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# THE HINDU REVIEW

## MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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**NOVEMBER 2024**



### Prime Focus

- G20 Summit 2024
- Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar
- GARUD SHAKTI 24 Exercise
- QS Asia Rankings 2025
- National Education Day

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## NATIONAL NEWS

### Cabinet Approvals

- Cabinet approves **PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme** to provide financial support to meritorious students so that financial constraints do not prevent any youth of India from pursuing quality higher education. A mission mode mechanism will facilitate and drive the extension of education loans to meritorious students who get admission in the top 860 quality higher educational institutions of the nation, translating to covering more than 22 lakh students every year. A special loan product will enable for collateral free, guarantor free education loans; made accessible through a simple, transparent, student-friendly and entirely digital application process. Loan amounts up to ₹7.5 lakhs will be provided a 75% credit guarantee by the Government of India, to support banks to expand coverage. This is in addition to the full interest subvention already offered to students with up to Rs. 4.5 lakhs annual family income.
- Cabinet approves infusion of equity of **Rs.10,700 crore in Food Corporation of India** by way of conversion of Ways and Means Advance to equity in 2024-25. The decision is aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide. This strategic move shows the Government's steadfast commitment to supporting farmers and fortifying India's agrarian economy.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved infusion of equity of Rs.10,700 crore for working capital in financial year 2024-25 in Food Corporation of India (FCI)**. The decision is aimed at bolstering the agricultural sector and ensuring the welfare of farmers nationwide. This strategic move shows the Government's steadfast commitment to supporting farmers and fortifying India's agrarian economy.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of its flagship initiative, the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)**, under the aegis of NITI Aayog, with an enhanced scope of work and an allocated budget of **Rs.2,750 crore for the period till March 31, 2028**. AIM 2.0 is a step towards Viksit Bharat that aims to expand, strengthen, and deepen India's already vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved **One Nation One Subscription**, a new Central Sector Scheme for providing country-wide access to scholarly research articles and journal publication. The scheme will be administered through a simple, user friendly and fully digital process. This will be a "One Nation One Subscription" facility for the government higher education institutions and R&D laboratories of the central government. A total of about **Rs.6,000 crore** has been allocated for One Nation One Subscription for 3 calendar years, 2025, 2026 and 2027 as a new Central Sector Scheme. One Nation One Subscription will build on and further enhance the scope and reach of the range of initiatives undertaken by the Government of India over the past decade in the domains of education, for maximizing access to quality higher education for the youth of India. This will supplement the ANRF initiative to promote research and development and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout government universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved investment of **Rs.1750 crore** for construction of Tato-I Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh. **The estimated completion period for the project is 50 months. The project with an installed capacity of 186 MW (3 x 62 MW) would produce 802 Million Units (MU) of energy.** The Power generated from the Project will help improve the power supply position in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and will also help in balancing of the national Grid.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved investment of **Rs.1939 crore** for construction of **Heo Hydro Electric Project (HEP) in Shi Yomi District of Arunachal Pradesh**. The estimated completion period for the project is 50 months. The project with an installed capacity of 240 MW (3 x 80 MW) would produce 1000 Million Units (MU) of energy. The Power generated from the Project will help improve the power supply position in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and will also help in balancing of the national Grid.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved three multi-tracking projects for the **Ministry of Railways with a total cost of ₹7,927 crore, covering the Jalgaon–Manmad 4th line (160 km), Bhusawal–Khandwa 3rd & 4th lines (131 km), and Prayagraj (Iradatganj)–Manikpur 3rd line (84 km)**. Spanning Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, these projects will enhance the Indian Railways network by 639 km, benefiting two Aspirational Districts (Khandwa and Chitrakoot) and serving over 38 lakh people across 1,319 villages. Aimed at easing operations and reducing congestion on the Mumbai–Prayagraj–Varanasi route, they will facilitate additional passenger trains, boost tourism to religious and heritage sites, and support freight traffic of 51 MTPA, transporting commodities like agriculture products, coal, and steel. These developments align with the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for seamless multi-modal connectivity, contributing to employment, self-reliance, reduced logistics costs, and climate goals by lowering CO2 emissions equivalent to planting 11 crore trees.

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the **₹1,435 crore PAN 2.0 Project of the Income Tax Department**, aimed at transforming taxpayer registration services through technology-driven solutions. This e-Governance initiative will re-engineer PAN/TAN services, consolidating core and non-core activities and upgrading the current **PAN/TAN 1.0 system** for an enhanced digital experience. Key benefits include ease of access, faster and higher-quality service delivery, data consistency, eco-friendly processes, cost optimization, and improved security with agile infrastructure. Aligned with the Government's Digital India vision, PAN 2.0 will enable PAN to serve as a Common Identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies.

### State-wise October Month Important Events

#### Andhra Pradesh

- In a significant step forward for the development of **Amaravati, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh**, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to **grant a loan of ₹13,500 crore** for its development.

#### Assam

- On **November 21, 2024**, the **Assam government** renamed **Karimganj district** to **Sribhumi** and its headquarters to **Sribhumi town**, honoring the region's **cultural heritage** and fulfilling a **longstanding local demand**.
- The **12th Edition of the International Tourism Mart (ITM)** held in **Kaziranga, Assam**, highlighting the tourism potential of **Northeast India**. Inaugurated by **Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, with **Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sharma** and **Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu** in attendance, the event aims to promote the region's **cultural, natural, and biodiversity-rich** tourism, fostering collaboration among **tourism professionals, buyers, sellers, and government agencies**.

#### Bihar

- Sultanganj railway station** in Bihar's **Bhagalpur district** is set to be renamed in honor of the revered **Hindu shrine, Ajgaibinath Dham**.
- Bihar** will host the **Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG)** and **Para Games (KIPG)** in **April 2025**, reflecting its capability to host major sporting events. Announced by **Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, this aligns with the vision of a **'Viksit Bharat' by 2047**.

#### Chhattisgarh

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Shri Bhupender Yadav**, announced the notification of the **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** in **Chhattisgarh** as the **56th Tiger Reserve** in India. Spanning **2,829.38 sq. km**, it is the third-largest tiger reserve in India, following **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem** in Andhra Pradesh and **Manas Tiger Reserve** in Assam.

#### Gujarat

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone and **inaugurated projects worth over ₹284 crore** in the Narmada district, which is home to the iconic Statue of Unity.
- Australia's **University of Wollongong (UOW)** has officially inaugurated its India campus at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** in **Gandhinagar**. The campus will offer Master's degrees in **Financial Technology** and a **Graduate Certificate** in the field, marking a strategic entry into India's expanding **fintech sector**. This development follows **Deakin University's** campus opening in GIFT City in **July 2024**, further enhancing the educational landscape in India.
- The **Gujarat government** launched the **Cottage and Rural Industries Policy 2024-29** to strengthen the cottage industry, preserve handicrafts, and boost its market presence. The policy focuses on **increased credit support, infrastructure development**, and promoting local products through initiatives like **One District One Product (ODOP)** and **GI tagging** for intellectual property protection. The policy was announced by **Ministers Balvantsinh Rajput and Jagdish Panchal** in **Gandhinagar**.
- Gujarat's **'Gharchola'** handicraft has been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**, bringing the state's total to **27 GI tags**, with **23 for handicrafts**. Traditionally worn in **Hindu and Jain weddings**, Gharchola is recognized for its rich cultural significance and vibrant colors. The craft has evolved with modern designs while maintaining its traditional appeal, and its popularity is growing, with increased availability at **Garvi Gurjari** sales centers in Gujarat.

#### Haryana

- The **International Gita Mahotsav** celebrates the birth of the **Bhagavad Gita**, marking Lord Krishna's divine discourse to Arjuna on the battlefield of **Kurukshetra** over 5152 years ago. In 2024, the event will run from **November 28 to December 15** and take place in **Kurukshetra, Haryana**, aligning with the **Shukla Paksha Ekadashi** of the **Margashirsha month** in the Hindu lunar calendar.

#### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** announced on 30th October that the **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park**, located in the Bankhandi area of Kangra's Dehra assembly constituency, will be the first zoo in India to receive certification from the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.

### Karnataka

- Karnataka **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** announced the creation of three **Global Innovation Districts (GIDs)** in **Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Belagavi** to attract **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)**. The announcement was made at the **27th Bengaluru Tech Summit**, where the CM also unveiled **India's first dedicated GCC policy** to boost innovation. These districts will play a crucial role in fostering **research, development, and emerging industries**, reinforcing Karnataka's position as a global **tech hub**.

### Manipur

- Ningol Chakkouba, a major festival of the Meitei community in Manipur, was celebrated with great religious fervor and joy. Observed on the second day of the lunar month Hiyangei in the Meitei calendar, the festival celebrates family bonds and togetherness.
- On November 20, 2024, the **Central Government** appointed **Justice D. Krishnakumar** from the **Madras High Court** as the new **Chief Justice of Manipur High Court**. This follows the retirement of **Justice Siddharth Mridul**. The appointment was made based on recommendations by the **Supreme Court Collegium**, recognizing Justice Krishnakumar's **legal acumen and integrity**.

### Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, **approved a 35 percent reservation for women in all state government recruitments**. The decision was made during a cabinet meeting held at the Mantralaya in Bhopal.
- In response to cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh straying into neighboring Rajasthan, a joint corridor management committee has been formed between the two states. The committee will focus on cheetah conservation, developing suitable habitats, and facilitating the relocation of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park (KNP) and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

### Nagaland

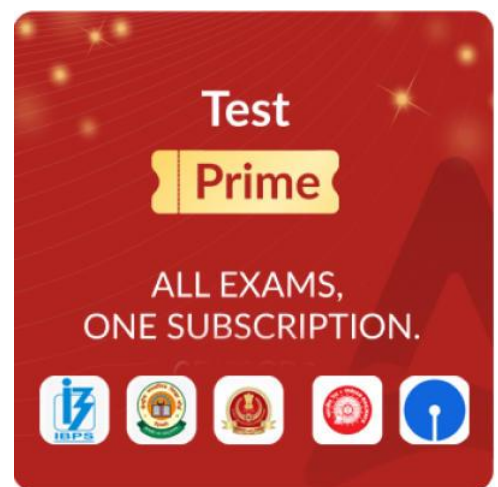
- **Japan** has been announced as the official partner country for the **25th Hornbill Festival in Nagaland**, joining **Wales** as a confirmed partner. This partnership was solidified through meetings between **Nagaland's Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio** and **Japanese Embassy** representatives, including **Takashi Ariyoshi** and **Mayumi Tsubakimoto**. The festival, scheduled from **December 1-10** at **Kisama near Kohima**, will feature Japan's contributions in **cultural performances, capacity building**, and workshops on **handicrafts and bamboo products**, led by renowned **Japanese artists**. The **Hornbill Festival** is Nagaland's premier cultural event, celebrating the state's **heritage, traditions, and diverse ethnic communities**.
- **Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio** inaugurated new facilities at **Naga Heritage Village, Kisama**, ahead of the **25th Hornbill Festival**. The enhancements include the **International Morung** for cultural exchange, a **Lodge/Dormitory** for **cultural troupes**, a **Handloom & Craft Pavilion** showcasing Naga crafts, a **medical booth** with cash vending facilities, a **Tourism Department Lounge** for VIPs, and a **Toyota Ki Display Area**. The event also marked the inclusion of the **USA** as a new partner country.

### Odisha

- Odisha achieved a significant milestone with **24 coastal villages** from six districts being officially recognized as **'Tsunami Ready'** by the **Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)** of **UNESCO** during the **2nd Global Tsunami Symposium** in Indonesia on November 11, 2024. The recognition highlights the state's efforts in **disaster preparedness and community resilience** in tsunami-prone areas.
- The **Odisha government** has approved **20 major investment projects** worth **Rs 1.36 lakh crore** across nine sectors, including **steel, chemicals, aluminium, green energy, aviation fuel, apparel, power, and cement**. These projects, approved by the **High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA)** led by **Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi**, will create over **74,350 jobs** and boost the state's **industrial and infrastructural development**. The initiative strengthens Odisha's position as a key hub for **industrial growth**.

### Rajasthan

- **Aandhi**, a **small village** located about 43 km from Jaipur in Rajasthan, is making strides towards becoming a zero-waste model through the implementation of green technology interventions. This initiative aims to transform various types of waste such as food waste, agricultural waste, wastewater, and hospital waste generated from local sources, including schools, farms, and community health centers, into valuable resources.
- The Supreme Court's new guidelines to eliminate child marriages in Rajasthan by 2030 have empowered civil society organizations. These guidelines emphasize accountability for local panchayats, school authorities, and child protection officers, aiming to tackle the widespread issue of child marriages in the state.



### Telangana

- Telangana has launched a statewide caste census conducted by the State Planning Department to gather comprehensive socio-economic, political, and educational data, including caste details for all households. The door-to-door survey collects information on income, employment, health hazards, and welfare benefits, while verifying caste certificates for SC, ST, BC, and EWS categories. Enumerators are assigned 150 households each to ensure thorough data collection.
- The **Telangana government** launched its **Electric Vehicles (EV) Policy** on **November 17, 2024**, to promote **sustainability, energy efficiency**, and reduce **air pollution**. Key features include **100% road tax** and **registration fee exemptions** for all EVs until **December 31, 2026**. This applies to **two-wheelers, four-wheelers, taxis, auto-rickshaws, and electric buses**. Savings can reach up to **₹15,000** for two-wheelers and **₹3 lakh** for four-wheelers. The policy also removes limits on eligible EVs for tax exemptions.

