife, Sylvia Valentin, and prevents his children from ever leading the country. Military officers seized power in a coup in August 2023, ousting former President Ali Bongo Ondimba and putting him under house arrest. Gabon's military rulers have tentatively scheduled a handover to the civilian government for the summer of 2025.

Gabon is a country on the west coast of Central Africa. Libreville is the capital and largest city of Gabon. The Central African CFA franc is the currency of six independent states in Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon. Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema is a Gabonese military officer serving as Transitional President of Gabon, chairman of the Committee for the Transition and Restoration of Institutions and the Commander-in-Chief of the Gabonese Republican Guard. He is believed to have played a key part in the 2023 Gabonese coup d'état overthrowing Ali Bongo.

NATO holds large Arctic exercises in Russia's backyard

- Thousands of NATO soldiers are taking part in large-scale artillery exercises in Finland's Arctic, seen by some as a signal to neighbouring Russia over its war on Ukraine. Sounds of cannon fire and rocket artillery echo across the snowy, hilly Lapland landscape as some 3,600 soldiers from the United States, Sweden, the United Kingdom, France and other NATO members conduct live fire drills throughout November.
- They are part of NATO's largest artillery exercise ever held in Europe, dubbed Dynamic Front 25, which also includes drills in Estonia, Germany, Romania and Poland involving a total of around 5,000 soldiers. The exercises are the first large-scale manoeuvres held in Finland since the Nordic country joined NATO last year, when it dropped decades of military non-alignment following Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) also called the North Atlantic Alliance is an intergovernmental military alliance of 32 member states – 30 European and two North American. Established in the aftermath of World War II, the organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty, signed in Washington, D.C., on 4 April 1949. NATO is a collective security system: its independent member states agree to defend each other against attacks by third parties. The organization's motto is *animus in consulendo liber* (Latin for 'a mind

unfettered in deliberation’). NATO’s main headquarters are located in Brussels, Belgium, while NATO’s military headquarters are near Mons, Belgium. NATO formed with twelve founding members and has added new members ten times, most recently when Sweden joined the alliance on 7 March 2024. Mark Rutte is a Dutch politician who has been serving as the 14th secretary-general of NATO since October 2024. He previously served as the Prime Minister of the Netherlands from 2010 to 2024.

British farmers to protest against ‘tractor tax’ in London

- **Thousands of British farmers will march to Parliament Square to protest against the end of an inheritance tax exemption that has helped family farms pass down the generations, saying the move will threaten food production.** Seeking to raise funds to fix public services, finance minister Rachel Reeves announced in October that farmers with land worth more than 1 million pounds (\$1.26 million) will no longer be able to leave their farms to their children tax free from 2026.

Thousands protesting New Zealand’s Indigenous bill set to march to parliament

- **A proposed law that would redefine New Zealand’s founding treaty between the British Crown and Māori chiefs has triggered political turmoil and prompted more than 35,000 people to show up in protest at the country’s Parliament.** The bill is never expected to become law. But it has become a flashpoint on race relations and a critical moment in the fraught 180-year-old conversation about how New Zealand should honor its promises to Indigenous people when the country was colonized — and what those promises are.

Somaliland opposition leader wins presidential election

- **The opposition leader in Somalia’s breakaway region of Somaliland won election,** the electoral commission said. **Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi** of the main opposition Waddani Party received more than 50% of the votes cast.

Armenia Becomes 104th Full Member of International Solar Alliance

- **Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).** International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an inter-governmental treaty-based organisation with a global mandate to catalyse solar growth by helping to reduce the cost of financing and technology..

International Criminal Court Issues Arrest Warrants For Netanyahu, Former Defence Minister, Hamas Leader

- **International Criminal Court, ICC has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence chief, as well as a Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri, for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.** The move comes after the ICC prosecutor Karim Khan announced on May 20, that he was seeking arrest warrants for alleged crimes connected to the October 7th, last year attacks on Israel by Hamas and the Israeli military response in Gaza.
- The ICC said, Israel’s acceptance of the court’s jurisdiction was not required. **Israel has rejected the jurisdiction of the Hague-based court and denies war crimes in Gaza.** Israel has said, it killed Al-Masri, also known as Mohammed Deif, in airstrike but Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied this.

The International Criminal Court (ICC or ICt) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal seated in The Hague, Netherlands. It is the first and only permanent international court with jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. Governed by an international treaty called ‘The Rome Statute’, the ICC is the world’s first permanent international criminal court. India did not signed the Rome Statute, and thus, is not a member of ICC. It is distinct from the International Court of Justice, an organ of the United Nations that hears disputes between states. While praised as a major step towards justice, and as an innovation in international law and human rights, the ICC has faced a number of criticisms from governments and civil society, including objections to its jurisdiction, accusations of bias, Eurocentrism and racism, questioning of the fairness of its case-selection and trial procedures, and doubts about its effectiveness.

The first Bugatti Home boutique in the world has opened at The Dubai Mall Zabeel

- **The first Bugatti Home boutique in the world has opened its doors at The Dubai Mall Zabeel.** Brought to the UAE by long-term partner Luxury Living Group and exclusive retailer The Mattress Store, Bugatti Home presents a curated collection of the brand's most coveted furniture pieces, inspired by the values of the legendary hyper sports cars and refined by over a century of heritage.

Australia introduces world-first social media ban for children under 16

- **The Australian government** has introduced a bill in its Parliament, **aiming to bar children under the age of 16 from accessing social media platforms.** Spearheading the legislation, Communications Minister Michelle Rowland described the initiative as a response to mounting concerns over the impact of unregulated online content on children's mental and physical health.
- **Rowland noted that nearly two-thirds of Australian teens aged 14 to 17 have encountered harmful online content, ranging from depictions of drug abuse to self-harm and violent material.** Alarming statistics also reveal one in four has been exposed to content promoting disordered eating.

Australia is the largest country in Oceania and the world's sixth-largest country by total area. Australia's capital is Canberra, and its largest city is Sydney. Charles III (Charles Philip Arthur George) is King of the United Kingdom and 14 other Commonwealth realms. He acceded to the throne on 8 September 2022 upon the death of his mother, Elizabeth II: the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Pakistan, and Ceylon. The Australian dollar is the currency of Australia. Anthony Albanese is the current Prime Minister of Australia.

UN climate talks secure \$300 billion annual fund for developing nations in landmark deal

- **At the United Nations climate talks held in Baku, Azerbaijan, countries have reached a critical agreement to channel at least \$300 billion annually into the fight against climate change.** This funding is aimed at assisting developing nations in transitioning away from fossil fuels, adapting to climate impacts, and addressing the damage caused by extreme weather events.
- **While the agreed amount falls short of the \$1.3 trillion requested by developing countries, it triples the \$100 billion yearly target set in 2009, which is now expiring.** The deal is viewed as a foundation for encouraging developing nations to set more ambitious climate goals, which are due early next year as part of the global effort to curb emissions. **Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries pledged to periodically enhance their commitments to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The planet has already warmed by 1.3°C, and emissions continue to rise.**

The 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, more commonly known as COP29, was the 29th United Nations Climate Change conference, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024. Mukhtar Babayev presided, while Samir Nuriyev headed the Organising Committee. The conference concluded with an agreement on plans for finance to mitigate the effects of climate change and help developing nations transition to more sustainable energy sources. Rules and a UN registry were agreed to facilitate and record international trading of carbon credits. The choice of Azerbaijan as the location for the conference was controversial because it is a major oil and gas producer and authoritarian state with extensive corruption, with several "official partners" of COP29 being businesses directly owned by President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev, or tied to the Aliyev family's businesses.

Leftist candidate Yamandú Orsi wins close presidential election in Uruguay

- **Left-wing politician Yamandu Orsi was elected president of Uruguay,** official results showed on November 24, 2024, in a rebuke by voters of five years of conservative rule. **Uruguayans went to the polls for the second round of voting in what became a tight race between Mr. Orsi, of the Frente Amplio (Broad Front) alliance, and Alvaro Delgado of the National Party,** a member of outgoing President Luis Lacalle Pou's center-right Republican Coalition.

- Mr. Orsi promised in a victory speech on Sunday (November 24, 2024) evening to be a president “who calls again and again for national dialogue to find the best solutions.” Mr. Delgado meanwhile conceded defeat, saying he was sending “a big hug and a greeting to Yamandu Orsi.” **Mr. Orsi won 1,196,798 votes compared to Mr. Delgado’s 1,101,296, the country’s Electoral Court said – 49.8 percent to 45.9 percent.**
- Both candidates pledged to fight crime linked to drug trafficking and to boost economic growth, which is recovering from the slowdown brought by the Covid-19 pandemic and a historic drought. **His campaign was boosted by support from Jose “Pepe” Mujica, a former guerrilla lionized as “the world’s poorest president” because of his modest lifestyle during his 2010-2015 time in office.**

Uruguay is a country in South America. Montevideo is the capital and largest city of Uruguay. Uruguayan peso has been a name of the Uruguayan currency since Uruguay’s settlement by Europeans. The country has fully legalized cannabis (the first country in the world to do so).

As India inaugurates global co-operatives alliance, Bhutan pitches Gelephu as biggest co-operative project

- **Pitching the upcoming Gelephu Mindfulness City as the biggest “co-operative project” in Bhutan, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said in New Delhi that he was grateful for India’s support on the 2,500 square kilometre “Zero Carbon” city being developed. Mr. Tobgay spoke at the first “Global Conference of The International Co-operative Alliance”, that was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- **“The Gelephu Mindfulness City is designed to be a hub of knowledge, technology, and finance, grounded in the values of mindfulness, sustainability and harmony,” the Bhutanese Prime Minister said, adding that it “embodies the co-operative spirit, as every citizen of Bhutan is both a shareholder and a stakeholder, actively participating in this significant initiative”.**
- **Since the announcement of plans for the Gelephu city last December, situated to the south of Bhutan and bordering Assam, Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck has visited India twice to discuss his plans for the city, and to seek investment and collaborations from the Indian private sector in infrastructure development, bringing projects in the areas like hotels and hospitality, educational institutions, IT and wellness centres.**
- **This is Mr. Tobgay’s fourth visit to India this year, and comes after a visit in July, where he accompanied Bhutanese King to Gujarat to seek collaborations, including with the Adani Group on airport, infrastructure and renewable energy projects. While India’s neighbours, including Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have announced reviews of Adani projects in the past few weeks, and the U.S. Department of Justice indictment of the Adani Group has cast a shadow over other projects, the Bhutanese government has thus far not commented on the issue.**
- **Gelephu’s newly appointed Governor and former Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering had confirmed after a visit to Thimphu by Adani Group chief Gautam Adani to Thimphu, that the Adani Group was in talks over a number of solar and hydropower projects for the new smartcity. Mr. Tobgay also travelled to India for a bilateral meeting in March and then attended Prime Minister Modi’s swearing-in ceremony in June.**

Bhutan is a landlocked country in South Asia. Thimphu is its capital and largest city, while Phuntsholing is its financial center. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck is the current reigning Druk Gyalpo or “Dragon King” of the Kingdom of Bhutan. Tshering Tobgay is the current Prime Minister of Bhutan. Bhutan is the first country in the world to come up with a happiness index and linked it to development, which is otherwise based on GDP numbers. The ngultrum is the currency of the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Smart Technology Drives Innovation at RAK Energy Summit 2024 in UAE

- **Artificial intelligence and advanced grid management systems are reshaping the future of sustainable energy, industry leaders revealed at the RAK Energy Summit in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE. The summit showcases how automatic systems and sophisticated software are revolutionising energy distribution, with real-time adjustments and predictive analytics emerging as crucial tools for green power integration.**

- Held under the patronage of Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi at the Al Hamra International Exhibition and Conference Center, the two-day summit brings together regional decision-makers and experts to **address critical energy transition challenges in the GCC region**. The event, organized at Ras Al Khaimah, has attracted support from major entities including the UAE Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Romanian PM resigns as Leftist Party leader after election defeat

- **Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu has announced his resignation as leader of the Social Democrats (PSD) after failing to advance to the second round of the presidential election.** Despite stepping down as party leader, Ciolacu will remain prime minister until parliamentary elections scheduled for Dec. 1.
- The presidential race saw a surprising shift as independent **far-right candidate Calin Georgescu emerged as the frontrunner, securing 22.94% of votes.** Georgescu, a critic of NATO who has praised Russia, will face **Elena Lasconi, leader of the opposition Save Romania Union,** in the Dec. 8 run-off. Lasconi, a centre-right candidate, received 19.18% of the vote.

Romania is a country located at the crossroads of Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe. Romania's capital and largest city is Bucharest. The Romanian leu is the currency of Romania.

Donald Trump appoints Jay Bhattacharya as National Institutes of Health director

- **United President-elect Donald Trump has nominated Jay Bhattacharya as the Director of the National Institutes of Health.** Bhattacharya, an economist from Kolkata with medical studies at Stanford University, was a critic of US COVID policy. He will now lead the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the primary US public funder of medical research, overseeing a budget of \$47.3 billion.

Donald John Trump (born June 14, 1946) is an American politician, media personality, and businessman who served as the 45th president of the United States from 2017 to 2021. Having won the 2024 presidential election as the Republican Party's nominee, he is scheduled to be inaugurated as the 47th president on January 20, 2025.

Philippine president and vice president clash in a feud that's testing an Asian democracy

- A major political storm set off by a bitter feud between the Philippine president and the vice president is testing an Asian democracy that has long been troubled by rowdy politics, poor law enforcement and bareface impunity. Just over two years ago, **President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and Vice President Sara Duterte won in landslide electoral victories on a campaign battle cry of national unity.**
- But their fragile alliance rapidly floundered over major differences, including their leanings toward either the United States or China, and **Marcos' rejection of the bloody crackdown on illegal drugs launched by his predecessor and Duterte's father, Rodrigo Duterte.** The hostilities came to a head over the weekend when Sara Duterte told reporters she had arranged for Marcos, his wife and his cousin and speaker of the House of Representatives, to be assassinated if she were fatally attacked herself.

The Philippines is an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia. Manila is the national capital, while the largest city is Quezon City. The Philippine peso is the official currency of the Philippines. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. is the current President of the Philippines.

Icelanders head to polls after government collapse

- **Icelanders vote in a legislative election after the collapse of a fraught coalition prompted a snap poll where the economy is a top concern.** Battling inflation and high interest rates, the economy, housing and healthcare have dominated the campaign for the 2,68,000 people eligible to vote.
- **The coalition of Mr. Benediktsson's Independence Party, the Left-Green Movement and the centre-right Progressive Party was divided on a range of issues** but broke down over the handling of migrants and asylum seekers. Only 32% listed immigration as a key issue and only 18% included asylum issues. In contrast, healthcare, economic issues and housing were a top concern for more than 60%.

Iceland is a Nordic island country between the North Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge between North America and Europe. Its capital and largest city is Reykjavík. The krona is the currency of Iceland. Bjarni Benediktsson has been serving as the Prime Minister of Iceland. Halla Tomasdóttir is serving as the current President of Iceland. She is Iceland's second woman president, after Vigdís Finnbogadóttir.

U.K. Parliament vote in favour of historic assisted dying bill for terminally ill adults

- Members of Parliament in the House of Commons in UK voted in favour of a historic bill that could **pave the way for terminally ill adults in England and Wales with just six months left to live to request medical assistance to end their lives.**
- **The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill** tabled as a private member's bill by Labour MP Kim Leadbeater attracted 330 votes in favour as opposed to 275 against – clearing its second reading stage by a majority of 55. This means the legislation can now progress through a lengthy process of amendments and scrutiny by the House of Lords before it can become law. The issue had deeply divided MPs, who were given a free vote without being constrained by party lines when deciding on this significant new legislation.

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, commonly known as the United Kingdom (UK) or Britain is a sovereign country in Europe, off the north-western coast of the continental mainland. It comprises England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the island of Ireland, and many smaller islands within the British Isles. The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. The capital and largest city is London, a global city and financial centre with a metropolitan area population of over 14 million. Sterling is the official currency of the United Kingdom and its associated territories. Charles III (Charles Philip Arthur George) is King of the United Kingdom and the 14 other Commonwealth realms. He was the longest-serving heir apparent and Prince of Wales and, at age 73, became the oldest person to accede to the British throne upon the death of his mother, Elizabeth II, on 8 September 2022. Kier Starmer is the current Prime Minister since July 2024 and as Leader of the Labour Party since 2020.

Spain introduces paid 'climate leave' for workers following deadly October floods

- In view of the floods that claimed at least 224 lives in October, **Spain has introduced "paid climate leave" of up to four days, allowing workers to stay home during weather emergencies.** The policy comes after companies faced criticism over requiring employees to work during the floods, despite a red alert issued by the national weather agency. Some firms argued they were not adequately informed and blamed delayed telephone alerts for their failure to act. **The legislation mandates that employees stay home if emergency authorities issue warnings. Workers can also opt for a reduced working day after the four-day period, using an existing mechanism for emergencies.**

Spain is a country located in Southwestern Europe, with parts of its territory in the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and Africa. Madrid is the capital and most populous city of Spain. Pedro Sanchez has been Prime Minister of Spain since June 2018. Felipe VI is the King of Spain. The Euro is the official currency of it.

Paris & the world get their first glimpse of post-fire Notre Dame

- **France is to offer the world a first look inside the restored Notre Dame cathedral in Paris over five years after the fire that ravaged the interior of the heritage landmark and toppled its spire.** Eight days ahead of the December 7 reopening of the cathedral, President Emmanuel Macron conducted an inspection; broadcast live on television, which provided the first official insight into how the 850-year-old edifice now looks inside.
- **The French president is hoping the opening of Notre Dame will be a major feather in his cap amid the current political deadlock following early parliamentary elections this summer.** World leaders are expected to join but the guest list has yet to be unveiled. Some 250 companies and hundreds of experts were mobilised for a restoration costing hundreds of millions of euros in what was dubbed the "building site of the century".

Belgium becomes first country to pass law granting sex workers maternity leave, employment benefits

- **Belgium has become first of its kind in the world to recognise sex workers' rights, offering them the same benefits as other workers, including maternity leave, pensions, health insurance, and sick leave.** This landmark legislation, introduced after sex work was decriminalised in 2022, ensures sex workers have the same protections as other professions. The law also regulates employers, banning those with criminal records and requiring safety measures like alarm buttons in workspaces.

Belgium is a country in Northwestern Europe. The capital and largest metropolitan region is Brussels. Alexander De Croo is the current Prime Minister of Belgium. Euro is the currency of it.



Career
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ECONOMY AND FINANCE



Economy News

Belgium to launch world's first artificial energy island

- **The Princess Elisabeth Island will be constructed between 2024 and 2027, about 45 km off the Belgian coast within the Princess Elisabeth wind zone.** It is one of ETB's key projects and the **world's first artificial energy island.** By integrating 3.5 GW of additional offshore wind capacity into Belgium's electricity grid (enough to power more than three million households), Princess Elisabeth Island will reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels and provide more affordable green electricity, contributing to social welfare and industrial competitiveness.

Belgium is a country in Northwestern Europe. The country is bordered by the Netherlands to the north, Germany to the east, Luxembourg to the southeast, France to the south, and the North Sea to the west. **The capital and largest metropolitan region is Brussels. Euro is the official currency of it. Alexander De Croo is the current Prime Minister of Belgium.**

G20 Issues Its First Ministerial Declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction

- With the active participation of a high-level Indian delegation, a G20 meeting has arrived at a consensus in **finalising the first Ministerial declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).** The G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) Ministerial Meeting was held from 30th October to 1st November 2024 in Belem, Brazil.
- In his interventions, during various Ministerial sessions, **P. K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, shared the progress made by the Government of India in reducing disaster risks and in upscaling disaster financing in the country.** The Principal Secretary also emphasized India's approach to **disaster risk reduction, on five priorities of DRRWG.**
- These are **Early warning systems, Disaster resilient infrastructure, Disaster Risk Reduction financing, Resilient recovery and Nature based solutions.** **The first DRRWG was established on India's initiative during its presidency of G20, last year in New Delhi.** Alongside DRRWG, the Indian Delegation also participated in Troika meetings with the Ministers of Brazil and South Africa, and held bilateral meetings with ministers from the host country Brazil and other countries including Japan, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Germany among others.

The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU) and African Union. Founded in 1999 with the aim to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability, the G20 has expanded its agenda since 2008 and heads of government or heads of state, as well as finance ministers, foreign ministers and think tanks, have periodically conferred at summits ever since. It seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any single nation. In 2023, during its 2023 summit, the African Union joined as its 21st member. The G20 members are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, India, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union and African Union. The G20 has no permanent secretariat. The first G20 Summit took place in 2008 in Washington DC, US.

Government e-Marketplace launches 170 seed categories on platform

- State-run Government e-Marketplace (GeM), one of the world's largest e-commerce platforms for public procurement said it has started offering 8,000 varieties of seeds that can be bought from central and state public sector undertakings on the platform. GeM has revamped and introduced 170 seed categories on the portal. GeM portal is among the top three e-commerce platforms such as Korea ON-line E-Procurement System (KONEPS) and Singapore's GeBIZ with cumulative sales volume crossing Rs.10 lakh crore since inception.
- The procurement of goods and services through the Centre's Government e-Market (GeM) portal has crossed Rs. 4 trillion so far, this fiscal year. This testifies to the portal's unique digital capabilities and functionalities that have facilitated greater efficiency, transparency, and seamlessness in public procurement.

Government e-Marketplace, shortly known as GeM, is a digital platform that enables buying and selling of goods and services. It is the Public Procurement Portal for procurement of goods and services for all Central Government and State Government Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs) and affiliated. The portal was launched in August 2016, by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorised and made mandatory by Ministry of Finance by adding a new Rule No. 149 in the General Financial Rules, 2017. The sole purpose of GeM is to enhance efficiency; transparency and speed in public procurement.

Centre infuses equity of Rs. 10,700 crore in Food Corporation of India

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the infusion of equity of ₹10,700 crore in Food Corporation of India (FCI) by way of conversion of 'Ways and Means Advance' to equity in 2024-25. This will be used as working capital for the FCI in this financial year. The Centre said that the decision is aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide.
- It added that the FCI, which started its journey in 1964 with authorised capital of ₹100 crore and equity of ₹four crore, has an authorised capital of ₹21,000 crore in February. "The equity of FCI was ₹4,496 crore in 2019-20 which increased to ₹10,157 crore in 2023-24. Now, Government of India has approved significant amount of equity of ₹10,700 crore for FCI which will strengthen it financially and will give a big boost to the initiatives taken for its transformation.

India Surpasses China as Top Importer of Russian Oil

- In July 2024, India became the top buyer of Russian oil, overtaking China. This change happened because China was making less money from refining oil, which led them to buy less Russian crude.
- Russian oil made up a record 44% of India's total oil imports in July. India imported 2.07 million barrels of Russian oil per day. This was a 4.2% increase from June and a 12% increase from July 2022. On the other hand, China's imports from Russia dropped to 1.76 million barrels per day.

Henley Passport Index 2024

- Singapore has been named the world's most powerful passport again, offering its citizens visa-free access to 195 countries. France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain shared the second place, granting their citizens visa-free access to 192 countries, as per the latest rankings. The United States ranked 8th, giving its citizens visa-free entry to 186 countries. Meanwhile, India ranked 83rd, providing its citizens with visa-free access to 58 countries.

WAAYU, India's first zero-commission food delivery app, launches in Hyderabad

- WAAYU, India's first zero-commission food delivery app, is now live in Hyderabad and Secunderabad post a launch event with restaurant owners and others showing support to the Zero Commission model for food delivery initiative by WAAYU and Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- With Hyderabad, it aims to collaborate with actively operating 3,000 restaurants, giving an impetus to order generation for the restaurants and seamless service to the consumers without additional charges. The collaboration between ONDC and Telangana State Hotels Association and the WAAYU app validates the need to

challenge the hefty commissions and platform fee on other Quick E-Commerce platforms, which is a barrier between consumers and restaurants.

First Salesforce tower in India to come up at Bagmane Tech Park in Bengaluru

- **US-based customer relationship management-focused firm Salesforce** has announced that it **plans to expand its presence in India with the first Salesforce Tower in the country at Bagmane Tech Park in Bengaluru**. This will be one of 10 Tower investments Salesforce has made in key markets including San Francisco, New York, Chicago, London, Dublin, Sydney, Tokyo, Atlanta and Indianapolis. Salesforce Tower in Bengaluru will be located in Bagmane Capital in Mahadevpura. “The launch of the first ever Salesforce Tower in India further strengthens our continued commitment to the region providing our employees a stellar experience and state-of-the-art space for collaboration, and innovation in an AI-first era where humans with agents drive customer success together.

India’s gaming market is poised to reach a staggering \$9.2 billion by the Financial Year of 2029 (FY29)

- A key highlight of the summit was the launch of Lumikai’s State of India Interactive Media and Gaming Report 2024. **The report revealed that India’s gaming market is poised to reach a staggering \$9.2 billion by the Financial Year of 2029 (FY29)**. The report, based on extensive primary research covering nearly 3,000 mobile users across India, said that gaming accounted for 30% of the \$12.5 Billion new media revenue pie (comprising video content, animation/vfx, audio streaming, gaming and social media) in FY24.

NITI Aayog organised Symposium on ‘Green Transition in States’

- A symposium was held on the “Green Transition in States” on 11th November 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event was **organized by NITI Aayog, Govt of India, with ISEG Foundation as a knowledge partner. NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, launched the ASSET platform—Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition**. ASSET platform is a timely initiative to support states in accelerating their green transition.
- **The platform will assist in formulating state energy transition blueprints along with aiding in its implementation, preparing a pipeline of bankable projects**, showcasing best practices across states as well as upcoming technology and innovations in critical sectors like BESS, Green Hydrogen, Energy efficiency, e-mobility, offshore wind, etc. The role of states is crucial in achieving India’s national aspirations of **becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047 and achieving Net-zero GHG emissions by 2070**. This requires sustained economic growth over the next two decades. States need to develop and implement energy transition plans that align with overall national goals. This involves three key steps: first, preparing comprehensive energy transition blueprints; second, developing investible projects and ensuring their effective implementation; and third, fostering innovation in emerging technologies.

IIT Delhi rises to 44th in QS Asia University Rankings 2025, leading Indian institutions

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has secured the top spot among Indian universities in the 2025 QS Asia University Rankings**. IIT Delhi climbed two places from last year to **reach 44th in the continental rankings**. This achievement pushes IIT Delhi ahead of IIT Bombay, which fell eight spots to 48th place. Several factors contributed to IIT Delhi’s rise, including the impact of its research, improved academic reputation, and an increase in faculty members with PhDs.

India secures position in top 10 countries in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs: WIPO 2024 Report

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has published the World Intellectual Property Indicators (WIPI) 2024, underscoring global trends in intellectual property (IP) filings. The report reveals significant growth in patent, trademark, and industrial design applications across top economies. **India has secured a spot in the global top 10 for all three major intellectual property (IP) rights—patents, trademarks, and industrial designs**. India continues to solidify its place as a global leader in the intellectual property (IP) landscape by showing substantial progress and marking new milestones in IP activity.

- **India recorded the fastest growth in patent (+15.7%) applications in 2023 among the top 20 origins, marking the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth.** India ranks sixth globally for patents with 64,480 applications, with resident filings accounting for over half of all submissions (55.2%)—a first for the country. The patent office also granted 149.4% more patents in 2023 compared to the previous year, underlining the country's fast-evolving IP ecosystem.
- **The report indicates a steady rise (36.4%) in India's industrial design applications,** which aligns with increasing emphasis on product design, manufacturing, and creative industries within India. The top three sectors—Textiles and Accessories, Tools and Machines, and Health and Cosmetics—made up almost half of all design filings,
- Between 2018 and 2023, patent and industrial design applications more than doubled, while trademark filings increased by 60%, reflecting the country's growing emphasis on IP and innovation. India's patent-to-GDP ratio also saw significant growth, **rising from 144 to 381 in the past decade, indicating that IP activity is scaling alongside economic expansion.**
- **India ranked fourth globally in trademark filings, with a 6.1% increase in 2023.** Nearly 90% of these filings were by residents, with key sectors including Health (21.9%), Agriculture (15.3%), and Clothing (12.8%) leading the way. India's trademark office holds the second-largest number of active registrations worldwide, with over 3.2 million trademarks in force, reflecting the country's strong position in global brand protection.
- **The report highlights continued growth in global intellectual property (IP) filings, reflecting innovation resilience despite economic challenges.** The findings from WIPO's World Intellectual Property Indicators 2024 showcase India's advancements in innovation and IP. The steady increase in resident filings demonstrates the impact of government initiatives, which aim to make India a global innovation leader.

IRDAI Chairman pitches for 100% FDI in insurance sector

- **IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda pitched for 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance sector, saying a lot of capital is needed to achieve the goal of 'insurance for all' by 2027.** Insurance is a capital-intensive sector, and the country would need more players in the segment to increase insurance penetration. The initiative will empower customers to explore a variety of products in one marketplace, independent of intermediaries tied to specific companies, while also allowing distributors to conduct transactions more efficiently.

Historic Inauguration of 1st Trilateral Power Transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh via Indian Grid

- **The first trilateral power transaction – from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian Grid, was inaugurated.** Power Minister Manohar Lal jointly inaugurated the power flow from Nepal to Bangladesh, along with the Adviser of Bangladesh Ministry of Power, Fouzul Kabir Khan, and Nepal's Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Dipak Khadka, through a virtual event.
- External Affairs Ministry said this historic occasion marks the first trilateral power transaction which has been carried out through the Indian grid. **The government announced its decision to facilitate the first trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh, through the Indian grid with an export of up to 40 MW of power during the visit of the former Nepal Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to India last year.**
- During the visit, both sides expressed their commitment towards greater sub-regional cooperation, including in the energy sector, which would lead to increased inter-linkages between the economies for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders. **Following this, a tripartite power sales agreement between NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, Nepal Electricity Authority and Bangladesh Power Development Board was signed in Kathmandu.** The start of this power flow from Nepal to Bangladesh through India is expected to boost sub-regional connectivity in the power sector.

Delhi-NCR 6th most expensive office market in Asia Pacific with monthly rent of ₹340/sq ft: Knight Frank

- **Delhi-NCR is the sixth most expensive office location in the Asia Pacific region, with an average monthly rental of ₹340 per sq ft, while Mumbai ranked eighth in the list, according to Knight Frank India.** Real estate consultant Knight Frank, in its latest edition of the Asia-Pacific Prime Office Rental Index for Q3 (July-September) 2024, said Delhi-NCR is the 6th most expensive office space rental market across the APAC region.
- **Hong Kong SAR continues to be APAC's most expensive office market during the third quarter of this calendar year.** Prime rents in the NCR remained stable in Q3 2024, while Mumbai and Bengaluru saw year-on-year (YoY) increases of 5% and 3%, respectively, driven by strong demand from corporates and limited new supply.
- The prime office market of Delhi-NCR continued to see rental values maintain levels seen in the past four quarters. **The prime office rent of the region was recorded at ₹340 per sq ft per month, making it the 6th most expensive office market in the APAC zone. The prime office rent of Mumbai was recorded at ₹317 per sq a month and stood at the 8th most expensive commercial market in the APAC region. Bengaluru ranked 18th on the list and is one of the least expensive prime office markets. The prime office rent of the city was recorded at ₹138 per sq ft per month.**

Hibox App Scam: Thousands of Indians Cheated

- **The Hibox application scam has resulted in financial losses for many Indians, estimated at Rs. 1,000 crore.** This scam involved the promotion of a mobile app that promised high returns on investments. Popular social media influencers and YouTubers played a key role in promoting this app. Investigations are ongoing, led by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police.
- **The Hibox scam lured victims into investing money through an app.** The promise was simple: guaranteed returns of 1 to 5 per cent daily. This equated to monthly returns of 30 to 90 per cent. Early investors received returns, which encouraged more people to invest. Eventually, the app stopped disbursing funds, and the operators vanished.

India's first solar power storage plant to come up in MP's Morena

- **India's first solar power storage plant will be set up soon in Madhya Pradesh's Morena.** The work for constructing the storage plant, which can supply electricity during the night as well, will begin from next year and the plant will be functional by 2027. **The cost of this 600 MW capacity plant, which will be built in an area of around 3,000 hectares in Morena, is expected to be around Rs. 3,500 crore.** Notably, **Madhya Pradesh is among the leading states in production of solar energy in the country. One of the world's largest solar power plant is located in Rewa in the state, which produces 750 MW of electricity.**

The International Solar Alliance is a common platform for cooperation among sun-rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Countries that do not fall within the Tropics can join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members, with the exception of voting rights. This initiative was first proposed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a speech in November 2015 at Wembley Stadium (London HA9 0WS, United Kingdom), in which he referred to sunshine countries as *Suryaputra* ("Sons of the Sun"). The initiative was launched at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris at the end of 2015 by the then, President of France and the Prime Minister of India. In January 2016, Narendra Modi, and the then, French President François Hollande jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat at the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gwalpahari, Gurugram, India. Ajay Mathuri is the current Director General of ISA. The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy which aims to mobilise USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.

National Consumer Helpline Partners With Over 1000 Companies to Resolve Consumer Grievances

- In a significant development, **National Consumer Helpline has partnered with over 1,000 companies under its Convergence Programme to expedite grievance resolution.** These companies span major sectors, including e-commerce, private education, FMCG, consumer durables, electronic products, retail outlets, automobiles and banking. Consumer Affairs Ministry said the complaints related to these convergence companies will be directly transferred to them for online resolution. The Ministry said, the number of convergence partners has steadily increased from 263 companies in 2017 to one thousand nine companies. It said, this growth highlights the role of these partners in enhancing the helpline's efficiency, enabling quick and effective grievance redressal and promoting transparency and accountability.

Grievance Redressal Assessment And Index (GRAI) 2023

- **Dr Jitendra Singh has launched Grievance Redressal Assessment and Index (GRAI) 2023** in the presence of Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Govt. of India. Eighty-nine Central Ministries and Departments were assessed and **ranked based on a comprehensive index in the dimensions of (1) Efficiency, (2) Feedback, (3) Domain and (4) Organisational Commitment and corresponding 11 indicators.** To compute the index, data between January and December 2023 was used from the Centralised Public Grievance Redressal and Management System (CPGRAMS).
- In the GRAI 2023 report released by DARPG, **detailed Root-Cause Analysis has been included with specific inputs on areas of further improvement.** This report presents a two-dimensional (vertical and horizontal) analysis of the root causes of effective redressal of grievances of each Ministries and Departments in an easily discernible colour coded analysis. **The report also presents brief description of technical partners DARPG has engaged to facilitate the Ministries and Departments to optimally utilize CPGRAMS as a means of effective grievance redressal media.**

National Public Broadcaster Prasar Bharati Launches Its OTT Platform- WAVES

- **National Public Broadcaster Prasar Bharati has launched its OTT platform, WAVES.** It was unveiled at the opening ceremony of the **55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.** WAVES, while catering to the growing demand for digital streaming services, aims to revive nostalgia while embracing modern digital trends.
- **WAVES features timeless shows like Ramayan, Mahabharat, Shaktimaan, and Hum Log.** The platform will connect audiences with India's cultural and emotional heritage. Prasar Bharati Chairman Navneet Kumar Sehgal said that WAVES is unique compared to other OTT platforms, offering clean and family-oriented entertainment along with other services. WAVES also includes news, documentaries, and regional content, promoting inclusivity and diversity. **WAVES caters to diverse audiences with content in over 12 languages and over ten genres.** Its expansive library includes regional content, women-centric content, and even animation content, along with live channels including Doordarshan and Akashvani.
- **WAVES also has LIVE events like the Prabhu Shriram Lalla Aarti LIVE from Ayodhya and the monthly Mann ki Baat by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.** Among several other features, WAVES will provide video on demand, free-to-play gaming, radio streaming, live TV streaming, 65 live channels, several App in App integrations for video and gaming content, and online shopping through Open Network for Digital Commerce supported e-commerce platform.