### Tamil Nadu

- At **The Hindu AI Summit 2024**, **Kumar Jayant**, Additional Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu's **Department of Information Technology and Digital Services**, announced the state's initiative to establish a **Centre of Excellence (CoE)** with an **AI lab**. The initiative aims to foster **research, development**, and support **startups** and **academic institutions**. Tamil Nadu is also integrating **AI** into **governance**, enhancing services in **healthcare, agriculture, and public sector monitoring**, demonstrating its commitment to leveraging AI for **societal benefit** and **innovation**.
- A **deep depression** over the **Southwest Bay of Bengal** is expected to intensify into **Cyclone Fengal** and make landfall between **Karaikal and Mahabalipuram** on **November 30**, bringing **heavy rainfall** and **strong winds** to **Tamil Nadu** and **Puducherry**.

### Uttarakhand

- **India's first 'Writer's Village' was inaugurated in Dehradun** by former President Ram Nath Kovind, along with Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. This unique village aims to foster creativity and provide a nurturing environment for writers from across the country, establishing Dehradun as a new cultural hub for literary talent.
- Uttarakhand, a state rich in culture and tradition, observes a unique festival known as **Igas Bagwal**. This festival, also called **Budhi Diwali** or **Harbodhni Ekadashi**, is celebrated in the mountainous regions with reverence and joy, precisely **11 days after Diwali**.
- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the Jauljibi Mela 2024 in Pithoragarh, calling it an "invaluable heritage" that fosters harmony among India, Tibet, Nepal, and neighboring regions. He also launched 18 development projects worth ₹64.47 crores, focusing on rural and agricultural sectors.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to improve urban infrastructure and climate resilience in Uttarakhand through the Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project.
- The Indian government has signed a \$200 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to enhance urban infrastructure and improve essential services in Uttarakhand. The initiative aims to modernize water supply systems, sanitation, urban mobility, and other key public amenities, thereby fostering sustainable development in the state.

### Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the state's first double-decker electric bus at the Aakanksha Haat programme in Indira Gandhi Pratishthan. This initiative aims to modernize public transport, ease urban traffic congestion, and promote eco-friendly travel, contributing to environmental conservation.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a new policy to improve veterinary services by offering diploma and certificate courses in animal husbandry and para-veterinary medicine. This move, announced by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, aims to address the shortage of veterinarians in the state, which has only 8,193 veterinarians compared to the national total of around 34,500.
- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a significant semiconductor manufacturing project led by Vama Sundri Investment, a subsidiary of HCL Tech, in partnership with Foxconn. Set to be established along the Yamuna Expressway with an investment of ₹3,706 crore, the facility aims to enhance India's semiconductor production.
- The **Supreme Court** upheld the **Uttar Pradesh government's decision to acquire land** urgently for the development of the **Yamuna Expressway**. The Court justified the use of **urgency provisions** under **Sections 17(1) and 17(4)** of the **Land Acquisition Act, 1894**, allowing the **Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA)** to proceed without waiting for **objections** from landowners.

### November Union Territories:

- Despite the Delhi government's "Pink Ticket" scheme enabling free bus travel for women since October 2019, a recent Greenpeace report reveals that **77% of women feel unsafe on buses after dark** due to poor lighting, infrequent schedules, and incidents of harassment, particularly in overcrowded buses.
- During the grand 'Deepotsav 2024' celebrations, Ayodhya made history by setting two **Guinness World Records** on 30th October evening. In a dazzling spectacle, the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department, alongside the district administration, illuminated the banks of the Saryu River with over 25 lakh diyas (earthen lamps), creating the world's largest display of oil lamps.
- Delhi Metro launched a new bike taxi service on November 11, 2024, available through the official Delhi Metro app, DMRC Momentum (Delhi Sarthi 2.0). In partnership with First And Last Mile Connectivity India Pvt. Ltd., the service offers a dedicated bike taxi option for women, improving commuter convenience and safety.
- **Mahesh Kumar Khichi**, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate, emerged victorious in the Delhi mayoral polls.
- **Gyan-Kumbh 2024**, organized by **Siksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas**, was held at **Pondicherry University** from **November 21st to 23rd, 2024**. The event focused on **transformative educational philosophies, sustainability, and human unity**, with the **Auroville Foundation** showcasing its vision of **human unity and sustainable living**. Auroville's stall attracted educational leaders, and representatives **Dr. Mollika Ganguly** and **Ms. Vishnupriya** engaged visitors with insights into Auroville's innovative educational approach.
- For the first time, **Jammu and Kashmir (J&K)** observed **Constitution Day (Samvidhan Diwas)** on **November 26, 2024**, marking the **75th anniversary** of India's **Constitution**. The event highlighted core values of **justice, equality, and fraternity**, with **Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha** leading the celebrations, emphasizing the region's **integration** into the national framework.
- **Amara Raja Infra**, part of the **Amara Raja Group**, has launched **India's first green hydrogen fuelling station** in **Leh, Ladakh** for **NTPC Ltd.** The station, producing **80 kg of green hydrogen daily**, supports **NTPC's green mobility initiatives** under the **National Hydrogen Energy Mission**. Inaugurated by **Union Power Minister Manohar Lal**, it will fuel **hydrogen fuel cell buses** and contribute to the development of **hydrogen infrastructure** in India, marking a key step towards **emission-free transport**.

### November Month Launches & Inaugurations:

- The **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** launched the '**Digital Memorial of Valour**' in **New Delhi**, a heartfelt initiative dedicated to honoring the sacrifices of its brave personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.
- On the occasion of **Dhanvantari Jayanti** and the **9th Ayurveda Day**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** launched, inaugurated, and laid the foundation for **healthcare projects valued at over ₹12,850 crore** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in **New Delhi**.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the '**Run for Unity**' to commemorate **National Unity Day** on **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary**, highlighting Patel's role in India's unification and development.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the **Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile application**, aimed at integrating technology into governance and simplifying the registration of births and deaths. This initiative aligns with the government's **Digital India vision**, designed to provide citizens with a seamless and efficient way to register vital events at any time, from any location, and in their state's official language.
- **Nirmala Sitharaman**, India's Finance Minister, launched the **National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme** in **Bengaluru**, in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services and SIDBI. The event, attended by key officials, connected around 150 MSME clusters virtually, focusing on improving access to financial services and fostering MSME growth across the country.
- **The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** Convention will be held from **January 8 to January 10, 2025**, in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**. The official website for the 18th PBD Convention was launched.
- The **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** is leading efforts under the **Clean Ganga Mission** to preserve the river's biodiversity, including endangered species like the **Ganga Dolphin**. A key initiative is the launch of a **Dolphin Ambulance** to rescue injured dolphins, helping restore the ecological balance of the Ganga and protect its flora and fauna.
- Union Minister **Shri JP Nadda** launched the "**Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry**" with a budget of **Rs. 500 crore**, focusing on making India self-sufficient in medical devices. The scheme supports manufacturing, skill development, clinical studies, infrastructure, and industry promotion, aiming to boost the sector's growth and self-reliance.
- On **October 29, 2024**, during **Dhanvantari Jayanti** and **Ayurveda Day**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated health projects worth **₹12,850 crore** at the **All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)** in **New Delhi**. A key highlight was the launch of the **Ayushman Vay Vandana Card**, which offers **free hospital treatment for senior citizens aged 70 and above**. The initiative has already enrolled **10 lakh senior citizens**, marking a significant step in enhancing healthcare access for the elderly in India.

- **Prasar Bharati** launched its own **OTT platform 'Waves'** at the **55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**. Offering a mix of **classics and contemporary programming**, the platform provides **family-friendly entertainment** in **over 12 languages** across genres like **infotainment, gaming, education, shopping, and live events**. Available on **Android and iOS**, **Waves** aims to bridge the **digital divide** and advance the **Digital India** vision, particularly for **rural audiences**.
- India has launched its **first AI Data Bank**, aimed at fostering **innovation** and enhancing **national security**. Announced by **Union Minister Jitendra Singh** at the **7th ASSOCHAM AI Leadership Meet 2024**, the initiative provides **researchers, startups, and developers** with access to **high-quality datasets** to create scalable AI solutions. It supports sectors like **healthcare, space exploration, and national security**, positioning AI as a key driver for **economic growth and governance**.
- The **Government of India** launched the **National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)** with a **₹2,481 crore** allocation, approved by the **Union Cabinet on November 25, 2024**. The scheme aims to promote **natural farming** for **1 crore farmers** and cover **750,000 hectares** over two years. It integrates past initiatives like **Bhartiya Prakratik Krishi Paddhati** and **Gobardhan Mission** to promote **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)** and locally adapted methods.
- **Union Minister for Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, launched **The TeacherApp**, a digital platform developed by **Bharti Airtel Foundation** to empower educators. The app offers **260+ hours** of digital content, including **courses, videos, podcasts, and live expert sessions**. It aligns with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** to enhance **pedagogical skills**, foster **creativity**, and improve **classroom engagement**. Key features include **teaching kits** with 900+ hours of content and **interactive webinars**.
- **Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan** launched the third edition of the **"Nayi Chetna – Pahal Badlaav Ki"** campaign on November 25, 2024, to combat gender-based violence in India. Organized by **DAY-NRLM**, the month-long initiative aims to raise awareness, promote community engagement, and strengthen victim support systems across all states and UTs, running until December 23, 2024.
- The **Indian government** has extended the **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** until **31st March 2028** with a renewed focus under **Atal Innovation Mission 2.0**. Approved by the **Union Cabinet on 25th November 2024**, the initiative aims to fill gaps in the **innovation ecosystem**, promote **inclusivity**, and improve **entrepreneurial outcomes**, building on its original mission launched in 2016 to foster **innovation and entrepreneurship**.
- Indian Railways launched the **'Sanraksha' mobile app** to enhance passenger safety by training and building the capacity of railway staff. After a successful pilot in the **Nagpur division**, the app is being rolled out across 16 divisions and will eventually be implemented nationwide. Key features include **data analytics, AI integration, smart learning, and real-time feedback** to improve **frontline safety staff** performance. Developed by **Dilip Singh**, the app aims to create a more secure environment for travelers.

### Important Festival

- The **20th edition of Jazzmandu**, also known as the Kathmandu Jazz Festival, is set to light up Kathmandu with an electrifying week of jazz, world music, and cultural fusion from **October 24 to October 30, 2024**. Celebrating two decades of rich musical exchange, this year's festival is marked by a star-studded lineup featuring international jazz icons and Nepalese musical talent. Jazzmandu has firmly established itself as one of the premier jazz festivals in South Asia.
- Karnataka is celebrating the **Bali Padyami festival** on the fourth day of Deepavali, marking the return of the Asura king, **Bali Chakravarty**, from **Pathala Loka** (the underworld) to **Bhuloka** (the earth), as granted by **Lord Vishnu** during his **Vamana Avatar**. The festival holds cultural significance in Hindu mythology. Deepavali festivities in Karnataka include worship of **Ganga Matha** on the first day, **Naraka Chaturdashi** on the second day, and **Lakshmi Pooja** on the third day.
- The **India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024** will be held at **IIT Guwahati** from **November 30 to December 3, 2024**, marking the first time the event is hosted in **North East India**. Organized by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and coordinated by **CSIR-NIIST**, the festival focuses on **science-society engagement** and **interdisciplinary collaboration**. The theme, **"Transforming India into an S&T driven Global Manufacturing Hub,"** aligns with India's vision to integrate **science, technology, and industrial growth** for global leadership.
- The **Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav 2024** will be held at **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi, from **December 6th to 8th**, showcasing the cultural and economic potential of **Northeast India**. Organized by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**, the event features over **250 artisans** displaying **handicrafts, handlooms, and GI-tagged products**. Key highlights include the **Eri and Muga Silk Gallery**, and technical sessions on topics like **women's leadership, IT, and healthcare**. The festival's mascot, **Purvi**, represents all eight northeastern states.