Narasapuram crochet craft gets GI tag, exports set to get a big boost

- West Godavari District Collector Ch. Nagarani **received the Geographical Indication Registry tag certificate for Narsapur crochet lace craft from Union Minister of Textiles Giriraj Singh during the closing ceremony of the GI & Beyond 2024 summit held in New Delhi on November 25.** The intricate Narasapuram crochet craft, with its tradition of lace-making dating back to the 19th century, has received the prestigious Geographical Indications (GI) tag. Narasapuram and Palakollu towns of Andhra Pradesh are the primary hubs of this craft, housing over 100 crochet export houses that collectively employ thousands of women. Many of these products are exported to markets in the US, UK, and France.

A geographical indication (GI) is a name or sign used on certain products which corresponds to a specific geographical location or origin (e.g., a town, region, or country). India, as a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO), enacted the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 has come into force with effect from 15 September 2003. GIs have been defined under Article 22 (1) of the WTO Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement as: “Indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a member, or a region or a locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographic origin.” The GI tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users (or at least those residing inside the geographic territory) are allowed to use the popular product name. Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India, in 2004–2005. The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years. It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launch ‘Jobs at Your Doorstep’ Report by World Bank

- Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Minister of Labour and Employment and Youth Affairs and Sports **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya** launched a report titled **Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States**, at an event in New Delhi.
- The World Bank assists the Ministry of Education with its program called **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS)** covering six states namely Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan (collectively the STARS states). STARS Scheme has a national component under which key reforms are shared and disseminated for implementation.
- **This report underscores the significant benefits of embedding skill-based education from grades 9-12 to prepare students for diverse career paths relying on a bottom-up approach**, going deep in districts of the six states. These present varying socio-economic profiles offer a nuanced view of how industry and government can both contribute towards the jobs agenda. **The Ministry of Education has made major strides on this front by launching the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) 2023. Both policies emphasize the importance of skilling in schools, with the NEP setting ambitious targets of 50 per cent of students accessing skill education by 2025 and all secondary schools offering skill education by 2030.** Jobs at Your Doorstep is a skills gap analysis that attempts to align trades offered in schools industry-specific needs of the districts where the schools are present. **The study was initiated to reimagine the skill education offering through in-depth primary as well as secondary research in six STARS states.**

The World Bank is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. The World Bank Group comprises five institutions managed by their member countries. It was established in 1944, the World Bank Group is headquartered in Washington, **Ajay Banga** is an Indian-born American business executive. He is currently the President of the World Bank Group, and vice chairman at General Atlantic. He was executive chairman of Mastercard, after having previously served as president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the company from July 2010 until December 31, 2020. Together, IBRD and IDA form the World Bank, which provides financing, policy advice, and technical assistance to governments of developing countries. IDA focuses on the world’s poorest countries, while IBRD assists middle-income and creditworthy poorer countries. The International Development Association (IDA) is a multinational financial institution providing aid to poor countries in the form of loans. It is also referred to as soft loan window of the World Bank. IBRD and IDA have 189 and 174 member countries, respectively. The U.S., Japan, China, Germany and the U.K. have the most voting power.

Centre greenlights hydro projects worth Rs. 3,689 cr, launches Rs. 2,481 cr National Mission on natural farming

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi **approved two major initiatives: the construction of two hydropower projects worth Rs. 3,689 crore in Arunachal Pradesh and the launch of the Rs. 2,481 crore National Mission on Natural Farming.**

- The PAN 2.0 Project enables technology-driven transformation of taxpayer registration services and is aimed at ease of access and speedy service delivery with improved quality. Single source of truth and data consistency; eco-friendly processes and cost optimization; and security and optimisation of infrastructure for greater agility, are the other benefits of the project. “The PAN 2.0 Project resonates with the vision of the Government enshrined in Digital India by enabling the use of PAN as Common Identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies”.

Amara Raja Infra sets up India’s first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh

- Amara Raja Infra completed India’s first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, built for NTPC Ltd. The station, inaugurated produces 80 kg of green hydrogen daily and will power five hydrogen fuel cell buses, promoting emission-free transport in the challenging high-altitude terrain. This project marks a significant step in India’s National Hydrogen Energy Mission.
- The landmark project will enable emission-free transport in and around Leh - making India among the few countries to take the lead in the green mobility space, adding with the completion of the project, NTPC will now operationalise five hydrogen fuel cell buses in the region.

Cabinet clears PAN 2.0, card to feature QR code

- An upgrade of existing Permanent Account Number (PAN) with an additional feature of QR code on the cards along with a proposal to make PAN “the common identifier for businesses” was approved by the Union Cabinet. The Cabinet approved the PAN 2.0 Project of the Income Tax Department, with a cost of Rs. 1,435 crore, under which the existing system will be upgraded completely, the digital backbone will be revamped and PAN will be made as a common business identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies. The PAN 2.0 is a e-governance project for re-engineering the business processes of taxpayer registration services through transformation of PAN/TAN services.

India Is Largest Producer of Milk in the World

- Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh said that the government is working towards making the country Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free by 2030. The Minister said that Animal Husbandry contributes greatly to the economy of the country.
- Mr Singh further highlighted that India is the largest producer of milk in the world. National Milk Day is celebrated annually on November 26 in India to honor the significant contributions of milk and the dairy industry to the country’s development. The day also marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, known as the “Father of the White Revolution” in India, who was instrumental in making India the world’s largest producer of milk.

India climbs up eleven slots to be among Top 50 Countries in Network Readiness Index 2024

- India has improved its position by eleven slots and is now placed at 49th rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024) report released, as against 60th rank scored in the NRI 2023 report. In its latest version of 2024, the Report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 133 economies based on their performances in four different pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact, covering a total of 54 variables.
- The report has been published by the Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington DC. India has not only improved its ranking, but also improved its score from 49.93 in 2023 to 53.63 in 2024. It is noteworthy that India leads in several indicators.
- The report states that India secured 1st rank in ‘AI scientific publications’, ‘AI talent concentration’ and ‘ICT services exports’, 2nd rank in ‘FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions’, ‘Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country’ and ‘International Internet bandwidth’, 3rd rank in ‘Domestic market scale’ and 4th rank in ‘annual investment in telecommunication services’.
- India has ranked 2nd in the group of lower-middle-income countries after Vietnam. As per the report, India has demonstrated significant digital progress, with notable strengths in technological innovation and digital transformation. India’s performance in NRI 2024 is latest in a string of advancements in the

telecommunications sector. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has made significant strides in advancing India's telecommunication infrastructure. **Over the past decade, tele density increased from 75.2% to 84.69%, and wireless connections reached 119 crore.** The Digital India has set an example by expanding broadband access to rural areas through partnerships with technology companies, resulting in the sharp rise in internet subscribers from 25.1 crore to 94.4 crore, with a substantial rise in wireless internet usage.

- Reforms in spectrum management, ease of doing business, and consumer protection have further strengthened the sector. Furthermore, **India launched 5G services in 2022, rapidly improving its global mobile broadband speed ranking from 118 to 15.** Now, India aims to position itself as a leader in future telecom technologies with the Bharat 6G Vision.

Union govt proposes increase in FDI limit in insurance sector to 100%

- The Union Finance Ministry released a consultation paper proposing to raise the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 74 per cent to 100 per cent. The FDI limit in the insurance sector was previously increased from 49 per cent to 74 per cent in February 2021.
- The government stated that the proposal to amend certain provisions of insurance laws aims to ensure accessibility and affordability of insurance for citizens, foster the expansion and development of the insurance industry, and streamline business processes. "In this regard, a comprehensive review of the legislative framework governing the sector has been conducted in consultation with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) and the industry.

FDI stands for Foreign Direct Investment and refers to investment made by a foreign company in another country's company. The purpose of the investment is to gain long-lasting control or influence over the foreign company. **FII stands for Foreign Institutional Investor. FIIs are a group of investors who pool their money to invest in foreign assets.** FII is a quick way for investors to make money and includes institutions such as banks, mutual funds, insurance companies, and hedge funds. **FDI involves a direct investment in a company with the intention of acquiring management control or influence, while FII involves investment in securities or assets of a foreign company.** FDI results in a long-term interest in the investee company, whereas FII investment is usually short-term and focused on the secondary market. FDI is subject to stricter regulations compared to FII, which allows for a relatively easy entry and exit from investment. FDI brings in not just finance, but also technical knowledge and direct involvement in the day-to-day operations of the foreign company, while FII investment primarily provides financial benefits. FDI is considered a more stable form of foreign investment as compared to FII, which is known as "hot money" due to its quick entry and exit from investments.

Banks in News

RBI, Maldives Monetary Authority sign pact to promote use of local currencies

- The RBI and the Maldives Monetary Authority signed an agreement in Mumbai for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies — the Indian Rupee and the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) for cross-border transactions. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Governor of Reserve Bank of India Shaktikanta Das and Governor of Maldives Monetary Authority Ahmed Munawar. “The MoU encourages the use of INR and MVR in current account transactions, permissible capital account transactions and any other economic and financial transactions as agreed upon by both countries”.

The Reserve Bank of India was founded on 1 April 1935 to respond to economic troubles after the First World War. RBI was conceptualised as per the guidelines, working style and outlook presented by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in his book titled “The Problem of the Rupee – Its origin and its solution” and presented to the Hilton Young Commission. The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton–Young Commission. In 1969, the Indira Gandhi-headed government nationalised 14 major commercial banks. Upon Indira Gandhi’s return to power in 1980, a further six banks were nationalised. The first Governor of the RBI was British banker Osborn Smith and C.D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor of RBI.

State Bank of India unit to raise Rs. 2,000 crore for climate fund

- A unit of India’s largest lender State Bank of India is planning to raise as much as Rs. 20 billion (\$237 million) through its third climate fund. SBI Ventures Ltd. plans to raise the money from multilateral institutions after approval from the company’s board.
- The fund will invest in small and mid-sized companies that are focused on recycling waste and curbing emissions among other initiatives, and obtain equity partnership. Green finance - that effectively funds projects with environmental benefits — is gaining momentum in India as a key tool for transitioning the economy toward net-zero emissions. India, the world’s third-largest carbon emitter, needs \$12.4 trillion in investment to achieve its goal of reaching net zero by 2070.

ADB Approves \$200 Million Loan to Enhance Livability in Uttarakhand

- The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 200 million dollar loan to help upgrade water supply, sanitation, urban mobility, and other urban services in Uttarakhand. The project aligns with the Union Government’s urban development agenda as well as the Uttarakhand state government’s initiatives to enhance urban services, aiming to boost livability and sustainability in cities. The project will enhance transportation, urban mobility, drainage, flood management, and overall public services in Haldwani, and also improve water supply delivery in four cities of Uttarakhand.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines. The bank also maintains 31 field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia. The bank admits the members of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP, formerly the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or ECAFE) and non-regional developed countries. From 31 members at its establishment, ADB now has 69 members. The ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members’ capital subscriptions. As of 31 December 2020, Japan and the United States each holds the largest proportion of shares at 15.571%. China holds 6.429%, India holds 6.317%, and Australia holds 5.773%. The current president of ADB is Masatsugu Asakawa.

India, ADB Sign \$98 Million Loan To Promote Plant Health Management In India’s Horticulture

- The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 98 million US dollar loan to improve horticulture crop farmers’ access to certified disease-free planting materials, which will boost their crops’ yield, quality, and resilience to climate impacts.

- The signatories to the **loan agreement for the Building India’s Clean Plant Programme** were Joint Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs Juhi Mukherjee and Officer-in-Charge of ADB’s India Resident Mission, Kai Wei Yeo. After signing the agreement, Ms. Mukherjee stated that the ADB funding will promote plant health that is vital for improving productivity of farmers. According to the Ministry of Finance, the project supports the Government’s Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme (CPP) that enhances plant health management. It will help develop regulatory framework and institutional systems to effectively implement the CPP for horticulture in India.

ADB increases climate finance after U.S., Japan give world’s first sovereign guarantees

- **The Asian Development Bank will increase its climate-related lending by up to \$7.2 billion** after the United States and Japan agreed to underwrite risk for some existing loans marking the **first ever sovereign guarantees for climate finance**.
- The new strategy, shared exclusively with Reuters, **offers a potential template for other development banks to follow as the U.N.’s COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan**, starting this week focuses on ramping up the amount of finance available to developing nations. **The ADB has set a long-term cumulative climate finance lending target of \$100 billion between 2019 and 2030. In 2023, it lent \$9.8 billion.**
- **The U.S. election victory of Donald Trump, who has vowed to remove the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate, has overshadowed the start of the Baku talks, adding pressure on Europe and China to help get a strong result**, negotiators said last week. **Under the ADB plan, the world’s richest country would guarantee up to \$1 billion of existing loans from Asia’s top development institution**, while Japan would underwrite \$600 million—freeing the bank to lend more for climate-related projects.

Masato Kanda Elected As ADB President

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors has unanimously elected Masato Kanda as ADB’s 11th President.** Kanda currently serves as Special Advisor to Japan’s Prime Minister and Minister of Finance. **Mr Kanda will assume office in February next year, succeeding Masatsugu Asakawa.**
- He will complete the unexpired term of President Asakawa, which ends on 23 November 2026. **ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966, which is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.** The bank also maintains 31 field offices around the world to promote social and economic development in Asia. The bank admits the members of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and non-regional developed countries. **Starting with 31 members at its establishment, ADB now has 69 members. Israel became the 69th member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in September 2024. Israel is the 20th non-regional member of the ADB.**

IDFC FIRST Bank launches real-time tracking for international money transfers

- **IDFC FIRST Bank has become the first Indian bank to offer real-time tracking for money sent abroad.** This service, developed in partnership with Swift, is accessible through the bank’s mobile app and internet banking platforms. Under the Reserve Bank of India’s Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS), resident individuals can send money abroad for various purposes, including education, medical expenses, and investments. Non-Resident Indians can also transfer funds from their NRO/NRE accounts through IDFC FIRST Bank.

IDFC FIRST Bank (formerly IDFC Bank) is an Indian private sector bank formed by the merger of the banking arm of Infrastructure Development Finance Company and Capital First, an Indian non-bank financial institution. It is the first universal bank to offer monthly interest credit on savings accounts, lifetime free credit cards with dynamic and low annual percentage rates. The Reserve Bank has approved the appointment of V. Vaidyanathan as Managing Director and CEO of IDFC First Bank for a period of three years, effective from December 19, 2018.

Firms in News

Jeff Bezos sells over \$3 billion in Amazon shares, becomes 2nd richest person

- **Amazon founder Jeff Bezos has sold over \$3 billion in Amazon shares.** This brings his total Amazon stock sales for 2024 to more than \$13 billion. Bezos sold more than 16 million shares as Amazon's stock again approached \$200 per share, reaching that level back in July when Bezos also sold shares. **With a net worth of \$222 billion, Bezos ranks as the second-richest person on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, up \$42.8 billion year-over-year due to Amazon's stock performance. Elon Musk continues to dominate first spot.**

Jeffrey Preston Bezos is an American business magnate best known as the founder, executive chairman, and former president and CEO of Amazon, the world's largest e-commerce and cloud computing company. He is the second wealthiest person in the world, with a net worth of US\$230 billion as of November 13, 2024, according to Forbes and Bloomberg Billionaires Index. He was the wealthiest person from 2017 to 2021, according to both the Bloomberg Billionaires Index and Forbes. Bezos founded the aerospace manufacturer and sub-orbital spaceflight services company Blue Origin in 2000. Blue Origin's New Shepard vehicle reached space in 2015 and afterwards successfully landed back on Earth; he flew into space on Blue Origin NS-16 in 2021. He purchased the major American newspaper The Washington Post in 2013 for \$250 million and manages many other investments through his venture capital firm, Bezos Expeditions. In September 2021, Bezos co-founded Altos Labs with Mail.ru founder Yuri Milner.

Meta to build its first fully-owned subsea cable around the world

- **Mark Zuckerberg-led Meta, the parent firm of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, is reportedly planning a subsea cable that would "encompass the world". This would be Meta's first fully-owned subsea cable.** The social media giant is already involved in subsea cables such as 2Africa, Echo, Bifrost Havhingsten, Amite and Anjana. The project's starting cost is \$2 billion, which is expected to rise to over \$10 billion as work progresses. The cable would run from the east coast of the US to India with a stop in South Africa, and then from India to the west coast of the US with a stop in Australia.

Meta Platforms, Inc., doing business as Meta, and formerly named Facebook, Inc., and it is an American multinational technology conglomerate based in Menlo Park, California. The company owns and operates Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and WhatsApp, among other products and services. Meta is one of the world's most valuable companies and among the ten largest publicly traded corporations in the United States. It is considered one of the Big Five American information technology companies, alongside Google parent company Alphabet, Amazon, Apple, and Microsoft. Mark Zuckerberg is an American business magnate, computer programmer, internet entrepreneur and philanthropist. He is known for co-founding the social media website Facebook and its parent company Meta Platforms (formerly Facebook, Inc.), of which he is the executive chairman, chief executive officer, and controlling shareholder.

Noel Tata joins Tata Sons board

- **Tata Trusts Chairman Noel N Tata has been appointed on the board of Tata Sons Ltd, the holding company of various Tata group companies.** Tata was appointed on the firm's board last week, a source in the Tata group confirmed. However, Noel Tata, who was elected as Chairman of the Trusts after the demise of Ratan Tata last month, won't be able to become the Chairman of Tata Sons as Ratan Tata separated the roles of Chairman of Tata Sons and Tata Trusts to prevent the same person from heading both the institutions. Tata Trusts which holds over 66 per cent stake in Tata Sons has three nominees on the board of Tata Sons. Apart from Noel Tata, others included TVS group chief Venu Srinivasan and former Defence Secretary Vijay Singh.

Maharatna PSUs NTPC and ONGC Join Hands to form a JV Company

- **Maharatna PSUs NTPC and ONGC have collaborated to form a Joint Venture Company (JVC) through their Green Energy Subsidiaries (NTPC Green Energy Ltd. and ONGC Green Energy Ltd.) to further promote their interest in renewable and new energy arena.** NGEL has submitted an application to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the incorporation of a 50:50 Joint Venture Company with OGL.

- This JVC shall venture into various Renewable Energy (RE) and New Energy opportunities including Solar, Wind (Onshore/Offshore), Energy Storage (Pump/Battery), Green molecule (Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Green Methanol), E-mobility, Carbon Credits, Green Credits, etc. **The JVC will also seek opportunities to acquire renewable energy assets and will also consider participation in upcoming offshore wind tenders in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.**

The CPSEs meeting the following criteria are eligible to be considered for grant of Maharatna status. **1. Having Navratna status 2. Listed on Indian stock exchange with minimum prescribed public shareholding under SEBI regulations 3. An average annual turnover of more than Rs. 25,000 crore during the last 3 years 4. An average annual net worth of more than Rs. 15,000 crore during the last 3 years 5. An average annual net profit after tax of more than Rs. 5,000 crore during the last 3 years 6. Should have significant global presence/international operations.** Maharatna CPSEs 1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited 2. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited 3. Coal India Limited 4. GAIL India Limited 5. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited 6. Indian Oil Corporation Limited 7. NTPC Limited 8. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited, 9. Power Finance Corporation 10. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited 11. Steel Authority of India Limited 12. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited 13. Oil India Ltd 14. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

IREUK Titanium Limited for production of Ti Slag in India

- **IREL (India) Limited, (IREL) CPSU** under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Govt. of India and Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC, (UKTMP JSC) Kazakhstan have **signed an agreement to establish Indo-Kazakh joint venture company (JVC): IREUK Titanium Limited for production of Ti Slag in India.**
- **The JVC will act as a catalyst in developing Titanium value chain within India as it shall beneficiate low grade Ilmenite into high grade Titanium Feedstock** and also result in employment generation opportunity in the State of Odisha. The offtake arrangement by UKTMP JSC shall be instrumental in bringing valuable forex for the country and aid UKTMP JSC in raw material security. Thus, JVC between IREL & UKTMP JSC shall enhance the brand equity of both the companies as well as act as growth engine for India and Kazakhstan in the titanium value chain.

Berkshire Hathaway First Non-Tech Company to Hit \$1 Trillion

- **Warren Buffett's conglomerate, Berkshire Hathaway, reached an important milestone by becoming the first US company outside the technology sector to surpass a market value of \$1 trillion.** The company's shares rose by 0.8%, pushing its market capitalisation above the trillion-dollar mark for the first time.
- **The company's stocks have climbed 30% in 2024, outperforming the S&P 500's gain of 18% so far.** This surge has added more than \$200 billion to Berkshire's market capitalisation this year alone, a record for the firm. However, it's a huge contrast to the nearly \$2 trillion increase in value seen by Nvidia, another market giant. Berkshire Hathaway, based in Omaha, Nebraska, now joins a select group of companies that have reached this milestone, a group previously dominated by technology giants like Alphabet Inc., Meta Platforms Inc., and Nvidia Corp.

Nxtra by Airtel becomes first data centre in India to deploy AI for enhanced operational excellence

- Furthering its mission to build future-ready data centre infrastructure that is "Intelligent by Design and Sustainable by Choice", Nxtra by Airtel, one of India's leading data centre companies, has deployed Artificial Intelligence (AI) in its data centres to drive operational excellence. **With this, Nxtra by Airtel has become the first data centre in India to leverage AI to build new-age digitised facilities engineered to drive smart capabilities like predictive maintenance, enhanced operational and energy efficiency, streamlined automation of operations and optimised capex utilisation.**
- **The deployment leverages the AI-powered SmartSense platform of leading AI expert in the infrastructure industry, Ecolibrium. Nxtra implemented the AI technology in its Chennai data centre first and will now deploy the capabilities across all its core data centres.**

- **Nxtra by Airtel offers India's largest network of intelligent and sustainable data centres across 120+ locations to leading enterprises, hyperscalers, start-ups, SMEs and governments.** The company is on a trajectory to double its existing capacity to over 400 MW in the next few years. **Nxtra has committed to becoming net-zero by 2031** through multiple interventions including accelerated green energy adoption, energy efficient infrastructure and processes and the implementation of sustainable business practices.

Navratna Status Granted to NHPC, SJVN, RailTel PSUs

- **NHPC, SJVN, and RailTel, three major public sector companies in India,** have been given the prestigious “Navratna” status by the Government of India. This makes them the 18th, 19th, and 20th companies to earn this special title. This status is a significant achievement for these companies, giving them more freedom and power to make decisions and expand their operations.

Navratna status is a recognition given by the Indian government to select public sector enterprises (PSEs) that have financial and operational autonomy. The grant of Navratna status to RVNL provides it with more operational freedom, financial autonomy, and enhanced delegation of powers. This status enables PSEs to invest up to Rs. 1000 crore without any approval from the central government, giving them more flexibility in decision making, personnel management, and joint ventures. The CPSEs which are Miniratna I, Schedule 'A' and have obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' MOU rating in three of the last five years and having composite score of 60 or above in following six selected performance indicators are eligible to be considered for grant of Navratna status.

NTPC Launches World's First CO₂-To-Methanol Plant

- **NTPC, India's largest power producer, inaugurated the world's first CO₂-to-methanol conversion plant at its Vindhyachal facility coinciding with the company's 50th Raising Day celebration.** NTPC Chairman Gurdeep Singh described the milestone as a “historic step in carbon management and sustainable fuel production.”
- Singh highlighted the company's ongoing initiatives in green technologies, including work on Gen-4 ethanol, green urea, and sustainable aviation fuel. The company has also developed and tested ‘first indigenous catalyst’ for Methanol Synthesis, and made substantial progress with hydrogen, carbon capture, and other innovative technologies, Singh said. During the event, NTPC also launched hydrogen-fueled buses in Leh and introduced new IT applications.

Apple Inc sets up first subsidiary in India for R&D

- **Apple established a new subsidiary in India, Apple Operations India, marking its first direct presence in the country.** This subsidiary will focus on research, design, testing, and providing support to third-party manufacturers. This move signifies Apple's commitment to expanding its operational footprint in India beyond assembly and sales. The holding company of its existing sales and marketing entity, Apple India, is part of the European operations — Ireland-based Apple Operations International owns Apple India, according to the RoC. Manufacturing of Apple products in India is outsourced and the new subsidiary will support third-party manufacturers and contractors by providing hardware, software and other services.

Air India, Singapore Airlines announce successful completion of Air India-Vistara merger

- **Tata group's flagship airline Air India announced the completion of the operational integration and legal merger between Vistara and itself, which was a joint venture between the Tata group and Singapore Airlines.** The wheels for the merger were set in motion in 2022 after the Tata group acquired Air India from the government.
- **Singapore Airlines separately announced that after the merger, it now holds 25.1 per cent stake in the expanded Air India.** It held 49 per cent stake in Vistara. According to Air India, the merger with Vistara has created a full-service carrier of scale and marks a significant milestone in Air India's post-privatisation transformation journey. This merger follows the merger of the group's low-cost airlines Air India Express and AIX Connect (formerly Air Asia India), which took effect on October 1.

Google DeepMind's Morni AI to cover 125 Indic languages

- **Google DeepMind's India unit is leading a big AI project called "Morni."** This project is **focused on developing AI technologies that can understand and work with 125 different Indian languages and dialects.** This is very important because India is a country with many languages, and making AI work for all of them will help ensure that everyone can benefit from AI, no matter what language they speak. India officially recognizes 22 languages, but the Morni project is aiming much higher by trying to include over 100 languages.

Google is an American multinational corporation and technology company focusing on online advertising, search engine technology, cloud computing, computer software, quantum computing, e-commerce, consumer electronics, and artificial intelligence (AI). It has been referred to as **"the most powerful company in the world"** and is one of the world's most valuable brands due to its market dominance, data collection, and technological advantages in the field of AI. Google's parent company, Alphabet Inc., is one of the five Big Tech companies, alongside Amazon, Apple, Meta, and Microsoft. **Google was founded on September 4, 1998, by American computer scientists Larry Page and Sergey Brin** while they were PhD students at Stanford University in California. **In 2015, Google was reorganized as a wholly owned subsidiary of Alphabet Inc. Google is Alphabet's largest subsidiary** and is a holding company for Alphabet's internet properties and interests. **Sundar Pichai was appointed CEO of Google on October 24, 2015, replacing Larry Page, who became the CEO of Alphabet.** On December 3, 2019, Pichai also became the CEO of Alphabet.

BSNL has launched the country's first direct-to-device satellite internet service

- **State-owned telecom operator BSNL has launched the country's first direct-to-device satellite internet service.** The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide and provide high-speed internet access to remote and underserved regions across the nation.
- The new satellite internet service leverages advanced satellite technology to deliver broadband connectivity directly to user devices, bypassing the need for traditional terrestrial infrastructure. **The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) India announced the launch of India's first direct-to-device satellite internet service.** While satellite connectivity isn't new, with Apple introducing it on iPhone 14 models, its availability to regular Indian users is a significant first.

Reliance, Disney India complete media assets merger for ₹70000 crore joint venture

- **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has completed the merger of its media assets with the India business of Walt Disney for an \$8.5 billion (Rs. 70,352 crore) joint venture (JV) that will be controlled by the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate. Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani will head the JV,** in which RIL has invested \$1.4 billion (Rs. 11,500 crore). Reliance holds a 63.16% stake, of which 16.34% is with RIL and 46.82% with Viacom18. The remaining 36.84% stake is with Walt Disney.

Deepak Agarwal Appointed Regular MD of NAFED

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed **Deepak Agarwal as the regular Managing Director (MD) of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).** This decision came shortly after assigning the role temporarily to an official from the Ministry of Cooperation.
- **NAFED is a key organization in India that focuses on the marketing of agricultural products.** It plays a crucial role in ensuring fair prices for farmers and stabilizing market fluctuations. The MD of NAFED is an important position, influencing agricultural policy and cooperative marketing.

IndiaAI and Meta Launch Generative AI Center at IIT Jodhpur

- **AI and Meta announced an important collaboration. They launched the Center for Generative AI, Srijan (सृजन) at IIT Jodhpur.** This initiative aims to advance open-source artificial intelligence (AI) in India. It also includes the YuvAi Initiative for Skilling and Capacity Building in partnership with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The focus is on developing indigenous AI applications and enhancing skill development.

Sarvam AI Launches New Language Model for Indian Languages

- **Sarvam AI, a rising player in India’s generative AI sector, has introduced a new language model named Sarvam-1. This model is specifically designed for Indian languages and is open-source.** It supports ten Indian languages, including Bengali, Hindi, and Tamil, as well as English. Launched in October 2024, Sarvam-1 follows the company’s earlier model, Sarvam 2B, which debuted in August 2024.

Gautam Adani faces five-count criminal indictment in U.S. for bribery, security fraud

- **The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has issued a five-count criminal indictment of Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, and several of his business associates.** The charges include **promising more than \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials to secure solar energy contracts, conspiracies to commit securities and wire fraud, and orchestrating “a multi-billion dollar scheme” to defraud U.S. investors and global financial institutions** by giving “false and misleading statements”.
- **Under the U.S.’s Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, 1977 (FCPA), it is unlawful to make payments to foreign government officials in a bid to obtain or retain business.** It is also a criminal offence to raise money by misleading investors about key corporate governance practices, which this case concerns compliance with the FCPA. Further, it is unlawful to obstruct federal investigations by giving false information and destroying evidence such as electronic communications. It is also a separate offence to hide the authorisation of bribery practices in company annual reports. **The defendants have been charged with offences on all these counts.**
- **Reacting to these developments, Adani Green Energy Limited has withdrawn its proposed \$600 million U.S. dollar denominated bond offering. Shares of Adani Group companies lost about \$28 billion in market value in morning trade** on November 21, 2024. This was the steepest drop in its share value since February 2023, when it was hit by allegations of misdemeanour and corporate malfeasance levelled by U.S.-based Hindenberg Research. **The Adani Group denied the allegations of the U.S. Department of Justice and the SEC, terming them “baseless”.**

Addverb Technologies, backed by Mukesh Ambani, is set to launch advanced humanoid robots by 2025

- **Addverb Technologies, backed by India’s richest person and Reliance Chairman’s Mukesh Ambani, has announced plans to launch advanced humanoid robots in 2025,** positioning itself to compete directly with **Elon Musk’s Tesla in the emerging humanoid robotics market.** The Noida-based robotics company will develop AI-powered humanoids capable of performing complex tasks across industries including fashion, retail, and energy sectors. This move marks India’s entry into the global humanoid robotics race, currently dominated by companies like Tesla, Boston Dynamics, and Agility Robotics.

Nokia wins ‘multi-billion’ dollar deal in India

- **Finland-based telecom gear maker Nokia said it has won a “multi-year, multi-billion” extension deal by Bharti Airtel to deploy 4G and 5G equipment across key Indian cities and states.** As per the contract, Nokia will deploy equipment such as base stations, and baseband units. Nokia will also help Airtel modernise its existing 4G network with multiband radios and baseband equipment, which can support 5G. Airtel will also use Nokia’s MantaRay Network Management for network monitoring and management that uses artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools covering digital deployment, optimisation, and technical support. Nokia has collaborated with Airtel for over two decades, providing 2G, 3G, 4G, and 5G network equipment.

Nokia Corporation is a Finnish multinational telecommunications, information technology, and consumer electronics corporation, originally established as a pulp mill in 1865. Nokia’s main headquarters are in Espoo, Finland, in the Helsinki metropolitan area, but the company’s actual roots are in the Tampere region of Pirkanmaa.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



India to Launch European Union's Solar Observatory Satellite Proba-3

- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh announced that **India is set to launch the European Union's Proba-3 Space Satellite**, marking another milestone in its burgeoning role as a global space leader disclosing this while speaking at the 3rd Indian Space Conclave, this underscores the deepening partnership between India and the EU in space research and exploration.
- This mission, aimed at observing the Sun, signifies both nations' commitment to advancing scientific knowledge while reinforcing the reputation of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as a trusted partner in international space missions. The Proba-3 satellite, which arrived at pòlSriharikota, is aimed at observing the Sun and reflects a new level of equal collaboration between India and other major space powers. The Proba-3 satellite will be India's third such launch for the EU, with previous missions supporting the Proba-1 and Proba-2 satellites.
- However, this mission is unique in its focus on solar observation. **Dr. Jitendra Singh explained that Proba-3 will provide valuable insights into solar corona dynamics, adding to ISRO's portfolio of ambitious scientific ventures**, which recently included the groundbreaking Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission.

The Sun is the star at the center of the Solar System. It is a massive, nearly perfect sphere of hot plasma, heated to incandescence by nuclear fusion reactions in its core, radiating the energy from its surface mainly as visible light and infrared radiation with 10% at ultraviolet energies. It is by far the most important source of energy for life on Earth. The Sun has been an object of veneration in many cultures. It has been a central subject for astronomical research since antiquity. **The Sun orbits the Galactic Center at a distance of 24,000 to 28,000 light-years. From Earth, it is 1 astronomical unit (1.496×10⁸ km) or about 8 light-minutes away.** Its diameter is about 1,391,400 km (864,600 mi), 109 times that of Earth. Its mass is about 330,000 times that of Earth, making up about 99.86% of the total mass of the Solar System. **Roughly three-quarters of the Sun's mass consists of hydrogen (~73%); the rest is mostly helium (~25%),** with much smaller quantities of heavier elements, including oxygen, carbon, neon, and iron. **The nuclear fusion reaction in the sun is the process by which two hydrogen atoms fuse together to create a helium atom, releasing energy in the process.**

Europa Clipper Mission launched

- **Europa Clipper (previously known as Europa Multiple Flyby Mission) is a space probe developed by NASA to study Europa, a Galilean moon of Jupiter.** It was launched on October 14, 2024. The spacecraft will use gravity assists from Mars on March 1, 2025, and Earth on December 3, 2026, before arriving at Europa in April 2030. The spacecraft will then perform a series of flybys of Europa while in orbit around Jupiter. **Europa Clipper is designed to follow up on evidence for a subsurface ocean underneath Europa's ice crust, found using the Galileo spacecraft which orbited Jupiter from 1995 to 2003.**

Saturn has regained its crown as the planet with the most moons in the solar system, just months after being overtaken by its fellow gas giant Jupiter. The leap-frog comes after the **discovery of 62 new moons of Saturn, bringing its official total to 145.** Jupiter, which added 12 moons to its tally in February 2023, has 95 moons that have been formally designated by the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

India set to test over 1,000 km strike range anti-ship ballistic missile

- At a time when defence forces are looking at creating a rocket force, **India is all set to soon test fire a new long-range anti-ship ballistic missile which would be able to hit moving warships or aircraft carriers at distances of over 1,000 kms.** The anti-ship ballistic missile would be capable of being launched from both warships and shore-based locations.

NASA and ISRO new NISAR satellite will help monitor Earth's surface changes

- **The Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch a satellite that will help us track Earth's "surface motions down to fractions of an inch."** Developed in partnership with NASA, the new satellite dubbed NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) will help humans track the motion of glaciers, ice sheets, and sea ice and map the changes to the planet's vegetation.
- According to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, **NISAR will measure the motion of the entire planet's land and ice-covered surface every 12 days, giving researchers a clearer picture of our planet's surface changes over time.** This level of accuracy is achieved by using a pair of radars, which consist of L-band and S-band systems built by NASA and ISRO, respectively. The US Space Agency says these instruments enable the satellite to collect measurements during both day and night and can even see through clouds using the L-band, which can even penetrate dense vegetation to measure the motion of the ground.