**Miscellaneous National News**

**116th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'**

| Topic   | Details   |
|---|---|
| <b>Why in News</b>                            | The 116th episode of <i>Mann Ki Baat</i> aired, highlighting inspiring stories, initiatives, and collective efforts across India.   |
| <b>Youth Empowerment and NCC</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Celebrated NCC Day, emphasizing its role in youth development.</li> <li>- Expanded to 20 lakh cadets, with 40% being girls.</li> <li>- PM encouraged youth participation for personality development and nation-building.</li> </ul>                         |
| <b>'Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue'</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scheduled for 11-12 January 2024 at Bharat Mandapam, Delhi.</li> <li>- Coincides with Swami Vivekananda's 162nd birth anniversary.</li> <li>- Platform for 2,000 youth leaders to present ideas and inspire political and leadership engagement.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Digital Inclusion</b>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Changemakers like Virendra (Lucknow) and Mahesh (Bhopal) assisting elderly with Digital Life Certificates and digital payments.</li> <li>- Awareness campaigns against cyber fraud, including "Digital Arrest" scams.</li> </ul>                             |
| <b>Libraries and Education</b>                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Creative libraries like Prakrith Arivagam (Chennai) and initiatives in Bihar and Hyderabad are inspiring reading habits and aiding exam preparation.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Indian Diaspora and History</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Projects documenting the contributions of the Indian diaspora in Guyana and Oman.</li> <li>- Citizens invited to share stories with #IndianDiasporaStories.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' Campaign</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over 100 crore trees planted in five months.</li> <li>- Highlights include 12 lakh trees planted in Indore in 24 hours and women-led efforts in Rajasthan.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Sparrow Conservation</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Efforts by Kudugal Trust (Chennai) and Early Bird (Mysuru) engaging children in biodiversity conservation and sparrow revival.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Cleanliness and Sustainability</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swachhata Abhiyan led to decluttering government offices.</li> <li>- Waste-to-wealth examples: Akshara and Prakriti (Mumbai) making fashion items from scraps, and Kanpur's Ploggers Group converting garbage into tree guards.</li> </ul>                   |
| <b>Key Messages</b>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth are pivotal in shaping a developed India.</li> <li>- Citizens encouraged to engage in conservation, sustainability, digital inclusion, and cultural preservation.</li> <li>- Grassroots creativity celebrated as a tool for transformation.</li> </ul> |

**PAN 2.0**

| Why in News                     | Key Points   |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>PAN 2.0 Project Approved</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the ₹1,435 crore PAN 2.0 Project.</li> <li>- Objective: Digital transformation of PAN/TAN services.</li> <li>- No reapplication required for existing PAN holders.</li> <li>- Introduction of QR codes on PAN cards.</li> <li>- Focus on eco-friendly, paperless systems.</li> <li>- PAN 2.0 aligns with Digital India vision.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Project Features</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved security, efficiency, and data consistency.</li> <li>- Free of cost for all taxpayers.</li> <li>- Aims for streamlined taxpayer registration and faster services.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Financial Implications</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial outlay: ₹1,435 crore.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Key Benefits</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Faster service delivery and improved quality.</li> <li>- Single source of truth for data.</li> <li>- Cost optimization and eco-friendly processes.</li> <li>- Security enhancement for better agility.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Digital India Vision</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- PAN 2.0 as a common business identifier across government systems.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Relevance for Taxpayers</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Over 78 crore PANs issued.</li> <li>- Upgrade will benefit 98% individual PAN holders.</li> </ul>   |

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented unique, handcrafted artifacts representing different regions of India to leaders of various countries during the recently held BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. These gifts, each selected for their cultural significance and historical roots, showcased the country's diverse traditional art forms, including Jharkhand's **Sohrai painting** and Maharashtra's **Mother of Pearl Sea Shell Vase** and **Warli Painting**.
- The Central government is set to commence the long-awaited **census exercise in 2025**, aiming for **completion by 2026**. This census was originally scheduled for 2021 but faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following its completion, the BJP-led government plans to initiate a **delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha seats**, which is expected to be finalized by 2028.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sanchez**, jointly inaugurated the **Tata Aircraft Complex** for manufacturing **C-295 military transport aircraft** at the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus in Vadodara, Gujarat. This project, a first-of-its-kind private sector **Final Assembly Line (FAL)** for military aircraft in India, marks a significant step forward in India's journey towards indigenous defense production under the "**Make in India, Make for the World**" mission.
- **Four sandstone replicas of the iconic Konark wheel** have been installed at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan**, according to an official statement released. This initiative aims to highlight and promote India's rich cultural heritage, providing visitors with a deeper appreciation of the country's historical artistry and craftsmanship.
- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal**, during his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, inaugurated the "**One District One Product**" (**ODOP**) Wall at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh on October 31. This initiative aims to showcase local products from different districts of India on international platforms, promoting them as part of the "Made in India" movement.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has announced the signing of an agreement to establish the **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Energy Centre** in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The agreement, formalized by MEA Secretary Jaideep Mazumder and BIMSTEC Secretary General Indramani Pandey, aims to enhance energy cooperation among BIMSTEC member states.
- The **Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, connecting India and Pakistan, marks its fifth anniversary** on November 9, 2024. Inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in 2019, it allows Indian pilgrims to visit the Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent his final years. The corridor is a significant step in religious diplomacy, offering visa-free access to the sacred site.
- Li Quanhai was re-elected president of World Sailing for a new four-year term at the General Assembly in Singapore on November 9, 2024. He secured 55 votes, defeating Rodion Luka (UKR) and Philippe Rogge (BEL), marking a significant achievement as the only Chinese president of an Olympic International Federation.
- **Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud** concluded his tenure as the 50th Chief Justice of India on Sunday, after two years of landmark rulings and reforms. His leadership greatly influenced the Indian judiciary, emphasizing judicial independence, transparency, and accessibility, leaving a lasting legacy.
- **Hindalco Industries Ltd.**, the metals division of the Aditya Birla Group, has been ranked the world's most sustainable aluminium company for the fifth consecutive year in the 2024 S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment. With a score of 87 points, the company improved by 9 points from 2023 and led its closest competitor by 22 points.
- The **5th National EMRS Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav**, organized by NESTS (National Education Society for Tribal Students), is being held from November 12-15, 2024, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. The event, hosted by OMTES, celebrates the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, with the theme "A Tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda & Tribal Freedom Fighters," highlighting the rich cultural and historical ties of India's tribal communities.
- In a historic 4-3 decision on November 8, 2024, the Supreme Court overturned its 1967 ruling in the Azeez Basha case, which had denied Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) minority institution status. This landmark judgment allows AMU's minority status to be reassessed in light of its historical, administrative, and founding context, under the protection of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to undertake a **crucial three-nation tour** from November 16-21, which will include attending the **G20 Summit in Brazil**, visiting Nigeria, and concluding with a state visit to Guyana.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has approved the creation of the Central Industrial Security Force's (**CISF**) **first-ever all-women battalion**, announced on 12th November, 2024.
- The government approved 12 research projects worth ₹13.3 crore on 12th November, under the **National Technical Textiles Mission**.
- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir school at Zanda Chowk in Silvassa on 13th November.
- The **43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF)** is back at **Pragati Maidan, Delhi, from November 14 to 27**, showcasing India's commitment to "**Vocal for Local, Local to Global**" with products from across the country and the world.
- On November 13, the **Supreme Court of India** issued guidelines to **prevent the demolition of people's homes and private properties by the government solely based on accusations of a crime**.

- PM Modi inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple development projects worth over Rs 6,640 crore in Jamui on the occasion of **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (Tribal Pride Day)**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate the **first-ever Bodoland Mohotsov on 15th November at 6:30 PM** at the **SAI Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi**.
- At the inauguration of Symbiosis International University's first international campus in Dubai Knowledge Park, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and UAE Minister Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan emphasized the event's importance for strengthening education and bilateral ties between India and the UAE.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved three major projects totaling Rs. 725.62 crore under the "Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States." The projects, aimed at enhancing fire safety infrastructure, benefit Chhattisgarh (Rs. 147.76 crore), Odisha (Rs. 201.10 crore), and West Bengal (Rs. 376.76 crore).
- **New Delhi** is considering inviting Indonesia's newly elected President, Prabowo Subianto, as the chief guest for Republic Day 2025, highlighting the strengthening ties between India and Indonesia. The potential invitation reflects plans for high-level discussions, enhanced defense cooperation, and the possible participation of the Indonesian military in the Republic Day parade.
- **India has unveiled its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** at the 16th UN Biodiversity Conference in Colombia, committing to protect 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030. This goal aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims for global protection of 30% of land and ocean areas.
- **India inaugurated its new consulate in Brisbane on November 4, 2024**, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar leading the ceremony. The opening marks a significant step in enhancing India-Australia relations, which have been strengthened by initiatives like a trade agreement that has opened new opportunities for both nations.
- The **Union Cabinet has approved a ₹10,700 crore equity infusion for the Food Corporation of India (FCI)** to reduce its debt dependency and lower the government's subsidy burden. FCI plays a crucial role in India's food security, handling 70% of food subsidies, procuring grains at Minimum Support Price (MSP), and distributing food to 800 million beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) of 2013.
- **Honorable President Droupadi Murmu** embarked on her first visit to Indian Navy ships at sea aboard the **indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant** on 7th November.
- November 8, Bengaluru marked a milestone with the inauguration of its first digital **population clock** at the **Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)**. This innovative installation will display real-time population estimates for both Karnataka and the entire country, providing citizens, researchers, and policymakers with up-to-date demographic data.
- In response to the Supreme Court's criticism of the "toothless" penalties under the **Environment Protection Act (EPA) of 1986**, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has doubled the fines on stubble burning.
- The Government of India, through the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), has issued a call for proposals (CfP) for setting up **Centers of Excellence (CoE)** under the Research and Development (R&D) Scheme of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. Announced on 4th November 2024.
- **ATMOS 2024**, a three-day technical fest at BITS Pilani's Hyderabad campus, runs from November 8 to 10, featuring a range of innovative activities and competitions like Robot Wars, Drone Racing, and Hackathons. The event offers students an engaging platform to showcase their technical skills and creativity.
- The **United States** has returned over **1,400 looted artifacts** worth **\$10 million** to **India** as part of an ongoing effort to repatriate stolen cultural items from **South and Southeast Asia**. Among the returned items is a **celestial dancer sandstone sculpture**, which had been illegally smuggled from **central India** to **London** and later sold to a patron of the **New York Metropolitan Museum of Art**.
- The **Bharat National Cyber Security Exercise (Bharat NCX 2024)** is a major initiative aimed at enhancing India's **cyber defense capabilities**. Organized by the **National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)** in collaboration with **Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)**, the 12-day exercise focuses on equipping professionals with advanced skills in **cyber defense, incident response, and strategic decision-making** to address evolving cybersecurity challenges.
- The small village of **Dhudmaras** in **Chhattisgarh's Bastar district** has been selected by the **United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** for its **Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme**. This initiative aims to promote **sustainable tourism**, enhance **local tourism infrastructure**, preserve **cultural heritage**, and improve the **quality of life** for residents.
- During his visit to **Nigeria**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** presented **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu** with a **Silofar Panchamrit Kalash**, showcasing **Kolhapur's traditional metal craftsmanship**. The **silver kalash** features intricate **engraving**, including **floral motifs, deities, and traditional patterns**, symbolizing India's rich **cultural heritage**. This diplomatic gesture strengthens **India-Nigeria ties** and highlights India's commitment to **cultural exchange with Africa**.

- India's first **Constitution Museum**, inaugurated by **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla** on **November 23, 2024**, at **O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonapat**, celebrates **75 years** of the Indian Constitution and honors its architects.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **India's first modern self-sufficient gaushala** in **Laltipara, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh**. Named **Adarsh Gaushala**, it features a cutting-edge **Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant**, symbolizing a significant step toward **sustainable development** and **green energy**. This initiative aligns with Modi's vision of "**Waste to Wealth**", showcasing how organic waste can be converted into valuable resources.
- **NITI Aayog** has recommended adding **coking coal** to India's **critical minerals list**, highlighting its significance in **steel production** and **infrastructure development**. This move aligns with global trends, such as the **European Union's** classification of coking coal as a critical material. India's heavy dependence on imports (85% of coking coal) calls for enhanced domestic production. The report, "**Enhancing Domestic Coking Coal Availability to Reduce the Import of Coking Coal**," advocates for policy changes to utilize India's **16.5 billion tonnes of medium coking coal reserves** and achieve **self-reliance** while meeting **Net Zero** goals by **2070**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** participated in the **Odisha Parba 2024** celebrations held at **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi** from **November 22-24**, organized by the **Odia Samaj**. The event highlighted **Odisha's vibrant cultural, social, and political heritage**. In his address, the Prime Minister celebrated Odisha's **legacy**, historical contributions, and promising future.
- The **Union Cabinet**, led by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, approved the **One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)** scheme, allocating **₹6,000 crore** for **2025-2027**. The initiative aims to provide **seamless access** to scholarly articles for **1.8 crore students, faculty, and researchers** across **6,300 government-managed institutions**. This aligns with **India's Viksit Bharat@2047** vision, **NEP 2020**, and the **Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)**. Access will be managed digitally via the **INFLIBNET platform** under the **UGC**.
- The Ministry of Tourism promotes **India's tourism potential** globally, with specific initiatives to boost tourism in **states like Himachal Pradesh**. It utilizes various **platforms and strategies** to enhance India's visibility as a top tourist destination.
- On **26th November 2024**, **President Droupadi Murmu** unveiled the **Sanskrit and Maithili translations** of the **Indian Constitution** in New Delhi, marking **Samvidhan Diwas** and the **75th anniversary** of its adoption. The event celebrated India's **linguistic diversity** and reaffirmed the Constitution's importance as the nation's guiding framework.
- The **13th National Seed Congress (NSC) 2024**, inaugurated virtually by **Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on **November 28**, is being held at the **International Rice Research Institute South Asia Regional Centre (ISARC)** in **Varanasi**. The three-day event brings together over **700 delegates** to discuss **innovation, collaboration**, and strategies to enhance the **Indian and global seed sectors**.
- The **Ministry of Tourism** has approved **40 projects** worth over **Rs 3,295 crore** to promote sustainable tourism and reduce overcrowding at popular sites. These projects, spanning **23 states**, aim to transform lesser-known destinations into iconic tourist spots. The projects were selected from **87 proposals** received under the **Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI)** guidelines and will be funded through **long-term interest-free loans**. This initiative focuses on enhancing **tourism infrastructure** and stimulating local economies.
- The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has received **28 proposals** from **23 states** for developing new cities, in line with the **central government's initiative** to address urban expansion. This follows a **commitment made in February 2021** to create eight new cities, with an allocated **Rs 8,000 crore** for their development. Each city will receive **Rs 1,000 crore**, and the proposals are under review by an expert committee to ensure quality and adherence to **15th Finance Commission** guidelines.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** revealed that **Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra** have reported the highest number of **cybercrime cases** in the past three years, with **Telangana** leading. Between 2020-2022, **Telangana** recorded **30,596 cases**, **Karnataka 31,433**, and **Maharashtra 19,307**. To tackle this, the **Central Government** has introduced a **13-pronged strategy** to strengthen **cybercrime detection**, investigation, and prosecution.
- India has been **re-elected** to the **United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)** for the **2025-2026 term**, emphasizing its continued commitment to **global peace and stability**. This re-election highlights India's role as a **founding member** and major **contributor** to UN **peacekeeping** efforts, reaffirming its ongoing engagement with the PBC since its establishment in **2005**.
- The **Supreme Court Collegium**, led by **Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna**, has proposed the elevation of **Delhi High Court Chief Justice Manmohan** to the Supreme Court. This recommendation comes as the court operates with **32 judges**, two short of its sanctioned strength of **34**, following the retirements of Justices **DY Chandrachud** and **Hima Kohli**. The decision was finalized by a five-member Collegium, including Justices **BR Gavai, Surya Kant, Hrishikesh Roy, and AS Oka**.

**GOVT SCHEMES**

CENTRAL GOVT SCHEMES

| Name of Scheme  | Launch Date                  | Objective   | Budget Allocation                              | Key Details   |
|---|------------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY)</b> | October 28, 2014             | Upliftment and inclusion of India's tribal communities through sustainable development. | ₹26,135.46 crore (2021-2026)                   | <p>Targets socio-economic challenges of tribal communities, focusing on essential services, financial assistance, and cultural preservation.</p> <p><b>Core Components</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Pradhan Mantri Adi Adarsh Gram Yojana:</b> Developing 36,428 tribal villages with a ₹7,276 crore budget; each village receives ₹20.38 lakh.</li> <li><b>PVTG Development:</b> ₹15,000 crore allocated to support housing, healthcare, and education for Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.</li> <li><b>Tribal Research Institutes:</b> Funds state research to address tribal socio-cultural needs.</li> <li><b>Pre-Matric Scholarships:</b> Financial aid for tribal students (Classes IX-X), with special support for Northeastern states.</li> <li><b>Post-Matric Scholarships:</b> Encourages higher education among tribal youth (beyond Class X).</li> <li><b>Project Management Units:</b> State-level units for effective tribal program implementation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Eklavya Model Residential Schools:</b> Establishing 728 schools for tribal students (VI-XII) by 2026.</li> <li><b>Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Vikas Mission:</b> Supports tribal entrepreneurship, focusing on Minor Forest Produce.</li> <li><b>Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST):</b> ₹1.23 lakh crore committed to tribal welfare in education, health, and employment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Outlook</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Goal:</b> PMVKY aims to uplift tribal communities through integrated support for education, livelihood, and cultural preservation, demonstrating the government's commitment to inclusive development.</li> </ul> |
| PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme                                  | Approved on November 6, 2024 | Provides collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans to meritorious students.       | ₹3,600 crore allocated for 2024-25 to 2030-31. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Scheme Approval:</b> Union Cabinet approved on November 6, 2024.</li> <li><b>Objective:</b> Collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans for meritorious students in top 860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs).</li> <li><b>Coverage:</b> Full tuition fees and course-related expenses for students admitted to top 100 NIRF-ranked institutions (overall, category-specific, and domain-specific).</li> </ul>  |

| Name of Scheme   | Launch Date      | Objective   | Budget Allocation | Key Details  |
|--|------------------|---|-------------------|--|
|  |                  |   |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Funding:</b> ₹3,600 crore allocated for 2024-25 to 2030-31.</li> <li>• <b>Eligibility:</b> Students with family income up to ₹8 lakh eligible for 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹10 lakh during moratorium.</li> <li>• <b>Loan Guarantee:</b> 75% credit guarantee for loans up to ₹7.5 lakh in case of defaults.</li> <li>• <b>Beneficiaries:</b> Over 22 lakh students annually.</li> <li>• <b>Application:</b> Unified portal 'PM-Vidyalaxmi' for loans and interest subvention.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)</b> | October 29, 2024 | Provide free healthcare coverage for senior citizens aged 70 and above, regardless of income. |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a significant expansion of <b>Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)</b>, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card on October 29, 2024, providing free healthcare coverage to all senior citizens aged <b>70 and above, irrespective of income</b>.</li> <li>• This extension, rolled out on <b>Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA)</b> in New Delhi, enables seniors to avail free treatment worth up to <b>₹5 lakh annually at AB PMJAY empaneled hospitals</b>. The initiative, however, excludes seniors in Delhi and West Bengal due to non-implementation by these state governments.</li> </ul> |
| Trusted Tour Operator Scheme                                       |                  |   |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Africa has launched the Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS) to attract more visitors from India and China.</li> <li>• The initiative aims to streamline the visa application process, making it quicker and easier for tourists from these countries, especially addressing the low number of Chinese visitors to South Africa compared to other destinations like Australia.</li> </ul>  |
| One Day One Genome'  |                  |   |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Department of Biotechnology (DBT)</b> and the <b>Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)</b> launched the <b>'One Day One Genome'</b> initiative to map India's <b>microbial wealth</b>.</li> <li>• Announced by <b>Amitabh Kant</b>, India's G-20 Sherpa, on <b>November 9, 2024</b>, during BRIC's 1st foundation day at the <b>National Institute of Immunology (NII)</b>, the initiative aims to highlight the role of unique <b>bacterial species</b> in <b>India's environment, agriculture, and human health</b>.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)</b>                |                  |   |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Ministry of Rural Development</b> marked the <b>8th anniversary</b> of the <b>Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G)</b> on <b>Awaas Diwas 2024</b>, celebrating its contribution to <b>"Housing for All"</b>.</li> </ul>  |

| Name of Scheme | Launch Date | Objective | Budget Allocation | Key Details   |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|---|
|                |             |           |                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launched in 2016, PMAY-G aims to provide <b>pucca houses</b> with essential amenities to houseless and families in <b>dilapidated homes</b>. The scheme's target has been revised to build <b>2 crore additional houses</b> by 2029, with a total outlay of <b>₹3,06,137 crore</b>, including <b>₹54,500 crore</b> for FY 2024-25.</li> <li>The initiative also focuses on improving <b>rural infrastructure</b> through <b>convergence</b> with other schemes like <b>MGNREGA</b> and the <b>Jal Jeevan Mission</b>.</li> </ul> |

**STATE GOVT SCHEMES**

|   |      |   |  |
|---|------|---|--|
| Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024 | 2024 | Encourage private investment and boost economic growth in Rajasthan across various sectors. | Provides enhanced financial incentives across a broader range of sectors to attract investments in Rajasthan.  |
| Deepam 2.0 scheme                                 |      | Aimed at empowering women by providing them with free gas cylinders.                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andhra Pradesh <b>Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu</b> launch the <b>Deepam 2.0</b> scheme. <b>Empower women by providing free access to clean cooking energy. Three free gas cylinders per year to women.</b></li> <li><b>Promotion of LPG use for healthier cooking.</b></li> <li>Rs 15,000/year for school-going students.</li> <li>"Thalliki Vandhanam" program for education support.</li> </ul>   |
| 'Bima Sakhi Yojana'                               |      |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On <b>December 9</b>, <b>Prime Minister Narendra Modi</b> will launch the <b>'Bima Sakhi Yojana'</b> in <b>Panipat, Haryana</b>, to empower women by creating job opportunities in the <b>insurance sector</b>.</li> <li>Under this scheme, women will work as <b>LIC agents</b>, selling insurance and earning income.</li> <li>This initiative aims to promote <b>women's empowerment, economic independence, and financial literacy</b> across India.</li> </ul> |
| Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana  |      |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government has issued <b>14 lakh Ayushman Vay Vandana cards</b> to senior citizens aged 70 and above under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), as of November 25, 2024.</li> <li>This initiative aims to provide comprehensive healthcare coverage to vulnerable populations, benefiting approximately 6 crore individuals from 4.5 crore families.</li> </ul>   |

**APPS & WEB PORTAL**

| App & Web Portal Name                                       | Launched By                          | Purpose  |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Regulatory Affairs Portal | Union Minister Piyush Goyal          | Provides <b>real-time updates</b> on government and CII initiatives to improve <b>business efficiency, transparency, and accountability</b> ; includes a member dashboard. |
| MY Bharat Portal  | Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya | Promotes <b>volunteering and social service</b> during Diwali festivities, engaging over <b>200,000 volunteers</b> across 500 locations in India.                          |
| Mine Opening Permission Module (SWCS)                       | Ministry of Coal                     | Streamlines the <b>approval process</b> for opening coal mines via the Single Window Clearance System (SWCS).  |

| App & Web Portal Name                         | Launched By                             | Purpose   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman Portal</b> | Ministry of Law and Justice             | A key resource for <b>constitutional rights, legal literacy, and fundamental duties</b> , commemorating <b>75 years of India's Republic and Constitution</b> .                |
| <b>TULIP Platform</b>                         | Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar       | Empowers marginalized artisans with <b>global e-marketing exposure</b> and sales opportunities, promoting skill development and cultural heritage.                            |
| <b>Bhu-Neer Portal</b>                        | Minister of Jal Shakti Shri C.R. Paatil | Streamlines <b>groundwater regulation</b> processes, enhancing <b>transparency, efficiency, and sustainability</b> in groundwater management.                                 |
| <b>Child Marriage Free Bharat Portal</b>      | Union Minister Smt. Annapurna Devi      | Supports the eradication of <b>child marriage</b> , empowering girls through <b>education, health, and safety</b> initiatives aligned with Viksit Bharat by 2047.             |
| <b>VISION Portal</b>                          | Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh       | Uplifts <b>underprivileged youth</b> by promoting <b>education, skill development, and sustainable livelihoods</b> under the Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation. |

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The **United States, Japan, and South Korea** have jointly announced the **Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India (DiGi Framework)**, marking a new chapter in digital infrastructure support for India. The DiGi Framework, formalized on October 25, 2024, was signed by **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)**, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Korea Eximbank.
- A cyber-espionage operation allegedly orchestrated by a Chinese hacking group known as **"Salt Typhoon"** has reportedly targeted the **phone data of former President Donald Trump**, his running mate JD Vance, and various Democratic figures, including staff from Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign.
- **Brazil** has chosen not to join **China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, becoming the second member of the **BRICS bloc**, after **India**, to opt out of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project. The move has sparked widespread interest and debate, as it reflects Brazil's cautious stance on joining China's influential global initiative.
- **Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shia** paramilitary and political group, announced the appointment of **Sheikh Naim Qassem** as its new secretary-general following the recent assassination of **Hassan Nasrallah by Israel** on September 27.
- Lahore has once again claimed the title of the most polluted city globally, with the **Air Quality Index (AQI)** soaring to alarming levels. Recently recorded at a staggering 708, the PM2.5 levels reached an unprecedented **431 µg/m<sup>3</sup>**, significantly exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended **annual limit by 86 times**.
- Canada has reported its first presumptive human case of H5 bird flu in British Columbia, where a teenager tested positive for the H5 influenza virus. Health authorities called it a rare event, highlighting the country's ongoing efforts to monitor and manage avian diseases.
- The Government of Canada has officially terminated its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program, which was popular among Indian students for its expedited study permit processing. Effective immediately, students from India and 13 other countries who previously used the SDS will now have to apply through the standard study permit system.
- Tayyab Ikram has been re-elected as President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for a second consecutive term. At the 49th FIH Congress in Muscat, Oman, he won with 79 votes out of 126, defeating competitor Marc Coudron of Belgium, who received 47 votes. This marks a significant achievement for Pakistan's hockey.
- In a major political shift, Mauritius' opposition is on track for victory in the recent legislative elections, with Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth conceding defeat on November 11th. Opposition leader Dr. Navin Ramgoolam is set to become prime minister for the third time, heading the Alliance of Change coalition.
- The UN's World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued a "red alert" on climate change, warning that 2024 is on track to be the hottest year on record. Global temperatures from January to September were 1.54°C above pre-industrial levels, largely due to the warming impact of an El Niño event.
- Businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aime has been sworn in as Haiti's new prime minister, pledging to tackle the country's security challenges and restore stability. He replaces Garry Conille, who was ousted after just five months in office due to a power struggle with Haiti's transitional council over ministerial appointments.
- President-elect Donald Trump has chosen Republican Rep. **Elise Stefanik to serve as U.S. Ambassador** to the United Nations, marking his first Cabinet pick for his second term.
- Australia has appointed its **first Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Chris Evans**, who serve a five-year term starting in December 2024.