DRDO carries maiden test of land attack long range cruise missile

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the **maiden flight-test of a Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM), with a range of 1,000 km, from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha from a mobile articulated launcher.**
- This is a new variant of the Nirbhay LRLACM with improved features, officials confirmed. **The Defence Acquisition Council had approved procurement of the LRLACM of over 1,000 km range in July 2020.** During the test, all sub-systems performed as per expectation and met the primary mission objectives. The missile performance was monitored by several range sensors like Radar, Electro Optical Tracking System and telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path.
- "The missile followed the desired path using way point navigation and demonstrated its capability to perform various manoeuvres while flying at various altitudes and speeds. The missile is also equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and reliable performance," DRDO said in a statement. **The missile has been developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru along with contribution from other DRDO laboratories and Indian industries.** Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad and Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru are the two Development-cum-Production-Partners for LRLACM and they are engaged in the missile development and integration.

DRDO Completes Flight Tests of Guided Pinaka Weapon System

- Defence Research and Development Organisation, **DRDO has completed the Flight Tests of Guided Pinaka Weapon System as part of Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials.** Defence Ministry said in a release that the flight tests have been conducted in three phases at different field firing ranges. During these tests, the PSQR parameters including range, accuracy, consistency and rate of fire for multiple target engagement in a salvo mode, have been assessed by extensive testing of rockets. Twelve rockets from each production agency from two in-service Pinaka launchers upgraded by the launcher production agencies have been tested.

SoftBank plans first supercomputer with Nvidia's Blackwell design chips

- **SoftBank Group Corp. will be the first to build a supercomputer with chips using Nvidia Corp.'s new Blackwell design, a demonstration of the Japanese company's ambitions to catch up on AI.** SoftBank's telecom unit plans to build Japan's most powerful AI supercomputer to support a wide range of local services. The computer will be based on Nvidia's DGX B200 product, which combines computer processors with so-called AI accelerator chips. A follow-up effort will feature Grace Blackwell, a more advanced version.

DRDO carries out successful flight-trial of India's first long-range hypersonic missile off the Odisha coast

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-trial of India's first long-range hypersonic missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. **This hypersonic missile is designed to carry various payloads for ranges greater than 1,500 kms for the Armed Forces.** The missile was tracked by various range systems, deployed in multiple domains. The flight data obtained from down range ship stations confirmed the successful terminal maneuvers and impact with high degree of accuracy.
- **This missile has been indigenously developed by the laboratories of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile complex, Hyderabad** along with various other DRDO laboratories and Industry Partners. The flight-trial was carried out in the presence of senior scientists of DRDO and officers of the Armed Forces.

GABV Member Banks Endorse Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty at COP29 In Baku

- **The Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) at the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) at Baku in Azerbaijan announced that 25 of its member banks have endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative, marking the first collective endorsement of the initiative by financial institutions.**
- **The treaty is a proposal for a global binding plan to end the expansion of new coal, oil and gas projects, and manage a global transition away from fossil fuels. By endorsing the proposal for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, these 25 GABV members are urging the financial sector to take meaningful action in the fight against climate change by ending finance for fossil fuel expansion.**
- **Founded in 2009, the GABV is a network of 70 sustainable banks operating across all major world regions, united by a mission to finance change and change finance.** They collectively manage 117 billion dollars in assets and serve over 11.3 million people worldwide. **The COP29 has been dubbed the "Finance COP," marking the critical moment for wealthy countries to fund the fight against climate devastation.**

ISRO Receives Satellites for SPADEX Docking Mission

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently acquired two 400 kg satellites for an important mission called SPADEX, or Space Docking Experiment.** This mission aims to demonstrate the ability of two satellites to dock in space, marking a key step for future space missions.
- SPADEX involves launching two satellites into slightly different orbits using a single rocket. **Once in space, these satellites will travel at speeds of approximately 28,000 km/h.** They will align and perform a 'space handshake' to dock together, forming one orbiting unit. This docking capability is crucial for future missions, including Chandrayaan-4 and the proposed Indian Space Station.

ISRO is the space agency of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. S Somanath is current the chairperson of the ISRO. Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) or Sriharikota Range (SHAR) is a rocket launch centre operated by ISRO. It is located in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. Sreedhara Panicker Somanath from Kerala is an Indian aerospace engineer serving as the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Under his chairmanship, ISRO carried out the third Indian lunar exploration mission named Chandrayaan-3. Somanath served as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

Protected Planet Report 2024

- **The Protected Planet Report 2024 was released during COP16.** This report tracks progress since the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) was adopted at COP15 in 2022. **A key goal of this framework is the 30×30 target, which aims to protect 30% of land and marine areas by 2030.**
- Right now, 17.6% of terrestrial and inland waters are protected. Marine areas have 8.4% protection. **To meet the 30×30 target, we need to double land protection and triple marine protection by 2030.** Progress has been sluggish. In May 2021, only 16.64% of land and 7.74% of marine areas were protected. For the first time, the report includes data on inland water. It shows that 16.5% of wetlands and 18% of rivers and streams are protected. In marine protected areas, only 2.8% of the ocean is in highly protected zones, limiting extractive activities.

- Recently, the 16th edition of the Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) concluded in Cali, Colombia. Cali Fund was established to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources. At least 50% of the Cali Fund will focus on the self-identified needs of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, particularly women and youth. DSI refers to genomic sequence data that plays a fundamental role in environmental and biological research.
- Parties agreed to develop a new “Strategy for Resource Mobilization” to help secure USD 200 billion annually by 2030 to support biodiversity initiatives worldwide. Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF) was launched at COP 16 with a USD 200 million contribution from China. Another goal is to redirect USD 500 billion per year in subsidies that harm biodiversity by 2030. At COP 16, CBD Parties approved a Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health designed to help curb the emergence of zoonotic diseases, prevent non-communicable diseases, and promote sustainable ecosystems. The strategy embraces a holistic “One Health” approach that recognizes the health of ecosystems, animals, and humans as interconnected. In Cali, Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety welcomed new, voluntary guidance on assessing the risks posed by living modified organisms (LMOs) containing engineered genes.
- India launched the updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) at COP 16 to the CBD aligning with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). India’s first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was created in 1999, with updates in 2008 and 2014 to align with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. India is a megadiverse country, home to over 55,000 plant taxa and 100,000 animal species conservation of which is vital for both livelihoods and ecological health.
- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) is a multilateral treaty aimed at halting and reversing biodiversity loss globally by 2030. It aims to ensure that by 2030, at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, inland water, marine, and coastal ecosystems are effectively restored. It includes 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action by 2030.

National Space Commission Approved India’s Fifth Lunar Mission

- After the success of Chandrayaan-3 in August 2023, India’s National Space Commission has approved a new lunar mission, called the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex). This mission is a partnership between India’s space agency ISRO and Japan’s space agency JAXA, and it will focus on exploring the Moon’s resources, especially water at the lunar South Pole. The main goal of the Lupex mission is to study water and other important resources on the Moon. Scientists want to understand how much water is present, where it is located, and whether it is just on the surface or also beneath the Moon’s soil, known as regolith.

Upper stage of historic PSLV-37 mission re-enters Earth’s atmosphere eight years after launch

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) informed that the upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle C-37 (PSLV C-37 mission) re-entered the Earth’s atmosphere on October 6. The PSLV-C37 mission was launched on February 15, 2017 with Cartosat-2D as the main payload along with another 103 satellites as co-passengers, namely INS-1A, INS- 1B, Al-Farabi 1, BGUSAT, DIDO-2, Nayif 1, PEASS, 88 Flock-3p satellites, and 8 Lemur-2 satellites. The space agency created history as it was the first mission to launch 104 satellites with a single vehicle.
- After injecting the satellites and passivation, the upper stage (PS4) was left at an orbit of approximately 470x494 km. “It was regularly tracked by US Space Command (USSPACECOM) as an object with NORAD id 42052. Its orbital altitude slowly decayed, primarily due to atmospheric drag effects,” ISRO informed on October 8. Since September 2024, ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM) regularly monitored the orbital decay as part of its regular activities and predicted re-entry into the atmosphere in the first week of October 2024.

ISRO Successfully Launches Satellite GSAT 20 On board SpaceX’s Falcon 9 Rocket in US

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched its most sophisticated communications satellite GSAT 20 on board SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral in the USA. ISRO Chairman S Somanath said, it was a very successful launch, the satellite is healthy and solar panels have been deployed.

- The satellite will provide broadband services in remote areas and in-flight Internet in passenger aircraft. **It will remain in operation for 14 years. This is for the first time that ISRO has launched a satellite on a SpaceX rocket through its commercial arm New Space India Limited (NSIL). Weighing 4,700 kg, GSAT-20 is one of India’s heaviest communication satellites.**
- **The GSAT-20 is too heavy for India’s own rocket LVM-3, popularly known as ‘Bahubali’ to carry, so SpaceX was chosen for the launch.** India had till now relied on French launch service provider Arianespace for such heavy satellite launches but the company does not have any operational rockets at present and the only reliable option India had was to go with SpaceX. **SpaceX’s heavy-lifter Falcon-9 rocket can launch payloads of 8,300 kg or 8.3 tonnes to geostationary transfer orbit.**

ISRO is the space agency of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India’s first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. S Somanath is current the chairperson of the ISRO. Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) or Sriharikota Range (SHAR) is a rocket launch centre operated by ISRO. It is located in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. Sreedhara Panicker Somanath from Kerala is an Indian aerospace engineer serving as the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Under his chairmanship, ISRO carried out the third Indian lunar exploration mission named Chandrayaan-3. Somanath served as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

IISc researchers devise a new language for ML models

- **Indian Institute of Science researchers have devised a new language that encodes the shape and structure of nanopores in the form of a sequence of characters. The language called STRONG (SString Representation Of Nanopore Geometry) assigns different letters to different atom configurations and creates a sequence of all the atoms on the edge of a nanopore to specify its shape.**

ISRO signs Implementation Agreement with Australian Space Agency for Gaganyaan mission

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Australian Space Agency (ASA) have signed an Implementation Agreement (IA) for further strengthening cooperation in space activities between Australia and India.** The IA, which enables cooperation between both space agencies on crew and crew module recovery for Gaganyaan missions, was signed between the two space agencies.
- **ISRO has embarked on the Human Spaceflight Mission, Gaganyaan programme with an objective of demonstrating human space flight capability (HSFC) in Low Earth Orbit in an Indian Crew Module with up to three crew members** for up to three days, and safely recovering them after the mission.
- **The IA enables the Australian authorities to work with Indian authorities to ensure support for search and rescue of crew and recovery of crew module as part of contingency planning for ascent phase aborts near Australian waters.** India and Australia are enduring strategic partners. Both space agencies are working closely and are committed to explore current and future collaboration activities. The signing of the IA is another step forward in the cooperation between Indian and Australian space agencies.

IISc launches product accelerator programme, Pravriddhi

- **The Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) at IISc. has launched Pravriddhi, a pan-India Product Accelerator Programme that unites premier Indian institutions and enterprises to develop innovative solutions through strategic partnerships and cutting-edge R&D.** FSID said Pravriddhi provides a platform for enterprises, academia and research laboratories, and investors to collaborate to drive innovation and new product development for a self-reliant India.
- **“The Viksit Bharat 2047 vision projects India to reach a GDP of USD 30 trillion by 2047, with 25% of this growth expected to be driven by the manufacturing sector.** Pravriddhi aims to achieve this vision by promoting market-driven, design-led manufacturing and enabling India to innovate and compete on the global stage,” FSID said. **“With Pravriddhi, we aim to tackle these challenges by providing access to IISc’s world-class facilities, R&D expertise, and a robust network of strategic partners across India.** By establishing innovation hubs nationwide, we intend to extend our proven program model to a broader audience, empowering diverse industries and fostering sustained economic growth and innovation across the country”.

IIT Hyderabad And Nikon India Collaborate To Launch First Centre Of Excellence

- **The IIT Hyderabad in collaboration with Nikon India has opened its first Centre of Excellence (CoE) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad.** This is to offer advanced imaging technologies to trainees, visiting scholars and collaborators across the country, fostering impactful collaborations between IIT Hyderabad researchers and Nikon teams. **Nikon India is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Nikon Corporation.**
- **The CoE offers a Confocal Microscope System AX R with advanced technology.** It also houses a Nikon Inverted Microscope System ECLIPSE Ti2-E for fluorescence imaging, a Nikon ECLIPSE Ts2-FL Inverted Routine Microscope, and a Nikon SMZ800N with a fluorescence attachment for macro-imaging.

MACE in Ladakh opens its one-of-a-kind eye to cosmic gamma rays

- **The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) telescope is a state-of-the-art ground-based gamma-ray telescope inaugurated in Hanle, Ladakh.** Located at around 4.3 km above sea level, it is the highest imaging Cherenkov telescope in the world. It boasts of a 21-metre-wide dish, the largest of its kind in Asia and second-largest in the world.
- **The facility was built by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, the Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics.** Light comes in a wide range of wavelengths but humans can only see a small portion. In the electromagnetic spectrum, gamma rays have the shortest wavelength and the highest energy, with each light-particle possessing more than 100,000 electron volts. (Visible-light photons have around 1.63-3.26 eV each.)

ISRO to launch India's first AI laboratory to space aboard PSLV-XL

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up to launch the ambitious Proba-3 mission to space aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).** However, it won't be the lone payload heading to space. **Hyderabad-based space technology firm TakeMe2Space is riding aboard PSLV-XL with the My Orbital Infrastructure - Technology Demonstrator (MOI-TD), marking India's first artificial intelligence laboratory in space.** Located in Ahmedabad, IN-SPACE has provided essential facilities for testing and validating the MOI-TD platform, which addresses a significant challenge in satellite operations: the inefficiency of transmitting vast amounts of data to Earth.

ISRO is the space agency of India headquartered in the city of Bangalore. ISRO was formed in 1969. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was launched by the Soviet Union on 19 April 1975. S Somanath is current the chairperson of the ISRO. Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) or Sriharikota Range (SHAR) is a rocket launch centre operated by ISRO. It is located in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. Sreedhara Panicker Somanath from Kerala is an Indian aerospace engineer serving as the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Under his chairmanship, ISRO carried out the third Indian lunar exploration mission named Chandrayaan-3. Somanath served as the director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

Manish Rajankar and Shalu Kolhe to receive 21st T. N. Khoshoo Memorial Award by ATREE

- **The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE) has announced Manish Rajankar and Shalu Kolhe as the recipients of the 21st T. N. Khoshoo Memorial Award.** Mr. Rajankar is the director at the Maharashtra-based Foundation for Economic and Ecological Development. Ms. Kolhe represents the Dhivar fishing community in Vidarbha. **The award is in recognition of the critical work of the duo in terms of ecological restoration of waterbodies in the region and empowerment of the Dhivar community.** Rajankar and Kolhe would receive the awards at the 21st T. N. Khoshoo Memorial lecture slated to be held on December 3 at the Bangalore International Centre.

Army receives Sabal 20 logistics drone

- **The Army has received Sabal 20 logistics drones procured from EndureAir Systems for deployment in the Eastern sector,** the company announced. In another development, the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IIT-K) announced a major advancement in stealth technology by launching the Metamaterial Surface Cloaking System — Anālakshya. **Sabal 20 is an electric unmanned helicopter based on variable pitch technology, and capable of carrying payloads of up to 20 kg, according to EndureAir, which was incubated at IIT-K in 2018.**

China launches world's first self-driving satellite

- China launched the world's first self-driving satellites, Siwei Gaojing-2 03 and Gaojing-2 04, marking a milestone in its commercial space program. Developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology (SAST), these satellites can autonomously adjust their flight paths without ground control. They feature synthetic aperture radar (SAR) and high-precision radar, allowing them to return to orbit with 100-meter accuracy and perform formation-flying at sub-meter precision. The satellites will provide all-weather radar imagery for industries like natural resource management, disaster response, agriculture monitoring, and urban safety.
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Career
Launcher

Inventions/Discoveries/Health

Largest black hole jets equal to 140 Milky Way galaxies discovered by astronomers

- **Astronomers have made an astonishing discovery with a pair of black hole jets stretching 23 million light-years across the cosmos.** These colossal jets, nicknamed **Porphyriion**, are the largest ever recorded. Their scale is so immense that they measure the equivalent of 140 Milky Way galaxies, laid end to end. The origin of these jets is a **supermassive black hole located 7.5 billion light-years from Earth.** With this discovery, scientists are looking to unlock the secrets of the early universe's formation and its intricate structures.
- **The jets, discovered in a survey conducted by Europe's Low Frequency Array (LOFAR) radio telescope, are composed of ionised matter expelled from a distant black hole.** Porphyriion's powerful outflows were found among 10,000 other jets but stand out due to their immense size. This supermassive black hole expels matter at near-light speeds, with an energy comparable to trillions of stars. These gigantic eruptions provide insights into how black hole jets shape galaxies and their evolution. **Black holes are extremely dense areas in space with a gravitational pull so strong that not even light can escape them. Most galaxies, including our own Milky Way, have a supermassive black hole at their center.**

A black hole is a region of spacetime where gravity is so strong that nothing, including light or other electromagnetic waves, has enough energy to escape its event horizon. Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity predicts that a sufficiently compact mass can deform spacetime to form a black hole. The boundary of no escape is called the event horizon. Although it has a great effect on the fate and circumstances of an object crossing it, it has no locally detectable features according to general relativity. In many ways, a black hole acts like an ideal black body, as it reflects no light. **Moreover, quantum field theory in curved spacetime predicts that event horizons emit Hawking radiation**, with the same spectrum as a black body of a temperature inversely proportional to its mass. This temperature is of the order of billionths of a kelvin for stellar black holes, making it essentially impossible to observe directly.

WHO declares mpox outbreak a continuing global health emergency

- **The World Health Organization (WHO) has reaffirmed that the ongoing mpox outbreak remains a public health emergency of international concern,** citing rising case numbers, geographic spread, and operational challenges. **The emergency designation, first declared in August, followed the emergence of a new mpox variant, clade Ib, which spread from the Democratic Republic of Congo to neighboring countries and beyond.** Cases of this variant have been confirmed in regions including the UK, Germany, Sweden, and India. **Mpox, formerly known as monkeypox, is a viral infection spread through close contact.** It typically causes flu-like symptoms and pustular lesions, with severe cases potentially leading to death.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. The WHO Constitution states its main objective as **"the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health"**. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it has six regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. **The WHO was established on 7 April 1948. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the agency's governing body, took place on 24 July of that year. The current director-general is Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia.**

4.45-billion-year-old meteorite grain suggests hot water once flowed on red planet

- **There is a possibility that alien life existed in hot water on Mars.** The latest evidence has shown scientists the possibility of hot water flowing on Mars during its ancient times. This development could likely establish that despite arid conditions, the red planet may have been once capable of supporting life aeons ago.
- **This latest piece of information comes from a 4.45 billion-year-old zircon grain within the Martian meteorite NWA7034 that was discovered in the Sahara Desert in 2011. The NWA7034, a two-billion-year-old Martian meteorite, is the second oldest ever discovered and is known as "Black Beauty" due to its shiny black appearance.** The researchers found that the zircon grain has fingerprints of fluids rich in water.

- Aaron Cavosie from Curtin’s School of Earth and Planetary Sciences feels that **this breakthrough will open new ways of understanding hydrothermal systems related to the activity of volcanic magma that flowed through Mars**. Cavosie, in a statement, said that the team used nano-scale geochemistry to detect elemental evidence of hot water on Mars some 4.45 billion years ago. The scientists explained that **hydrothermal systems were essential for the development of life on Earth and that their findings also suggest Mars also had water—a vital ingredient for habitable environments during the early crust formation**. Cavosie said that the team spotted specific elements in the unique zircon grain with the help of nano-scale imaging and spectroscopy, as this allows the chemical composition of objects to be determined. The fragment consisted of elements like iron, aluminium, yttrium, and sodium.

Mars is the fourth planet and the furthest terrestrial planet from the Sun. The reddish color of its surface is due to finely grained iron(III) oxide dust in the soil, giving it the nickname “the Red Planet”. Mars’s radius is second smallest among the planets in the Solar System at 3,389.5 km. The Martian dichotomy is visible on the surface: on average, the terrain on Mars’s northern hemisphere is flatter and lower than its southern hemisphere. Mars has a thin atmosphere made primarily of carbon dioxide, and two irregularly shaped natural satellites: Phobos and Deimos. Like the other planets in the Solar System, Mars was formed approximately 4.5 billion years ago. **The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), unofficially known as Mangalyaan was a space probe orbiting Mars since 24 September 2014. It was launched on 5 November 2013 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). It was India’s first interplanetary mission and it made ISRO the fourth space agency to achieve Mars orbit, after Roscosmos, NASA, and the European Space Agency. It made India the first Asian nation to reach the Martian orbit and the first nation in the world to do so on its maiden attempt.**

NASA’s DART mission may have created ‘first human-made’ meteor shower

- It was on September 26, 2022, when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) successfully crashed a vending machine-sized spacecraft into asteroid moonlet Dimorphos. The mission was called the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) and it may have now resulted in the first ‘human-made’ meteor shower. The impact of NASA’s DART mission, which successfully altered a smaller asteroid’s orbit in space by a whopping 33 minutes, may lead to an extraordinary phenomenon — **the first human-made meteor shower, the Dimorphids**. A new study found that rocky debris blasted away from a football stadium-sized asteroid, Dimorphos, during the DART mission could create the first human-made meteor shower known as the Dimorphids.
- NASA’s DART mission made history by successfully crashing a spacecraft into the asteroid moonlet **Dimorphos**. This marked a major step forward in protecting Earth from possible asteroid impacts by testing ways to change the direction of threatening space objects.
- **As a result of the DART mission’s impact, debris from Dimorphos has been scattered into space**. Scientists believe that more than 2 million pounds of this material could eventually reach Earth and Mars. If this happens, it could create a meteor shower, known as the “Dimorphids,” in the next 10 to 30 years, leading to periodic meteor displays.
- **The Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) was launched in 2021 as NASA’s first attempt to move an asteroid from its path**. The idea behind the mission was to see if a spacecraft could deflect an asteroid by crashing into it—**this technique is called “kinetic impact.” DART’s goal was to show that this method could be used to protect Earth from potential asteroid threats in the future**. DART was a joint project between NASA and the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory.

Scientists Have Discovered the First-Ever Triple Black Hole System

- **Stellar-mass black holes typically form after a star goes supernova and collapses**. However, **the discovery of the first-ever triple black hole system, V404 Cygni, complicates that picture**. A new study created thousands of simulations to discern how this black hole formed, and discovered that “direct collapse”—where a black hole forms without a supernova—is the most likely scenario. V404 Cygni, a microquasar located about 8,000 light years from Earth, has been extensively studied since its black hole was confirmed in 1992. It has generated over 1,300 scientific papers due to its intriguing characteristics. **Recent research by scientists from MIT and Caltech has revealed that V404 Cygni is part of a triple black hole system, rather than the more common**

binary setup where a star orbits a black hole. This finding was supported by data from the Aladin Lite repository and motion data from the ESA's Gaia satellite, highlighting that two stars orbit the stellar-mass black hole in this unique system.

China's Chang'e-6 Mission Returns Unique Lunar Soil Samples

- **China's Chang'e-6 mission, launched in May, marked a significant milestone in lunar exploration by bringing back soil samples from the far side of the moon.** This groundbreaking mission is the first to successfully retrieve material from this little-explored region. Upon analysis, Chinese scientists discovered that the samples have "distinct characteristics" compared to those from other parts of the moon, offering fresh insights into the moon's geological history.

Centre Asks States and UTs to Make Snakebite Cases a Notifiable Disease

- **The Union Health Ministry has asked states and Union Territories to make snakebite cases and deaths a 'Notifiable Disease' under the relevant provisions of the State Public Health Act or other applicable legislation.** In a letter to the Principal Secretary and Additional Chief Secretary (Health) of all states and UTs, Union Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava emphasized that snakebites are a significant public health concern. She highlighted that snakebites can cause mortality, morbidity, and disability, particularly among farmers and tribal populations.
- Ms. Srivastava mentioned that the Ministry has **launched the National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming by 2030 (NAPSE), in consultation with relevant Ministries and stakeholders, aiming to halve snakebite-related deaths by 2030.** She highlighted that one of the key objectives under NAPSE is to strengthen the surveillance of snakebite cases and deaths in India. A notifiable disease is a disease that is required to be reported to public health authorities when it is diagnosed. The goal of this requirement is to monitor, control, and prevent the spread of diseases, and to implement measures to protect public health.

Union Minister JP Nadda inaugurated Nationwide World AIDS Day Event in Indore, Madhya Pradesh

- On the occasion of World AIDS Day 2024, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda **inaugurated nationwide the World AIDS Day event in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Mohan Yadav also graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.** Aligned with the theme of the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), 'Take the Rights Path', this World AIDS Day will emphasize awareness, and rights-based approaches **to treatment and eliminate HIV/AIDS by 2030.** This year the programme will feature impactful activities, such as an innovative exhibition showcasing key programmatic components like the digital ecosystem adopted by NACO, community engagement, achievements made through the campaign-based approach, and a variety of hand-crafted items made by the beneficiaries.

Doctor-population ratio in country is better than WHO standard

- **The doctor-population ratio is 1:811 in the country which is better than the WHO standard of 1:1000.** There are 13,86,145 allopathic doctors registered with the State Medical Councils and the National Medical Commission (NMC) as on November, 2024. There is an increase of 102% in the medical colleges from 387 before 2014 to 780 as of now. Further, there is an increase of 130% in MBBS seats from 51,348 before 2014 to 1,18,137 as of now and an increase of 135% in PG seats from 31,185 before 2014 to 73,157 as of now.

WOH G64, the dying star located outside our galaxy

- **Scientists have achieved the rare feat of getting a close-up shot of a star that is 1,60,000 light-years away from our galaxy and has a mass that is 2,000 times of the Sun.** The first-ever, extreme close-up of the dying star reveals some crucial details about its activity and surrounding layers.
- **Known as WOH G64, the massive star has been imaged with remarkable sharpness by the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope Interferometer (ESO's VLTI).** The latest image reveals that the star emanates dust and gas, a sign that it is in its last stages before becoming a supernova triggered by a powerful explosion towards the end of a star's life.

IISER Pune Developed CsPbBr₃

- **Dr. Atikur Rahman's research group at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Pune has created a new method for growing tiny crystals called CsPbBr₃ nanoplatelets.** These crystals are **important** because they can be used in devices that detect light and are used in electronic devices like solar panels and LEDs. The results of their research were published in a well-known journal, *Advanced Materials*, and have gained attention because of the potential benefits of technology. CsPbBr₃ is a special material that interacts well with light, which makes it very useful for technologies like solar cells, LEDs, and other light-sensitive devices.

Astronomers Launch Black Hole Finder App for Citizens Worldwide

- **Astronomers have created the Black Hole Finder app, a tool designed by the Dutch Black Hole Consortium.** The main goal of this app is to help everyday people—like you—find newly-formed black holes. Now available in eight different languages, the app has been made accessible to people all around the world. By using this app, you can actively participate in discovering black holes, and contributing to important scientific research. **A kilonova is a special kind of event in space that happens when two neutron stars, which are incredibly dense remnants of stars, crash into each other.** This collision can create a black hole. **The first kilonova was detected on August 18, 2017,** and it was a big moment for astronomers. When the neutron stars merged, they created a short but intense flash of light, eventually forming a black hole.

JUICE: A complete guide to Jupiter's icy moon exploring mission

- **The Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer, or JUICE, is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission to explore Jupiter and three of its icy moons: Europa, Callisto and Ganymede.** A single orbital spacecraft with no lander, JUICE will orbit Ganymede, the solar system's largest moon, becoming the first probe to orbit a planetary moon other than Earth's. JUICE successfully launched on April 14, 2023 from Europe's Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. But be patient, it will take nearly eight years to reach the largest planet in the solar system.
- In August 2024, **ESA performed a very important and new kind of move in its JUICE mission.** This move called a Lunar-Earth gravity assist, will use both the Moon and Earth to help change the spacecraft's speed and direction. It's the first time a spacecraft will use two different celestial bodies in this way.

NASA Captures Stunning Earth Terminator from ISS

- **NASA recently shared a stunning picture of the Earth's terminator taken from the International Space Station (ISS).** This image, captured from about 267 miles above Earth, shows the beautiful line between night and day. The photo highlights a special visual effect where the sun's light creates a glowing edge where night turns into day. The Earth's terminator is the moving line that separates day from night. This line is a result of the Earth's rotation and how it is positioned about the Sun. The terminator moves across the Earth twice every day, marking when the sun rises and sets in most places. However, at the poles, the terminator creates long periods of daylight or darkness instead. The Earth is tilted on its axis by 23.5 degrees. This tilt means that different parts of the Earth get varying amounts of sunlight throughout the year, causing the seasons to change.

Saturn Ejects Comet A117uUD into Interstellar Space

- **In 2024, scientists made a significant discovery when they announced that comet A117uUD had been ejected from our solar system after a close encounter with Saturn.** The comet, A117uUD, was discovered by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS) on June 14, 2024. Researchers studied its path around the Sun using 142 tracking observations. Studying A117uUD's path provides valuable insights into how gravity affects objects in space.

One in Three Children Affected By Myopia Surge

- **A recent study revealed that one in three children around the world now has short-sightedness, also known as myopia.** This condition makes it difficult for children to see things clearly that are far away. The main reasons for this increase are more time spent looking at screens and less time spent outdoors, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. **Myopic eye defect can be corrected by using concave lens.** The COVID-19 pandemic changed the way many children lived. Because of lockdowns, children had to stay indoors more and spend more

time on devices like phones, computers, and TVs for school and entertainment. This led to less outdoor physical activity, which is important for healthy eyes. As a result, myopia cases have gone up significantly. The study, published in the British Journal of Ophthalmology, shows that myopia cases have tripled worldwide since 1990.

WHO Grants First Vaccine Authorization for Mpox in Adults

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently **approved the first-ever vaccine to be used against mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) in adults**. This is a major step forward, especially in Africa, where mpox outbreaks have been particularly severe.
- The WHO's approval allows large organizations like GAVI and UNICEF to purchase the vaccine from Bavarian Nordic A/S, the only company that makes it. However, there's a big challenge: the vaccine supply is limited because it is made by just one manufacturer. This makes it difficult to get enough doses to the people who need them. **Mpox is caused by the monkeypox virus, which belongs to the orthopoxvirus family. The first human case was recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Mpox is mostly found in Central and West Africa, where it's spread by rodents.**

The World Health Organization (WHO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. The WHO Constitution states its main objective as “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health”. Headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, it has six regional offices and 150 field offices worldwide. The WHO was established on 7 April 1948. The first meeting of the World Health Assembly (WHA), the agency's governing body, took place on 24 July of that year. The current director-general is Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus of Ethiopia.

DRDO, IIT Delhi Develops Advanced Light Weight Bullet Proof jackets

- **The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and IIT Delhi have worked together to create the ABHED bulletproof jacket**. This jacket offers advanced protection for soldiers and security personnel facing high-risk situations. The Ministry of Defence has announced this as an important step forward in developing personal armour technology. The ABHED jacket is specially designed to give 360-degree protection to the wearer. This means it can protect all around the body.

Chandrayaan-3 Detects Historic 250 Seismic Signatures on Moon

- **India's Chandrayaan-3 mission has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first lunar mission to detect over 250 seismic signals from the Moon's South Pole since the Apollo missions**. This discovery marks a major advancement in lunar exploration and seismic monitoring techniques. The Chandrayaan-3 mission identified 250 seismic signals, with 50 of these signals being unique and potentially indicating moonquakes, which are similar to earthquakes on Earth but occur on the Moon. This is the first time that seismic data has been successfully collected from the Moon's South Pole, providing valuable insights into the Moon's seismic activity.

Chandrayaan-3 is the third Indian lunar exploration mission under the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Chandrayaan programme. It consists of a lander named Vikram and a rover named Pragyan, similar to those of the Chandrayaan-2 mission. The propulsion module carried the lander and rover configuration to lunar orbit in preparation for a powered descent by the lander. Chandrayaan-3 was launched on 14 July 2023. The spacecraft entered lunar orbit on 5 August, and the lander touched down in the lunar South Pole region on 23 August 2023, making India the fourth country to successfully land on the Moon, and the first to do so near the lunar South Pole.

India will fail to meet 2025 TB 'elimination' target

- In March 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set an ambitious goal of “eliminating” TB by 2025, five years ahead of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) deadline set for 2030. Mr. Modi reiterated the government's goal of “eliminating” TB by 2025 even in March 2023 while inaugurating the One World TB Summit 2023 in Varanasi.
- The SDG targets for 2030 is 90% reduction in TB deaths compared with 2015 and 80% reduction in TB incidence compared with 2015. As per WHO's post-2015 End TB Strategy, compared with 2015, countries are required to

meet the 2025 milestones of reducing TB deaths by 75%, and reducing TB incidence rate by 50%. But as per the WHO Global TB Report 2024 and the India TB Report 2024 released a few days ago, **India will not be able to even meet the 2025 milestones set by the WHO End TB Strategy, let alone achieving the ambitious goal of “eliminating” TB by 2025.**

The global target for eliminating Tuberculosis is 2030; the target for India to eliminate Tuberculosis is 2025, five years before the global target. Tuberculosis is an infectious disease usually caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

The World’s First Innovative Iron Supplement to Combat Iron Deficiency and Anaemia

- According to WHO guidelines, **the recommended haemoglobin (Hb) levels are 13 g/dl for men and 12 g/dl for women. Ironmate is an innovative solution that overcomes** the challenges of conventional iron supplements without causing side effects.
- **It is the world’s first-ever monthly iron supplement in a powdered format, designed for ready consumption.** Ironmate offers unparalleled convenience. This groundbreaking innovation is the result of international collaboration, with the active ingredient being imported. Clinical studies conducted in India have shown a significant improvement in haemoglobin levels, with an increase of over 50% among participants after 90 days of once-daily use. The findings are set to be published in a peer-reviewed international journal.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), **anaemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or the haemoglobin concentration within them is lower than normal. Haemoglobin is needed to carry oxygen.** If there are too few red blood cells, or not enough haemoglobin, there will be a decreased capacity of the blood to carry oxygen to the body’s tissues. This results in symptoms such as fatigue, weakness, dizziness and shortness of breath among others. **The most common nutritional cause of anaemia is iron deficiency** although deficiencies in folate, vitamins B12 and A are also important causes. Certain chronic diseases, such as kidney disease, liver disease, cancer, or autoimmune disorders, can interfere with the production of red blood cells. Inherited conditions, such as sickle cell anemia or thalassemia, affect the structure or function of red blood cells, leading to chronic anemia.

ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Kerala revises Western Ghats ESA proposal, seeks protection for 8,590 sq km amid landslide concerns

- In a revised proposal sent to the Centre, the Kerala government requested the declaration of 8,590.69 sq km across 98 villages and 12 districts as ecologically sensitive areas (ESAs) in the Western Ghats. The area proposed for ESA demarcation is 121 sq km smaller than what was submitted to the Centre in May this year.
- Protection of fragile villages across the state's Western Ghats area has been under the spotlight following the July 30 landslides and mudslides in Wayanad district's Chooralmala, Mundakkai and Vellarimala, which killed over 400 people. The state's draft proposal on ESAs sent in May included 12 villages from Wayanad district, including Vellarimala.
- The Centre issued a sixth iteration of the draft notification on the Western Ghats in July, demarcating 56,825 sq km as ESA across Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. The villages marked as ESA will see a complete ban on mining, quarrying, highly polluting industries, and new thermal power plants.
- This draft notification was based on the report of a high-level working group headed by space scientist K Kasturirangan. After the sixth iteration of the Western Ghats draft notification was published, the Centre allowed states 60 days to submit objections and suggestions. The expert committee has been taking up the proposals and suggestions of different state governments. A reliable source said the committee is likely to visit Goa to deliberate on the state's submissions on the ESA issue.
- Of the 108 villages demarcated as ESA in Goa, the state government has sought the exclusion of 21 villages, all of them from Sattari taluka in North Goa. In 2013, Kerala proposed demarcating 9,993.7 sq km as ESAs based on the report of a three-member expert panel. Later, in 2019, it submitted to the environment ministry that it should be reduced to 8,656 sq km. However, the latest draft notification continued with the previous iterations and marked the 9,993.7 sq km area as eco-sensitive.

India Ranks 176th in the Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI) 2024

- India ranks 176th in the Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI) 2024, with a score of 45.5 out of 100. This places India among the five worst performers globally, alongside Kiribati, Turkey, Iraq, and Micronesia. The NCI was released on October 24, 2024, and assesses conservation efforts across 180 countries. India's low ranking is primarily due to poor land management and increasing threats to biodiversity. The country has converted 53% of its land for urban, industrial, and agricultural use.
- The NCI is a new tool that evaluates conservation efforts using four key markers: Land Management, Threats to Biodiversity, Capacity and Governance and Future Trends. Developed by the Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change at Ben-Gurion University and BioDB.com, the index aims to provide a clear analysis of each country's conservation strategies. It helps governments and organizations identify issues and improve their conservation policies.

COP16 suspended without agreement on new fund for nature protection

- The 16th UN biodiversity talks in Colombia's Cali were suspended on 2 November 2024 without an agreement on setting up a new fund for the protection of nature. The conference, which ran around 12 hours past its scheduled end, did yield an important agreement to establish a subsidiary body that will include indigenous peoples in future discussions and decisions on biodiversity conservation.
- The participating countries also agreed to establish a new global fund dedicated to sharing the benefits of digitally-sequenced genetic data taken from plants and animals with the communities they come from. As the final plenary extended, several negotiators departed to catch flights home, prompting Colombian Environment Minister and COP16 President Susana Muhamad to suspend the session due to a lack of quorum. It is not yet known when or where the session will resume.

- **COP16 aimed at assessing the progress on the agreement reached in 2022 in Canada to halt biodiversity loss**, with more funding for biodiversity protection being a central issue. Observers noted a clear divide between the Global North and Global South during the talks. Wealthier nations were hesitant to increase funding, while developing countries argued that they cannot enhance their efforts without additional financial support.
- **The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), adopted at COP15 in Canada in 2022, set 23 targets to be achieved by 2030, including placing 30 per cent of land and sea areas under protection and restoring 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems.** At the Canada summit, the countries agreed to make USD 200 billion available each year for biodiversity protection by 2030, including a transfer of USD 30 billion per year from developed countries to developing ones.

Biden becomes first US President to visit Amazon rainforest, highlights climate challenges

- **Joe Biden made history as the first sitting US president to visit the Amazon rainforest**, drawing attention to the dangers of global warming as he continues to clash with incoming President-elect Donald Trump's dismissive stance on climate change. Biden's visit to Manaus, Brazil, included a tour of the Amazon and Rio Negro rivers, which have been severely impacted by the region's worst drought in decades. Accompanied by Brazilian scientist Carlos Nobre, Biden warned of the rainforest's dire state **due to deforestation-driven climate shifts**. During his four-hour stop, **Biden announced an additional \$50 million contribution to the Amazon Fund, doubling the US commitment to \$100 million.** Last year, he had pledged \$500 million, but only a fraction of that has been delivered so far.

Researchers discover new species of marine creatures that can age in reverse

- **Scientists have discovered a new species of marine invertebrate that breaks the traditional cycle of birth, ageing, and death to which most animals are bound.** Comb jellies, also known as ctenophore Mnemiopsis leidyi, can defy age and revert to younger versions of themselves, according to a recent study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.
- This curious incident spurred an **experiment conducted by Soto-Angel and his colleagues in which they tried to reproduce the conditions that had triggered the de-ageing process in the comb jelly.** They found that adult comb jelly can regress and reach a larval stage if they are subjected to extreme stress.

Spike in methane emissions from tropical wetlands threatens climate goals

- **Tropical wetlands are releasing unprecedented levels of methane, threatening global efforts to combat climate change.** Research shows that warming temperatures and heavy rainfall are accelerating methane emissions, which were already underestimated in scientific models and national climate plans. **Methane, a potent greenhouse gas, is 80 times more effective than carbon dioxide at trapping heat over 20 years.**
- Wetlands release methane as soil microbes break down carbon-rich plant matter, a process intensified by rising temperatures and expanding wetland areas due to flooding. **From 2020 to 2022, methane concentrations in the atmosphere hit their highest levels since measurements began in the 1980s.** Studies attribute the surge to tropical regions, with the Congo, Southeast Asia, the Amazon, and southern Brazil as major contributors. Data from Nature Climate Change revealed wetland emissions exceeded worst-case projections by 500,000 tonnes annually over the past two decades.

Asiatic Golden Cat Rediscovered in Manas National Park

- **The Asiatic golden cat has been spotted in Assam's Manas National Park.** This is an important conservation milestone. The last sighting was in 2007, casting doubt on the cat's presence in the park. Its return is a positive sign for wildlife conservation in the region. The Asiatic golden cat (*Catopuma temminckii*) is a medium-sized wild cat. It inhabits regions in southern China, Southeast Asia, and Northeast India.

First Baby Great Indian Bustard Chick Born via Artificial Insemination

- An important achievement occurred in conservation efforts in India. **A baby great Indian bustard was born through artificial insemination (AI) at the Sudasari Great Indian Bustard Breeding Centre in Rajasthan.** This marks India as the first country to successfully breed this critically endangered species using AI. The

event has generated excitement and hope for the survival of the great Indian bustard. The great Indian bustard is a large bird native to the Indian subcontinent. It is critically endangered, with a population decline due to habitat loss, hunting, and human interference.

Scientists have discovered a sixth ocean hidden in the Earth's mantle

- **Scientists have discovered a sixth ocean hidden in the Earth's mantle, 700 kilometers beneath the surface.** Researchers from Northwestern University, Florida State University, and the University of Edinburgh used seismic data from earthquakes to identify a massive water reservoir in the mantle. The water is trapped in the crystal structure of a blue rock called ringwoodite. The hidden ocean is three times larger than all of Earth's surface oceans combined.

New infectious diseases among bees threaten world's economies

- **A significant chunk of the world's agricultural productivity and nutritional security relies on small insect pollinators.** More than 75% of food crops, fruits, and flowering plants need bees, wasps, beetles, flies, moths, and butterflies to yield successful harvests. This is why threats to insect pollinators, including pesticides, pollution, and climate change, endanger the economies of entire countries. A new actor on this list is infectious diseases made worse by habitat loss. **While the declining population of pollinators, particularly bees, has been well-documented in Europe and North America, data from biodiversity-rich regions like the Indian subcontinent are scarce.**
- **In fact, most of what scientists know about bees comes from research on managed western honey bees (*Apis mellifera*).** Research has uncovered the transmission of pathogens between managed honey bees and wild pollinators, a process called pathogen spillover and spillback. Western honey bees are often viral reservoirs and can infect wild species when they share habitats. These emerging infectious diseases also threaten the wider pollinator community.

Scientists discover new planet with rich metal core, 60 times heavier than Earth

- An international team of scientists led by the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad, has **discovered an exoplanet outside our solar system that is five times bigger and 60 times heavier than the Earth.** Identified as TOI-6651b, the sub-Saturn class planet was discovered using the 2nd PRL Advanced Radial Velocity Abu Sky Search (PARAS-2) — a high-end spectroscope mounted on PRL's 2.5m telescope at **Mount Abu in Rajasthan.** Located 690 light years away from the Sun, the newest discovered planet is only the fourth exo-planet located in the Neptunian desert to be ever discovered. Sub-Saturn planets have a size in between that of Neptune and Saturn. The Neptune desert is a region close to stars without Neptune-sized planets.

Madhya Pradesh-Rajasthan joint panel formed for coordination on cheetah project

- **In the wake of incidents of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh straying into neighbouring Rajasthan, a joint corridor management committee of both the states has been formed to work for conservation of the felines.** The panel will also discuss development of suitable areas for future shifting of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary area and recommend measures for improvement including the pre-augmentation base.
- Under the ambitious cheetah reintroduction project, **eight Namibian cheetahs were released into enclosures at the KNP in Sheopur district on September 17, 2022. Later, another 12 cheetahs were brought to the park from South Africa in February 2023.** In May this year, a cheetah from the KNP strayed into Karoli district of Rajasthan and was later rescued. In December 2023, a cheetah strayed into Rajasthan's Baran district and was later brought back to the KNP.

The cheetah is scientifically known as *Acinonyx jubatus*. The large cat is native to Africa and central Iran. It is the fastest land animal, running at the speed of 80 to 128 km/h. They can be found in variety of habitats like savannahs of Serengeti, arid mountain ranges of Sahara and hilly desert terrain of Iran. In the IUCN Red list, Cheetah is listed in Vulnerable category.

Rome Declaration Addresses Water Scarcity in Agriculture

- On October 17, 2024, member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) adopted the Rome Declaration on Water Scarcity in Agriculture. This initiative aims to tackle water scarcity, worsened by climate change, particularly in agriculture. The declaration was a key outcome of the High-Level Rome Water Dialogue, held during the FAO's World Food Forum from October 14-18.
- Water scarcity refers to the lack of sufficient water resources to meet the demands of water usage. It affects agriculture, as this sector consumes over 70% of global freshwater withdrawals. By 2050, the UN predicts that over half of the world's population will experience water scarcity for at least one month each year. The Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture (WASAG) was launched at the 2016 UN Climate Conference in Marrakesh. Its purpose is to assist countries in managing water scarcity challenges. The initiative brings together governments, NGOs, and private sector partners to develop solutions for sustainable water use in agriculture.

India's Second Largest Butterfly Species Discovered in Tamil Nadu

- India's second-largest butterfly, the Southern Birdwing, was recently spotted on the satellite campus of The American College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. This discovery sheds light on the region's changing movements of butterfly species. The Southern Birdwing was once considered the largest butterfly in India, with a wingspan of 190 mm. However, in 2020, it was surpassed by the Golden Birdwing, which has a wingspan of 194 mm, according to a British researcher, Brigadier William Harry Evans.

Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Shri JP Nadda inaugurates 'First Policy Makers' Forum' in New Delhi

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri J.P. Nadda inaugurated the two important digital healthcare tools at the First Policy Makers' Forum in New Delhi: the Indian Pharmacopoeia Online Portal and the Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring System (ADRMS) software. These initiatives highlight the Indian government's efforts to digitize healthcare standards and improve the safety of medicines.
- The Indian Pharmacopoeia Online Portal is a new digital resource that makes drug standards easier to access for everyone, both in India and worldwide. This portal is part of India's larger push to go digital, making it simpler for people involved in healthcare to get the information they need.
- Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring System (ADRMS) is a new tool created in India to help keep track of any problems people might have with medicines and medical devices. It's the first system of its kind in the country and allows both regular people and healthcare workers to report issues directly. This helps ensure that medicines and medical devices are safe for everyone.

India's first science globe theatre at Vasco to give glimpse of Antarctica

- The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) and the creative museum designers of the National Council of Science Museums have joined hands to build a globe theatre: Science on a Sphere (SOS) at Vasco. The globe theatre, which will be used to project scientific findings about the Polar Regions and the oceans, will cost approximately Rs. 4 crore and will be ready by April. The globe theatre will be based on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Science on a Sphere (SOS) technology.

India's climate policies expected to reduce CO₂ emissions by around 4 billion tonnes by 2030

- India's current climate policies are projected to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by around four billion tonnes between 2020 and 2030, and drive a 24-per cent reduction in coal-based power generation. This is significant considering the fast-developing South Asian country, now the fifth-largest economy in the world, had committed to reducing emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030 at COP26 in Glasgow. The study by Delhi-based independent think tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) said policies for India's power, residential and transport sectors have already saved 440 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (MtCO₂) between 2015 and 2020.

New X-Band Radar Approved for Wayanad Flood Monitoring

- In July 2024, devastating floods and landslides hit Wayanad district in Kerala, killing more than 200 people. **To prevent future disasters, the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences approved the installation of an X-band radar in the region.** This radar will help improve weather tracking and provide early warnings for landslides.
- Radar, which stands for “radio detection and ranging,” works by sending out radio waves to detect objects and measure how far away they are. **X-band radar uses radio waves in the 8-12 GHz range of the electromagnetic spectrum.** These shorter waves create clearer, high-resolution images but don't travel as far because the signal weakens more quickly. **In Wayanad, the X-band radar will focus on monitoring soil movement to predict landslides and provide fast, accurate environmental data.**

IIT Guwahati and IRS launch India's first underwater welding certification programme

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati, through its Technology Innovation Hub (TiH), in collaboration with the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), has successfully conducted India's inaugural training and certification program in underwater welding and deep diving.** This pioneering initiative marks a notable milestone in enhancing India's capacity for underwater asset maintenance while developing a skilled workforce to support critical industries such as maritime, energy, and oil and gas.

IIT Bombay scientists develop water-pollutant detecting device 'AroTrack'

- **In a significant development for sustainable environmental management, scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have introduced AroTrack, an economical and portable device to accurately detect harmful pollutants such as phenol or benzene in water.** Scientists claim that the device can be a game-changer given the increasing water pollution due to industrialisation, urbanisation, and unregulated effluent discharge. AroTrack device uses proteins typically found in bacteria living in heavily polluted environments to effectively identify multiple aromatic pollutants in water.

Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla in Chhattisgarh Declared as India's 56th Tiger Reserve

- **The Central Government has notified Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla in Chhattisgarh as the 56th tiger reserve in the country.** Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav informed about this decision. He said that the reserve spread over two thousand 829 square kilometres is a new milestone in the country's tiger conservation efforts.

Scientists, industry demand passage of new Seeds Bill, changes in policy

- **Scientists, experts and industry partners asked the Centre to revisit and modernise the Seeds Bill of 2004 and the Seeds Policy of 2002 to incorporate the latest developments in the sector.** At a panel discussion as part of the 13th NSC, the experts also demanded strategic interventions to face the challenges faced by the seed sector. **The Seeds Bill, introduced in Parliament in 2004, was not passed due to opposition from farmers.** Experts argued that the policies must be in tune with the contemporary situation in the seeds sector and the concerns of farmers should be incorporated in the new policies.

Yamuna water quality under lens of temp lab in Delhi

- **The Delhi Jal Board has opened a temporary laboratory at Kalindi Kunj to monitor various water quality parameters in the Yamuna — since frothing in the river at the Okhla barrage is once again at the centre of political controversy — and said that it will share the reports with the general public around the time of the Chhath Puja festival.** “The lab is monitoring water quality upstream and downstream of the Okhla barrage in real time. Samples are being taken from both sides of the barrage. **We are currently monitoring parameters such as Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), Total Suspended Solid (TSS) and ammoniacal nitrogen, chlorides, pH and other parameters,**” the official said. As of 2024, India has **18% of the world's population but only 4% of its freshwater resources,** making it one of the most water-stressed countries globally. **Around 70% of India's water is contaminated,** with nearly half of the country's rivers unsafe for drinking or irrigation. This makes **India rank 120th out of 122 countries on a Global Water Quality Index 2024.**

SPORTS



Sports Personalities in News

India's Atanu Das Bags Bronze Medal in Swiss Open Indoor Archery

- **India's Atanu Das has bagged Bronze medal in Swiss Open Indoor Archery in Lausanne, Switzerland. Olympian Atanu Das defeated Switzerland's Thomas Rufer 6-4 in the Recurve Men's Bronze medal match.** Earlier in the Semifinals, Atanu faced a defeat against Romain Fichet of France 4-6. Romain clinched the silver while Italy's Alessandro Paoli clinched the gold. The 2025 Indoor Archery World Series kicked off, featuring over 300 archers from 31 countries. The Swiss Open includes both recurve and compound divisions. There will be six events held during the 2025 season 1, starting in November 2024 and ending in March 2025.

First Indian to reach the finals of the Hylo Open

- **Nagpur shuttler Malvika Bansod makes history at Hylo Open in Germany by becoming the first Indian to reach the finals, defeating Denmark's Julie Jakobsen.** Malvika will now compete against Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in the final after a remarkable run.

Mandeep Jangra Clinches WBF's World Title

- **In Boxing, Indian pugilist Mandeep Jangra clinched the World Boxing Federation's Super Featherweight world title in the Cayman Islands.** He defeated Britain's Conor McIntosh 10-0 in a unanimous decision. With this, Mandeep became the first Indian pugilist to become a world champion in any pro-boxing event category. Mandeep, who won a Commonwealth Games silver medal in the 2014 Glasgow edition, has faced only one defeat in his professional career so far. He has won 11 out of his 12 fights with seven being knockout victories.

India's Tanushree Pandey Clinches Silver Medal at World Soft Tennis Championship

- **In Soft Tennis, India's Tanushree Pandey has clinched the Silver Medal at the World Soft Tennis Championship at Jingshan in China.** She faced a defeat against Chiang Min Yu of Chinese Taipei, 3-4, in the Under 21 Women's Individual Singles final. Earlier, Tanushree triumphed over her Japanese opponent, 4-3, in a fiercely contested semifinal match. While in the quarterfinal, she had defeated her Chinese opponent by the same scoreline.

Erigaisi moves up to world No.2 in live ratings

- **Arjun Erigaisi moved up to world No 2 in the live ratings after his Round 3 win over Aleksey Sarana at the Chennai Grand Masters. Only five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen is now ranked ahead of him.** The 21-year-old Indian who became only the sixteenth player ever to cross 2800 Elo in live ratings.

Korea Masters 2024: Vitidsarn claims first title since winning badminton world crown as Asian nations dominate finals - results

- **Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand took the Korea Masters 2024 men's singles crown for his first tournament victory since claiming the 2023 world title.** The Paris 2024 Olympic silver medallist and top seed in Iksan won the final in straight games over Wang Zheng Xing of People's Republic of China. Putri Kusuma Wardani of

Indonesia won the women's singles, beating China's Han Qian Xi. Korean pair Kim Hye Jeong / Kong Hee Yong won the women's doubles on home turf.

Sanju Samson scripts history with second T20I hundred in a row

- **India batter Sanju Samson, continued from where he left off in the final T20I against Bangladesh, as he smashed his second consecutive century in the shortest format of the game.** The 29-year-old brought up his second T20I ton in the first game of the four-match series against South Africa at Kingsmead, Durban. This is Samson's second consecutive T20I ton, after having previously scored 111 runs against Bangladesh in the final T20I of the three-match series in October. **Samson became the first Indian batter to make back-to-back centuries in T20Is. Overall, only three batters have done it before.**

Lyles wins Olympic 100m gold in closest finish in modern history

- **In a historic 100m final, US sprinter Noah Lyles won gold in a dramatic photo finish, beating Jamaica's Kishane Thompson by just 0.005 seconds.** All eight runners finished the race in under 10 seconds, which had never happened before in legal wind conditions. This was the first time that all eight finalists ran the 100m in less than 10 seconds. Even though Jamaica's Oblique Seville finished last at 9.91 seconds, he would have won a medal with that time at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago.

Vithya Ramraj breaks P. T. Usha's three-decade-old 400m hurdles record

- **Vithya Ramraj broke a 39-year meet record with an excellent run in the women's 400m hurdles at the 63rd National Open Athletics Championships at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. Vithya (56.23s) erased the meet record set by P.T. Usha (56.80s) in 1985.** In the men's 200m, Tamil Nadu's Nithin (20.66s) set a new meet record. The old record was held by Animesh Kujur (20.74s). Ancy Sojan won the women's long jump, and was declared the best woman athlete. Ancy's 6.71m leap was just shy of the meet record held by Anju Bobby George (6.74m, 2002).

Monduro 4.0: World's Highest Enduro Mountain Biking Race Begins in Tawang

- **The much-awaited Monduro 4.0, the world's highest enduro mountain biking race and a part of the Asia Enduro Series (AES), kicked off in the scenic town of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.** Organized by the Tawang Cycling Association in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Monduro 4.0 features a challenging course that starts at an altitude of 14,400 feet and descends to 8,000 feet, making it one of the toughest races in the world. This year, participants from across India, as well as from eight countries abroad, are competing.

Harmanpreet Singh Wins FIH Player Of The Year; PR Sreejesh Receives Goalkeeper Of Year Title At FIH Hockey Awards

- **Indian Men's Hockey Team captain Harmanpreet Singh and former goalkeeper PR Sreejesh have won the FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year titles for the year 2024.** Both Harmanpreet and Sreejesh received recognition during the 49th FIH Statutory Congress in Oman. Two-time Olympic bronze medallist Harmanpreet received over 63 per cent of all votes cast in his category. Similarly, Sreejesh was highly popular among voters, polling over 62 per cent of all votes in his category. The winners were selected through a voting process involving an expert panel, national hockey associations, fans, and media.

Pankaj Advani Wins IBSF World Billiards Championship 150-Up Title

- **India's Pankaj Advani has won the IBSF World Billiards Championship 150-up format title.** He defeated England's Robert Hall in the final clash of the tournament at Doha in Qatar. Earlier, Pankaj had defeated his compatriot Sourav Kothari 4-2 in the semifinal. Sourav settled for the bronze medal.

Thomas Draca Becomes First Italian Cricketer to Register For IPL 2025 Mega Auction

- **Thomas Draca, a right-arm seamer from Italy, has registered for the IPL 2025 mega auction, becoming the first international cricketer from Italy to do so.** The auction will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Draca has entered his name in the all-rounders category with a base price of Rs. 30 lakhs.

Cristiano Ronaldo awarded Platinum Quinas trophy by Portuguese Football Federation

- **Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo has been awarded the Platinum Quinas at the Quinas De Ouro gala organised by the Portuguese Football Federation.** Ronaldo is the highest goal-scorer in international football history with 133 goals in 213 appearances as he also led the Portuguese team to the Euro Cup in 2016 and the UEFA Nations League title in 2019.

GM Aravindh Chithambaram Wins Chennai Grand Masters 2024

- In Chess, **GM Aravindh Chithambaram clinched the Chennai Grand Masters title after an intense final against American GM Levon Aronian.** Meanwhile, GM V Pranav remained unbeaten throughout the tournament to claim the Challengers title.
- With the Masters category witnessing a three-way tie for the top spot, **Aravindh defeated GM Levon Aronian in the first blitz play-off and then held his nerve to draw the second blitz match with black pieces to clinch the second edition of the competition.** Organised by MGD1 and sponsored by the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, the Chennai Grand Masters 2024 features two categories- Masters & Challengers.

Jorge Martin wins first MotoGP world championship

- **Spanish rider Jorge Martin claimed his first MotoGP world championship title after finishing third in the season-ending Barcelona GP.** Jorge Martin wins first MotoGP world championship title in emotional race, securing victory with consistent performance.

Haryana's Anshul Kamboj becomes 3rd bowler to pick 10 wickets in an innings in Ranji Trophy history

- **Haryana pacer Anshul Kamboj entered the record books as he became only the third bowler in Ranji Trophy to claim all 10 wickets in an innings.** Kamboj is only the third bowler in Ranji history to pick all 10 wickets in an innings, following in the footsteps of Premangsu Mohan Chatterjee and Pradeep Sunderam. While Chatterjee was the first bowler to achieve the feat in the 1956-57 season for Bengal, Sunderam claimed all 10 wickets in an innings for Rajasthan in a match against Vidarbha in the 1985-86 edition.

Jannik Sinner defeats Taylor Fritz to win ATP Finals

- **Home favourite and world number one Jannik Sinner became the first Italian to win the ATP Finals title following a dominant 6-4 6-4 victory over American Taylor Fritz.** Fritz, the first American to reach the final since James Blake in 2006, also dropped serve in the second set by hitting a forehand long which allowed the Italian to seal the contest in 85 minutes.

World No 1 Magnus Carlsen Wins Tata Steel Chess India Blitz Event

- **At the Tata Steel Chess India tournament in Kolkata, World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen completed a remarkable double clinching the blitz title with a round to spare.** He made a comeback against India's Arjun Erigaisi in the penultimate round to reach an unassailable 12 points.
- **This victory marks Carlsen's second double win in Kolkata,** having previously achieved the same feat in 2019. Indian players performed admirably, with Erigaisi taking third place with 10.5 points, R Praggnanandhaa finishing fourth on 9.5, and Vidit Gujrathi rounding out the top five with 9 points.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam Clinches Gold Medal in Women's Archery Compound Event

- **In Archery, Reigning Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinched the gold medal in the women's compound event at the GT Open in Luxembourg.** Meanwhile, in the men's compound event, Abhishek bagged the silver medal. He fell just short of claiming gold despite scoring a perfect 150 in the final. His opponent, the legendary Mike Schlosser of the Netherlands, secured the top spot after a perfect shot in the final.

Rishabh Pant made history by becoming the first player to score 2000 runs as a wicketkeeper in the World Test Championship

- **Rishabh Pant made history by becoming the first player to score 2000 runs as a wicketkeeper in the World Test Championship**, as India struggled to 150, with debutant Nitish Kumar Reddy top-scoring and Bumrah leading a strong bowling performance.

Anders Antonsen Defeats Jonatan Christie to Clinch China Masters 2024

- **Denmark's Anders Antonsen and South Korea's Se Young An reigned supreme at the China Masters Badminton 2024 in Shenzhen, China, securing the men's and women's singles titles respectively.** Antonsen delivered a dominant performance in the final, outclassing Indonesia's Jonatan Christie in straight sets. Similarly, An effortlessly overcame China's Fang Jie Gao to claim the women's singles crown.
- In the doubles events, South Korean pair dominated the proceedings. **The duo of Yong Jin and Seung Jae Seo clinched the men's doubles title, defeating Indonesia's Sabar Karyaman Gutama and Muhammad Reza Pahlevi Isfahani.** In women's doubles, Sheng Shu Liu and Ning Tan secured a comfortable victory over their compatriots Xu Min Luo and Yi Jing Li. The mixed doubles final witnessed a thrilling battle between China's Yan Zhe Feng and Dong Ping Huang and Malaysia's Su Yin Cheng and Pang Ron Hoo.

Zhao Dan wins China's first women's skeleton gold at IBSF World Cup

- **Zhao Dan made history for China as she won the country's first ever gold medal in the women's skeleton event at the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) World Cup in Yanqing, Beijing.** In the men's skeleton, Germany's Christopher Grotheer, who won gold in Beijing in 2022, clocked 2:01.93 to clinch victory once more.

Hardik Pandya scripts history, becomes first Indian to complete elite T20 double

- **Indian all-rounder Hardik Pandya added another feather to his illustrious cap by becoming the first Indian cricketer to achieve the extraordinary T20 double of 5000 runs and 100-plus wickets.** The historic feat came during Baroda's five-wicket victory against Gujarat in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy opener at the Holkar Stadium in Indore. **With this achievement, Pandya now has 5067 runs and 180 wickets in T20 cricket, cementing his place as one of the game's finest all-rounders.** Among Indians, Ravindra Jadeja trails far behind with 3684 runs and 225 wickets, followed by Axar Patel (2960 runs and 227 wickets) and Krunal Pandya (2712 runs and 138 wickets).

Divith Reddy Becomes World Champion In U8 World Cadets Chess Championship

- In Chess, eight-year-old **Divith Reddy has won the gold medal at the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship in Montesilvano, Italy.** The Telangana prodigy accumulated nine points out of a maximum of 11, tying with compatriot Sattwik Swain. However, Divith secured the gold based on his superior tiebreak score. Sattwik claimed silver, while Ziming Guo of China took the bronze.

India's Rinchen Youdol Wins Historic Bronze at First World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championships in Bahrain

- **Rinchen Youdol, a para-athlete from Bodhkhharboo, Kargil in the Union Territory of Ladakh, has created history by winning the Bronze Medal at the 1st World Para Poomsae Taekwondo Championships held in Manama, Bahrain.** Competing in the Senior Female (No Age Bar) category against 140 athletes from 23 countries, Rinchen's exceptional performance has brought immense pride to Ladakh and India. She is the first athlete from Ladakh to achieve the milestone in Taekwondo, marking a new chapter in the region's sporting history. The event featured para-athletes from five continents, showcasing remarkable talent and competition. The President of the Ladakh Taekwondo Association commended LG Ladakh, and all those stakeholders for helping Youdol reach this prestigious tournament.

Sport Events

Brazilian Grand Prix

- **Red Bull driver Max Verstappen took a major step toward securing his fourth straight F1 title by winning the Brazilian Grand Prix**, despite starting 17th, and increasing his lead over McLaren's Lando Norris with three more races remaining.

Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024 started in Bihar

- The stage is set for the **Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024, which kicked off at the renowned international tourist destination of Rajgir at Nalanda in Bihar**. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the 10-day sporting event.

After hosting World Cup, Qatar praised by U.N. rights body for labour law reforms but urged to do more

- **Qatar was praised at the United Nations' top human rights body for improving labour laws before the 2022 World Cup**, though it was urged to fully abolish its employment system for migrant workers. **Qatar returned to the Human Rights Council in Geneva for its five-yearly review for the first time since the football tournament** that needed hundreds of thousands of foreign workers to build stadiums and other essential projects.
- **Football governing body FIFA is set to confirm Saudi Arabia in December as host of the 2034 World Cup — setting up another decade of scrutiny** on how human rights are respected while preparing for more teams playing more games in more stadiums.

Kho Kho World Cup Scheduled for 2025 in India

- **India has been chosen to host the first-ever Kho Kho World Cup in 2025, which will bring together 24 countries from six continents**. Both the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI) and the International Kho Kho Federation have confirmed this exciting event. Kho Kho is a traditional Indian sport, and this World Cup will put it on the global map. The event will show how Kho Kho has evolved from being played on dirt fields to modern sports mats, while still keeping its cultural roots intact.

World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi

- **India is all set to host one of the biggest events in para sports - the World Para Athletics Championships - in the national capital next year**. The Paralympics Committee of India (PCI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with World Para Athletics - a subcommittee of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) - to organise the prestigious meet at the Jawaharlal Nehru (JLN) stadium, most likely in the month of November. More than 100 countries are expected to participate in the Para Worlds, which will further enhance the country's growing reputation in sports for the differently-abled. The event will be conducted at a cost of Rs. 40-50 crore, for which the JLN stadium will undergo a major renovation in the next six months.

Hockey: India Wins Women's Asian Champions Trophy Beating China 1-0

- **In hockey, India clinched the Women's Asian Champions Trophy at Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar. The Indian women's hockey team won their 2nd consecutive title by defeating China 1-0 in the final match**. With this victory, India has equalled South Korea with three titles each. Despite China's determined efforts, the first half ended goalless. However, the defending champions returned with a more aggressive approach in the second half and secured the breakthrough in the third quarter. Deepika netted the decisive goal from a penalty corner in the 31st minute, concluding the tournament as the leading scorer with 11 goals. She was declared player of the tournament.

Bihar to host Khelo India Youth Games and Para Games in April 2025

- **Bihar will host the Khelo India Youth Games 2025 in April 2025**. A flagship event of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Bihar will be a new addition to the Khelo India map of the country. **For the first time and in the lines of the Summer Olympics, the Khelo India Para Games will also be held in Bihar**. The Para Games will follow the youth Games and there will be a 10 to 15 days gap between the two Games. The first edition of the

Para Games was held in Delhi last year. Bihar just hosted the women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey championship in Rajgir. In the same championship, India defeated Paris Olympics silver medalists China to retain the continental title.

IPL's Biggest Deal: Pant Goes To Lucknow For ₹27 Crore

- In a landmark moment for cricket in West Asia, the Indian Premier League's two-day mega auction commenced at the Abadi Al-Johar Arena in Jeddah marking Saudi Arabia's first major cricket event under its Vision 2030 initiative.
- This triennial mega auction, characterized by its comprehensive squad rebuilding format, has already witnessed unprecedented bidding wars and record-breaking acquisitions. Day one saw Lucknow Super Giants make history by securing wicketkeeper-batsman **Rishabh Pant for an extraordinary 27 crore rupees, establishing a new IPL price record**. With KL Rahul's exit, Pant is poised to assume captaincy responsibilities, despite earlier rumours linking him to Chennai Super Kings. **Punjab Kings emerged as another major spender, acquiring IPL-winning captain Shreyas Iyer for 26.75 crore rupees and spinner Yuzvendra Chahal for 18 crore rupees, the highest ever for an Indian spinner**. Kolkata Knight Riders also made headlines by signing Venkatesh Iyer for 23.75 crore rupees.
- India star player Virat Kohli is the only player in IPL history to have played for only one franchise. **Jasprit Bumrah started his IPL career with Mumbai Indians in 2013** and was re-signed by them in the IPL 2014 mega-auction. MI have always retained Bumrah since then. **MS Dhoni was the face of Chennai Super Kings for the first eight editions of the league, leading them to two titles (2010 & 2011) and four runner-up finishes**. He then became the first player to be drafted by Rising Pune Supergiant in the ninth edition of the league. And, he once again became the first player to be retained by CSK ahead of the IPL Player Auction 2018.

40th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament Concluded in Gangtok

- North East United Football Club became the champion of the 40th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2024 held at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok. In the nail-biting final match played North East United FC defeated the home team, Gangtok Himalayan Sporting Club in the tie-breaker. Governor Om Prakash Mathur was present as the chief guest and was accompanied by the Chief Minister PS Tamang as the Guest of Honour.

Syed Modi International 2024 Badminton Tournament Kicks Off In Lucknow

- PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen will be the top Indian players in action at the Syed Modi International 2024 badminton tournament, which began in Lucknow. The Syed Modi India International 2024 is a BWF Super 300 event. All matches will be played at the badminton courts of the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium.
- The Indian badminton challenge in the women's singles will be led by two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu, while Paris 2024 Olympics semi-finalist Lakshya Sen will be the top-ranked Indian men's player in singles. Meanwhile, the Asian and Commonwealth Games gold medallist duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty has withdrawn from the tournament.

Ladakh's First Ice Hockey Tournament of the Season Kicks off in Durbuk

- Ladakh's first ice hockey tournament of the season is being held as the 12th Late Lady Stanzin Otzes Inter-Village Ice Hockey Tournament in Durbuk village, located in the Lalok region. The tournament is organized with the aim of encouraging local youth to engage in winter sports. The Lalok region has historically played a key role in promoting ice hockey in Ladakh since the sport was introduced to the area in the 1960s. A total of 8 teams from Lalok, along with two women's teams, are participating in the tournament.