- Scarecrow Incorporated, based in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward, has secured the world's first patent for its animal supplement, Pinfenon (S) (R). This innovative product is designed to treat and prevent cardiac disorders in dogs by reducing atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP) levels.
- China's \$1.3 billion mega port in Chancay, Peru, majority-owned by Chinese shipping giant Cosco, aims to strengthen trade links between South America and Asia.
- Former Democratic Congresswoman **Tulsi Gabbard** was appointed as the **Director of National Intelligence (DNI)** by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on **November 13**.
- A new dataset released at the UN climate talks shows that cities in Asia and the U.S. are the biggest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, with Shanghai leading the list, followed by Tokyo, New York, and Houston.
- Duma Boko, Botswana's newly elected president, has made history by ending the six-decade rule of the Botswana Democratic Party (BDP). Boko, a 54-year-old human rights lawyer, is recognized for his confidence, humility, and dedication to justice, marking a significant political shift in Botswana's history with his victory over the long-standing ruling party.
- On November 2, Kemi Badenoch, 44, made history as the first Black woman to lead the UK's Conservative Party, succeeding Rishi Sunak. Badenoch won the leadership race after Sunak's resignation, defeating former minister Robert Jenrick with 53,806 votes, representing a 72.8% turnout among Conservative Party members.
- Donald Trump has won a crucial victory in Wisconsin, securing 276 electoral votes, surpassing the 270 needed to reclaim the White House as America's 47th president. Speaking to a jubilant crowd in West Palm Beach, Florida, he expressed gratitude for the honor of being elected, acknowledging his distinctive role as both the 45th and now the 47th president. JD Vance will serve as vice president in this administration.
- Moldova as pro-Western President **Maia Sandu** won a second term in a highly contested presidential runoff.
- Switzerland is set to enforce its controversial "**burqa ban**" starting **January 1, 2025**.
- All members of **Bangladesh's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** resigned on Thursday, shortly after the release of a critical report highlighting an increase in mob violence.
- Australia is set to implement a significant move by banning social media access for **children under 16, starting in November**.
- Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in eastern Indonesia erupted on November 7, sending a massive ash column over 6,500 meters into the sky. The 1,584-meter volcano, located on Flores Island.
- **India did not support Pakistan and Syria's resolution** on "**conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels**" during the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. The resolution, which aimed at promoting arms control in specific regions, was adopted with 179 votes in favor.
- Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva officially launched the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty** during the opening of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. This landmark initiative, which aims to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty globally by 2030, boasts 148 founding members, including 82 countries such as Brazil, India, China, the US, and several European nations. The alliance also includes prominent international organizations like the African Union, EU, UNICEF, FAO, and WTO, along with financial institutions such as the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank, all committed to mobilizing funds. Key NGOs and philanthropies, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, BRAC, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, are also part of this global effort.
- **Super Typhoon Man-yi**, locally known as **Pepito**, has made a second landfall on the **Philippines' Luzon Island**, bringing severe **winds, torrential rains, and life-threatening storm surges**.
- Gabon held a historic **referendum** where **91% of voters** approved a new constitution, signaling a significant political shift. The new constitution seeks to end **55 years of dynastic rule** and restore a **democratic civilian government**. The **military junta**, which seized power in a **coup** in August 2023, orchestrated the referendum, marking the beginning of a new era of governance in the country.
- Iraq is conducting its first nationwide **census** since 1987, with **120,000 researchers** collecting data across all 18 governorates. The **two-day survey** is aimed at modernizing **data collection**, assisting in **development planning**, and offering a comprehensive view of Iraq's **demographic, social, and economic landscape**. The last census was held in **1987**, with a **1997 census** excluding the **Kurdish region**.
- On November 21, 2024, Mali's ruling **military junta** dismissed **Prime Minister Choguel Maiga**, replacing him with junta spokesperson **Abdoulaye Maiga**. The move comes amid increasing criticism of the junta's management of the **transition to democracy** and rising **political tensions** in the country.
- The **Ngusaba Goreng** festival in **Bali** is a two-week-long **Thanksgiving** celebration for a rich harvest, central to **Balinese Hinduism** and blending **Hindu, animist, and Buddhist** traditions. The festival features sacred dances like **Rejang Dewa** and **Rejang Pucuk**, performed by **girls** who have not yet reached puberty, symbolizing **purity**. **Ngusaba** translates to the "gathering of gods and goddesses."

- **UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer** announced the resumption of **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** negotiations with **India** in early 2025, following a meeting with **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**. This move aims to strengthen their **strategic partnership** across sectors like **security, defense, technology, climate, health, and education**. Bilateral trade stands at **GBP 42 billion** annually. The talks, which were paused due to elections, will build on the progress from the **14th round** of discussions, with both sides aiming to close remaining gaps for a successful deal.
- **Armenia** has become the **104th full member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, established in **2015** to promote global **solar energy adoption**. This reflects Armenia's commitment to sustainable energy and supports the ISA's goal of mobilizing **USD 1000 billion by 2030**.
- **Yamandu Orsi**, a former **history teacher** and **mayor of Canelones**, has been elected **Uruguay's president** with **49.8%** of the vote in the **November 2024 runoff**. Representing the **center-left Broad Front coalition**, Orsi defeated **Alvaro Delgado** of the **conservative National Party**. His victory signals a shift back to **center-left governance** after five years of conservative rule, promising **change** while maintaining Uruguay's **moderate ethos**.
- Sri Lanka's **Central Bank (CBSL)** has introduced a single **Overnight Policy Rate (OPR)** of **8%** to support the country's recovery post-financial crisis. This move replaces the previous system of **Standing Deposit Facility Rate (SDFR)** and **Standing Lending Facility Rate (SLFR)**, signaling a shift in the **monetary policy** framework amidst ongoing **debt restructuring**.
- The **first round** of the **India-Japan Dialogue on Economic Security, Strategic Trade, and Technology** took place in **Tokyo** on November 27, 2024. Co-chaired by **Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** (India) and **Vice Minister Masataka Okano** (Japan), the dialogue focused on enhancing **bilateral cooperation** in **economic security, supply chain resilience, and emerging technologies**, marking a significant step in strengthening the **India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership**.
- India and **Bosnia & Herzegovina** held their **4th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC)** in **Sarajevo**, led by **Arun Kumar Sahu** (India) and **Tarik Bukvic** (Bosnia). Discussions focused on strengthening **bilateral political ties, trade and investment, scientific collaboration, and cultural relations** through **student exchanges** and **youth programs**. The two sides reviewed **regional developments** and discussed global issues, including cooperation in **BRICS, UN, EU, and NAM**. These consultations are part of efforts to celebrate **30 years of diplomatic ties** in 2025 and deepen multi-faceted relations.
- The **Indian** and **Sri Lankan Navies** conducted a successful **anti-narcotics operation** in the **Arabian Sea**, seizing **500 kg of crystal methamphetamine** from two **Sri Lankan-flagged fishing vessels** on November 24-25, 2024. The operation, based on inputs from the Sri Lankan Navy, highlights the growing **cooperation** between the two nations in combating **transnational crimes**.
- **External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar** inaugurated the new **Indian Embassy Chancery in Rome**, emphasizing the **historical ties** and **maritime connections** between **India** and **Italy**. The inauguration strengthens the growing **India-Italy partnership** and enhances the Embassy's capacity to serve the **Indian diaspora**, reflecting India's expanding **global presence** and **diplomatic outreach**.
- Australia has introduced a **world-first legislation** banning children under **16** from social media platforms like **TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram** to protect minors from online harm. The law imposes fines of up to **AUD 50 million** for non-compliance, with platforms given one year to implement changes. While praised for enhancing **child safety**, critics express concerns about potential **privacy risks** and unintended harm to vulnerable youth.

## VISITS

### India Visits By Foreigners

#### PM Modi Receives Highest Honors from Guyana and Dominica

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has been **conferred prestigious awards by Guyana and Dominica** in recognition of **his significant contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as his efforts in strengthening international ties**, especially between India and these Caribbean nations. These awards highlight the deepening diplomatic relations and the global recognition of Modi's leadership in global health, climate resilience, and development cooperation.

#### Guyana's 'The Order of Excellence' Award

- PM Modi was awarded **'The Order of Excellence,' Guyana's highest honor, by President Irfaan Ali**.
- The award acknowledges his **exceptional contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and his global leadership**.
- Modi dedicated the honor to the people of India, highlighting the long-standing ties between India and Guyana.
- The award emphasizes the strengthening of India-Guyana relations, with Modi's visit seen as a testament to India's commitment to these ties.

**Dominica’s ‘Award of Honour’**

- Modi was also conferred the ‘Dominica Award of Honour’ by President Sylvanie Burton of Dominica.
- The award recognizes Modi’s leadership and India’s support during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the provision of 70,000 AstraZeneca vaccines to Dominica.
- Modi dedicated the award to the people of India and emphasized the unbreakable bond between India and Dominica, especially in times of crisis.
- Dominica’s Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit praised Modi for his global partnership and South-South collaboration, recognizing the enduring legacy of his leadership.

**Recognition of Global Leadership**

- Both awards highlight Modi’s statesmanship, resilience in the face of global challenges, and commitment to human solidarity.
- Modi’s actions during the pandemic, particularly the provision of vaccines and other forms of support, are central to the recognition by both nations.
- The awards reflect shared values between India, Guyana, and Dominica, such as democracy, resilience, and unity in addressing global issues like climate change and sustainable development.

**Future Implications**

- These awards underscore the growing influence of India in global diplomacy, particularly in the Caribbean and South-South cooperation.
- Modi’s contributions to healthcare, education, and climate resilience have strengthened India’s global standing and bilateral ties with these nations

**BANKING & FINANCE**

| S. No. | Bank Name                                   | Purpose   |
|--------|---|---|
| 1      | State Bank of India (SBI)                   | Awarded the title of "Best Bank in India for 2024" by Global Finance Magazine during its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards in Washington.  |
| 2      | Ujjivan Small Finance Bank                  | Received RBI approval for foreign exchange services, with the ‘Authorised Dealer Category 1 licence’ to offer a range of foreign exchange products and services.  |
| 3      | Solex Energy & State Bank of India (SBI)    | Partnered to provide financing options for solar projects under SBI’s Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme, offering loans up to ₹10 crore.  |
| 4      | GAIL (India) Limited & VERBIO India         | Signed an MoU to develop compressed biogas projects using agricultural residue, supporting rural incomes and renewable energy.  |
| 5      | Slice & North East Small Finance Bank       | Completed merger to consolidate assets, operations, and brand identities, enhancing presence in India’s northeastern region.  |
| 6      | State Bank of India (SBI) & India Exim Bank | Supporting businesses in African countries by addressing the trade finance gap, as discussed during the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF).  |
| 7      | State Bank of India                         | State Bank of India (SBI) is aiming to secure a <b>\$1.25 billion five-year loan</b> , which would be the largest dollar-denominated loan from <b>India’s financial sector in 2024</b> . The loan, arranged by <b>CTBC Bank, HSBC, and Taipei Fubon Bank</b> , will be used for general corporate purposes.                                       |
| 8      | Canara Bank                                 | State-owned Canara Bank is setting a significant target for loan recovery, aiming to recoup approximately <b>₹6,000 crore</b> from bad loans in the <b>second half of the current fiscal year</b> (H2 FY25). This strategic goal reflects the bank’s ongoing efforts to improve asset quality while building on its recent financial performance. |
| 9      | Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB)                    | Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has launched an e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in partnership with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL), replacing the traditional paper-based process with a fully digital system using e-stamping and e-signatures, enhancing efficiency, transparency, and reducing verification time.                         |

| S. No. | Bank Name                 | Purpose   |
|--------|---------------------------|---|
| 10.    | IDFC FIRST Bank           | IDFC FIRST Bank, in collaboration with Swift, has launched a real-time tracking service for international money transfers. This service, available on the bank's mobile app and internet banking, makes IDFC FIRST Bank the first Indian bank to offer end-to-end traceability for cross-border payments.   |
| 11.    | Deutsche Bank             | Deutsche Bank has injected ₹5,113 crore into its Indian operations, marking its largest capital infusion into the country in recent years. This move, aimed at funding growth and expanding services across corporate, investment, and private banking, demonstrates the bank's long-term commitment to India.  |
| 12.    | State Bank of India       | State Bank of India (SBI), in partnership with APIX—a global collaborative platform for financial institutions and FinTechs—has launched the 'SBI Innovation Hub' at the Singapore Fintech Festival from November 6-8, 2024.  |
| 13.    | Karnataka Bank Ltd        | Karnataka Bank Ltd. has launched two student-focused financial products, 'KBL Peak' and 'KBL Genius', to support students in achieving academic goals and managing finances. Launched on World Prematurity Day, these products reflect the bank's commitment to India's educational and economic growth. 'KBL Peak' offers education loans up to ₹2 crore, while 'KBL Genius' features a student savings account with free cyber insurance. |
| 14.    | State Bank of India (SBI) | State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has successfully raised \$500 million through five-year bonds from international investors. The issuance, conducted through SBI's London branch, received overwhelming interest, with bids totaling \$3 billion, demonstrating strong global investor confidence in the bank's creditworthiness.   |
| 15.    | State Bank of India (SBI) | The State Bank of India (SBI) marked the centenary of its iconic Horniman Circle Branch with the unveiling of a ₹100 commemorative coin by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The event also saw the release of the 5th edition of <i>The Evolution of the State Bank of India</i> , covering its transformation from 1981 to 1996. From just 100 branches in 1920, SBI now has over 22,640 branches and plans further expansion in FY25. |
| 16.    | IndusInd Bank             | IndusInd Bank and UNICEF have launched a strategic initiative under the bank's CSR program to promote Disaster Resilient Communities and Climate Risk-Informed Administrative Systems.  |
| 17.    | Punjab National Bank      | Punjab National Bank (PNB) has joined the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), marking a key step in its climate action journey.  |