AWARDS



Thiruvananthapuram becomes India's first city to win global sustainability award

- **Thiruvananthapuram is the first Indian city to win the UN-Shanghai Global Award for sustainable development, recognising its efforts in electric transport, smart roads, cultural preservation, and citizen-focused spaces.** Thiruvananthapuram's win marks a transformative moment for sustainable urban development in India, **setting a powerful example of how cities can balance growth with environmental responsibility and cultural preservation.** This recognition from UN-Habitat and the Shanghai Municipality underscores Thiruvananthapuram's dedication to pioneering projects that prioritise green technology, inclusivity, and the well-being of its citizens. The city's achievements in sustainability are rooted in a series of groundbreaking initiatives. **The UN-Shanghai Global Award not only brings international recognition to Thiruvananthapuram but also catalyzes further sustainable developments within India.** The city's achievement inspires other Indian cities to integrate sustainable practices into their urban planning.
- As Thiruvananthapuram continues to lead by example, it could pave the way for a greener, more resilient India, where cities prioritise sustainability without compromising their unique cultural identities. **Thiruvananthapuram's selection among cities from various regions, including Agadir, Melbourne, Doha, and Iztapalapa, is a testament to the global relevance of its sustainable model.**

Social worker from Odisha gets third Rohini Nayyar prize

- **Anil Pradhan, a social worker from Odisha, won the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for his outstanding contribution to rural development.** The prize, instituted by Rohini Nayyar Foundation, constituted in memory of the eminent economist, comes with a cash award of ₹10 lakh, a citation and trophy. He was the chief designer of Asia's first university rocket team, VSLV.

Indian initiative for child-friendly public spaces wins Innovation Award

- **aProCh, an Ahmedabad-based community initiative that works in the field of building safe environments for children, won the Innovation Award at the 2024 Smart Cities Expo World Congress (SCEWC) held in Barcelona, Spain between November 5 and 7. The award was shared by Saudi Arabia's Aramco. "This award recognises urban solutions which are human centric for livable, sustainable and inclusive cities.** After this recognition, we will proactively recommend the central government to implement such programmes as part of its agenda for the next Smart Cities mission and also make such urban intervention as part of policy for cities".

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath Receives Prestigious IAF World Space Award for Chandrayaan-3

- **Dr. S. Somanath, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been honored with the prestigious International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award.** This accolade was awarded in recognition of the remarkable success of Chandrayaan-3, **India's lunar mission that made history with its soft landing on the Moon's South Pole.** The award ceremony took place in Milan, Italy, and marked a significant milestone in India's growing prominence in space exploration.

- **The IAF World Space Award is one of the most prestigious honors in the field of space science and exploration.** It recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of space technology and exploration. By awarding this distinction to Dr. Somanath and the Chandrayaan-3 mission, the International Astronautical Federation highlighted the global significance of India's achievements in space exploration. This recognition celebrates India's contributions to the exploration of the Moon and its role in advancing our understanding of Earth's closest celestial neighbor. It also acknowledges the scientific breakthroughs that Chandrayaan-3 has facilitated, particularly in the study of the Moon's South Pole, which holds critical potential for future exploration missions.

Dominica to Confer Highest National Honour to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- **Dominica has announced to confer its highest national honour to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.** The Dominica Award of Honour will be bestowed to the Prime Minister in **recognition of his contributions to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic** and his dedication to strengthening the partnership between India and Dominica.
- **President of Dominica Sylvanie Burton will confer the award during the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit,** scheduled to take place in Georgetown, Guyana from 19th to 21st of this month. According to the statement of the Prime Minister Office of Dominica, India supplied Dominica with 70 thousand doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine during the Covid pandemic in February 2021.
- The award also recognizes India's support for Dominica in healthcare, education and information technology under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, as well as his role in promoting climate resilience-building initiatives and sustainable development on a global level. **Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit said, the award is an expression of Dominica's gratitude for Prime Minister Modi's solidarity with Dominica and the wider region.**

Veteran Filmmaker Phillip Noyce Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

- **Veteran Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce, renowned for his acclaimed works such as Clear and Present Danger, Salt, and Rabbit-Proof Fence, will be honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award** at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The festival, which will be held in Goa from November 20-28, 2024, has Australia as its Country of Focus this year. Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award to be presented at 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI 2024)

Booker Prize 2024: British writer Samantha Harvey wins for space-station novel 'Orbital'

- **British writer Samantha Harvey won the Booker Prize for fiction with Orbital,** a short, wonder-filled novel set aboard the International Space Station. **Ms. Harvey was awarded the £50,000 (₹53.7 lakh) prize for what she has called a "space pastoral"** about six astronauts circling the Earth, which she began writing during COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns.
- The confined characters loop through 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets over the course of a day, trapped in one another's company and transfixed by the globe's fragile beauty. **Ms. Harvey, who has written four previous novels and a memoir about insomnia, is the first British writer since 2020 to win the Booker.** The prize is open to English-language writers of any nationality and has a reputation for transforming writers' careers. Previous winners include Ian McEwan, Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie and Hilary Mantel.

The Booker Prize, formerly the Booker Prize for Fiction (1969–2001) and the Man Booker Prize (2002–2019), is a literary award conferred each year for the best novel written in the English language, which was published in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The prize was established as the "Booker Prize for Fiction" after the company Booker, McConnell Ltd began sponsoring the event in 1969; it became commonly known as the "Booker Prize" or the "Booker". The winner of the Booker Prize receives international publicity that usually leads to a sales boost. When the prize was created, only novels written by Commonwealth, Irish, and South African (and later Zimbabwean) citizens were eligible to receive the prize; in 2014, eligibility was widened to any English-language novel—a change that proved controversial. **Percy Howard Newby was the first winner of the Booker Prize, his novel 'Something to Answer For' having received the inaugural award in 1969. The first Indian to win the Booker Prize was the author and activist Arundhati Roy. Her first novel 'God of Small Things' was also the best-selling book by a non-expat Indian novelist. A sister prize, the International Booker Prize, is awarded for a book translated into**

English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland. The £50,000 prize money is split evenly between the author and translator of the winning novel.

Dominica and Guyana Confers Its Highest National Honour upon Prime Minister Modi

- **The Commonwealth of Dominica has bestowed its highest national honour – the Dominica Award of Honour, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi.** President of Dominica Sylvanie Burton conferred the Award in recognition of Prime Minister Modi's contributions to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic and his dedication to strengthening the partnership between the two countries.
- **The prime minister, who is in Guyana on the last leg of his three-nation visit, was conferred 'The Order of Excellence' by Guyanese President Irfaan Ali. Mr Modi said, he is honoured to be conferred with highest national award by Dominica.** Modi is the fourth foreign leader to be conferred with the highest National award of Guyana. He dedicated it to the 140 crore people of India. The Prime Minister said, this honour is not only his but of 140 crore people of India, their efforts, their values and their tradition. He said, India and Dominica are two democracies and together are role models of women's empowerment for the world.

Afghan girl, who protested oppressive rules against women, wins children's peace prize

- A 17-year-old girl, Nila Ibrahimy who has been barred from speaking in her own country, Afghanistan, has won the prestigious International Children's Peace Prize for advocating for the rights of girls in Kabul. At a function in Amsterdam, Nila was honoured with the prize which has been previously awarded to Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg and Nkosi Johnson.
- In Afghanistan, women have been silenced through various diktats and oppressive rules by the Taliban administration which came to power in 2021 after the US' withdrawal from the country. Nila was awarded with the prize for her "courageous work to fight for the rights of girls" in Afghanistan.

Haryana Govt Notifies 'Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme'

- **The Haryana government has notified the 'Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme 2024'.** The scheme aims to promote excellence in governance by rewarding employees who contribute to better governance in the state through innovative work and extraordinary efforts. The awards have been classified into flagship scheme awards and state-level awards. 'District-level awards' will also be given under the scheme.
- Under the flagship awards, teams involved in flagship projects whose work has led to significant improvement in governance will be honored. State-level awards will be awarded to teams doing excellent work in various governance initiatives. 'District-level awards' will also be given under the scheme.
- **Each flagship award will carry Rs. 51,000, while state-level awards will carry Rs. 51,000 for the first prize, Rs. 31,000 for the second prize, and Rs. 21,000 for the third prize.** The cash prizes will be distributed equally among the members of the winning team. The awards will also include a trophy and a certificate of appreciation. The certificate of appreciation for the flagship award will be signed by the Chief Secretary. The certificate of appreciation will be attached to the service record of the honoured employee.
- **The 'District-level Awards' will be given by the Deputy Commissioner of each district. Cash prizes of Rs. 31,000 for the first position in the district, Rs. 21,000 for the second position, and Rs. 11,000 for the third position will be awarded.** Each awarding team will also be given a trophy and a certificate of appreciation signed by the Divisional Commissioner of the respective district.

Indian Chemical Council Wins 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award

- **The 2024 OPCW The Hague Award was conferred upon the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) at a ceremony during the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at the Hague in the presence of delegates from the 193 States Parties and experts from the global chemical industry from around the world.**

- **This is the first time that the Award recognises the efforts of a chemical industry body. The Director-General of OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Mayor of the Municipality of The Hague, Mr Jan van Zanen presented the Award.** Mr. D. Sothi Selvam, Director General, ICC received the award on behalf of the Council. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the OPCW and the Chairperson of India's National Authority Chemical Weapons Convention (NACWC) were also present during the award ceremony.
- **The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) came into force in 1997, and presently has 193 States Parties. OPCW, with its Secretariat in The Hague, is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, with a mission to achieve a world free of chemical weapons.** India is an original signatory to the Convention. NACWC is the national authority responsible for implementing the Convention in India.
- **In 2013, OPCW was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.** To preserve the legacy of this achievement, the OPCW established the 'OPCW-The Hague Award' in collaboration with the Municipality of The Hague in 2014. The Award recognizes individuals and organizations that play a significant role in advancing the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

PM Narendra Modi honoured with Global Peace Award as Indian American minorities launch AIAM in Washington

- **The Association of Indian American Minorities (AIAM), a newly formed non-governmental organisation, was launched o at the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland.** The initiative aims to unite and promote the welfare of minority communities within the Indian American diaspora. During the event, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured in absentia with the 'Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment.'** The award was jointly presented by Washington Adventist University and AIAM, recognizing his efforts toward inclusive development and minority welfare. AIAM is set to foster unity among Indian Americans in the United States.

Coal India Limited Honoured with Green World Environment Award 2024

- **Coal India Limited (CIL), under the aegis of the Ministry of Coal, has achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving the prestigious Green World Environment Award 2024 in the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) category.** Alongside this accolade, CIL was also honoured with the title of Green World Ambassador, reflecting its commitment to sustainability and social welfare. This award recognizes CIL's exemplary efforts in balancing its industrial operations with significant social and environmental contributions.
- **The prestigious Green World Environment Award 2024 was presented to Shri Vinay Ranjan, Director (Personnel/IR) of CIL, on 18th November 2024, at a grand ceremony held at The Orangery, Kensington Palace, London.** The award, given by The Green Organization, recognizes organizations demonstrating exceptional environmental and CSR best practices globally.
- **The Ministry of Coal oversees the policies and strategies related to coal and mineral mining, ensuring the sustainable utilization of these vital resources for the country's growth. Coal India Limited, as the largest coal producer, operates under this ministry's guidance and plays a critical role in powering India's energy sector.**

PERSONS IN NEWS

Sunil Sharma, BJP's first-ever leader of opposition in Jammu and Kashmir

- **Sunil Sharma, a former minister was elected as the leader of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP legislature party and is ready to assume the role of leader of the opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.** The BJP achieved a record 29 seats in the assembly elections in the Union Territory. It first came to power in Jammu and Kashmir in 2015 by forming a government with the People's Democratic Party, which remained in place until June 2018. With Sharma's election, the BJP, having emerged as the main opposition party, will have its leader of the opposition in Jammu and Kashmir for the first time.

National Conference Leader Abdul Rahim Rather Elected As Speaker of the House Unanimously

- In Jammu and Kashmir, the first session of the newly constituted Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory began in Srinagar. The session is being held for five days. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said the people now look up to the government with many hopes and aspirations. **National Conference leader Abdul Rahim Rather was elected as Speaker of the House unanimously.** The Speaker asked the legislators to make the session productive and meaningful by addressing matters that help mitigate the issues of the common masses.

CAG Girish Chandra Murmu Inaugurates Sports Complex in Ranchi to Promote Sports

- **Comptroller and Auditor General Girish Chandra Murmu inaugurated** a dedicated sports complex at Ranchi to promote sports in the CAG Institution and in country. The sports complex has been constructed for CAG's cricket, football and hockey teams. The CAG Institution has a pool of sportspersons. The need was felt for CAG Institution to have its own sports ground for regular practice and camps to CAG's Football, Hockey and cricket teams. The dedicated centralized sports facility in Ranchi will work as a hub for all the outdoor sports disciplines of Indian Audit and Accounts department where local players can also practice. Ranchi is strong in tribal hockey talent and developing a sports center, especially in the hockey discipline, will also help the department to exploit the local talent.
- **The Constitution of India (Article 148) provides for an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).** He is the head of the Indian audit & account department and chief Guardian of Public purse. It is the institution through which the accountability of the government and other public authorities (all those who spend public funds) to Parliament and State Legislatures and through them to the people is ensured. CAG is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal and provided with tenure of 6 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier. CAG can be removed by the President only in accordance with the procedure mentioned in the Constitution that is the manner same as removal of a Supreme Court Judge. He is ineligible to hold any office, either under the Government of India or of any state, once he retires/resigns as a CAG.

Sharda Sinha, singer and Padma Bhushan recipient, dies

- **Bihar's folk icon Sharda Sinha died on November 5.** Known for her Chhath songs, the Padma Bhushan recipient was admitted to AIIMS Hospital in New Delhi on October 27. Sinha, 72, had been fighting multiple myeloma, a type of blood cancer, since 2018.

Actor Darasing Khurana Wins Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award in UK

- **Indian actor and philanthropist Darasing Khurana has been honored with the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award for his impactful work in raising awareness about mental health issues,** particularly in his role as the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion. Khurana was awarded the Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award at the University of Oxford's Ashmolean Museum. The award honors his dedication to mental health awareness and advocacy, especially through his work as the Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion.

Iconic Sarangi Maestro Pandit Ram Narayan Passes Away In Mumbai

- **Pandit Ram Narayan, the iconic Sarangi maestro, passed away in Mumbai** at the age of 96. Mr. Narayan, a distinguished Hindustani musician was honoured with several prestigious awards, including the Padma Vibhushan and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

150th Birth Anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda: Inter-State Tribal Folk Dance Festival Begins

- **On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, a two-day Janjitiya Gaurav Diwas and inter-state tribal folk dance festival has started in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur.** Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated the festival. During this festival, 28 tribal dance troupes from 21 states will present cultural programs.

Ajit Vinayak Gupte Appointed India's Ambassador to Germany

- **Ajit Vinayak Gupte has been named as India's next Ambassador to Germany,** as announced by the Ministry of External Affairs. He is currently serving as the Ambassador to Egypt and will soon move to his new post in Germany.

K. Sanjay Murthy to be next Comptroller and Auditor General of India

- **The Union government said K. Sanjay Murthy will be the next Comptroller and Auditor General of India.** Mr. Murthy, a 1989 batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu. Mr. Murthy is currently Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education.
- **“By virtue of the power vested in her by clause (1) of article 148 of the Constitution of India, the President has been pleased to appoint K Sanjay Murthy to be the Comptroller and Auditor General of India with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office”.** Girish Chandra Murmu assumed office as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on August 8, 2020.

Denmark's Victoria Kjaer Theilvig named 73rd Miss Universe

- **The 73rd edition of the pageant, which saw participation by more than 120 contestants, was held at the Mexico City Arena. Miss Nigeria Chidimma Adetshina placed second, whereas Miss Mexico Maria Fernanda Beltran came in third. Rhea Singha, who represented India at the 73rd edition of the competition, was called into the list of top 30 contestants.** Miss Universe 2024 was hosted by Mario Lopez, Miss Universe 2012 Olivia Culpo, presenter Zuri Hall, and Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray. The gala, hosted for the third time in Mexico, also had first-time representatives in countries such as Belarus, Eritrea, Guinea, Macau, Maldives, Moldova and Uzbekistan.

Filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker Appointed As Chairperson of International Jury For IFFI 2024

- **Filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker has been appointed as the chairperson of the International Jury for the 2024 International Film Festival of India (IFFI).** Gowariker, known for films such as 'Jodhaa Akbar', 'Lagaan', and 'Swades', said he is honoured to be associated with the prestigious film festival, which will be held in Goa. The filmmaker said that cinema is constantly evolving with the times, and there's no better place to witness this evolution than at a film festival. He said the IFFI stands as a beacon of this transformation, and he is honoured to be a part of it.

55th International Film Festival of India to Screen 70 Films

- **At the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), promises to be another exciting day with several events lined up.** After the successful and crowd-pulling premiere of over 70 films will feature the screening of **another 70 films.** Apart from this, three films will be shown as part of an open-air screening. The film Toxic bagged the most coveted Golden Peacock Award for Best Feature Film this year. Shri Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa and Shri Ashutosh Gowariker, Jury Chairperson of the International Competition presented the award.
- **Lithuanian filmmaker and screenwriter Saulė Bliuvaitė's debut feature film delivers a raw and haunting coming-of-age story of friendship.** The Jury praised the film for exploring adolescence and the harsh realities of growing up in an economically deprived society, with so much sensitivity and empathy.

- Recognising his outstanding direction and exquisite storytelling on screen, **the award for Silver Peacock for Best Director went to Romanian writer and director Bogdan Muresanu for his film, ‘The New Year That Never Came.’**
- **Actor Clément Faveau was Awarded the Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Male)** for his incredible and compelling performance in the French film Holy Cow, expressing the emotional ups and downs of the protagonist, while traversing from ages of innocence to maturity.
- The Jury also made a special mention to Actor **Adam Bessa for his portrayal of Bilal, in the Tunisian film Who Do I Belong To; the actor** was lauded for his nuanced and restrained performance in the film.
- For their extraordinary debut performances, the Silver Peacock for Best Actor (Female) was jointly awarded to actors Vesta Matulytė and Ieva Rupeikaitė for the film ‘Toxic.’

Priyanka Gandhi takes oath as Lok Sabha MP

- **Priyanka Gandhi won the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat with a margin of 4, 10,931 votes in the recently concluded round of bypolls, which took place alongside Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly elections 2024.** The Wayanad Lok Sabha seat was vacated by Priyanka Gandhi’s brother, Rahul Gandhi, who had won from there in the Lok Sabha elections this year but had also secured the family bastion Rae Bareli constituency. Rahul Gandhi’s decision to resign from the Wayanad seat and retain the Rae Bareli constituency after winning the two seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in April necessitated the Wayanad bypoll.
- **Rae Bareli Member of Parliament (MP) Rahul Gandhi is Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, a position that lay vacant for 10 years because no party had numbers equalling a tenth of the strength of the House,** which has been by practice a requirement to lay claim to the post. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has resigned from his Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, formally notifying the Speaker’s office of his decision to retain the Raebareli constituency.

Vir Das becomes the first Indian to host International Emmy Awards

- **Vir Das, the first Indian host of the 2024 International Emmys, brought humor and cultural insight to the stage, even joking about the show’s limited visibility. The International Emmy Awards 2024 took place in New York City at the New York Hilton Midtown.** The event featured a blend of diverse talents, with Emmy-winning comedian Vir Das hosting.

Justice Kuldip Singh, SC’s first green judge, passes away

- **No one left a judicial legacy in the field of environment as bright and effective as Justice Kuldip Singh, referred to as the first ‘green judge’ of the Supreme Court.** He retired in Dec 1996 but the two environmental cases relating to pollution and forest, which he handled with aplomb, continue to be heard by two green benches of the SC to the present day.
- **As a Judge of the SC, he took up with keen interest two cases - one filed by environmentalist M C Mehta in 1985 to protect Taj Mahal from industrial and vehicular pollution,** which was already causing a yellowing effect on white marble monument, and the other by T N Godavarman Thirumulpad in 1995 for declaring sandalwood trees as protected environment.
- **The zeal with which he proceeded to activate lethargic administration for protection of the monument and reduce pollution in the Taj Trapezium zone and used the other case to protect forests and curb mindless felling of trees across the country, earned him the moniker ‘green judge’.** These two cases are still alive in the SC docket and are now heard by two different benches headed by Justices B R Gavai and A S Oka.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ningol Chakkouba Festival Celebrated With Religious Fervor and Gaiety across Manipur

- **One of the biggest festivals of Manipur- Ningol Chakkouba was held across the State with religious fervour and gaiety.** This is the biggest festival of the Meitei community but the scenario has changed from the last many years with the participation of different communities in the festival. The festival is held every year on the second day of the lunar month of Hiyangei of the Meitei calendar. The main component of the festival is the visit of married sisters to their maternal homes for grand feast and joyous reunion followed by giving away the gifts.

India's first dedicated railway test track worth Rs. 820 crore getting constructed in Rajasthan

- A dedicated railway test track is being constructed in Rajasthan to develop the facility for testing rolling stock. This track will be completed by December 2025. The country's first train trial track in Rajasthan is almost ready. This 60 km long track is not completely straight but many curved points have been made. The total estimated cost of this project is Rs. 820 crore.

Meluri Officially Becomes 17th District Of Nagaland

- **Meluri, inhabited by the Pochury Naga tribe, has officially been declared as the 17th district of Nagaland.** The state government has announced the elevation of Meluri Sub-Division, currently part of Phek District, to a full-fledged district, with immediate effect.

Delhi to host 12th edition of North East Festival

- More than 200 communities from eight north-eastern States are expected to showcase their cultural traits at the **12th edition of the North East Festival from November 15-17 will be held in Delhi.** The organisers said the event will be held at the MDC National Stadium at India Gate.

NGT Imposes Rs. 1,000 Crore Fine on Punjab Government

- **The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has fined the Punjab government a huge amount—Rs 1,000 crore.** This fine was imposed because the state has repeatedly failed to manage its solid and liquid waste properly, despite many warnings and legal obligations. **The NGT has also ordered that this money be sent immediately to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** and has held top government officials responsible for the ongoing failures.
- **The National Green Tribunal was established on October 18, 2010, under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.** Its purpose is to provide effective and speedy disposal of matters related to environmental protection and the preservation of forests, and to enforce any legal rights related to the environment, including natural resources, and to provide relief and compensation for damages to individuals and property, including cases related to accidental medical issues. **The tribunal will not be bound by the procedure prescribed under the Civil Procedure Code, 1908, but will be guided by the principles of natural justice.** India is the third country in the world – after Australia and New Zealand – to set up such a body to deal with environmental cases. **The principal National Green Tribunal bench is located in Delhi,** with other benches sitting in Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai.

World-Famous Pushkar Fair Begins With Flag Hoisting Ceremony in Rajasthan

- **The world-famous Pushkar fair started with the flag hoisting ceremony near Ajmer in Rajasthan.** Hundreds of domestic and foreign tourists have reached Pushkar to witness this fair which will continue till November 15.

Uttar Pradesh Government Launches Controversial Social Media Policy

- **The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a new policy to encourage social media influencers to promote its programs and achievements.** Influencers will be paid for their posts, but the policy has received significant criticism from opposition parties and other groups. The policy aims to use social media to highlight government successes and create job opportunities. It involves hiring agencies and companies to produce and share content online, boosting the visibility of government efforts.

‘Act4Dyslexia’ campaign launched

- In a significant initiative as part of the nation-wide ‘Act4Dyslexia’ campaign, the highest offices of the Government and key monuments in Delhi, including Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North and South Blocks, and India Gate, have been illuminated in red, the colour for Dyslexia Awareness. The event aligns with similar illuminations across major cities, including Patna, Ranchi, Jaipur, Kohima, Shimla, and Mumbai, spotlighting the need to remove stigma and foster greater understanding of dyslexia and other learning disabilities. This initiative aims at raising awareness about learning disabilities, which are estimated to affect 20% of India’s population, including 35 million students. It is being organized in collaboration with UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP) & ChangeInkk Foundation.

QS World University Rankings Asia 2025: Peking University Ranked First

- Peking University has once again secured the top position in the QS World University Rankings Asia 2025. This prestigious ranking assesses 984 institutions across 25 Eastern, Southern, South-Eastern and Central Asian countries. The top four positions in the ranking remain unchanged from the previous year. Peking University, renowned for its strong academic reputation, employer recognition, and robust international student exchange programs, continues to lead the pack. The University of Hong Kong, National University of Singapore (NUS), and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU) maintain their second, third, and fourth positions, respectively.

Bali Jatra Begins In Odisha to Celebrate Ancient Sea-Trading History

- Asia’s largest open-air trade fair, Bali Jatra, starts to celebrate Odisha’s ancient sea-trading history. This year’s fair opens on the full moon day of Kartika and will run until 22nd November. Bali Jatra, meaning “Journey to Bali,” honours Odisha’s old tradition of traders sailing to distant lands in boats called Boitas from the Mahanadi River during Kartika Purnima.

Gurugram uses ‘Artificial Rain’ against air pollution

- The DLF Primus Society in Gurugram, India used artificial rain to combat air pollution in November 2024. The society used water sprinklers on the fire lines of a 32-story high-rise building to create artificial rain. The initiative was taken to disperse dust and particulate matter in the area, which has been affected by air pollution during the winter season. The Delhi government is also considering using artificial rain to fight air pollution.
- Artificial rain, also known as cloud seeding, is the process of using aeroplanes or helicopters to release chemicals into the sky, such as dry ice, potassium iodide, and silver iodide. These particles draw in water vapour, which causes clouds to form and rain to fall. The techniques include employing hygroscopic elements, such as salt particles, for warm clouds and seeding supercooled clouds with dry ice or silver iodide. In order to increase the density of clouds and increase the probability of rainfall, cloud seeding entails adding several chemical agents, such as silver iodide, dry ice, and even table salt.

World’s oldest eyeliner unearthed in Turkey

- Archaeologists have unearthed the oldest eyeliner from the ruins of a prehistoric city in Turkey which has proved that humans were using makeup more than 8,000 years ago. The kohl stick, which is a kind of eyeliner still popular among people, was found in Yeşilova Hoyuk which is an ancient settlement in western Turkey. The kohl stick is made using green serpentine stone and there are traces of black paint on its tip, more than 8,200 years after it was used. Zafer Derin, the lead archaeologist, explained that kohl has been used in many different cultures throughout history.

Andhra Pradesh Introduces Seaplane Service to Link Vijayawada and Srisaïlam

- In a bid to enhance tourism and improve regional connectivity, the Andhra Pradesh Government has introduced a new seaplane service. The initiative, named ‘Sky Meets Sea’, connects the cities of Vijayawada and Srisaïlam.

Ladakh: BRO's Project Vijayak Showcases Young Talent in Kargil Art Exhibition

- In an inspiring initiative, **Project Vijayak**, of the **Border Roads Organisation**, supported a vibrant art exhibition in Kargil to spotlight the talents of young artists from the region. The exhibition marks a significant step in Project Vijayak's efforts to nurture creativity and empower Kargil's youth. By repurposing its headquarters into an artistic training space, the project has provided budding artists space and support. Under the guidance of Mrs. Roma Bahl and the vision of Brigadier Vinay Bahl, this initiative has already achieved remarkable results, with one student recently earning admission to the prestigious College of Fine Arts in Jammu.
- **CEC praised Project Vijayak for going beyond its traditional infrastructural role to support local youth through creative development.** He expressed gratitude to the BRO for its commitment to enhancing the region's quality of life. Later, Team Stringmo presented tokens of appreciation to Brigadier Vinay Bahl and other guests as a gesture of gratitude for their support.

Indian Army Honours 1962 War Heroes with Events at Two War Memorials in Arunachal Pradesh

- **As a tribute to the courage and sacrifice of the Indo-China War heroes of 1962, the Indian Army organized commemorative events at two war memorials in Arunachal Pradesh.** The two war memorials are the Jaswant Garh War Memorial in Tawang, where the events will be held on November 17, and the Nyukmadung War Memorial in West Kameng District on November 18.

India's first Constitution Museum to open at OP Jindal Global University

- **India's first Constitution Museum, a unique initiative aimed at celebrating and educating citizens** about the nation's foundational document, will be inaugurated at OP Jindal Global University (JGU), Sonapat. **The museum has been established as part of the 75th-anniversary celebrations of the adoption of the Constitution of India, which took place on November 26, 1949.** It aims to deepen public understanding of the Constitution through cutting-edge installations, interactive displays, and archival resources.

Dehradun's Rashtrapati Ashiyana to open its doors to public in April

- The 186-year-old **Rashtrapati Ashiyana at Rajpur Road in Dehradun will open its doors to the public from April next year.** Acting on instructions from President Droupadi Murmu, officials from the President's Secretariat visited Dehradun to guide authorities in preparing the estate for public access.
- **This initiative aligns with President Murmu's broader efforts to make presidential estates across the country accessible to the public.** Currently serving as a base for the Presidential Bodyguard Regiment, the estate was originally established in 1838 for the summering of horses and remounts of the Governor General's Bodyguard. Unlike other Presidential properties, such as Rashtrapati Nilayam in Hyderabad and Rashtrapati Niwas in Mashobra, Rashtrapati Ashiyana will be the first estate with an active PBG presence to welcome the public. This offers a unique opportunity to witness the regiment's operational and ceremonial traditions.

Gwalior houses India's first self-sufficient gaushala with modern CBG plant

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Gwalior's new 100 TPD cattle dung-based compressed biogas (CBG) plant, exemplifying his vision for a "Waste to Wealth" initiative.** The CBG plant is Gwalior's largest cowshed, **Adarsh Gaushala, located in Laltipara, Gwalior.** The Gaushala is operated by Gwalior Municipal Corporation and over 10,000 cattle live. The Gaushala has achieved a landmark feat with the establishment of India's first modern, self-sufficient gaushala that houses a state-of-the-art Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant. The speciality of this plant is that it is the first CBG plant in Madhya Pradesh in which biogas will be prepared from cattle dung and garbage such as vegetable and fruit waste materials collected from mandis and homes.

South Central Railway Launches First Banana Export Train From Andhra's Tadipatri

- **South Central Railway launched the first Banana Export Train from Tadipatri in Andhra Pradesh.** The train carries 680 tonnes of bananas to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai. The cargo will be exported to Middle Eastern countries like Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia. CONCOR provides end-to-end logistics for smooth transportation. This initiative strengthens global trade by increasing agricultural exports and showcases the vital role of Indian Railways in supporting farmers and the economy.

IRCTC to launch Golden Chariot train

- **IRCTC will launch the operations of the ‘Golden Chariot Luxury Tourist Train’ this year in a new avatar offering world-class on-board accommodation with 13 double-bed cabins, 26 twin-bed cabins and one cabin for differently-abled guests.** The train can accommodate up to 80 guests in its 40 cabins. The train boasts of several on-board features and amenities such as renovated luxurious cabins with upholstered furniture, elegant drapery and attached bathrooms, crockery and cutlery of international brands etc. Smart TVs with a variety of Wi-Fi enabled subscriptions have been installed in the cabins for on-board infotainment to the guests. The train is also equipped with CCTV cameras and fire alarm system for providing the guests with enhanced security.

Meghalaya All Set To Host Two-Day Me·Gong Festival 2024

- **Meghalaya is all set to host the two-day Me·Gong Festival 2024. Named after the Me’gong flower, which blooms abundantly in the Garo Hills, the festival celebrates Garo culture, including music, folk dances, indigenous games, handloom and handicrafts, and authentic cuisine.** The event aims to unite local communities, artists, tourists, and artisans, offering a rich cultural experience and promoting cross-cultural dialogue. The festival is expected to attract over 2 lakh attendees.



Career
Launcher

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Tsunami Awareness Day 5 November

- In December 2015, the UN General Assembly **designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day**, calling on countries, international bodies and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.
- **World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan**, which due to its repeated, bitter experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning, public action and building back better after a disaster to reduce future impacts. UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) facilitates the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day in collaboration with the rest of the United Nations system.
- Tsunamis are rare events but can be extremely deadly. In the past 100 years, 58 of them have claimed more than 260,000 lives, or an average of 4,600 per disaster, surpassing any other natural hazard. **The highest number of deaths in that period was in the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004.**
- **The theme for World Awareness Day 2024 is ‘Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future’** which focuses on the effect of disasters and the importance of supporting vulnerable communities.

India Water Week 2024

- Recently, **the President of India inaugurated the 8th India Water Week (IWW) 2024 in New Delhi, under the aegis of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, observed from 17th September to 20th September 2024.** The event brought together Union Ministers, international representatives, and experts, highlighting the importance of water conservation both in India and around the world. India Water Week focuses on the critical role water plays in sustaining life. It promotes awareness and actions for conserving this valuable resource. During the inauguration, a symbolic “Jal Bhara” (filling of water) ceremony was held, representing the importance of protecting and saving water for the future.
- **The theme of IWW 2024, ‘Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management’** highlighted the pivotal role of collaborative efforts across sectors and nations in tackling the escalating water challenges of the 21st century.

National Cancer Awareness Day in India

- **On November 7th each year, India observes National Cancer Awareness Day—an initiative that aims to raise awareness about the growing cancer burden in the country** and inspire action towards prevention, early detection, and treatment. India is the first country in the world to officially recognize National Cancer Awareness Day.
- **The date was chosen not only to honor the birth of Nobel Laureate Madame Marie Curie, who discovered radioactivity** and whose work has had a profound impact on cancer treatment but also to reflect India’s commitment to addressing cancer as a public health priority. India, home to over 1.4 billion people, is experiencing a rapid rise in cancer cases, **largely due to lifestyle changes, tobacco use, poor dietary habits, and inadequate physical activity.** According to estimates, approximately 800,000 new cancer cases are expected each year, with tobacco-related cancers accounting for as much as 35–50% of all cancers in men and 17% in women. However, various types of cancer are preventable, and through widespread awareness and timely interventions, India is significantly reducing its cancer burden. **In 2024, the theme for National Cancer Awareness Day is ‘Hope, Prevention, and Support,’** and the day focuses on fostering a proactive approach to cancer awareness and encouraging communities to unite against the disease.

National Legal Services Day observed Across Country

- **National Legal Services Day, observed annually on November 9, is a significant occasion in India. This day serves as a platform to promote legal awareness and ensure access to justice for all citizens, especially those from marginalised communities.** Through various initiatives and programs, this day seeks to empower individuals with knowledge about their legal rights and promote mechanisms for conflict resolution to foster a more equitable society.

World Immunization Day 2024

- **World Immunization Day, observed annually on November 10**, aims to raise awareness about the vital role vaccines play in preventing infectious diseases and protecting public health. Immunization is one of the most effective and cost-efficient intervention for controlling and eradicating diseases, saving millions of lives globally each year. Vaccines help protect individuals from diseases like measles, polio, tuberculosis, and COVID-19. The **theme** for World Immunization Week 2024 is **“Humanly Possible: Saving lives through immunization”**

World Science Day for Peace and Development, 10 November

- **Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the important role of science in society** and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. **The theme of the UNESCO celebration of the World Science Day for Peace and Development 2024 is: Why Science Matters: Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures.**

National Education Day 2024

- **National Education Day is an annual observance in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India**, who served from 15 August 1947 until 2 February 1958. National Education Day of India is celebrated on **11 November every year.**

World Diabetes Day 14 November

- In 2007 General Assembly **adopted resolution designating 14 November as World Diabetes Day.** The document recognized “the urgent need to pursue multilateral efforts to promote and improve human health, and provide access to treatment and health-care education.” This year, 2024, **the World Diabetes Day theme is “Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps”.**

International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime 15 November

- **In March 2024, the General Assembly declared 15 November the International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime**, in order to raise awareness of the threats posed by all forms of transnational organized crime and to enhance international cooperation in this regard. It recognized the importance of the prevention of and fight against transnational organized crime for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

National Press Day 2024

- **National Press Day, observed on November 16, marks the day the Press Council of India (PCI) began its operations in 1966.** Established as an independent body, the PCI’s primary role is to ensure that the press maintains high standards of journalism while remaining free from external influences. The idea for the Council was first proposed by the First Press Commission in 1956, which emphasized the need to protect press freedom and promote ethical reporting. The theme for this year’s event is **“Changing Nature of the Press”**, reflecting the evolving dynamics of the media landscape.