RBI News

| Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities |                             |  |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| S.No.   | Name                        | Purpose  |
| 1.  | Reserve Bank of India (RBI) | Reported a decrease in India's foreign exchange reserves by \$2.163 billion, totaling \$688.267 billion for the week ending October 18.  |
| 2.  | Reserve Bank of India (RBI) | Successfully transported 102 tonnes of gold from the Bank of England to secure storage in India, reinforcing the nation's reserves.  |
| 3.  | Reserve Bank of India       | The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) confirmed that SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank will remain Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs). Starting April 2025, SBI and HDFC Bank will face increased additional capital requirements. The D-SIB framework, updated in 2023, designates these banks as too important to fail and mandates higher capital buffers for financial stability. |
| 4.  | Reserve Bank of India (RBI) | The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new framework that allows Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to convert their investments into Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) if their holdings exceed the 10% equity threshold in Indian companies.   |
| 5.  | Reserve Bank of India       | The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has added 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) to the list of Government securities available for non-resident investment under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR). These bonds, to be issued in the second half of fiscal year 2024-25, align with India's growing inclusion in global bond indices.   |
| 6.  | Reserve Bank of India       | The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced six amendments to its KYC Master Directions, effective November 6, 2024, to enhance customer onboarding and align with current legal standards. These updates aim to streamline the KYC process, making financial transactions more secure, accessible, and reliable for consumers and financial institutions alike.                      |

| Current Affairs related to Regulatory authorities |                       |  |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| S.No.   | Name                  | Purpose  |
| 7.  | Reserve Bank of India | The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the transaction limit for UPI 123Pay from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000, benefiting India's 400 million feature phone users. Launched in March 2022, UPI 123Pay enables internet-free digital transactions through IVR, missed calls, and sound-based payments. Additionally, the UPI Lite wallet limit has been raised from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000. Key upgrades include enhanced security with Aadhaar-based OTP authentication, improved payment initiation methods, and standardized tagging for better tracking. These changes aim to enhance financial inclusion and boost digital payment adoption. |
| 8.  | Reserve Bank of India | The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote the use of local currencies—Indian Rupee (INR) and Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)—in cross-border transactions. Signed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das and MMA Governor Ahmed Munawar, the MoU aims to enhance bilateral trade, reduce transaction costs, and optimize settlement times, enabling exporters and importers to invoice and settle payments in their respective domestic currencies.   |

**SEBI News**

| S.No | Announcement  | Key Details  | Effective Date |
|------|---|--|----------------|
|      | SEBI's Proposed Reforms for REITs and InvITs        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Interest Rate Derivatives:</b> SEBI proposes allowing REITs, SM REITs, and InvITs to use interest rate derivatives like swaps to hedge against rate fluctuations, stabilizing cash flows for long-term projects.</li> <li><b>Fixed Deposits in Leverage Calculations:</b> Fixed deposits may be considered as cash equivalents in leverage calculations for REITs and InvITs, enabling better financial management.</li> <li><b>Locked-in Units Transferability:</b> SEBI suggests allowing the transfer of locked-in units among sponsors and their affiliates, similar to promoter rules in listed companies, to provide flexibility while maintaining commitment.</li> <li><b>Quarterly Reporting Alignment:</b> Proposed changes require InvITs to report quarterly results based on standalone performance, aligning with REIT standards and increasing transparency.</li> <li><b>Nomination and Remuneration Committees (NRCs):</b> SEBI recommends a mix of independent and non-executive directors in NRCs of REIT and InvIT managers, mirroring listed company governance standards.</li> <li><b>Definition of Common Infrastructure:</b> Expanded to include facilities like power plants and water treatment systems that serve multiple REIT assets, allowing for more efficient operations.</li> <li><b>Liquid Mutual Fund Investments:</b> SEBI is considering allowing REITs to invest in liquid mutual funds for better cash flow management and diversification options.</li> <li><b>Public Consultation:</b> SEBI has invited public feedback on these proposals, with comments open until November 13, 2024.</li> </ul> |                |
|      | SEBI's Proposed Changes to Securitisation Framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Minimum Investment Requirement:</b></li> <li>SEBI suggests setting a minimum "ticket size" of Rs 1 crore for investments in securitised debt instruments (SDIs), aimed at attracting high-net-worth individuals and institutional investors.</li> <li><b>Investor Limit for Private Placements:</b></li> <li>Private placements will have a cap of 200 investors; any issuance seeking more investors must be reclassified as a public offer.</li> </ul>   |                |

| S.No | Announcement   | Key Details  | Effective Date |
|------|--|--|----------------|
|      |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Public Offer Regulations:</b></li> <li>• For public offers, SEBI mandates an offer duration between three to ten days, with aligned advertising guidelines to ensure transparent disclosures.</li> <li>• <b>Dematerialisation of Instruments:</b></li> <li>• All securitised debt instruments must be dematerialised, enhancing transparency, reducing fraud risk, and simplifying ownership tracking.</li> <li>• <b>Risk Retention and Minimum Holding Period:</b></li> <li>• Originators must retain a minimum of 10% of the securitised asset pool (5% for assets with shorter maturities) to align their interests with investors.</li> <li>• <b>Clean-Up Call Option:</b></li> <li>• The clean-up call feature allows originators to repurchase up to 10% of securitised assets to maintain asset quality.</li> <li>• <b>Liquidity Facilities:</b></li> <li>• SEBI mandates liquidity facilities to address cash flow timing issues, ensuring steady investor payouts.</li> <li>• <b>Redefining Underlying Assets:</b></li> <li>• Eligible assets include listed debt securities, accepted trade receivables, rental incomes, and equipment leases. Single-asset securitisation is excluded.</li> <li>• <b>Minimum Track Record:</b></li> <li>• Originators must have a minimum of three years of operational experience to engage in securitisation, ensuring market stability.</li> </ul> |                |
|      | SEBI Abolishes 1% Security Deposit Mandate for Public Issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SEBI Update:</b> SEBI abolished the 1% security deposit for companies launching public issues under the SEBI (ICDR) Regulations, 2018.</li> <li>• <b>Effective Date:</b> The rule is effective immediately, as announced on November 21, 2024.</li> <li>• <b>Previous Rule:</b> Companies had to deposit 1% of the issue size with stock exchanges before public issues.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose of Deposit:</b> Addressed investor grievances such as refund delays, non-allotment, or non-dispatch of securities.</li> <li>• <b>Replaced Mechanisms:</b> ASBA, UPI-based payments, and mandatory demat allotments now streamline the process.</li> <li>• <b>Consultation Paper:</b> Proposed changes discussed in February 2024.</li> <li>• <b>Applicability:</b> Changes are immediately applicable across all public issues.</li> <li>• <b>Implications:</b> Reduces compliance burden, speeds up the public issue process, and removes outdated requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Modern Features:</b> Enables digital payments and automated investor grievance redressal systems.</li> <li>• <b>Relevant Regulation:</b> Falls under SEBI (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018.</li> </ul>  |                |

**Other Important Banking Related Current Affairs**

- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) reported strong performance in the first half of FY 2024-25, with an 11% year-on-year growth in aggregate business, reaching Rs 236 trillion. Net profit surged 25.6% to Rs 85,520 crore, and operating profit grew by 14.4%.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated five "Nari Shakti" branches of Union Bank of India in Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Jaipur. These branches are designed to promote financial inclusion and support women entrepreneurs, particularly in manufacturing and services. The initiative focuses on empowering women with accessible finance, skills training, and advisory services, aligning with India's goal of gender-focused economic growth.

- SBI Mutual Fund has become the first fund house in India to exceed ₹10 lakh crore in assets under management (AUM), reaching ₹10.99 lakh crore in the September quarter, up from ₹9.88 lakh crore in June. This milestone positions SBI MF ahead of its competitors, ICICI Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund, which have AUMs of ₹8.41 lakh crore and ₹7.47 lakh crore, respectively.
- In a move to enhance apprenticeship programs across India, the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has restructured the **Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC)**, tasked with reforming existing rules and promoting industry adoption of on-the-job training.
- India's smartphone market became the second largest globally by unit volume and third by value in Q3 2024, accounting for 15.5% of global shipments, just behind China's 22%. By value, India's market share rose slightly to 12.3%, up from 12.1% the previous year, surpassing the US, which held a 12% share.
- **Canara HSBC Life Insurance** has launched **OmniGen AI**, a groundbreaking **generative AI solution** designed to optimize **risk evaluation** in **underwriting**. Powered by **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**, the system helps underwriters make faster, more accurate decisions by leveraging a comprehensive set of data points. The AI-driven models aim to **reduce errors**, improve **consistency**, and accelerate **policy issuance**.

## ECONOMY & BUSINESS

### GDP & GROWTH RATE as per October 2024

- **Moody's Ratings** has maintained its **7.2% GDP growth forecast** for **India in 2024**, despite signs of slowdown in **urban demand** and mixed corporate results in **Q2**. The rating agency cited positive economic indicators such as strong **household consumption**, increased **rural demand**, robust **investment**, and **manufacturing activity**.
- India has emerged as the fastest-growing economy among **G20 countries**, with a projected **7% GDP growth** for 2024, showcasing its economic resilience amidst global challenges. This ranking, released during the ongoing **G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, highlights disparities in growth rates. **Indonesia** follows with **5% growth**, while **China** ranks third with **4.8%**.
- Morgan Stanley has revised India's **FY25 growth forecast** from **7% to 6.7%** due to weaker-than-expected **Q2 economic data**, now projecting **6.3% growth**. Despite this downgrade, the firm remains optimistic about a **recovery** in the latter half of FY25, expecting growth to rebound to **6.7-6.8%**, driven by **agricultural output** and **government spending**.
- In the **July-September 2024** quarter, India's **urban unemployment rate** fell to **6.4%**, the lowest in recent years, down from **6.6%** in the previous quarter. **Men's unemployment** decreased to **5.7%**, and **women's unemployment** dropped to **8.4%**. The **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** increased to **50.4%**, with women's LFPR slightly rising to **25.5%**. The **Worker Population Rate (WPR)** in urban areas was **47.2%**, with **men** at **70.7%** and **women** at **23.4%**, indicating positive trends in **job creation** and **labor force participation**.
- India's **foreign exchange reserves** dropped by a record **\$17.76 billion** to **\$657.8 billion** for the week ending November 15, 2024, marking the largest weekly decline since 1998. This drop was driven by the **strengthening of the US dollar**, the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) intervention** to protect the **rupee**, and falling **gold prices**.
- **S&P Global Ratings** maintained **India's GDP growth forecast** for **FY25** at **6.8%**, but revised **FY26** down to **6.7%** from **6.9%**. The agency raised its **inflation projection** for **FY25** to **4.6%**, citing persistent **food inflation** and **supply shocks** due to **climate factors**. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, tasked with maintaining **4% ± 2% inflation**, is expected to cut **policy rates** only once this fiscal year, with the **repo rate** steady at **6.5%** since February 2023.

### ECONOMY NEWS

- Gross **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** collections in October reached Rs 1.87 lakh crore, marking an **8.9% increase year-on-year**.
- In the fortnight ending November 1, 2024, credit and deposit growth nearly aligned, with credit increasing by 11.9% and deposits growing by 11.83% year-on-year. This marks a shift from the previous period, where credit growth had consistently outpaced deposits, reflecting the impact of RBI's regulatory measures and a slowdown in sectors like unsecured loans and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- India's merchandise exports grew by 17.3% in October 2024, reaching \$39.2 billion, the fastest pace in 28 months. This growth was driven by pre-Christmas inventory buildup in Western countries, boosting demand for products like engineering goods, electronics, chemicals, and garments.
- India's **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**-based inflation surged to a **4-month high of 2.36%** in **October**, up from **1.84%** in **September**.
- India's outward foreign direct investment (FDI) reached \$3.7 billion in October 2024, a notable increase from \$2.55 billion in October 2023, according to the RBI. However, it showed a slight decline from \$3.77 billion in September 2024.