International Day for Tolerance

- **In 1996, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution proclaiming 16 November as International Day for Tolerance.** Among other things, the Declaration affirms that tolerance is neither indulgence nor indifference. **The International Day for Tolerance 2024 theme is “Promoting Respect And Understanding Worldwide”.** It is respect and appreciation of the rich variety of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. Tolerance recognizes the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. People are naturally diverse; only tolerance can ensure the survival of mixed communities in every region of the globe.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims 2024

- **The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims takes place on the third Sunday in November every year as the appropriate acknowledgment of victims of road traffic crashes and their families.** It was

started by the British road crash victim charity, RoadPeace, in 1993 and was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005. **The theme for the 2024 World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is “Remember. Support. Act”.**

World Toilet Day 2024

- **World Toilet Day, celebrated annually on November 19, is an official United Nations observance aimed at raising global awareness and action to address the urgent sanitation crisis.** Observed since 2013, this day has been dedicated to emphasizing the importance of safe and accessible toilet facilities as part of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensuring water and sanitation for all by 2030. This year’s theme is ‘Toilets - A Place for Peace’ which emphasizes that billions of people face heightened threats to sanitation due to conflict, climate change, natural disasters, and systemic neglect. **The theme for World Toilet Day 2024 is “Sanitation for peace”.**

National Integration Day 2024

- **National Integration Day, celebrated every year on November 19, marks the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, the first woman Prime Minister of India.** This year, the nation observes the day with reverence and reflection, recalling her enduring legacy as a leader who shaped the country’s political, social, and economic trajectory. As India continues to evolve into a global power, National Integration Day serves as a reminder of Gandhi’s role in strengthening the fabric of national unity and integration. **The theme for National Integration Day 2024 is “One India One Dream”.**

World Children’s Day 20 November

- **World Children’s Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare.**

World Television Day 21 November

- In recognition of the increasing impact television has on decision-making by bringing world attention to conflicts and threats to peace and security and its potential role in sharpening the focus on other major issues, including economic and social issues, the **United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day.** **The 2024 theme for World Television Day is “Accessibility”.**

World Philosophy Day

- **World Philosophy Day is an international day proclaimed by UNESCO to be celebrated every 3rd Thursday of November. It was first celebrated on 21 November 2002.** By celebrating World Philosophy Day each year, on the third Thursday of November, UNESCO underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.
- UNESCO has always been closely linked to philosophy, not speculative or normative philosophy, but critical questioning which enables it to give meaning to life and action in the international context. **The theme for World Philosophy Day 2024 is “Unity through Diversity”.**

World Sustainable Transport Day 26 November

- Recognizing the important role of safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all in supporting sustainable economic growth, improving the social welfare of people and enhancing international cooperation and trade among countries, the **General Assembly decided to declare 26 November as World Sustainable Transport Day.** **The theme for World Sustainable Transport Day in 2024 is “Together, We Can Drive Meaningful Change for a Healthier Planet and a Brighter Future”.**

Nation Celebrates Constitution Day to Mark 75 Years of Its Adoption

- **Nation is observing Constitution Day.** Government has announced year-long celebrations beginning to commemorate the 75th year of the adoption of the Constitution of India. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution and the year-long celebrations across the country will

continue till 26th of November, 2025. On 26th November, 1949 the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution which came into effect on 26th January, 1950.

- A commemorative Coin and Stamp dedicated to the 75th anniversary of adoption of Constitution of India released. Books titled “Making of the Constitution of India: A Glimpse” and “Making of the Constitution of India and its Glorious Journey” also released. Constitution released in Sanskrit and Maithili. A Booklet dedicated to the Art of Constitution of India released. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment announced on 19th November 2015 that Government would celebrate 26th November every year as Constitution Day.**

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar famous address to the Constituent Assembly: On the 26th of January 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognising the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment or else those who suffer from inequality will blow up the structure of political democracy which is Assembly has to laboriously built up. **The constitution is workable, flexible and strong enough to hold the country together both in peace-time and in war-time.** In his speech, Ambedkar has cautioned that the working of a Constitution does not depend on the document itself. Ultimately, its effect depends on those tasked with implementing it. “...however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it, happen to be a bad lot. However bad a Constitution may be, it may turn out to be good if those who are called to work it, happen to be a good lot. Dr. Ambedkar ultimately emphasises that people must not be content with a mere political democracy, but rather strive for a social democracy with underlying principles of equality, liberty and fraternity. **“Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of...social democracy. What does social democracy mean? It means a way of life which recognizes liberty, equality and fraternity as the principles of life.**

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

- In 1977, the General Assembly called for the annual observance of 29 November as the **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.** On that day, in 1947, the Assembly adopted the resolution on the partition of Palestine. In resolution of 1 December 2005, the Assembly requested the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and the Division for Palestinian Rights, as part of the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People on 29 November, to continue to organize an annual exhibit on Palestinian rights or a cultural event in cooperation with the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the UN. The resolution on the observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People also encourages Member States to continue to give the widest support and publicity to the observance of the Day of Solidarity.

QUESTIONS

- Which of the following states recently announced that the world's first controlled atmosphere storage facility (CA store) with geothermal technology would be constructed in collaboration with Iceland?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Sikkim (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Punjab
- The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is organising the First Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in _____.
(a) New Delhi (b) Tawang (c) Leh (d) Manali
- Who among the following was elected as the leader of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP legislature party and will assume the role of leader of the opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly?
(a) Jaspreet Singh Rana (b) Sunil Sharma (c) Mehbooba Mufti (d) Anil Sharma
- Recently, Duma Boko was elected as the President of _____.
(a) Botswana (b) Niger (c) Togo (d) Mali
- Who is the richest person in world according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index?
(a) Elon Musk (b) Oman Ortega (c) Jeff Bezos (d) Mukesh Ambani
- Which of the following countries is to launch world's first artificial energy island?
(a) Belgium (b) France (c) Germany (d) Portugal
- What medal did Atanu Das win at the Swiss Open Indoor Archery in Lausanne, Switzerland?
(a) Gold (b) Silver (c) Bronze (d) Brass
- Recently, The G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) Ministerial Meeting was held in _____.
(a) Brazil (b) Morocco (c) Argentina (d) Italy
- Which of the following Indian state's festival is Ningol Chakkouba?
(a) Goa (b) Manipur (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Ladakh
- During his trip to Singapore, which of the following External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed?
(a) The ASEAN Summit
(b) The 8th Roundtable of ASEAN - India Network of Think Tanks
(c) The India-Singapore Business Forum
(d) The ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meeting
- Which tribe primarily inhabits Meluri, the newly declared 17th district of Nagaland?
(a) Angami (b) Pochury (c) Ao (d) Sumi
- Who was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the newly constituted Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir?
(a) Surinder Khanna (b) Mahmood Ghani Baig
(c) Abdul Rahim Rather (d) Sana Sayeed
- Recently, Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a volcano erupted sending ash plumes over 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) into the sky and scattering volcanic debris across several nearby villages. This volcano is located in _____.
(a) Indonesia (b) Malaysia (c) Italy (d) Portugal
- At, The seventh session of the ISA Assembly who has been selected as its third Director General?
(a) Ashish Khanna (b) Vinay Mohan (c) Sanjay Mohan (d) Virat Sambhav

15. Which of the following two countries militaries began their bilateral exercise Vinbax 2024 at an enhanced level for the first time?
(a) India and Vietnam (b) India and Thailand (c) India and Seychelles (d) India and Sri Lanka
16. Which of the following two Maharatna PSUs have formed a Joint Venture Company (JVC) through their green energy subsidiaries to focus on renewable and new energy projects?
(a) SAIL and GAIL (b) NTPC and ONGC (c) BHEL and IOCL (d) NHPC and BPCL
17. Colombia's host country slogan for COP 16 is _____.
(a) Peace with Nature (b) Unity and First
(c) Country and its Uniqueness (d) Peace and Selflessness
18. Who recently won the Brazilian Grand Prix 2024?
(a) Pierre Gasly (b) George Russell (c) Esteban Ocon (d) Max Verstappen
19. Name the Indian shuttler who recently made history at Hylo Open in Germany by becoming the first Indian to reach the finals.
(a) Malvika Bansod (b) Rishika Jha (c) Vineeta Jain (d) Vijeyata Rai
20. World Tsunami Awareness Day is an annual event held on _____.
(a) 1 November (b) 3 November (c) 5 November (d) 8 November
21. Which of the following cities recently became India's first city to win global sustainability award?
(a) Thiruvananthapuram (b) Kochi (c) Kolkata (d) Ranchi
22. What is the primary objective of the Proba-3 satellite mission, set to be launched by India for the European Union?
(a) To study lunar soil composition (b) To observe the Sun's corona
(c) To explore Mars' atmosphere (d) To monitor Earth's oceans
23. What is the size and mass of the newly discovered exoplanet TOI-6651b compared to Earth?
(a) Twice the size and 10 times heavier than Earth
(b) Five times the size and 60 times heavier than Earth
(c) The same size but twice as heavy as Earth
(d) Ten times the size and 100 times heavier than Earth
24. Recently, IREUK Titanium Limited for production of Ti Slag in India is establishing as a joint venture company (JVC) between _____.
(a) India and Kazakhstan (b) India and Turkmenistan
(c) India and Kyrgystan (d) India and Afghanistan
25. Who has recently been appointed to the board of Tata Sons Ltd, the holding company of various Tata group companies?
(a) Sorabhji Tata (b) Venu Srinivasan (c) Noel N Tata (d) Emmy Tata
26. Who has been elected as the new Secretary-General of Interpol at the 92nd General Assembly?
(a) Jurgen Stock (b) Valdecy Urquiza (c) Antonio Guterres (d) Christopher Wray
27. Which among the following leads renewable energy investments?
(a) Tidal (b) Wind (c) Solar (d) Air
28. What was the theme of the third edition of the Indian Navy's high-level virtual interaction, MAHASAGAR?
(a) "Strengthening Naval Ties Across Continents"
(b) "Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR"
(c) "Enhancing Maritime Intelligence in the Indo-Pacific"
(d) "Innovation in Maritime Technology and Security"

29. How often is the Maha Kumbh Mela celebrated at Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik?
(a) Every 6 years (b) Every 10 years (c) Every 12 years (d) Every 15 years
30. Recently, Ganga Utsav 2024 was inaugurated at _____.
(a) Haridwar (b) Prayagraj (c) Rishikesh (d) Hapur
31. Which of the following has recently launched the 15-day 'Jal Utsav' to create awareness and sensitivity towards water management, conservation and sustainability?
(a) NITI Aayog (b) Ministry of Jal Shakti
(c) Ganga Action Plan (d) National Development Council
32. Where was the seventh session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) held recently?
(a) Paris, France (b) New Delhi, India
(c) Kampala, Uganda (d) Nairobi, Kenya
33. Which of the following organizations collaborated to launch the first-ever Pan African Action Plan for Active Mobility (PAAPAM)?
(a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Bank, and UN Women
(b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-Habitat, and World Health Organization (WHO)
(c) World Health Organization (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and FIA Foundation
(d) UN-Habitat, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and World Health Organization (WHO)
34. Donald Trump is scheduled to take office as the _____ president of USA on January 20, 2025.
(a) 42nd (b) 44th (c) 47th (d) 49th
35. Recently, The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a loan agreement to upgrade various urban services in which Indian state?
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Punjab (d) Assam
36. Which AI platform did Nxtra by Airtel use for its AI deployment to enhance its data center operations?
(a) SmartData (b) EcoSmart (c) SmartSense (d) IntelliOps
37. In the Under 21 Women's Individual Singles final at the World Soft Tennis Championship, who defeated India's Tanushree Pandey to claim the gold medal?
(a) Chiang Min Yu of Chinese Taipei (b) Aiko Yamada of Japan
(c) Chen Wei of China (d) Wang Li of South Korea
38. Who among the following recently clinched the World Boxing Federation's Super Featherweight world title in the Cayman Islands?
(a) Mandeep Jangra (b) Sudeep Luthra (c) Sandeep Jani (d) Mukesh Kumar
39. Which of the following organization's technology is the Science on a Sphere (SOS) globe theatre in Vasco based on?
(a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
(b) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
(c) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
(d) National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)
40. Which place is to host 12th edition of North East Festival?
(a) Sikkim (b) Delhi (c) Assam (d) West Bengal
41. Which of the following projects launched to conserve and promote India's military heritage?
(a) Project Jai Bharat (b) Project Shaurya Gatha
(c) Project Ek Bharat (d) Project United India

42. Where was the first Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the India-Bhutan border inaugurated recently?
(a) Rangia, Assam (b) Samdrup-Jongkhar, Bhutan
(c) Darranga, Assam (d) Phuentsholing, Bhutan
43. Which of the following countries has announced plans to introduce legislation to ban children under the age of 16 from using social media, with penalties for platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok if they fail to enforce it?
(a) Australia (b) Canada (c) USA (d) France
44. Who is set to become first Indian-Origin second lady of US?
(a) Usha Chilukuri Vance (b) Kamala Harris
(c) Deepa Mehta Trance (d) Mridula Singh
45. Which of the following countries currently holds the title for the world's most powerful passport, offering visa-free access to 195 countries?
(a) United States (b) France (c) Singapore (d) Japan
46. Which of the following organizations has collaborated with WAAYU to promote zero-commission food delivery in Hyderabad?
(a) Telangana State Hotels Association (b) Food Corporation of India
(c) National Restaurant Association of India (d) Hyderabad Food Council
47. Which of the following sectors contributed to saving 440 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in India between 2015 and 2020, according to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)?
(a) Power, Residential, and Industrial sectors (b) Transport, Power, and Agricultural sectors
(c) Residential, Transport, and Power sectors (d) Industrial, Residential, and Transport sectors
48. Who is currently the only chess player ranked higher than Arjun Erigaisi in the live ratings after his Round 3 win at the Chennai Grand Masters?
(a) Hikaru Nakamura (b) Ian Nepomniachtchi (c) Fabiano Caruana (d) Magnus Carlsen
49. Why was November 7th chosen as the date for National Cancer Awareness Day in India?
(a) It marks the birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate Madame Marie Curie
(b) It is the date of the first cancer research institute opening in India
(c) It coincides with World Health Day
(d) It represents the start of cancer treatment campaigns in India
50. Who among the following recently won the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for outstanding contribution to rural development?
(a) Vipul Singh (b) Anil Pradhan (c) Neeraj Rana (d) Mukesh Gupta
51. How many Indian institutions have secured a place in the Top 100 of the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025?
(a) Three (b) Five (c) Seven (d) Nine
52. The much-awaited Monduro 4.0, the world's highest enduro mountain biking race and a part of the Asia Enduro Series (AES), kicked off in _____.
(a) Tawang (b) Itanagar (c) Dispur (d) Aizawl
53. Recently, Comptroller and Auditor General Girish Chandra Murmu inaugurated a dedicated sports complex at _____ to promote sports in the CAG Institution and in country.
(a) Ranchi (b) Jabalpur (c) Bhopal (d) Patna
54. Kunlavut Vitidsarn of _____ took the Korea Masters 2024 men's singles crown for his first tournament victory since claiming the 2023 world title.
(a) Thailand (b) South Korea (c) Japan (d) Vietnam

55. India is all set to soon test fire a new long-range anti-ship ballistic missile which would be able to hit moving warships or aircraft carriers at distances of over _____.
- (a) 400 kms (b) 500 kms (c) 800 kms (d) 1,000 kms
56. In the recent US elections, Donald Trump secured how many electoral votes in total?
- (a) 226 (b) 276 (c) 299 (d) 312
57. Recently, US-based customer relationship management-focused firm Salesforce has announced that it plans to expand its presence in India with the first Salesforce Tower in the country in _____.
- (a) Bengaluru (b) Kochi (c) Bhopal (d) Hyderabad
58. Which country governing coalition has imploded after Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner, prompting Lindner to pull his Free Democrats Party (FDP) out of the coalition with Scholz's Social Democratic Party (SPD)?
- (a) France (b) Germany (c) Portugal (d) Greece
59. Recently, India gifted two water-jet-propelled Fast Interceptor Crafts (FICs) to _____ as part of its capacity-building engagements with friendly foreign nations of the Indian Ocean Region.
- (a) Mozambique (b) Seychelles (c) Mauritius (d) Maldives
60. Which of the following countries recently unveiled new 'hidden debt' scheme for local governments?
- (a) China (b) Indonesia (c) Japan (d) South Korea
61. India's first dedicated railway test track worth Rs. 820 crore is being constructed in _____.
- (a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Jharkhand
62. Recently, the Supreme Court has confirmed that _____ right to access environments, services and opportunities is an essential human and fundamental right which has hardly been realised on the ground.
- (a) Disabled Persons (b) Women (c) Children (d) Sportsperson
63. Recently, US President-elect Donald Trump has appointed his campaign manager, _____, as his Chief of Staff, making her the first woman to hold this influential cabinet position, heading the White House executive office.
- (a) Jonathan Biles (b) Ruby Walters (c) Anthony Wilkins (d) Susie Wiles
64. The 29th edition of the Conference of Parties is being commenced in _____.
- (a) Baku (b) Jakarta (c) Stockholm (d) Paris
65. How many Indian Americans have recently won the elections to the House of Representatives in US?
- (a) 3 (b) 4 (c) 6 (d) 8
66. Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the _____ scheme that makes students who get admission in Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) eligible for a collateral-free and guarantor-free education loan.
- (a) PM-Vidyalaxmi (b) PM-Vidyashri (c) PM-Saraswati (d) PM-Shrestha
67. India will finally receive the stealth frigate Tushil from _____ in December 2024.
- (a) Russia (b) Japan (c) China (d) South Korea
68. Name the Indian who recently created history to become first Indian with centuries in back-to-back T20I innings.
- (a) Sanju Samson (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Hardik Pandya (d) Abhishek Sharma
69. The Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024 is being held in _____.
- (a) Bihar (b) Gujarat (c) Assam (d) Manipur
70. National Legal Services Day is observed annually on _____, as a significant occasion in India.
- (a) November 4 (b) November 7 (c) November 9 (d) November 11

71. Recently, A _____ bench of the Supreme Court, by a 4-3 majority overruled the 1967 judgment in S. Azeez Basha vs. Union of India case that became the basis for denying the minority status to the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
(a) Five-Judge (b) Seven-Judge (c) Nine-Judge (d) Eleven-Judge
72. Which of the following cities has been emerged as the highest-ranked city in West Asia and Africa in the '2024 Global City Index' by Brand Finance, maintaining its regional lead for the second consecutive year?
(a) Dubai (b) Paris (c) Stockholm (d) New York
73. Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been sworn in as the _____ Chief Justice of India.
(a) 48th (b) 51st (c) 53rd (d) 55th
74. The Governments of Colombia and Sweden, in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on ending violence against children, will host the first-ever Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, in _____.
(a) Bogota, Colombia (b) Lisbon, Portugal
(c) London, United Kingdom (d) Lima, Peru
75. Recently, Apple established a new subsidiary in India, Apple Operations India, marking its first direct presence in the country. Apple Inc. is headquartered in _____.
(a) Detroit, Michigan (b) Cupertino, California
(c) Manhattan, New York (d) Ottawa, Canada
76. In March 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set an ambitious goal of "eliminating" TB by _____.
(a) 2025 (b) 2026 (c) 2027 (d) 2030
77. Recently, Indian Men's Hockey Team captain Harmanpreet Singh and former goalkeeper _____ have won the FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year titles for the year 2024.
(a) PR Sreejesh (b) JM Kalyan (c) NB Satya (d) BS Bhargawa
78. Name the Indian billiards player who has recently won the IBSF World Billiards Championship 150-up format title.
(a) Pankaj Advani (b) Geet Sethi (c) Anuja Thakur (d) Samay Arora
79. Recently, Pandit Ram Narayan, the iconic _____ maestro, passed away in Mumbai.
(a) Flute (b) Sarangi (c) Santoor (d) Mohan Veena
80. World Immunization Day, observed annually on _____, aims to raise awareness about the vital role vaccines play in preventing infectious diseases and protecting public health.
(a) November 8 (b) November 10 (c) November 14 (d) November 18
81. Recently, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India hosted South Asian nations for a multilateral event in _____.
(a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad (c) Bengaluru (d) Bhopal
82. Which of the following countries had brought the world the concept of gross national happiness and is set to build a "mindfulness city" and will launch a \$100 million bond issue to help start the project?
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Bangladesh (c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
83. Which country main armaments export firm and an Indian state-run defence company have signed an agreement to cooperate on jointly developing variants of the Pantsir air defence missile and gun system, a move aimed at bolstering the country's air defence capabilities?
(a) Germany (b) Russia (c) Italy (d) Portugal
84. Who among the following recently replaced Garry Conille as Haiti's interim Prime Minister?
(a) Alix Didier Fils-Aimé (b) Jean-Michel Lapin (c) Laurent Lamothe (d) Jovenel Moïse

85. Who has U.S. President-elect Donald Trump appointed as the ‘border czar’ in his upcoming administration?
(a) Tom Homan (b) John Kelly (c) Michael Pence (d) Jeff Sessions
86. What is the name of the recently re-elected Prime Minister of Japan by its Parliament?
(a) Shigeru Ishiba (b) Fumio Kishida (c) Yoshihide Suga (d) Yoshihiko Noda
87. Name India’s largest power producer that inaugurated the world’s first CO₂-to-methanol conversion plant at its Vindhyachal facility.
(a) NTPC (b) BPCL (c) IOCL (d) BHEL
88. How long will the sovereign guarantees from the U.S. and Japan remain in effect for the ADB’s climate lending plans?
(a) 10 years (b) 15 years (c) 25 years (d) 30 years
89. Who is the first Italian cricketer to register for the IPL 2025 mega auction?
(a) Marco Jansen (b) Thomas Draca (c) Marcus Litiyano (d) Gauta Histriyo
90. When is National Education Day celebrated in India?
(a) 2 February (b) 15 August (c) 11 November (d) 26 January
91. Which of the following universities secured the top position in the QS World University Rankings Asia 2025?
(a) University of Hong Kong
(b) National University of Singapore (NUS)
(c) Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU)
(d) Peking University
92. Who won the recent parliamentary election in Mauritius with a landslide victory?
(a) Pravind Jugnauth (b) Navin Ramgoolam
(c) Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (d) Anerood Jugnauth
93. Recently, the third edition of the _____ joint military exercise, AUSTRAHIND, commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Pune.
(a) India-Australia (b) India-Austria (c) India-Hungary (d) India-France
94. The first country in the world to apply for Trademark is _____.
(a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Finland (d) Switzerland
95. What role has Representative Elise Stefanik been selected for by President-elect Donald Trump?
(a) Vice-President (b) Speaker of the House
(c) Ambassador to the United Nations (d) Secretary of State
96. After the merger of Vistara and Air India, what percentage stake does Singapore Airlines hold in the expanded Air India?
(a) 49.9% (b) 50.7% (c) 25.1% (d) 65.5%
97. According to the Lumikai State of India Interactive Media and Gaming Report 2024, what is the projected size of India’s gaming market by the Financial Year of 2029 (FY29)?
(a) \$5 billion (b) \$7.5 billion (c) \$9.2 billion (d) \$12 billion
98. Who is preparing to launch a satellite that will help us track Earth’s “surface motions down to fractions of an inch”?
(a) ISRO (b) Tata Aerospace (c) Kalyani Group (d) Adani Space Agency
99. Name the footballer who has been awarded the Platinum Quinas at the Quinas De Ouro gala organised by the Portuguese Football Federation.
(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Neymar Junior (c) Lionel Messi (d) Robert Lewandowski

100. What is the theme for UNESCO’s celebration of World Science Day for Peace and Development in 2024?
(a) Science for Sustainable Development
(b) Science and Technology for the Future
(c) Why Science Matters: Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures
(d) Science for Climate Action
101. The Indian Navy is being conducted the 4th edition of the Coastal Defence Exercise _____.
(a) Sea-Vigil-24
(b) Sagar-Rakshak-24
(c) Sagar-Raksha-2024
(d) Sea-Eye-2024
102. Which of the following two countries militaries recently conducted joint combat drills “Keris Woomera 2024” exercise?
(a) USA and Canada
(b) Australia and New Zealand
(c) Malaysia and Seychelles
(d) Indonesia and Australia
103. Who has been chosen to lead the newly established “Department of Government Efficiency” (DOGE) in USA?
(a) Elon Musk and Kristi Noem
(b) John Ratcliffe and Susie Wiles
(c) Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk
(d) Mike Waltz and Kristi Noem
104. At present, India is the world’s _____ largest carbon emitter who needs \$12.4 trillion in investment to achieve its goal of reaching net zero by 2070.
(a) Second
(b) Third
(c) Fourth
(d) Fifth
105. Recently, A first-ever all-women _____ reserve battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel has been sanctioned by the Union government keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force at airports and other vital installations.
(a) BSF
(b) CISF
(c) CRPF
(d) RPF
106. Where and when will the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention be held in India?
(a) Udaipur, January 8-10
(b) Gurugram, February 5-7
(c) Bhubaneswar, January 8-10
(d) Patna, March 15-17
107. Name the British writer who won the Booker Prize 2024 for fiction with Orbital, a short, wonder-filled novel set aboard the International Space Station.
(a) Samantha Harvey
(b) Christine Audrey
(c) Hannah Taylor
(d) Sophie Mcodwell
108. India ranks _____ globally for patents with 64,480 applications, with resident filings accounting for over half of all submissions (55.2%)—a first for the country in 2023.
(a) Fourth
(b) Sixth
(c) Ninth
(d) Tenth
109. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the maiden flight-test of a Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM), with a range of _____, from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha from a mobile articulated launcher.
(a) 1,000 km
(b) 2,000 km
(c) 3,000 km
(d) 5,000 km
110. In 2007 General Assembly adopted resolution designating _____ as World Diabetes Day.
(a) 11 November
(b) 14 November
(c) 17 November
(d) 19 November
111. During which event was the Dominica Award of Honour conferred upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi?
(a) The India-Africa Forum Summit in New Delhi
(b) The India-CARICOM Summit in Georgetown, Guyana
(c) The United Nations Climate Change Conference, Dominica
(d) The BRICS Summit in Johannesburg

112. The Indian Army is conducted a high-intensity tri-services exercise _____ in the forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh.
(a) Poorvi Prahar (b) Poorvi Sahayta
(c) Poorvi Upkaar (d) Poorvi Rakshak
113. Why did the Argentinian delegation reportedly withdraw from COP29?
(a) Due to a disagreement over climate financing. (b) On the orders of Argentinian President Javier Milei.
(c) In response to Brazil's new climate action plan. (d) Because the conference was postponed.
114. Who has been nominated by US President-elect Donald Trump as the Director of National Intelligence?
(a) Senator Marco Rubio (b) Congressman Matt Gaetz
(c) Colonel Tulsi Gabbard (d) President Joe Biden
115. Which IIT's has secured the top spot among Indian universities in the 2025 QS Asia University Rankings?
(a) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi (b) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay
(c) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras (d) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur
116. Recently, The Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) at the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) at Baku in Azerbaijan announced that _____ of its member banks have endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative, marking the first collective endorsement of the initiative by financial institutions.
(a) 13 (b) 17 (c) 22 (d) 25
117. Recently, DRDO completed Flight Tests of Guided _____ Weapon System as part of Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials.
(a) Pinaka (b) Trishul (c) Arrow (d) Mudgal
118. Which of the following countries is likely to host the 2034 FIFA World Cup, and why is it significant?
(a) Saudi Arabia; it will face scrutiny for human rights practices
(b) Qatar; it plans to host another World Cup
(c) Brazil; it aims to focus on sustainable infrastructure
(d) Germany; it is known for football culture
119. International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime is observed on _____.
(a) 11 November (b) 13 November (c) 15 November (d) 18 November
120. What event has been organized in Chhattisgarh's capital Raipur to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda?
(a) Tribal Culture Festival and New -State Tribal Folk Dance Festival
(b) Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas and Inter-State Tribal Folk Dance Festival
(c) National Tribal Conference and Inter-State Tribal Folk Dance Festival
(d) Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Celebration
121. National Press Day observed on _____, marks the day the Press Council of India (PCI) began its operations in 1966.
(a) November 12 (b) November 14 (c) November 15 (d) November 16
122. Who among the following is the third bowler in Ranji Trophy to claim all 10 wickets in an innings?
(a) Prabhsimran Maan (b) Deepak Luthra (c) Mohammad Shami (d) Anshul Kamboj
123. The Centre had in 2021 decided to celebrate _____, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, making the celebrations the fourth year of the festivities.
(a) November 11 (b) November 13 (c) November 15 (d) November 17

124. The SoftBank Group Corp. will be the first to build a supercomputer with chips using Nvidia Corp.'s new Blackwell design, a demonstration of the _____ company's ambitions to catch up on AI.
(a) Japanese (b) Chinese (c) American (d) German
125. Recently, The first trilateral power transaction – from Nepal to _____ through the Indian Grid, was inaugurated.
(a) Bangladesh (b) Bhutan (c) Sri Lanka (d) Myanmar
126. The _____ Constitutional Amendment Act, which mandated the devolution of powers to urban local bodies so they serve citizens directly and effectively, has not been fully implemented by 18 states even after three decades after Parliament amended the Constitution, performance audits by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India have revealed.
(a) 61st (b) 66th (c) 72nd (d) 74th
127. Which telecom operator has recently launched the country's first direct-to-device satellite internet service?
(a) BSNL (b) Jio (c) Airtel (d) Vodafone- Idea
128. Which of the following countries parliament was briefly suspended after Maori lawmakers staged a ceremonial haka dance in protest of a vote on a controversial bill that would redefine the country's founding agreement between Indigenous Maori and the British Crown?
(a) New Zealand (b) Canada (c) Chile (d) Spain
129. Which of the following countries has recently launched the Global Alliance for Hunger and Poverty at the G20 Summit?
(a) Argentina (b) Brazil (c) France (d) Germany
130. Recently, the India-Kazakhstan Business Conference on Electronics Equipment and Engineering Goods was held in _____.
(a) Istanbul (b) Hyderabad (c) Astana (d) New Delhi
131. What is the name of the world's first all-women bus depot inaugurated in Delhi?
(a) Nari Shakti Depot (b) Sakhi Depot (c) Mahila Seva Depot (d) Sarojini Depot
132. Who is recently honored with Nigeria's highest award, the Grand Commander of the Order of Niger?
(a) Manmohan Singh (b) Sachin Tendulkar (c) Shashi Tharoor (d) Narendra Modi
133. What makes Ghoramara Island in the Sundarbans significant in terms of renewable energy?
(a) It has the country's largest hydroelectric power plant.
(b) It has implemented only wind power solutions.
(c) It has been connected to a national grid through underwater cables.
(d) It has become the country's first solar island.
134. Recently, which of the following countries has announced the development of the world's first "ChatGPT" tool, dedicated to the agricultural community?
(a) UAE (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Canada (d) Japan
135. Recently, Joe Biden made history as the first sitting US president to visit the _____, drawing attention to the dangers of global warming.
(a) Amazon rainforest (b) Gobi Desert (c) Sahara Desert (d) Arctic Ocean
136. Which of the following cities ranks as the most expensive office market in the Asia-Pacific region during Q3 2024, according to Knight Frank Asia-Pacific Prime Office Rental Index?
(a) Delhi-NCR (b) Mumbai (c) Hong Kong SAR (d) Bengaluru

137. What is the primary factor driving the unprecedented increase in methane emissions from tropical wetlands?
(a) Decreasing rainfall patterns (b) Decline in carbon-rich plant matter
(c) Expansion of agricultural land (d) Rising temperatures and heavy rainfall
138. Where was the successful flight-trial of India's first long-range hypersonic missile conducted?
(a) Pokhran Test Range (b) Sriharikota Launch Pad
(c) Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha (d) Wheeler Island, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
139. Who among the following recently won the 2024 MotoGP World Championship title?
(a) Marc Márquez (b) Francesco Bagnaia (c) Jorge Martin (d) Fabio Quartararo
140. In 1996, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution proclaiming _____ as International Day for Tolerance.
(a) 12 November (b) 14 November (c) 16 November (d) 18 November
141. Who was recently crowned as the 73rd Miss Universe at the competition held in Mexico City Arena?
(a) Chidimma Adetshina (b) Maria Fernanda Beltran
(c) Victoria Kjaer Theilvig (d) Rhea Singha
142. Where will India's first solar power storage plant be set up in 2027?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra
143. When is the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims observed?
(a) On the first Sunday in November (b) On the third Sunday in November
(c) On the second Sunday in November (d) On the last Sunday in November
144. Who did Jannik Sinner defeat to win his first ATP Finals title?
(a) Novak Djokovic (b) Rafael Nadal (c) Taylor Fritz (d) Alexander Zverev
145. Whom did President-elect Donald Trump announce as his choice to head the Department of Energy?
(a) Chris Wright (b) Rex Tillerson (c) Rick Perry (d) Jeff Sessions
146. Which of the following countries has recently unveiled an ambitious initiative to establish the 'Global Energy Efficiency Alliance' during COP29, hosted in Azerbaijan?
(a) UAE (b) Malaysia (c) Mauritius (d) Sri Lanka
147. Which of the following countries reaffirmed their commitment to support India's maritime surveillance efforts in the Indo-Pacific region?
(a) China, Russia, and India (b) Australia, Japan, and the United States
(c) Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom (d) Japan, South Korea, and the United States
148. What was the occasion for Prime Minister Modi's visit to Jamui, Bihar, when he recently unveiled the development projects?
(a) World Tribal Day celebrations (b) 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda
(c) World Depressed Class celebrations (d) National Tribal Welfare Day
149. Which of the following countries are parts of the G20 Troika alongside India that manage the G20 process?
(a) Brazil and South Africa (b) Brazil and Russia
(c) South Africa and Australia (d) Brazil and Mexico
150. In an inspiring initiative, _____, of the Border Roads Organisation, supported a vibrant art exhibition in Kargil to spotlight the talents of young artists from the region.
(a) Project Vinashak (b) Project Vinayak (c) Project Vishwas (d) Project Vijayak

151. Recently, The Central Government has notified Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla in _____ as the 56th tiger reserve in the country.
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Odisha (d) Maharashtra
152. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the International Jury for the 2024 International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?
(a) Karan Johar (b) Sanjay Leela Bhansali (c) Ashutosh Gowariker (d) Mani Ratnam
153. On which dates will the National Youth Festival 2025 be celebrated, and what unique interaction opportunity will it feature?
(a) 11th and 12th January; Interaction with international youth leaders
(b) 11th and 12th January; Interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(c) 15th and 16th January; Interaction with Nobel laureates
(d) 15th and 16th January; Interaction with industry leaders
154. Who will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India?
(a) K. Sanjay Murthy (b) Vipul M Bhargawa (c) K. Ramesh Reddy (d) Rajiv Mathur
155. What is the key change introduced by Gabon's new constitution?
(a) The presidency term limit is abolished. (b) Presidential terms are reduced to four years.
(c) Family members cannot succeed a president. (d) The position of vice president is abolished.
156. Which war memorial in Arunachal Pradesh is associated with the Indo-China War heroes of 1962?
(a) Nyukmadung War Memorial (b) The Khongjom War Memorial Complex
(c) Albert Ekka War Memorial (d) Kargil War Memorial
157. What are the four dimensions used to assess and rank the ministries and departments in the GRAI 2023 report?
(a) Efficiency, Feedback, Domain, Organisational Commitment
(b) Transparency, Accountability, Service Quality, Responsiveness
(c) Efficiency, Sustainability, Domain, Technical Proficiency
(d) Feedback, Impact, Organisational Structure, Governance
158. Which of the following organizations recently collaborated with IIT Guwahati to launch the underwater welding certification program?
(a) Indian Maritime Organization (IMO) (b) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT)
(c) Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)
159. Who among the following recently won the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz Event?
(a) Vidit Gujrathi (b) R Praggnanandhaa (c) Alex Chrisch (d) Magnus Carlsen
160. What is the theme of World Toilet Day 2024, and what does it emphasize?
(a) 'Sanitation for All' - Focus on urban sanitation systems
(b) 'Toilets - A Place for Peace' - Highlighting the risks to sanitation from conflicts and crises
(c) 'Clean Water, Clean Life' - Advocating for water conservation
(d) 'Sustainable Sanitation' - Emphasizing technological solutions
161. Which of the following Indian cities is set to launch the country's first 24x7 online court?
(a) Bengaluru (b) Kollam (c) Vishakhapatnam (d) Kochi
162. Which of the following was **NOT** emphasized in the recent Rio de Janeiro Declaration?
(a) Reaffirmation of commitment to the Paris Agreement
(b) Condemnation of terrorism in all its forms
(c) Establishment of a global military alliance
(d) Expansion of humanitarian assistance in conflict zones

163. Which of the following Indian villages was recently selected for the UNWTO's Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme?
(a) Lepaghar, Madhya Pradesh (b) Dhudmaras, Chhattisgarh
(c) Kalimpong, West Bengal (d) Gilat, Tamil Nadu
164. Who has President-elect Donald Trump recently announced as his pick for Secretary of Education?
(a) Betsy DeVos (b) Linda McMahon
(c) Elaine Chao (d) Wilbur Ross
165. NNATO's largest artillery exercise ever held in Europe is _____.
(a) Dynamic Front 25 (b) Union NATO 24 (c) NATO ONE 25 (d) First ONE 25
166. We find "Tractor Tax" in news these days. This tax is related with _____.
(a) Australia (b) New Zealand (c) Canada (d) United Kingdom
167. A proposed law that would redefine _____ founding treaty between the British Crown and Māori chiefs has triggered political turmoil and prompted more than 35,000 people to show up in protest at the country's Parliament.
(a) Canada's (b) France's (c) Australia's (d) New Zealand's
168. Who won the presidential election in Somaliland as announced by the electoral commission?
(a) Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi (b) Hassan Sheikh Mohamud
(c) Muse Bihi Abdi (d) Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo
169. What is one significant feature of the GSAT-20 satellite?
(a) It will provide weather forecasting services for 20 years.
(b) It offers broadband services in remote areas and in-flight Internet.
(c) It is India's first satellite to use solar power.
(d) It is the lightest communication satellite ever launched by ISRO.
170. National Integration Day is celebrated every year on _____.
(a) November 14 (b) November 16 (c) November 19 (d) November 21
171. Which of the following exercises was conducted by the Indian Armed Forces in Gujarat in November 2024?
(a) Poorvi Prahar 2024 (b) Sanyukt Vimochan 2024
(c) Vajra Prahar 24 (d) Trishul Strike 2024
172. Which of the following awards was recently conferred upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the Commonwealth of Dominica?
(a) Dominica Order of Merit (b) Dominica Award of Honour
(c) Dominica National Excellence Award (d) Dominica Medal of Honor
173. Who among the following recently won the prestigious International Children's Peace Prize for advocating for the rights of girls in Afghanistan?
(a) Filo Gurbaz (b) Nila Ibrahim (c) Malala Yousafzai (d) Sultana Nabi
174. Recently, National Public Broadcaster Prasar Bharati has launched its OTT platform named as _____.
(a) WAVES (b) BHARAT (c) INDIA (d) ONE
175. Who is backing Addverb Technologies, which plans to launch advanced humanoid robots by 2025?
(a) Ratan Tata (b) Mukesh Ambani (c) Sunil Bharti Mittal (d) Shiv Nadar
176. What is the name of the new language developed by researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) for encoding the structure of nanopores?
(a) STRONG (b) NANOCODE (c) NANOSHape (d) STRUCTure

177. What is the function of the AroTrack device developed by IIT Bombay?
(a) To measure water temperature
(b) To detect harmful pollutants like phenol or benzene in water
(c) To filter pollutants from water
(d) To measure the pH level of water
178. In hockey, _____ clinched the Women’s Asian Champions Trophy at Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar.
(a) India (b) China (c) Japan (d) Malaysia
179. World Children’s Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children’s Day and is celebrated on _____ each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare.
(a) 14 November (b) 17 November (c) 20 November (d) 23 November
180. What is the cash prize for the first prize under the state-level awards of the Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme?
(a) Rs. 51,000 (b) Rs. 31,000 (c) Rs. 21,000 (d) Rs. 11,000
181. Recently, General Upendra Dwivedi is Conferred Honorary General Rank by Army of _____.
(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) Bangladesh (d) Pakistan
182. Recently, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the _____ aimed at nurturing education, skill development, and innovation among underprivileged children.
(a) KAUSTUBH (b) SIGN (c) VISION (d) DRISTI
183. Who among the following recently released the commemorative postage stamp on the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab?
(a) Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (b) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
(c) Smt. Droupadi Murmu (d) Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
184. Recently, The Hon’ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Paatil digitally launched the newly developed _____ portal during the concluding ceremony of India Water Week 2024.
(a) “Bhu-Neer” (b) “Bhoomi-Neer” (c) “Bhoomi-Sewa” (d) “Bhu-Jal”
185. The Amur Falcon Festival is celebrated annually in which Indian state to raise awareness about the migratory bird Amur falcon?
(a) Manipur (b) Mizoram (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Meghalaya
186. Which of the following countries recently became the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?
(a) Armenia (b) Azerbaijan (c) Georgia (d) Turkey
187. What is the primary reason the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, his former defense chief, and Hamas leader Ibrahim Al-Masri?
(a) Alleged involvement in nuclear proliferation
(b) Alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity
(c) Disputed territorial claims in the West Bank
(d) Violation of international trade laws
188. Name the Finland-based telecom gear maker which won a “multi-year, multi-billion” extension deal by Bharti Airtel to deploy 4G and 5G equipment across key Indian cities and states.
(a) Nokia (b) Motorola (c) Sony (d) Samsung
189. Which of the following states will host the Khelo India Youth Games and Para Games in April 2025?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Bihar (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Gujarat

190. Where is India's first Constitution Museum opened?
(a) Delhi University, Delhi (b) OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat
(c) Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi (d) Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
191. Recently, The famed Narasapur crochet lace craft has got the Geographical Indications (GI) tag, giving a new lease of life to the dying craft in the _____.
(a) Maharashtra (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
192. Which of the following countries recently introduced world-first social media ban for children under 16?
(a) Australia (b) South Korea (c) New Zealand (d) France
193. Recently, Haryana Police and the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) jointly inaugurated India's first Traffic Engineering Centre (TEC) and Organisational Development Centre (ODC) in _____.
(a) Gurugram (b) Hisar (c) Faridabad (d) Panipat
194. Recently, Scientists have achieved the rare feat of getting a close-up shot of a star WHO G64 that is 1, 60,000 light-years away from our galaxy and has a mass that is 2,000 times of the _____.
(a) Earth (b) Sun (c) Moon (d) Mars
195. The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi, will launch a national campaign _____, scheduled at Rang Bhawan, All India Radio, New Delhi.
(a) "#AbKoiBahanaNahiBanana" (b) "#AbKisiSeBahanaNahi"
(c) "#AbKoiBahanaNahi" (d) "#AbKoiBaatNahi"
196. Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju has launched the _____ in New Delhi.
(a) Haj Suvidha App 2.0 (b) Haj Suvidha App 3.0
(c) Haj Suvidha App 4.0 (d) Haj Suvidha App 5.0
197. Recently, the Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) at IISc. has launched _____, a pan-India Product Accelerator Programme that unites premier Indian institutions and enterprises to develop innovative solutions through strategic partnerships and cutting-edge R&D.
(a) Pravriddhi (b) Sarwariddhi (c) Geetariddhi (d) Mahariddhi
198. Recently, _____ became the champion of the 40th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2024 held at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok.
(a) North East United Football Club (b) Mohun Bagan Football Club
(c) Eastern Railways Football Club (d) Churchill Brothers Football Club
199. Recently, The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has issued a five-count criminal indictment of _____ and several of his business associates.
(a) Siddharth Adani (b) Anil Ambani (c) Gautam Adani (d) Mukesh Ambani
200. In December 1996 the United Nations proclaimed _____ as World Television Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996.
(a) 15 November (b) 18 November (c) 21 November (d) 23 November
201. World Philosophy Day is an international day proclaimed by UNESCO to be celebrated every 3rd _____ of November.
(a) Monday (b) Thursday (c) Wednesday (d) Saturday
202. Recently, who won men's singles titles at the China Masters Badminton 2024?
(a) Se Young An (b) Peters Handcomb (c) Nathan Ellis (d) Anders Antonsen

203. In a significant development, _____ has partnered with over 1,000 companies under its Convergence Programme to expedite grievance resolution.
(a) National Consumer Helpline (b) National Consumer Services
(c) National Customer Helpline (d) National Customer Online Services
204. Recently, Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal flagged-off the fleet of green hydrogen buses of National Thermal Power Corporation in _____.
(a) Sikkim (b) Goa (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Ladakh
205. Recently, India's first Constitution Museum was inaugurated at the O P Jindal Global University in _____ by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
(a) Sonapat (b) Ambala (c) Nasik (d) Haridwar
206. Recently, The RBI and the Maldives Monetary Authority signed an agreement in Mumbai for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies — the Indian Rupee and the Maldivian _____ for cross-border transactions.
(a) Rupiya (b) Rufiyaa (c) Riyal (d) Dinar
207. 55th International Film Festival of India has screened 70 Films in _____.
(a) Goa (b) Sikkim (c) Nagaland (d) Manipur
208. Recently, The first Bugatti Home boutique in the world has opened in _____.
(a) Amsterdam (b) Sharjah (c) Dubai (d) Abu Dhabi
209. India hosted the global conference of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) in _____.
(a) Delhi (b) Ladakh (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Haryana
210. Recently, Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the third edition of _____.
(a) Nayi Chetna- Pahal Badlaav Ki (b) Nayi Chetna- Pahal Ek Bharat
(c) Naya Bharat – Ek Bharat (d) Nayi Yojana-Ek Sashakt Bharat
211. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reaffirmed that the ongoing _____ outbreak remains a public health emergency of international concern, citing rising case numbers, geographic spread, and operational challenges.
(a) Avian Flu (b) Mpox (c) Covid (d) Measles
212. Which Indian city houses India's first self-sufficient gaushala with modern CBG plant?
(a) Gwalior (b) Satna (c) Bilaspur (d) Moradabad
213. Hemant Soren has been sworn in as _____ Chief Minister for third time on November 28, 2024.
(a) Jharkhand (b) Bihar (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Madhya Pradesh
214. A 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' will be held on January 11-12 in Delhi to coincide with _____ 162nd birth anniversary (January 12).
(a) Swami Vivekananda's (b) Swami Dayanand's
(c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's (d) Bhagat Singh's
215. At the United Nations climate talks held in Baku, Azerbaijan, countries have reached a critical agreement to channel at least _____ annually into the fight against climate change.
(a) \$100 Billion (b) \$200 Billion (c) \$300 Billion (d) \$500 Billion
216. Who has been recently honored with Global Peace Award as Indian American minorities launch AIAM in Washington?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Amit Shah (c) Rahul Gandhi (d) Sachin Tendulkar

217. Recently, Yamandú Orsi won presidential election in _____.
(a) Uruguay (b) Chile (c) Peru (d) Paraguay
218. Recently, which organization's report titled 'Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People' was launched?
(a) World Bank (b) IMF
(c) Asian Development Bank (d) AIIB
219. Which of the following states celebrates Bali Padyami festival on the fourth day of Deepavali?
(a) Karnataka (b) Bihar (c) Uttarakhand (d) Haryana
220. The 186-year-old Rashtrapati Ashiyana at Rajpur Road in _____ will open its doors to the public from April next year.
(a) Dehradun (b) Mussoorie (c) Shimla (d) Manali
221. The Supreme Court recently upheld the inclusion of which words in the Preamble of the Constitution of India, introduced through the 42nd Constitution Amendment?
(a) Democratic and Republic (b) Socialist and Secular
(c) Sovereign and Democratic (d) Liberty and Equality
222. Which of the following initiatives was launched by South Central Railway from Tadipatri, Andhra Pradesh?
(a) Mango Export Train (b) Banana Export Train
(c) Rice Export Train (d) Vegetable Export Train
223. IRCTC launched the operations of the _____ this year in a new avatar offering world-class on-board accommodation with 13 double-bed cabins, 26 twin-bed cabins and one cabin for differently-abled guests.
(a) 'Golden Chariot Luxury Tourist Train' (b) 'Golden GoodsLuxury Tourist Train'
(c) 'Golden Petals Luxury Tourist Train' (d) 'Golden Palm Luxury Tourist Train'
224. Which of the following organizations is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the ONOS scheme?
(a) University Grants Commission (UGC)
(b) Ministry of Education
(c) Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET)
(d) Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
225. Recently, the Aksharam Museum touted as the first linguistic-literature-cultural museum in the country has been inaugurated in _____.
(a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Haryana
226. The upcoming Gelephu Mindfulness City is the biggest "co-operative project" in _____.
(a) Bhutan (b) Nepal (c) Myanmar (d) Malaysia
227. The _____ Project enables technology-driven transformation of taxpayer registration services and is aimed at ease of access and speedy service delivery with improved quality.
(a) PAN 2.0 (b) PAN 3.0 (c) PAN 4.0 (d) PAN 5.0
228. Amara Raja Infra recently completed India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, built for _____.
(a) NTPC (b) NHPC (c) ONGC (d) OIL
229. Who among the following made history by winning China's first-ever gold medal in the women's skeleton event at the IBSF World Cup?
(a) Christopher Grotheer (b) Zhao Dan
(c) Wang Meng (d) Eileen Gu

230. World Sustainable Transport Day is celebrated annually on _____.
(a) 20 November (b) 22 November (c) 24 November (d) 26 November
231. The Union Ministry of Tourism was organised the 12th edition of the International Tourism Mart at the UNESCO World Heritage site _____.
(a) Jim Corbett National Park (b) Kanha National Park
(c) Manas National Park (d) Kaziranga National Park
232. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi launched a national campaign _____ in New Delhi.
(a) Bal Vivaah Mukh Bharat (b) Bal Vivaah Free India
(c) Child Marriage Free India (d) Balika Vivaah Mukh Desh
233. India has signed the final Act of the _____ Design Law Treaty to reaffirm its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring equitable access to intellectual property protection.
(a) Riyadh (b) Abu Dhabi
(c) Sharjah (d) Dubai
234. USA President-elect Donald Trump nominated _____ as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
(a) Anthony Fauci (b) Francis Collins
(c) Jay Bhattacharya (d) Rochelle Walensky
235. What is a unique feature of the PAN 2.0 project approved by the Union Cabinet?
(a) Introduction of biometric data on the PAN card
(b) Integration of PAN as a common business identifier
(c) Linking of PAN with Aadhaar for all taxpayers
(d) Introduction of a color-coded PAN card system
236. The largest milk producing country in the world is _____.
(a) India (b) Denmark (c) Finland (d) Russia
237. In 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution on _____.
(a) 15th August (b) 12th July (c) 26th November (d) 1st March
238. What level of tournament is the Syed Modi International 2024 badminton event?
(a) BWF Super 100 (b) BWF Super 300 (c) BWF Super 500 (d) BWF Super 750
239. Who won the gold medal at the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship 2024?
(a) Sattwik Swain (b) Divith Reddy (c) Ziming Guo (d) Magnus Carlsen
240. Who among the following became the first Indian to host the International Emmy Awards in 2024?
(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Vir Das (c) Shah Rukh Khan (d) A. R. Rahman
241. Recently, The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has permanently created a hub of National Security Guards (NSG) in the _____ to counter any major terror-attack.
(a) Jammu City (b) Jalandhar City (c) Kargil City (d) Leh City
242. Recently, A Project Implementation Agreement has been signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to execute new solar projects in how many Indo-Pacific countries?
(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Seven
243. Recently, Indian National Congress Leader Smt. Priyanka Gandhi won the _____ Lok Sabha seat with a margin of 4, 10,931 votes.
(a) Amethi (b) Sultanpur (c) Wayanad (d) Kochi

244. The RAK Energy Summit 2024 was held in _____.
(a) UAE (b) Malaysia (c) Brazil (d) Azerbaijan
245. Which country Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu has announced his resignation as leader of the Social Democrats (PSD) after failing to advance to the second round of the presidential election?
(a) Portugal (b) Bulgaria (c) Romania (d) Italy
246. India has improved its position by eleven slots and is now placed at _____ rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024) report released.
(a) 24th (b) 29th (c) 37th (d) 49th
247. The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) telescope is a state-of-the-art ground-based gamma-ray telescope inaugurated in _____.
(a) Gangtok, Sikkim (b) Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir
(c) Hanle, Ladakh (d) Leh, Ladakh
248. Who among the following were the recipients of the 21st T. N. Khoshoo Memorial Award announced by ATREE?
(a) Manish Rajankar and Shalu Kolhe (b) Vikram Sarabhai and Homi Bhabha
(c) Salim Ali and Madhav Gadgil (d) Medha Patkar and Vandana Shiva
249. The 2024 OPCW The Hague Award was conferred upon the _____ at a ceremony during the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at the Hague.
(a) Indian Chemical Council (ICC)
(b) Indian Chemicals and Fertilizer Council (ICFC)
(c) Indian Chemical Certificate (ICC)
(d) Indiana Chemical Circle (ICC)
250. What was the value of bilateral trade between India and France in the financial year 2024?
(a) \$10 billion (b) \$15 billion (c) \$20 billion (d) \$25 billion
251. What is the primary theme of the 11th edition of the Indian Coast Guard's SAREX-24 Maritime Exercise?
(a) Enhancing Naval Warfare Strategies
(b) Strengthening International Trade Routes
(c) Enhancing Search and Rescue Capabilities through Regional Collaboration
(d) Improving Naval Defense Mechanisms
252. Name the online digital platform for officers training recently launched by Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General, Upendra Dwivedi.
(a) Eklavya (b) Arjun (c) Savyasachi (d) Sarva
253. In which year was the India-Russia Strategic Partnership elevated to the level of Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership?
(a) 1995 (b) 2000 (c) 2010 (d) 2020
254. Recently, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Senior leader Hemant Soren took oath as Chief Minister of Jharkhand for the _____ time.
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Sixth
255. What was the primary issue in the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the Pennaiyar river water?
(a) Karnataka's construction of a new reservoir on the river
(b) Tamil Nadu's claim on exclusive ownership of the river's water
(c) Karnataka's construction of check dams and diversion structures on the river
(d) The economic impact of the river's water usage on both states

256. Recently, India's first large-scale ocean floor cleanup operation has been launched in _____.
(a) Kolkata (b) Kachchh (c) Sholapur (d) Sindhudurg
257. Name the bank that has become the first Indian bank to offer real-time tracking for money sent abroad.
(a) IDFC FIRST (b) ICICI
(c) HDFC (d) Kotak Mahindra
258. Who has been elected as the 11th President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?
(a) Masatsugu Asakawa (b) Masato Kanda
(c) Kristalina Georgieva (d) Jim Yong Kim
259. Which of the following countries has successfully launched the world's first 'self-driving' satellites, which also marks a milestone in the country's commercial space programme?
(a) Japan (b) China (c) South Korea (d) USA
260. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up to launch the ambitious _____ mission to space aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
(a) Proba-1 (b) Proba-3 (c) Proba-6 (d) Unique-4
261. Recently, UP Agriculture Minister launches Syngenta's first I-CLEAN project in _____.
(a) Varanasi (b) Kanpur (c) Gorakhpur (d) Lucknow
262. Recently, The Government has said approximately _____ beneficiaries have been registered under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
(a) 5.75 crore (b) 6.31 crore (c) 7.43 crore (d) 8.93 crore
263. India is poised to revolutionise rail transport with the launch of its first hydrogen-powered train, which is set to undergo trial runs between Haryana's _____ stations.
(a) Ambala and Panipat (b) Gurugram and Faridabad
(c) Fatehabad and Hisar (d) Jind and Sonipat
264. Recently, _____ Parliament voted in favour of historic assisted dying bill for terminally ill adults.
(a) U.K. (b) France (c) Germany (d) Portugal
265. Who among the following inaugurated the three-day Asthalakshmi Mahotsav 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Amit Shah
(c) Nirmala Sitharaman (d) Piyush Goyal
266. Which of the following countries recently introduced paid 'climate leave' for workers following deadly October floods?
(a) Spain (b) Portugal (c) Greece (d) Albania
267. Which of the following countries is to offer the world a first look inside the restored Notre Dame cathedral over five years after the fire that ravaged the interior of the heritage landmark and toppled its spire?
(a) France (b) Canada (c) Ireland (d) Sweden
268. The Union Finance Ministry released a consultation paper proposing to raise the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 74 per cent to _____.
(a) 80 Percent (b) 85 Percent (c) 90 Percent (d) 100 Percent
269. Which of the following Indian states hosted the two-day Me·Gong Festival 2024?
(a) Meghalaya (b) Manipur (c) Mizoram (d) Sikkim

270. Recently, The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a _____ US dollar loan to improve horticulture crop farmers' access to certified disease-free planting materials, which will boost their crops' yield, quality, and resilience to climate impacts.
(a) 75 million (b) 82 million (c) 87 million (d) 98 million
271. Which of the following organizations is collaborating with Haryana to establish the World Artificial Intelligence Centre?
(a) United Nations (b) World Economic Forum
(c) World Bank (d) International Monetary Fund
272. What is the unique feature of the newly opened aviary at Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata?
(a) It is India's largest aviary. (b) It is a glass-enclosed open-air walk-in aviary.
(c) It houses only exotic bird species. (d) It is located underground.
273. The _____ bilateral military exercise, AgniWarrior 2024 took place in Maharashtra.
(a) India-Seychelles (b) India-South Africa (c) India-Singapore (d) India-Mauritius
274. Where is the 12th Late Lady Stanzin Oozes' Inter-Village Ice Hockey Tournament being held in India?
(a) Leh (b) Durbuk (c) Kargil (d) Nubra
275. Which of the following countries has become first of its kind in the world to recognise sex workers' rights, offering them the same benefits as other workers, including maternity leave, pensions, health insurance, and sick leave?
(a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Ireland (d) Belgium
276. Which of the following countries will vote to elect a new Parliament after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson dissolved parliament due to disagreements between the three-party coalition governments?
(a) Iceland (b) Ireland (c) Sweden (d) Norway
277. What is significant about Meta's upcoming subsea cable project?
(a) It is the first subsea cable project in the world.
(b) It is Meta's first fully-owned subsea cable.
(c) It will connect only the US and India.
(d) It is expected to cost less than \$2 billion.
278. What is the current doctor-population ratio in India, and how does it compare to the WHO standard?
(a) 1:811, better than the WHO standard of 1:1000
(b) 1:900, equal to the WHO standard of 1:1000
(c) 1:1200, worse than the WHO standard of 1:1000
(d) 1:1000, matching the WHO standard
279. Why has the Union Health Ministry asked states and Union Territories to make snakebite cases and deaths a notifiable disease?
(a) To strengthen surveillance and reporting systems under NAPSE
(b) To monitor and control snake populations in rural areas
(c) To ensure universal health coverage for tribal communities
(d) To establish free anti-venom distribution centers across India
280. What is the theme for World AIDS Day 2024, as aligned with UNAIDS?
(a) End Inequalities, End AIDS
(b) "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!"
(c) Equalize: Access for All
(d) Zero Discrimination Against AIDS Patients

ANSWER KEY AND EXPLANATION

1. c Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced that the world's first controlled atmosphere storage facility (CA store) with geothermal technology would be constructed at Tapri in Kinnaur district in collaboration with Iceland.
2. a The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is organizing the First Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) on 5th - 6th November, 2024 in New Delhi.
3. b Sunil Sharma, a former minister, was elected as the leader of the Jammu and Kashmir BJP legislature party and is set to become the leader of the opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly.
4. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Duma Boko on being elected as the President of Botswana. Mr. Modi said he looks forward to working closely with him to further strengthen India-Botswana bilateral ties.
5. a With a net worth of \$222 billion, Bezos ranks as the second-richest person on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, up \$42.8 billion year-over-year due to Amazon's stock performance. Elon Musk continues to dominate first spot.
6. a Belgium to launch world's first artificial energy island.
7. c Atanu Das won a Bronze medal in the Recurve Men's Bronze medal match at the Swiss Open Indoor Archery.
8. a The G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) Ministerial Meeting was held from 30th October to 1st November 2024 in Belem, Brazil.
9. b One of the biggest festivals of Manipur- Ningol Chakkouba was held across the State with religious fervour and gaiety.
10. b In Singapore, Mr. Jaishankar addressed the 8th Roundtable of ASEAN - India Network of Think Tanks, indicating his role in enhancing intellectual collaboration and exploring avenues to strengthen the bilateral relationship between India and Singapore.
11. b The Pochury Naga tribe is the primary inhabitant of Meluri, which has recently been elevated from a sub-division in Phek District to the status of Nagaland's 17th district.
12. c Abdul Rahim Rather, a leader from the National Conference party, was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the House in the first session of the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir. The other options are notable leaders from the region, but they were not elected as Speaker in this session.
13. a Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki, a volcano in the East Flores district, erupted sending ash plumes over 2 kilometres (1.24 miles) into the sky and scattering volcanic debris across several nearby villages.
14. a The seventh session of the ISA Assembly in progress in New Delhi selected Mr Ashish Khanna from the Republic of India as its third Director General.
15. a Adding to the growing trajectory of the India-Vietnam defence relationship, the militaries of both countries began their bilateral exercise Vinbax 2024 at an enhanced level for the first time.
16. b NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) and ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) are both Maharatna Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in India. Through their respective subsidiaries, NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) and ONGC Green Energy Ltd. (OGL), they have collaborated to form a 50:50 Joint Venture Company focusing on renewable and new energy sectors. This partnership aims to explore various opportunities in solar, wind, energy storage, green hydrogen, and more.
17. a Inspired by the Inírida flower, a species endemic to Colombia, the logo was unveiled in the margins of the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6), along with the Host Country's slogan for COP 16: "Peace with Nature".
18. d Red Bull's Verstappen nears 4th straight F1 title after winning Brazilian Grand Prix.
19. a Nagpur shuttler Malvika Bansod makes history at Hylo Open in Germany by becoming the first Indian to reach the finals, defeating Denmark's Julie Jakobsen.

- 20. c** World Tsunami Awareness Day is an annual event held on 5 November to raise awareness of the dangerous effects of tsunamis and the importance of tsunami preparedness and early warning of tsunamis.
- 21. a** Thiruvananthapuram becomes India's first city to win global sustainability award.
- 22. b** The Proba-3 satellite is specifically designed to observe the Sun, with a unique focus on studying solar corona dynamics. This mission will add valuable insights to scientific understanding of the Sun, which aligns with India's recent space achievements, such as the Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission.
- 23. b** TOI-6651b, the recently discovered exoplanet, is classified as a sub-Saturn planet, meaning it is larger than Neptune but smaller than Saturn. This particular exoplanet is five times the size of Earth and has a mass 60 times greater, making it significantly more massive than our planet.
- 24. a** IREL (India) Limited, (IREL) CPSU under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), Govt. of India and Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC, (UKTMP JSC) Kazakhstan have signed an agreement to establish Indo-Kazakh joint venture company (JVC): IREUK Titanium Limited for production of Ti Slag in India.
- 25. c** Noel N Tata, the current Chairman of Tata Trusts, was appointed to the board of Tata Sons Ltd, which is the holding company for various Tata group companies. While he is a key figure in the organization, the roles of Chairman of Tata Sons and Chairman of Tata Trusts were separated by Ratan Tata to prevent the same person from leading both entities.
- 26. b** Valdecy Urquiza, Brazil's Federal Police Commissioner, was elected as the new Secretary-General of Interpol during the 92nd General Assembly, replacing Jurgen Stock, who held the position for the past decade.
- 27. c** Solar leads renewable energy investments, accounting for 59% of the total, driven by lower costs, with APAC emerging as the top investing region.
- 28. b** The theme of the third edition of MAHASAGAR was focused on "Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR." This theme highlights the importance of collaborative training to address security challenges in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), a key area for regional stability and maritime security.
- 29. c** The Maha Kumbh Mela is celebrated every 12 years at each of the four designated locations: Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik. This cycle is based on specific planetary alignments, making it a rare and spiritually significant event that is held only once in a 12-year period at each site.
- 30. a** Union Minister for Jal Shakti Shri C R Patil inaugurates Ganga Utsav 2024 at Chandi Ghat in Haridwar.
- 31. a** NITI Aayog has launched the 15-day 'Jal Utsav' to create awareness and sensitivity towards water management, conservation and sustainability.
- 32. b** The seventh session of the ISA was held in New Delhi, India. This was specifically mentioned, with India holding the presidency and France as the co-president. This reflects India's active role in promoting solar energy initiatives.
- 33. b** The PAAPAM was jointly launched by UNEP, UN-Habitat, and WHO at the World Urban Forum, highlighting these organizations' commitment to promoting active and sustainable mobility options across Africa.
- 34. c** Donald John Trump is an American politician, businessman, and media personality. Trump served as the 45th president of the United States from 2017 to 2021, and is currently the president-elect, scheduled to take office as the 47th president on January 20, 2025.
- 35. b** The agreement is aimed at improving urban services, such as water supply, sanitation, and urban mobility, in Uttarakhand. This collaboration aligns with both the Union Government's urban development agenda and Uttarakhand's initiatives for enhancing city livability and sustainability.
- 36. c** Nxtra by Airtel leveraged the SmartSense platform, powered by AI and developed by Ecolibrium, to drive operational efficiency and sustainability in its data centers. This platform was first implemented in Nxtra's Chennai data center, with plans to expand across all core data centers.

37. a Tanushree Pandey, representing India, won the silver medal in the Under 21 Women's Individual Singles final after a close match. She was defeated 3-4 by Chiang Min Yu from Chinese Taipei. This final match determined the gold medalist, making Chiang Min Yu the champion.
38. a In Boxing, Indian pugilist Mandeep Jangra clinched the World Boxing Federation's Super Featherweight world title in the Cayman Islands.
39. c The Science on a Sphere (SOS) globe theatre in Vasco is based on technology developed by the U.S.-based National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). This system projects planetary data onto a large animated globe, providing a unique way to display scientific information.
40. b Delhi to host 12th edition of North East Festival.
41. b Project Shaurya Gatha to conserve and promote India's military heritage launched.
42. c The first Integrated Check Post (ICP) along the India-Bhutan border was inaugurated at Darranga in Assam, making it a strategic location for enhancing cross-border connectivity and trade between India and Bhutan. The ICP is situated close to the border, approximately 700 meters from it, and is equipped with various facilities to support customs and trade operations efficiently.
43. a The Australian government has announced plans to introduce legislation to ban children under the age of 16 from using social media, with penalties for platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok if they fail to enforce it.
44. a Usha Chilukuri Vance, set to become first Indian-Origin Second Lady Of US.
45. c According to the latest rankings, Singapore has been named the world's most powerful passport, allowing its citizens visa-free access to 195 countries. Other countries like France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain rank just below Singapore, offering access to slightly fewer countries.
46. a The Telangana State Hotels Association has collaborated with WAAYU and the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to support the zero-commission food delivery model. This collaboration highlights the intent to reduce fees and promote a cost-effective solution for restaurants and consumers in Hyderabad.
47. c The study by CEEW highlighted that India's policies in the power, residential, and transport sectors saved 440 million tonnes of CO₂ between 2015 and 2020. This shows the effectiveness of policies across these three key areas in helping India achieve its climate targets.
48. d Arjun Erigaisi reached the second position in the live chess ratings, just below five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen, making Carlsen the only player currently ranked higher than Erigaisi.
49. a November 7th was chosen for National Cancer Awareness Day to honor Madame Marie Curie's birth anniversary, as her discovery of radioactivity has significantly impacted cancer treatment, and to emphasize India's commitment to tackling cancer as a priority health issue.
50. b Anil Pradhan, a social worker from Odisha, received the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for his significant work in rural development. The prize was instituted by the Rohini Nayyar Foundation in memory of the renowned economist Rohini Nayyar.
51. c Seven Indian institutions have secured a place in the Top 100 of the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025.
52. a The much-awaited Monduro 4.0, the world's highest enduro mountain biking race and a part of the Asia Enduro Series (AES), kicked off in the scenic town of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.
53. a Comptroller and Auditor General Girish Chandra Murmu inaugurated a dedicated sports complex at Ranchi to promote sports in the CAG Institution and in country.
54. a Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand took the Korea Masters 2024 men's singles crown for his first tournament victory since claiming the 2023 world title.

55. d At a time when defence forces are looking at creating a rocket force, India is all set to soon test fire a new long-range anti-ship ballistic missile which would be able to hit moving warships or aircraft carriers at distances of over 1,000 kms.
56. d Donald Trump completed a clean sweep of all seven swing states in the US presidential election, securing victory with a projected win in Arizona. The Grand Canyon State, which holds 11 electoral votes, was the last battleground to declare its result, putting Trump's total at 312 electoral votes against Vice President Kamala Harris's 226.
57. a US-based customer relationship management-focused firm Salesforce has announced that it plans to expand its presence in India with the first Salesforce Tower in the country at Bagmane Tech Park in Bengaluru.
58. b Germany's governing coalition has imploded after Chancellor Olaf Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner, prompting Lindner to pull his Free Democrats Party (FDP) out of the coalition with Scholz's Social Democratic Party (SPD).
59. a India gifted two water-jet-propelled Fast Interceptor Crafts (FICs) to Mozambique as part of its capacity-building engagements with friendly foreign nations of the Indian Ocean Region.
60. a China unveils new 'hidden debt' scheme for local governments.
61. a India's first dedicated railway test track worth Rs. 820 crore getting constructed in Rajasthan.
62. a The Supreme Court has confirmed that disabled persons' right to access environments, services and opportunities is an essential human and fundamental right which has hardly been realised on the ground.
63. d US President-elect Donald Trump has appointed his campaign manager, Susie Wiles, as his Chief of Staff, making her the first woman to hold this influential cabinet position, heading the White House executive office.
64. a With the 29th edition of the Conference of Parties is being commenced in Baku, India is expected to stick to its stance of getting developed countries to increase climate finance – a broad term for money for adapting to the impacts of climate change – but without deviating from the principles agreed to in the Paris Agreement text.
65. c Six Indian Americans have won the elections to the House of Representatives, increasing their number from five in the current Congress.
66. a The Union Cabinet approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme that makes students who get admission in Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) eligible for a collateral-free and guarantor-free education loan.
67. a India will finally receive the stealth frigate Tushil from Russia in December 2024 after a long delay.
68. a Sanju Samson creates history, becomes first Indian with centuries in back-to-back T20I innings.
69. a The stage is set for the Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024, which will kick off at the renowned international tourist destination of Rajgir at Nalanda in Bihar.
70. c National Legal Services Day, observed annually on November 9, is a significant occasion in India.
71. b A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court, by a 4-3 majority overruled the 1967 judgment in S. Azeez Basha vs. Union of India case that became the basis for denying the minority status to the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
72. a Dubai has emerged as the highest-ranked city in West Asia and Africa in the '2024 Global City Index' by Brand Finance, maintaining its regional lead for the second consecutive year.
73. b Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgments such as the scrapping of the electoral bonds scheme and upholding abrogation of Article 370, has been sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India.
74. a The Governments of Colombia and Sweden, in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on ending violence against children, will host the first-ever Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, in Bogota, Colombia, from 7 to 8 November 2024.
75. b Apple established a new subsidiary in India, Apple Operations India, marking its first direct presence in the country.