- India's industrial production grew by 3.1% in September 2024, recovering from a 0.1% contraction in August. This growth was driven by strong manufacturing performance and modest increases in electricity generation and mining. However, the growth rate slowed compared to 6.4% in September 2023, signaling a more tempered industrial recovery.
- India's inflation rate for October 2024 stood at 6.21%, with rural areas experiencing higher inflation at 6.68%, compared to 5.62% in urban areas. The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) rose by 10.87%, with rural inflation at 10.69% and urban inflation at 11.09%.
- National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched its **official mobile app**, NSEIndia, and expanded its corporate website to support a **total of 12 languages**. This initiative aims to create a more inclusive financial ecosystem for millions of investors across India, allowing them to access market information in their preferred regional languages.
- In **FY24**, the Union Government collected **₹16,398 crore** in **GST** from **health and life insurance services**, marking a **680% increase** from **FY20**. However, this was a slight decrease from **₹16,770 crore** in **FY23**. **Life insurance** contributed **₹8,135 crore**, while **health insurance** contributed **₹8,263 crore**. Additionally, **₹2,045 crore** was raised from **reinsurance services**, with **₹561 crore** from life reinsurance and **₹1,484 crore** from health reinsurance. **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana** and **Jan Arogya Bima Policy** remain exempt from **GST**.
- India's **GDP growth** slowed to **5.4%** in Q2 FY 2024-25, down from **6.7%** in Q1, marking the lowest growth in **seven quarters**. **Gross Value Added (GVA)** growth also dropped to **5.8%** from **6.8%** in Q1. Compared to **Q2 FY 2023-24**, when GDP grew at **8.1%**, the current slowdown highlights significant **economic challenges**.
- India's **core sector growth rose to 3.1% in October**, marking a recovery after a contraction in August. This growth, driven by coal, refinery products, and steel, follows a 2.4% increase in September. The core sector, which makes up 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), showed signs of improvement despite challenges in crude oil and natural gas.

### BUSINESS NEWS

- **GAIL (India) Limited and VERBIO India** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop agricultural residue-based **compressed biogas (CBG)** projects in India. This collaboration aims to turn agricultural waste into renewable energy, aligning with India's climate objectives and enhancing rural incomes.
- **Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL)** has introduced **SmartGold**, a digital gold investment platform, allowing customers to invest in **24-karat physical gold** through the **JioFinance app**. This offering aligns with the company's broader strategy to enhance financial services accessibility during the **auspicious Dhanteras season**.
- **Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) and BlackRock Inc.** officially announced the incorporation of two joint venture companies, **Jio BlackRock Asset Management Private Limited** and **Jio BlackRock Trustee Private Limited**, to enter the mutual fund sector in India.
- **Tata Power** has teamed up with **Noida International Airport (NIA)** to invest **Rs 550 crore** in renewable energy, including a **13 MW solar facility** and **10.8 MW of wind power**. This partnership supports **NIA's sustainability goals** and **Tata Power's commitment to sustainable infrastructure** in India's aviation sector.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **\$200 million loan** to improve urban infrastructure and climate resilience in **Uttarakhand** through the **Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project**.
- **Reliance Industries and Walt Disney** have finalized an **\$8.5 billion merger** of their Indian media assets, concluded on **14th November**.
- **Nvidia and SoftBank Corp** have unveiled the world's first **AI and 5G-integrated telecom network, 5G AI-RAN**, which transforms base stations into **AI-powered computing hubs**. This innovation, launched through the **AI-RAN Alliance** at **Mobile World Congress**, marks a major leap in telecom technology by enabling simultaneous management of **AI and 5G operations**.
- **NTPC Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)** have launched a **50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC)** through their green energy subsidiaries, **NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL)** and **ONGC Green Energy Ltd. (OGL)**. This collaboration, approved by **DIPAM and NITI Aayog**, aims to accelerate India's renewable and new energy objectives.
- **BEML Limited** has received the "Self-Certification" status for its defense equipment from the **Department of Defence Production, Government of India**. The certification was presented to **BEML's Chairman and MD, Shantanu Roy**, by **RA Govardhana** during an event at the company's headquarters.
- **Royal Enfield** has recently unveiled its highly anticipated **electric vehicle (EV)** brand, "**Flying Flea**", an homage to one of the brand's most iconic models.

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- The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has partnered with Bajaj Finance Ltd. (BFL), committing \$400 million as part of a \$1 billion initiative to boost access to climate finance in India. The investment will focus on financing electric vehicles (EVs), energy-efficient consumer goods (EECG), and women-owned micro-enterprises, supporting India’s climate goals and promoting financial inclusion.
- **Tata Electronics** has acquired a **60% stake** in **Pegatron’s iPhone plant** in **Tamil Nadu**, India, marking a significant step in strengthening Tata’s role as a major **Apple supplier**. This deal signifies a shift in the **geopolitical supply chain**, with **India** emerging as a key hub for **iPhone manufacturing**. The **joint venture** will see Tata managing daily operations, while **Pegatron** will offer **technical support**.
- **Punit Goenka**, the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Zee Entertainment Enterprises**, resigned from his role as MD but will remain as CEO. This decision comes just days before a shareholders’ meeting where Goenka was set to seek approval for a new five-year term as MD and CEO, starting January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2029.
- Meta plans to appeal a **₹213.14 crore** fine imposed by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** over its 2021 **WhatsApp privacy policy update**. CCI accuses Meta of **anti-competitive practices**, alleging the company forced users to accept new **data-sharing terms**, a claim Meta denies.
- On November 21, 2024, **Kenyan President William Ruto** announced the **cancellation** of multimillion-dollar deals with **Indian business tycoon Gautam Adani**, citing concerns over **bribery** and **fraud allegations**. This decision follows **U.S. indictments** against Adani, one of Asia's richest men, accusing him of **securities fraud** and a **bribery scheme** related to a **solar energy project** in India.
- India has signed a **historic Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** with **Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein** (forming the **European Free Trade Association (EFTA)**). The agreement grants India access to **99.6% of EFTA’s market**, with projections of **\$100 billion in FDI** and **1 million direct jobs** over the next 15 years. It aims to boost India’s **global market position** and support initiatives like **“Make in India”** and **“Atmanirbhar Bharat.”**
- The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** established a **strategy cell** in **Coimbatore** to help **manufacturing SMEs** develop sustainable growth strategies and compete globally. The cell offers **expert mentorship**, strategic advice, and support for **6 to 12 months** to help businesses scale. The initiative aims to make local industries **global players** with tailored support from a team of **six experts**.
- India's **milk production** reached **239.30 million tonnes** in 2023-24, a **3.78% increase**, maintaining its position as the world's largest producer. The growth, driven by better **milch cattle productivity** and higher **per capita milk availability**, was highlighted by **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh** on **National Milk Day**. **Per capita milk availability** rose from **459 gm** to **471 gm** per day. Despite a slight slowdown, India continues to lead globally in milk production and aims to boost **milk exports**.
- India has secured a **\$98 million loan** from the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to boost **horticulture productivity** through **plant health management**. The funding supports the **Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme (CPP)**, focusing on **disease-free planting material** systems to improve crop yield, quality, and climate resilience. The project, led by the **Ministry of Agriculture**, involves collaboration with the **National Horticulture Board, Indian Council of Agricultural Research**, and other stakeholders. Key objectives include setting up **clean plant centres** and enhancing regulatory frameworks for plant health.

## MoU’s & AGREEMENTS

### MoUs WITH COUNTRY

| Country              | MoU’s With  | Field/Purpose   |
|----------------------|---|---|
| India                | Russia  | Jointly manufacture the Pantsir air defence missile-gun system, a major step in advancing India’s Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the defense sector. The agreement was formalized between Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and Russia’s Rosoboronexport (ROE).   |
| India                | Algeria   | Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defense cooperation during Gen. Anil Chauhan’s visit to Algeria, strengthening bilateral defense ties.   |
| IREL (India) Limited | Kazakhstan’s Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant | IREL (India) Limited and Kazakhstan’s Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC have signed a joint venture agreement to form IREUK Titanium Limited. The new venture will focus on producing titanium slag in Odisha, India, marking a significant Indo-Kazakh collaboration in the titanium production sector. |

| Country | MoU's With               | Field/Purpose  |
|---------|--------------------------|--|
| India   | Riyadh Design Law Treaty | India has signed the <b>Riyadh Design Law Treaty (DLT)</b> , a landmark agreement adopted by <b>WIPO</b> member states after nearly <b>20 years of negotiations</b> . The treaty aims to <b>harmonize industrial design registration</b> procedures globally, enhancing <b>accessibility</b> and <b>efficiency</b> for applicants and promoting <b>equitable access to intellectual property (IP)</b> protection across jurisdictions.   |
| India   | United Kingdom           | India and the <b>United Kingdom</b> have signed a <b>framework agreement to co-design and co-produce electric propulsion systems</b> for future warships, strengthening their <b>strategic defense collaboration</b> . This initiative aligns with the broader <b>India-UK partnership</b> and focuses on <b>indigenous development</b> of advanced naval technologies. The <b>Statement of Intent (Sol)</b> outlines the roadmap for collaboration, particularly for projects like <b>Landing Platform Docks</b> to be built in Indian shipyards. |

**MoUs BETWEEN ORGANIZATION**

| Organization                                | MoU's With  | Field/Purpose   |
|---|---|---|
| Indian Railways                             | Switzerland's Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) | Indian Railways has renewed its <b>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)</b> with Switzerland's Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) to deepen technical collaboration, targeting infrastructure modernization and operational efficiency.   |
| Nvidia                                      | SoftBank Corp   | Unveiled the world's first AI and 5G-integrated telecom network, 5G AI-RAN, which transforms base stations into AI-powered computing hubs. This innovation, launched through the AI-RAN Alliance at Mobile World Congress, marks a major leap in telecom technology by enabling simultaneous management of AI and 5G operations.  |
| Cairn Oil & Gas                             | Vedanta Group   | Cairn Oil & Gas, part of Vedanta Group, has become the first oil and gas producer in India to join the UN Environment Programme's Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0. This commitment to reducing methane emissions marks a significant step toward enhancing environmental sustainability in the sector.   |
| Tata Power                                  | Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC)   | <b>Tata Power</b> has formed a strategic partnership with <b>Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC)</b> to develop at least <b>5,000 MW of clean energy</b> capacity in <b>Bhutan</b> . This collaboration focuses on harnessing Bhutan's hydropower potential to enhance <b>energy security</b> and <b>sustainability</b> in the region. The initiative supports Bhutan's vision to diversify its <b>energy portfolio</b> and improve <b>regional energy integration</b> .                              |
| Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd       | H2Global Stiftung   | <b>Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI)</b> signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with <b>H2Global Stiftung</b> under the <b>Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)</b> . This partnership focuses on promoting <b>Green Hydrogen</b> initiatives, facilitating <b>knowledge exchange</b> on market mechanisms, and fostering <b>cooperation</b> between India and international stakeholders.  |
| Tata Power                                  | Asian Development Bank  | <b>Tata Power</b> , a leading <b>integrated power company</b> in India, has signed a <b>\$4.25 billion MoU</b> with the <b>Asian Development Bank (ADB)</b> to finance various <b>clean energy projects</b> , advancing sustainable energy initiatives.   |
| Institute of Chartered Accountants of India | Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)   | The <b>Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)</b> has signed an <b>MoU</b> with the <b>Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)</b> to promote <b>commerce-based skill courses</b> , particularly in the <b>Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI)</b> sector. The collaboration aims to equip students with <b>industry-aligned competencies</b> , enhancing <b>employability</b> and bridging the gap between <b>academic learning</b> and <b>professional requirements</b> . |

**APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

**APPOINTMENTS NATIONAL**

| Person Name            | Appointed As                                  | Entity / Place   | Replaced By              | Key Notes  |
|------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|--|
| Deepak Agarwal         | Managing Director (MD)                        | National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED)     |                          | A 2000-batch IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).   |
| Ashok Chandra          | Managing Director (MD) & CEO                  | Punjab National Bank (PNB)   |                          | Recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) for the role.   |
| Vipin Kumar            | Chairman                                      | Airports Authority of India (AAI)  |                          | A 1996-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre; previously served as Additional Secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education, India.                              |
| Shashwat Sharma        | Managing Director (MD) & CEO                  | Bharti Airtel  |                          | Appointment effective January 1, 2026.   |
| Sumathi Dharmawardena  | Independent Chair, Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) | International Cricket Council (ICC)  |                          | A Sri Lankan legal expert with extensive experience in sports corruption investigations; succeeds Sir Ronnie Flanagan.   |
| Praveena Rai           | CEO & Managing Director (MD)                  | Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)  |                          | Assumed office on October 31, 2024, for a five-year term.  |
| Justice Sanjiv Khanna  | 51st Chief Justice of India                   | Supreme Court of India   | Justice D.Y. Chandrachud | - Sworn in on November 11, 2024.<br>- Tenure: November 11, 2024, to May 13, 2025.  |
| Mara Kocho             | Managing Director (MD)                        | North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC) | -                        | - Recommended under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).   |
| Arvindar Singh Sahney  | Chairman                                      | Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)   | -                        | - Heads the nation's largest oil firm.   |
| Amandeep Johl          | Chief Executive Officer (CEO)                 | Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI)   | -                        | - To assume the role starting January 2025.  |
| Itaru Otani            | Chairman                                      | India Yamaha Motor   | -                        | - Over 30 years of experience at Yamaha Motor Company.<br>- Focus on strengthening India's two-wheeler market presence.  |
| India and France       | President and Co-President                    | International Solar Alliance (ISA)   | -                        | - Re-elected at the 7th ISA Assembly held in New Delhi.  |
| Mithali Raj            | Mentor for Women's Cricket Operations         | Andhra Cricket Association   | -                        | In this role, she will focus on <b>scouting and nurturing young cricket talent</b> across <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> , making a significant contribution to the development of <b>women's cricket</b> in the state. |
| Rahul Bhawe            | MD & CEO                                      | IFCI Ltd   | -                        | - Currently Deputy Managing Director at IFCI Ltd; recommended by the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB).  |
| Harsha Vardhan Agarwal | President                                     | FICCI National Executive Committee Meeting (NECM)                              | -                        | - Officially announced at the FICCI NECM.  |

| Person Name            | Appointed As                          | Entity / Place  | Replaced By       | Key Notes   |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Nandan Kumar Jha       | president                             | International Mind Sports Association   |                   | The announcement was made during IMSA's <b>annual general assembly</b> in Sao Paulo, Brazil.          |
| Pankaj Tripathi        | Festival Ambassador                   | Arunachal Rang Mahotsav 2024  | -                 | Recognized for contributions to Indian cinema; represents cultural significance of Arunachal Pradesh. |
| Balasubramanian        | High Commissioner of India            | Republic of Maldives  | -                 | 1998-batch IFS officer; reflects India's strategic focus in the Indian Ocean Region.                  |
| Shri Dinesh Bhatia     | Ambassador of India                   | Brazil  | -                 | 1992-batch IFS officer; extensive diplomatic experience across multiple countries.                    |
| Dr. Jaiteerth R. Joshi | Chief                                 | BrahMos Aerospace   | -                 | Over 30 years of experience in missile technology and defense innovations.                            |
| Dr. Thomas Schinecker  | President (effective January 1, 2025) | International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations (IFPMA) | Dr. Albert Bourla | CEO of Roche; Rob Davis (CEO of MSD) will serve as Vice-President.                                    |