- 76. a** In March 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi set an ambitious goal of “eliminating” TB by 2025, five years ahead of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) deadline set for 2030.
- 77. a** Indian Men’s Hockey Team captain Harmanpreet Singh and former goalkeeper PR Sreejesh have won the FIH Player of the Year and Goalkeeper of the Year titles for the year 2024.
- 78. a** India’s Pankaj Advani has won the IBSF World Billiards Championship 150-up format title.
- 79. b** Pandit Ram Narayan, the iconic Sarangi maestro, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 96.
- 80. b** World Immunization Day, observed annually on November 10, aims to raise awareness about the vital role vaccines play in preventing infectious diseases and protecting public health.
- 81. a** The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India hosted South Asian nations for a multilateral event in New Delhi.
- 82. d** Bhutan, the Himalayan kingdom that brought the world the concept of gross national happiness, is set to build a “mindfulness city” and will launch a \$100 million bond issue to help start the project.
- 83. b** Russia’s main armaments export firm and an Indian state-run defence company have signed an agreement to cooperate on jointly developing variants of the Pantsir air defence missile and gun system, a move aimed at bolstering the country’s air defence capabilities.
- 84. a** Alix Didier Fils-Aimé, a businessman and former President of Haiti’s Chamber of Commerce and Industry, replaced Garry Conille as the interim Prime Minister of Haiti. Fils-Aimé had previously been considered for the position before Conille took the post.
- 85. a** U.S. President-elect Donald Trump announced that Tom Homan, the former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), will be in charge of the country’s borders in his new administration. Homan had previously served in Trump’s first term, contributing to the immigration enforcement policies.
- 86. a** Japan’s parliament re-elected Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba after his governing coalition suffered the worst election loss in more than a decade.
- 87. a** NTPC, India’s largest power producer, inaugurated the world’s first CO₂-to-methanol conversion plant at its Vindhyachal facility coinciding with the company’s 50th Raising Day celebration.
- 88. c** The sovereign guarantees provided by the U.S. and Japan will remain in effect for 25 years, allowing the ADB to extend its lending capacity for climate-related projects over that period. This long duration helps the bank to secure a stable lending base for future climate initiatives.
- 89. b** Thomas Draca, a right-arm seamer from Italy, has made history by becoming the first international cricketer from Italy to register for the IPL 2025 mega auction.
- 90. c** National Education Day is celebrated on 11 November each year in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India. He played a pivotal role in shaping the country’s education system.
- 91. d** Peking University has secured the top position in the QS World University Rankings Asia 2025, as stated in the text. It is renowned for its academic reputation, employer recognition, and international student exchange programs.
- 92. b** Navin Ramgoolam, the leader of the Alliance of Change (ADC) coalition, secured 62.6% of the vote in the recent parliamentary election in Mauritius, marking a major victory. Ramgoolam is a prominent figure in Mauritius’s politics, having served as prime minister multiple times in the past.
- 93. a** The third edition of the India-Australia joint military exercise, AUSTRALIND, commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Pune.
- 94. b** Sweden becomes first country in the world to apply for Trademark.

- 95. c** President-elect Donald Trump selected Representative Elise Stefanik to serve as his ambassador to the United Nations, a role that will involve representing U.S. interests at the UN. Stefanik’s close alignment with Trump and her role as House Republican Conference Chair contributed to her selection.
- 96. c** Following the merger of Vistara into Air India, Singapore Airlines, which previously held a 49% stake in Vistara, now holds a 25.1% stake in the expanded Air India.
- 97. c** The Lumikai report projects that India’s gaming market will reach \$9.2 billion by FY29, highlighting significant growth in this sector. This projection is based on the rising popularity of gaming and its increasing share in new media revenue in India.
- 98. a** The Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to launch a satellite that will help us track Earth’s “surface motions down to fractions of an inch.”
- 99. a** Five-time Ballon d’Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo has been awarded the Platinum Quinas at the Quinas De Ouro gala organised by the Portuguese Football Federation.
- 100. c** The 2024 theme, “Why Science Matters: Engaging Minds and Empowering Futures,” focuses on the importance of science in inspiring curiosity, fostering innovation, and empowering individuals and societies to address future challenges. This theme reflects UNESCO’s emphasis on promoting scientific literacy and involvement to shape a sustainable future.
- 101. a** The Indian Navy is being conducted the 4th edition of the Coastal Defence Exercise Sea-Vigil-24.
- 102. d** The Indonesian and Australian militaries began joint combat drills off Indonesia’s main island of Java with about 2,000 troops training in air, maritime, amphibious and land operations. The four-day Keris Woomera 2024 exercise highlighted the cooperation between the countries strengthened by the recent signing of the Australia-Indonesia Defense Cooperation Agreement.
- 103. c** The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is a new initiative announced by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, aimed at improving government efficiency. The department will be led by Tesla CEO Elon Musk and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. Their role will involve reducing bureaucracy and waste, offering external perspectives to enhance federal agency operations.
- 104. b** India, the world’s third-largest carbon emitter, needs \$12.4 trillion in investment to achieve its goal of reaching net zero by 2070.
- 105. b** A first-ever all-women CISF reserve battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel has been sanctioned by the Union government keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force at airports and other vital installations.
- 106. c** The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention will be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, from January 8 to 10 next year, in collaboration with the Odisha state government. This convention serves as a platform for connecting with the Indian diaspora.
- 107. a** British writer Samantha Harvey won the Booker Prize for fiction with *Orbital*, a short, wonder-filled novel set aboard the International Space Station.
- 108. b** India recorded the fastest growth in patent (+15.7%) applications in 2023 among the top 20 origins, marking the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. India ranks sixth globally for patents with 64,480 applications, with resident filings accounting for over half of all submissions (55.2%)—a first for the country.
- 109. a** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the maiden flight-test of a Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM), with a range of 1,000 km, from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha from a mobile articulated launcher.
- 110. b** In 2007 General Assembly adopted resolution designating 14 November as World Diabetes Day.
- 111. b** The Dominica Award of Honour was conferred by Dominica’s President Sylvanie Burton during the India-CARICOM Summit, which is scheduled to take place in Georgetown, Guyana, from the 19th to the 21st of this month. The summit highlights India’s growing relations with Caribbean nations.
- 112. a** The Indian Army is conducted a high-intensity tri-services exercise Poorvi Prahar in the forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

- 113. b** According to reports, the Argentinian delegation withdrew from COP29 on the orders of President Javier Milei, who has recently assumed leadership and is thought to be forming a closer relationship with US President-elect Donald Trump. This decision has sparked speculation about Argentina's stance on the Paris Agreement.
- 114. c** Colonel Tulsi Gabbard, a former Democrat and 2020 presidential candidate, has been appointed by President-elect Donald Trump as the Director of National Intelligence. Gabbard is a four-term Congresswoman with military experience, having completed three deployments in West Asia and Africa.
- 115. a** The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has secured the top spot among Indian universities in the 2025 QS Asia University Rankings.
- 116. d** The Global Alliance for Banking on Values (GABV) at the ongoing United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) at Baku in Azerbaijan announced that 25 of its member banks have endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty initiative, marking the first collective endorsement of the initiative by financial institutions.
- 117. a** DRDO Completes Flight Tests of Guided Pinaka Weapon System.
- 118. a** Saudi Arabia is set to be confirmed as the host of the 2034 FIFA World Cup. This is significant because hosting such a global event brings international attention to the country's human rights practices, similar to the scrutiny Qatar faced during its preparations for the 2022 World Cup.
- 119. c** In March 2024, the General Assembly declared 15 November the International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime, in order to raise awareness of the threats posed by all forms of transnational organized crime and to enhance international cooperation in this regard.
- 120. b** The event held in Raipur to commemorate Bhagwan Birsa Munda's 150th birth anniversary is the "Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas and Inter-State Tribal Folk Dance Festival." This festival includes cultural programs by tribal dance troupes from various states.
- 121. d** National Press Day, observed on November 16, marks the day the Press Council of India (PCI) began its operations in 1966.
- 122. d** Haryana pacer Anshul Kamboj entered the record books as he became only the third bowler in Ranji Trophy to claim all 10 wickets in an innings.
- 123. c** The Centre had in 2021 decided to celebrate November 15, the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, making the celebrations the fourth year of the festivities.
- 124. a** SoftBank Group Corp. will be the first to build a supercomputer with chips using Nvidia Corp.'s new Blackwell design, a demonstration of the Japanese company's ambitions to catch up on AI.
- 125. a** The first trilateral power transaction – from Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian Grid, was inaugurated.
- 126. d** The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, which mandated the devolution of powers to urban local bodies so they serve citizens directly and effectively, has not been fully implemented by 18 states even after three decades after Parliament amended the Constitution, performance audits by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India have revealed.
- 127. a** State-owned telecom operator BSNL has launched the country's first direct-to-device satellite internet service.
- 128. a** New Zealand's parliament was briefly suspended after Maori lawmakers staged a ceremonial haka dance in protest of a vote on a controversial bill that would redefine the country's founding agreement between Indigenous Maori and the British Crown.
- 129. b** Brazil launched the Global Alliance for Hunger and Poverty at the G20 Summit in Rio, with an initial 41 participating members pledging to lift 500 million people out of poverty through cash transfers and social protection systems.
- 130. c** The India-Kazakhstan Business Conference on Electronics Equipment and Engineering Goods was held in Astana, at the Astana International Financial Centre (AIFC).
- 131. b** The all-women bus depot inaugurated by Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot is named 'Sakhi Depot.' Located in Sarojini Nagar, it is the first of its kind in the world.

- 132. d** Narendra Modi is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Nigeria in 17 years. During his visit, he was conferred with Nigeria's highest civilian honor, the Grand Commander of the Order of Niger, recognizing his contributions to strengthening bilateral ties between India and Nigeria.
- 133. d** Ghoramara Island in the Sundarbans is notable for becoming India's first solar island. It features a 170 KWH solar and wind power plant, the largest of its kind in India, providing electricity, drinking water, and other essential services to around 650 families.
- 134. a** The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced the development of the world's first "ChatGPT" tool, dedicated to the agricultural community.
- 135. a** Joe Biden made history as the first sitting US president to visit the Amazon rainforest, drawing attention to the dangers of global warming as he continues to clash with incoming President-elect Donald Trump's dismissive stance on climate change.
- 136. c** According to Knight Frank's Asia-Pacific Prime Office Rental Index for Q3 2024, Hong Kong SAR continues to hold the top position as the most expensive office market in the Asia-Pacific region. Delhi-NCR and Mumbai rank 6th and 8th, respectively, while Bengaluru is ranked much lower at 18th.
- 137. d** The increase in methane emissions from tropical wetlands is attributed to warming temperatures and heavy rainfall. These conditions accelerate the breakdown of carbon-rich plant matter by soil microbes, intensifying methane production. This process is further exacerbated by flooding, which expands wetland areas and boosts methane release.
- 138. c** The flight-trial was conducted from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off the coast of Odisha. This location is frequently used by DRDO for missile testing, emphasizing its strategic importance in India's defense research and development efforts.
- 139. c** Jorge Martin, the Spanish rider, claimed his first MotoGP World Championship title after securing a third-place finish in the season-ending Barcelona GP. His consistent performance throughout the season contributed to his historic win.
- 140. c** In 1996, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution proclaiming 16 November as International Day for Tolerance.
- 141. c** Victoria Kjaer Theilvig, representing Denmark, was crowned the 73rd Miss Universe at the competition held at the Mexico City Arena. She was named the winner among more than 120 contestants.
- 142. b** India's first solar power storage plant will be set up in Morena, Madhya Pradesh. This plant will have a capacity of 600 MW and is expected to be functional by 2027.
- 143. b** The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims is observed on the third Sunday in November each year. This day honors victims of road traffic crashes and their families, providing an opportunity to reflect on road safety issues.
- 144. b** Jannik Sinner defeated American Taylor Fritz with a dominant 6-4, 6-4 victory to win his first ATP Finals title. This win made Sinner the first Italian player to claim the ATP Finals title.
- 145. a** President-elect Donald Trump announced Chris Wright, the founder and CEO of Liberty Energy, as his choice to lead the Department of Energy. Wright is known for his vocal support of fossil fuel use, aligning with Trump's goals on energy production.
- 146. a** The UAE has unveiled an ambitious initiative to establish the 'Global Energy Efficiency Alliance' during COP29, hosted in Azerbaijan.
- 147. b** Australia, Japan, and the United States reaffirmed their commitment to support India's maritime surveillance efforts in the Indo-Pacific region. This collaboration also includes enhancing maritime domain awareness from 2025.
- 148. b** PM Narendra Modi visited Jamui to attend a function on the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, celebrated as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' (Tribal Pride Day). During the event, he unveiled various development projects and commemorative items in honor of Munda's contributions to the tribal community.
- 149. a** India is part of the G20 Troika along with Brazil and South Africa. The Troika is a group of three countries that manage the G20 process.

- 150. d** In an inspiring initiative, Project Vijayak, of the Border Roads Organisation, supported a vibrant art exhibition in Kargil to spotlight the talents of young artists from the region.
- 151. a** The Central Government has notified Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla in Chhattisgarh as the 56th tiger reserve in the country.
- 152. c** Ashutosh Gowariker, renowned for his films such as Jodhaa Akbar, Lagaan, and Swades, has been appointed as the chairperson of the International Jury for the 2024 IFFI. The festival, held in Goa, is a prestigious platform for showcasing the evolution of cinema globally.
- 153. b** The National Youth Festival 2025 will be held on the 11th and 12th of January. It is designed as a platform for youth to share their vision with prominent leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, ensuring they are engaged in discussions and decision-making processes that contribute to the country's development.
- 154. a** K. Sanjay Murthy, a 1989 batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed to succeed Girish Chandra Murmu as the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, effective from the date he assumes charge of his office.
- 155. c** Gabon's new constitution prohibits family members from succeeding a president, marking a significant shift aimed at preventing dynastic politics. Other changes include a limit of two presidential terms, increased term lengths, and stricter eligibility criteria for presidential candidates.
- 156. a** The famous Nyukmadong War Memorial is in West Kameng District of Arunachal Pradesh in India.
- 157. a** The GRAI 2023 report assesses and ranks 89 Central Ministries and Departments using four key dimensions: Efficiency, which measures promptness in resolving grievances; Feedback, gauging user satisfaction; Domain, focusing on grievance-specific expertise; and Organisational Commitment, reflecting the dedication of the ministry or department toward grievance redressal.
- 158. c** The Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) partnered with IIT Guwahati's Technology Innovation Hub (TiH) to conduct India's inaugural underwater welding and deep diving training and certification program. This collaboration focuses on building expertise in underwater asset management.
- 159. d** World No 1 Magnus Carlsen Wins Tata Steel Chess India Blitz Event.
- 160. b** The 2024 theme, 'Toilets - A Place for Peace,' underscores how billions of people face sanitation challenges due to conflicts, climate change, and systemic neglect. It emphasizes the critical role of secure and accessible toilet facilities in maintaining dignity and safety during crises.
- 161. b** Kollam in Kerala is pioneering India's first 24x7 online courts, offering round-the-clock access to justice. This initiative is aimed at modernizing legal proceedings by enabling litigants to file and resolve cases entirely online.
- 162. c** The declaration focused on issues like climate action, condemning terrorism, expanding humanitarian assistance, and supporting peaceful resolutions to conflicts. However, it did not mention the establishment of a global military alliance.
- 163. b** Dhudmaras, located in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, was selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) for its Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme. This recognition emphasizes the village's potential for sustainable tourism development and offers support to improve its infrastructure, preserve cultural heritage, and uplift residents' quality of life.
- 164. b** Donald Trump announced Linda McMahon, a former Small Business Administration administrator and co-founder of World Wrestling Entertainment, as his pick for Secretary of Education. Initially, she was considered for the Commerce Department.
- 165. a** NATO's largest artillery exercise ever held in Europe, dubbed Dynamic Front 25, which also includes drills in Estonia, Germany, Romania and Poland involving a total of around 5,000 soldiers.
- 166. d** British farmers to protest against 'tractor tax' in London.
- 167. d** A proposed law that would redefine New Zealand's founding treaty between the British Crown and Māori chiefs has triggered political turmoil and prompted more than 35,000 people to show up in protest at the country's Parliament.

- 168. a** Abdirahman Mohamed Abdullahi, the leader of the Waddani Party, secured more than 50% of the votes in the presidential election of Somaliland, a breakaway region of Somalia. This victory marks a significant achievement for the opposition in the region's political landscape.
- 169. b** The GSAT-20 satellite is designed to provide advanced communication services, including broadband connectivity in remote areas and Internet access on passenger aircraft. This marks a significant step in improving digital connectivity in areas with limited infrastructure.
- 170. c** National Integration Day, celebrated every year on November 19, marks the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, the first woman Prime Minister of India.
- 171. b** The Indian Army successfully concluded the 'Sanyukt Vimochan 2024' Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise in Gujarat, held in Ahmedabad and Porbandar. This exercise focused on disaster relief operations and humanitarian assistance, contrasting with the 'Poorvi Prahar' exercise, which was held in Arunachal Pradesh.
- 172. b** The Commonwealth of Dominica bestowed its highest national honour, the Dominica Award of Honour, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi in recognition of his contributions to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic and his dedication to strengthening the partnership between the two countries.
- 173. b** Nila Ibrahim, a 17-year-old girl from Afghanistan, won the International Children's Peace Prize for her efforts to advocate for girls' rights in Kabul, despite being barred from speaking in her own country under Taliban rule. The prize has been awarded to prominent activists like Malala Yousafzai, Greta Thunberg, and Nkosi Johnson in the past.
- 174. a** National Public Broadcaster Prasar Bharati has launched its OTT platform, WAVES.
- 175. b** Addverb Technologies, a Noida-based robotics company, is backed by Mukesh Ambani, India's richest person and the chairman of Reliance. The company plans to launch advanced humanoid robots by 2025, aiming to compete in the emerging humanoid robotics market.
- 176. a** The language developed by researchers at IISc is called STRONG, which stands for "STRing Representation Of Nanopore Geometry." It is designed to encode the shape and structure of nanopores in the form of a sequence of characters.
- 177. b** AroTrack is designed to accurately detect harmful pollutants such as phenol or benzene in water, providing an economical and portable solution for environmental monitoring.
- 178. a** In hockey, India clinched the Women's Asian Champions Trophy at Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar.
- 179. c** World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- 180. a** Under the Haryana Good Governance Award Scheme, the first prize for the state-level awards carries a cash prize of Rs. 51,000, which will be distributed equally among the members of the winning team.
- 181. a** General Upendra Dwivedi Conferred Honorary General Rank By Nepali Army.
- 182. c** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the "Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network" (VISION), aimed at nurturing education, skill development, and innovation among underprivileged children.
- 183. c** The commemorative postage stamp honoring Dr. Harekrushna Mahtab was released by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, during a special event in New Delhi. The occasion was graced by other dignitaries such as Union Ministers and the Chief Minister of Odisha, but the primary role of unveiling the stamp was performed by the President herself.
- 184. a** The Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Paatil digitally launched the newly developed "Bhu-Neer" portal during the concluding ceremony of India Water Week 2024.
- 185. a** The Amur Falcon Festival is celebrated in Tamenglong district of Manipur every year to highlight the importance of conserving the Amur falcon, a migratory bird that roosts in the district during its journey to Africa. The festival includes cultural performances and awareness campaigns to protect these birds.

- 186. a** Armenia has recently joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as its 104th full member. This move signifies Armenia's commitment to promoting renewable energy and solar power. The ISA is an international organization focused on solar energy cooperation, and Armenia handed over the Instrument of Ratification to formalize its membership.
- 187. b** The ICC issued arrest warrants for Netanyahu, his former defense chief, and Hamas leader Ibrahim Al-Masri due to alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity connected to the October 7th, 2023, attacks on Israel by Hamas and the subsequent Israeli military response in Gaza.
- 188. a** Finland-based telecom gear maker Nokia said it has won a “multi-year, multi-billion” extension deal by Bharti Airtel to deploy 4G and 5G equipment across key Indian cities and states.
- 189. b** Bihar has been selected to host the Khelo India Youth Games in April 2025, marking its addition to the Khelo India map. This flagship event by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is designed to foster sports talent across India. For the first time, the Khelo India Para Games will also be held in Bihar, following the Youth Games with a 10-15 day gap.
- 190. b** India's first Constitution Museum inaugurated at OP Jindal Global University (JGU) in Sonapat. This initiative is part of the celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India on November 26, 1949. The museum aims to educate the public about the Constitution through modern installations, interactive displays, and archival resources.
- 191. b** The famed Narasapur crochet lace craft has got the Geographical Indications (GI) tag, giving a new lease of life to the dying craft in the Godavari region of Andhra Pradesh.
- 192. a** Australia introduces world-first social media ban for children under 16.
- 193. a** Haryana Police and the Institute of Road Traffic Education (IRTE) jointly inaugurated India's first Traffic Engineering Centre (TEC) and Organisational Development Centre (ODC) at the Traffic Towers, Gurugram.
- 194. b** Scientists have achieved the rare feat of getting a close-up shot of a star that is 1,60,000 light-years away from our galaxy and has a mass that is 2,000 times of the Sun.
- 195. c** The Union Minister, Women and Child Development, Smt. Annpurna Devi, will launch a national campaign “#AbKoiBahanaNahi”, scheduled at Rang Bhawan, All India Radio, New Delhi.
- 196. b** Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju has launched the Haj Suvidha App 2.0 in New Delhi.
- 197. a** The Foundation for Science, Innovation and Development (FSID) at IISc. has launched Pravriddhi, a pan-India Product Accelerator Programme that unites premier Indian institutions and enterprises to develop innovative solutions through strategic partnerships and cutting-edge R&D.
- 198. a** North East United Football Club became the champion of the 40th All India Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament 2024 held at Paljor Stadium, Gangtok.
- 199. c** The U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) has issued a five-count criminal indictment of Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, and several of his business associates.
- 200. c** In December 1996 the United Nations proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996.
- 201. b** World Philosophy Day is an international day proclaimed by UNESCO to be celebrated every 3rd Thursday of November. It was first celebrated on 21 November 2002.
- 202. d** Denmark's Anders Antonsen and South Korea's Se Young An reigned supreme at the China Masters Badminton 2024 in Shenzhen, China, securing the men's and women's singles titles respectively.
- 203. a** In a significant development, National Consumer Helpline has partnered with over 1,000 companies under its Convergence Programme to expedite grievance resolution.
- 204. d** Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs Manohar Lal flagged-off the fleet of green hydrogen buses of National Thermal Power Corporation in Ladakh.

- 205. a** India's first Constitution Museum was inaugurated at the O P Jindal Global University by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- 206. b** The RBI and the Maldives Monetary Authority signed an agreement in Mumbai for establishing a framework to promote the use of local currencies — the Indian Rupee and the Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR) for cross-border transactions.
- 207. a** The 'Film Festival Directors' Round Table' was held moderated by Shekhar Kapur, the festival director of 55th IFFI, Goa.
- 208. c** The first Bugatti Home boutique in the world has opened its doors at The Dubai Mall Zabeel.
- 209. a** India hosted the global conference of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) next week in Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025' at the conference.
- 210. a** Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the third edition of Nayi Chetna- Pahal Badlaav Ki.
- 211. b** The World Health Organization (WHO) has reaffirmed that the ongoing mpox outbreak remains a public health emergency of international concern, citing rising case numbers, geographic spread, and operational challenges.
- 212. a** Gwalior houses India's first self-sufficient gaushala with modern CBG plant.
- 213. a** Hemant Soren has been sworn in as Jharkhand Chief Minister for third time on November 28.
- 214. a** A 'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue' will be held on January 11-12 in Delhi to coincide with Swami Vivekananda's 162nd birth anniversary (January 12).
- 215. c** At the United Nations climate talks held in Baku, Azerbaijan, countries have reached a critical agreement to channel at least \$300 billion annually into the fight against climate change.
- 216. a** PM Narendra Modi honoured with Global Peace Award as Indian American minorities launch AIAM in Washington.
- 217. a** Leftist candidate Yamandú Orsi wins close presidential election in Uruguay.
- 218. a** Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan along with Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya launched a World Bank report titled 'Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People' that covers six states in India.
- 219. a** Karnataka celebrates Bali Padyami festival on the fourth day of Deepavali.
- 220. a** The 186-year-old Rashtrapati Ashiyana at Rajpur Road in Dehradun will open its doors to the public from April next year.
- 221. b** The Supreme Court upheld the inclusion of the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble, which were introduced through the 42nd Constitution Amendment in 1976. These words were added with retrospective effect, dating back to November 26, 1949, when the Constitution was adopted. The court reaffirmed that these terms align with the vision of a welfare state and do not restrict the government from adopting economic policies beneficial to national growth.
- 222. b** South Central Railway launched the first Banana Export Train from Tadipatri, Andhra Pradesh, to facilitate the export of 680 tonnes of bananas to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai. This initiative strengthens agricultural exports and supports farmers.
- 223. a** IRCTC will launch the operations of the 'Golden Chariot Luxury Tourist Train' this year in a new avatar offering world-class on-board accommodation with 13 double-bed cabins, 26 twin-bed cabins and one cabin for differently-abled guests.
- 224. c** The INFLIBNET, an autonomous inter-university center under the University Grants Commission (UGC), is tasked with implementing and managing the ONOS scheme. Its role includes making central payments to publishers and ensuring seamless access to journals for approximately 6,300 institutions. While the UGC oversees INFLIBNET, the specific coordination and operational aspects of the ONOS scheme are handled directly by INFLIBNET.
- 225. a** Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will inaugurate the Aksharam Museum set up by the cooperation department at the Nattakam India Press compound under the custody of Sahitya Pravarthaka Sahakarana Sangham. The museum is touted as the first linguistic-literature-cultural museum in the country.

- 226. a** Pitching the upcoming Gelephu Mindfulness City as the biggest “co-operative project” in Bhutan, Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay said in New Delhi that he was grateful for India’s support on the 2,500 square kilometre “Zero Carbon” city being developed.
- 227. a** The PAN 2.0 Project enables technology-driven transformation of taxpayer registration services and is aimed at ease of access and speedy service delivery with improved quality.
- 228. a** Amara Raja Infra completed India’s first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, built for NTPC Ltd.
- 229. b** Zhao Dan became the first Chinese athlete to win a gold medal in the women’s skeleton event at the IBSF World Cup, held in Yanqing, Beijing. Her achievement marks a significant milestone for China in this winter sport.
- 230. d** World Sustainable Transport Day is celebrated annually on 26 November.
- 231. d** The Union Ministry of Tourism was organising the 12th edition of the International Tourism Mart at the UNESCO World Heritage site Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.
- 232. a** Union Minister for Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi will launch a national campaign, Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat, in New Delhi.
- 233. a** India has signed the final Act of the Riyadh Design Law Treaty to reaffirm its commitment to fostering inclusive growth and ensuring equitable access to intellectual property protection.
- 234. c** Jay Bhattacharya, an economist and medical expert from Kolkata, has been chosen by President-elect Donald Trump to lead the NIH. He has been a critic of the US COVID-19 policies and brings a unique perspective to the role. The NIH is responsible for managing a significant budget of \$47.3 billion for medical research.
- 235. b** The PAN 2.0 project involves upgrading the existing Permanent Account Number (PAN) system with features such as QR codes and revamping the digital backbone. One of its significant highlights is making PAN a common business identifier for all specified government agencies, enhancing its role in e-governance and digital systems integration.
- 236. a** India is the largest producer of milk in the world.
- 237. c** On 26th November, 1949 the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution which came into effect on 26th January, 1950.
- 238. b** The Syed Modi International 2024 badminton tournament is classified as a BWF Super 300 event. This indicates its level in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) tournament hierarchy, which categorizes events based on ranking points and prize money.
- 239. d** Divith Reddy, an eight-year-old prodigy from Telangana, secured the gold medal in the championship with nine points out of 11. Despite tying with fellow Indian Sattwik Swain, Divith’s superior tiebreak score earned him the top spot. Sattwik Swain claimed the silver medal.
- 240. b** Indian comedian Vir Das made history as the first Indian to host the International Emmy Awards in 2024. The event took place in New York City and showcased a diverse range of global talent. His selection highlights India’s growing presence in international entertainment.
- 241. a** The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has permanently created a hub of National Security Guards (NSG) in the Jammu City to counter any major terror-attack.
- 242. c** A Project Implementation Agreement has been signed between the Ministry of External Affairs and the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to execute new solar projects in Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar and Seychelles.
- 243. c** Priyanka Gandhi won the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat with a margin of 4,10,931 votes in the recently concluded round of bypolls, which took place alongside Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly elections 2024.
- 244. a** Artificial intelligence and advanced grid management systems are reshaping the future of sustainable energy, industry leaders revealed at the RAK Energy Summit in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE.

- 245. c** Romanian Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu has announced his resignation as leader of the Social Democrats (PSD) after failing to advance to the second round of the presidential election.
- 246. d** India has improved its position by eleven slots and is now placed at 49th rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024) report released, as against 60th rank scored in the NRI 2023 report.
- 247. c** The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) telescope is a state-of-the-art ground-based gamma-ray telescope inaugurated in Hanle, Ladakh.
- 248. a** Manish Rajankar, the director of the Foundation for Economic and Ecological Development, and Shalu Kolhe, representing the Dhivar fishing community in Vidarbha, were honored with the 21st T. N. Khoshoo Memorial Award. Their work in ecological restoration of waterbodies and community empowerment was recognized by the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and Environment (ATREE).
- 249. a** The 2024 OPCW The Hague Award was conferred upon the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) at a ceremony during the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at the Hague in the presence of delegates from the 193 States Parties and experts from the global chemical industry from around the world.
- 250. b** During the Annual Conference of French Foreign Trade Commissioners of the Asia-Pacific region, Minister Piyush Goyal highlighted that bilateral trade between India and France reached \$15 billion in the financial year 2024. This reflects the growing economic partnership between the two nations.
- 251. c** The theme of the 11th edition of the SAREX-24 exercise is “Enhancing Search and Rescue Capabilities through Regional Collaboration.” The focus of the exercise is to improve search and rescue operations and foster collaboration among regional and international maritime stakeholders to address large-scale contingencies at sea.
- 252. a** Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) General, Upendra Dwivedi launched Eklavya, an online digital platform for officers training.
- 253. c** The India-Russia Strategic Partnership was first established in 2000. It was elevated to the level of a Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership in 2010, reflecting the deepening of bilateral relations and cooperation, especially in areas like defense and military collaboration.
- 254. c** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Senior leader Hemant Soren took oath as Chief Minister of Jharkhand for the fourth time.
- 255. c** The dispute centers around Tamil Nadu’s objection to Karnataka constructing check dams and diversion structures on the Pennaiyar river. Tamil Nadu argued that Karnataka did not have the right to use the river’s water to the detriment of Tamil Nadu’s interests, and that the 1892 agreement regarding water sharing was valid and binding on both states.
- 256. d** India’s first large-scale ocean floor cleanup operation has been launched in Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra.
- 257. a** IDFC FIRST Bank has become the first Indian bank to offer real-time tracking for money sent abroad.
- 258. b** Masato Kanda, currently serving as a Special Advisor to Japan’s Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, has been unanimously elected as the 11th President of the ADB. He will succeed Masatsugu Asakawa and assume office in February 2024.
- 259. b** China has successfully launched the world’s first ‘self-driving’ satellites, which also marks a milestone in the country’s commercial space programme.
- 260. b** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up to launch the ambitious Proba-3 mission to space aboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). However, it won’t be the lone payload heading to space.
- 261. a** UP Agriculture Minister launches Syngenta’s first I-CLEAN project in Varanasi.
- 262. c** The Government has said approximately 7.43 crore beneficiaries have been registered under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).
- 263. d** India is poised to revolutionise rail transport with the launch of its first hydrogen-powered train, which is set to undergo trial runs between Haryana’s Jind and Sonipat stations.

264. a U.K. Parliament vote in favour of historic assisted dying bill for terminally ill adults.
265. a Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day Asthalakshmi Mahotsav 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
266. a Spain introduces paid ‘climate leave’ for workers following deadly October floods.
267. a France is to offer the world a first look inside the restored Notre Dame cathedral in Paris over five years after the fire that ravaged the interior of the heritage landmark and toppled its spire.
268. d The Union Finance Ministry released a consultation paper proposing to raise the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the insurance sector from 74 per cent to 100 per cent.
269. a Meghalaya hosted the two-day Me·Gong Festival 2024 which will consist of three primary Components-Cultural Performances and Musical Showcases, traditional games and sports competitions and handloom, handicraft, and culinary exhibitions.
270. d The Centre and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 98 million US dollar loan to improve horticulture crop farmers’ access to certified disease-free planting materials, which will boost their crops’ yield, quality, and resilience to climate impacts.
271. c The World Artificial Intelligence Centre is being set up in Haryana with the assistance of the World Bank. This collaboration aims to develop the state’s AI capabilities and strengthen its global presence in the field of research and innovation.
272. b The Alipore Zoological Garden has introduced India’s first Glass-enclosed Open-air Walk-In Aviary. This feature allows visitors to walk inside a spacious glass enclosure where birds fly freely, providing an immersive experience with nature.
273. c The India-Singapore bilateral military exercise, AgniWarrior 2024 will take place in Maharashtra.
274. b The tournament is being held in Durbuk village, located in the Lalok region of Ladakh. This event marks the beginning of the ice hockey season in Ladakh, which is a prominent winter sport in the region.
275. d Belgium has become first of its kind in the world to recognise sex workers’ rights, offering them the same benefits as other workers, including maternity leave, pensions, health insurance, and sick leave.
276. a Iceland will vote to elect a new Parliament. It comes after Prime Minister Bjarni Benediktsson dissolved parliament in October this year due to disagreements between the three-party coalition governments.
277. b Meta’s upcoming subsea cable project is significant because it will be the company’s first fully-owned subsea cable. While Meta has participated in other subsea cable projects, such as 2Africa and Echo, this will be the first one exclusively owned by the company.
278. a The doctor-population ratio in the country stands at 1:811, which exceeds the World Health Organization’s standard of 1:1000. This indicates that the country has a more favorable ratio, highlighting improvements in healthcare accessibility.
279. a The Union Health Ministry emphasized that snakebites are a significant public health concern, particularly for farmers and tribal populations. To address this, the Ministry launched the National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming by 2030 (NAPSE), aiming to reduce snakebite-related deaths by half. Strengthening surveillance and reporting systems is a critical objective under NAPSE, which can be achieved by making snakebite cases a notifiable disease.
280. b The theme for World AIDS Day 2024, as set by UNAIDS, is “Take the Rights Path.” This theme emphasizes a rights-based approach to treatment and the elimination of HIV/AIDS by 2030. It highlights the importance of ensuring that individuals affected by HIV/AIDS are empowered to access treatment and support systems without discrimination.