**APPOINTMENTS – INTERNATIONAL**

| Person Name                   | Appointed As      | Entity / Place                     | Key Notes   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes | Secretary General | World Agriculture Forum (WAF)      | Former Director General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); set to take office in mid-November 2024  |
| Ashish Khanna                 | Director General  | International Solar Alliance (ISA) | - World Bank energy specialist selected for the position.   |
| Valdecy Urquiza               | Secretary General | Interpol                           | Urquiza will succeed <b>Jurgen Stock</b> , the outgoing Secretary General, and officially take over the role on <b>November 7, 2024</b> , marking a significant leadership transition at the world's largest police organization. |

**BRAND & CAMPAIGN AMBASSADORS**

| Person Name                   | Brand / Campaign  | Key Notes  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Sonu Sood                     | Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor of Thailand   | - Recognized for his humanitarian and philanthropic efforts.   |
| Harbhajan Singh & Sania Mirza | <b>Dubai Sports Council</b> has appointed <b>global sports icons</b> as its <b>Sports Ambassadors</b> | The initiative aims to enhance <b>Dubai's reputation</b> as a global sports hub by attracting prestigious international events, promoting <b>sports tourism</b> , and nurturing local talent. The other appointed ambassadors are <b>Khabib Nurmagomedov</b> (Russian UFC champion) and <b>Patrice Evra</b> (French footballer). |

**CONSTITUTIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

| Designation / Post | Person Name                              | Key Notes   |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Rajesh Kumar Singh | Defence Secretary                        | A 1989-batch IAS officer from the Kerala cadre; succeeds Giridhar Aramane, who retired after serving a two-year term as Defence Secretary.  |
| K Sanjay Murthy    | Comptroller and Auditor General of India | A <b>1989-batch IAS officer</b> from the <b>Himachal Pradesh</b> cadre, Murthy will succeed <b>Girish Chandra Murmu</b> . Currently serving as the <b>Secretary of the Department of Higher Education</b> in the <b>Ministry of Education</b> , Murthy is set to take over the crucial role of ensuring <b>financial accountability</b> and <b>transparency</b> in public expenditure in India. |

**AWARDS**

**Rodri Clinches Men’s Ballon d’Or 2024 and Bonmati Wins it for Spain**

- **Men's Ballon d'Or:** Rodri (Spain / Manchester City) – Key role in **Premier League** win, **Euro 2024** Player of the Tournament.
- **Women's Ballon d'Or:** Aitana Bonmatí (Spain / Barcelona) – Helped **Barcelona** win **Spanish league & cup**, second consecutive Ballon d'Or for women.
- **Kopa Trophy:** Lamine Yamal (Spain / Barcelona).
- **Yashin Trophy (Best Goalkeeper):** Emiliano Martínez (Argentina / Aston Villa).
- **Gerd Müller Trophy:** Kylian Mbappé (France / PSG/Real Madrid), **Harry Kane** (England / Bayern Munich).
- **Men’s Coach of the Year:** Carlo Ancelotti (Italy / Real Madrid).
- **Women's Coach of the Year:** Emma Hayes (USA / Chelsea).
- **Men’s Club of the Year:** Real Madrid.
- **Women’s Club of the Year:** FC Barcelona.
- **Socrates Award:** Jenni Hermoso (Spain / Tigres UANL) – Recognized for **humanitarian work**.
- **Awarding Body:** Ballon d'Or by **France Football**, partnered with **UEFA** this year.
- **Most Winner:** Lionel Messi with **8 Ballon d'Or** wins.

**Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar recipients for 2022 and 2023**

| Year    | Field of Activity  | Name                    | Specialization                                  |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 2022    | Music              | Samit Mallick           | Hindustani Vocal                                |
|         |                    | Samarth Janve           | Hindustani Vocal                                |
|         |                    | Sangeet Mishra          | Hindustani Instrumental – Sarangi               |
|         |                    | Partho Roy Choudhury    | Hindustani Instrumental – Santoor               |
|         |                    | K. Gayatri              | Carnatic Vocal                                  |
|         |                    | I. Sweta Prasad         | Carnatic Vocal                                  |
|         |                    | B. Anantha Krishnan     | Carnatic Instrumental – Violin                  |
|         |                    | Sahana S.V              | Carnatic Instrumental – Veena                   |
|         |                    | Manoj Rai               | Creative & Experimental Music                   |
|         |                    | Nandini Rao Gujar       | Other Major Traditions of Music (Sugam Sangeet) |
|         | Dance              | Mandakranta Roy         | Bharatanatyam                                   |
|         |                    | Kadam Parikh            | Kathak  |
|         |                    | Urmika Maibam           | Manipuri  |
|         |                    | T. Reddi Lakshmi        | Kuchipudi                                       |
|         |                    | Arupa Gayatri Panda     | Odissi  |
|         |                    | Dimpee Baishya          | Sattriya  |
|         |                    | Akshara M Das           | Mohiniattam                                     |
|         |                    | Pradyumna Kumar Mohanta | Chhau   |
|         |                    | Mingma D. Lepcha        | Creative & Experimental Dance                   |
| Theatre | Aparna Nangiar     | Nangiarkoothu           |   |
|         | Beluru Raghunandan | Playwriting             |   |
|         | Ifra Mushtaq Kak   | Direction               |   |
|         | Harishankar Ravi   | Direction               |   |
|         | Harwinder Singh    | Acting                  |   |
|         | Kumar Ravikant     | Acting                  |   |
|         |                    | Siddhi Upadhye          | Acting  |

| Year        | Field of Activity                               | Name                             | Specialization                           |
|-------------|---|----------------------------------|--|
|             |   | Mukunda Nath                     | Mime                                     |
|             |   | Sangeet Shrivastava              | Allied Theatre Arts – Lighting           |
|             | <b>Traditional / Folk / Tribal and Puppetry</b> | Lata Tiwari & Sanjay Datt Panday | Folk Music & Dance (Uttarakhand)         |
|             |   | Chow Saratham Namchoom           | Folk Music (Arunachal Pradesh)           |
|             |   | Sampriya Pooja                   | Folk Music & Dance (Chhattisgarh)        |
|             |   | Suryawanshi Pramila Kautikrao    | Folk Dance Lavani (Maharashtra)          |
|             |   | Kumar Uday Singh                 | Folk Dance (Bihar)                       |
|             |   | Nasarullah EPI                   | Folk Dance (Lakshadweep)                 |
|             |   | Binita Devi                      | Puppetry (Assam)                         |
|             |   | Mahesh Aba Satarkar              | Folk Dance (Goa)                         |
|             |   | Vasava Mukeshbhai M.             | Folk Dance (Gujarat)                     |
|             |   | Gulzar Ahmad Bhat                | Folk Dance (Jammu & Kashmir)             |
|             |   | Moirangthem Kendra Singh         | Nata Sankirtan (Manipur)                 |
|             | <b>Overall Contribution</b>                     | Anuthama Murali                  | Overall Contribution in Performing Arts  |
| <b>2023</b> | <b>Music</b>                                    | Anuja Zokarkar                   | Hindustani Vocal                         |
|             |   | Monika Soni                      | Hindustani Vocal                         |
|             |   | Rishi Shankar Upadhyay           | Hindustani Instrumental – Pakhawaj       |
|             |   | Sarang Rajan Kulkarni            | Hindustani Instrumental – Sarod          |
|             |   | S. R. Vinay Sharva               | Carnatic Vocal                           |
|             |   | Ramakrishnan Murthy              | Carnatic Vocal                           |
|             |   | Akshay Anantapadmanabhan         | Carnatic Instrumental – Mridangam        |
|             |   | Saikhom Pinky Devi               | Creative & Experimental Music            |
|             |   | Satyavathi Mudavath              | Creative & Experimental Music            |
|             |   | Nagesh Shankarrao Adgaonkar      | Other Major Traditions of Music (Abhang) |
|             | <b>Dance</b>                                    | Apoorva Jayaraman                | Bharatanatyam                            |
|             |   | Meghranjani Medhi                | Kathak                                   |
|             |   | Kalamandalam Vipin Sankar        | Kathakali                                |
|             |   | Pukhrambam Reepa Devi            | Manipuri                                 |
|             |   | Muramalla Surendra Nadh          | Kuchipudi                                |
|             |   | Debasis Pattnaik                 | Odissi                                   |
|             |   | Mukunda Saikia Barbayan          | Sattriya                                 |
|             |   | Vidya Pradeep                    | Mohiniattam                              |
|             |   | Sunita Mahato                    | Chhau                                    |
|             |   | Venkateshwaran Kuppuswamy        | Music for Dance                          |
|             | <b>Theatre</b>                                  | Priyadarshini Mishra             | Playwriting                              |
|             |   | Bendang Walling                  | Direction                                |
|             |   | Suvojit Bandyopadhyay            | Direction                                |
|             |   | Rutuja Rajan Bagwe               | Acting                                   |
|             |   | Vipan Kumar                      | Acting                                   |
|             |   | Shruti Singh                     | Acting                                   |

| Year | Field of Activity                               | Name                          | Specialization                          |
|------|---|-------------------------------|---|
|      |   | Mallikarjuna Rao Bachala      | Allied Theatre Arts – Make-up           |
|      |   | Puneet Dimari & Amit Khanduri | Ramleela (Uttarakhand)                  |
|      | <b>Traditional / Folk / Tribal and Puppetry</b> | Angadi Bhaskar                | Dappalu (Telangana)                     |
|      |   | Alok Bishoyi                  | Folk Dance & Music (Odisha)             |
|      |   | M. Prakash                    | Folk Dance (Puducherry)                 |
|      |   | Padma Dolker                  | Folk Music & Dance (Ladakh)             |
|      |   | Sukhram Pahan                 | Folk Music (Jharkhand)                  |
|      |   | Yusuf Khan Mewati Jogi        | Folk Music (Rajasthan)                  |
|      |   | Kalamandalam Ravisankar T S   | Folk Instrument (Chenda, Kerala)        |
|      |   | Dixit Kushal Manvantray       | Folk Dance (Gujarat)                    |
|      |   | Priyanka Shakti Thakur        | Traditional Music (Maharashtra)         |
|      |   | Anureet Pal Kaur              | Folk Music (Punjab)                     |
|      |   | Charu Sharma                  | Folk Music (Himachal Pradesh)           |
|      | <b>Overall Contribution</b>                     | Laxminarayan Jena             | Overall Contribution in Performing Arts |

55th International Film Festival of India

| Aspect                               | Details  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Why in News</b>                   | The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to open in Panaji, Goa, showcasing diverse global cinema and celebrating India’s evolving role in international film.  |
| <b>Theme of IFFI 2024</b>            | Young Filmmakers – The Future is Now   |
| <b>Location</b>                      | Panaji, Goa, India   |
| <b>Established</b>                   | 1952, with Goa as its permanent venue since 2004   |
| <b>Organizers</b>                    | Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (India), National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), and the Entertainment Society of Goa   |
| <b>Key Highlights</b>                |  |
| – <b>Film Lineup</b>                 | Features films across 16 curated segments, including 25 Feature Films and 20 Non-Feature Films in the Indian Panorama. “Swatanrya Veer Savarkar” (Hindi) will open the feature segment, while “Ghar Jaisa Kuch” (Ladakhi) will open the non-feature segment. |
| – <b>New Award Category</b>          | Introduction of “Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film,” recognizing five debut films representing India’s cultural diversity   |
| – <b>Centenary Tributes</b>          | Honoring legends Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao, and Mohammed Rafi with restored classic films and a special presentation   |
| <b>Country of Focus</b>              | <b>Australia</b> – Showcasing seven Australian films across genres, supported by the India-Australia Audio-Visual Co-Production Treaty   |
| <b>Workshops &amp; Events</b>        | Masterclasses, discussions, and the <b>IFFI Red Carpet</b> event featuring actors, directors, and industry experts. Includes “Creative Minds of Tomorrow,” “Film Bazaar,” and “Cine Mela”  |
| <b>Accessibility and Inclusivity</b> | Venues equipped with ramps, braille signage, tactile pathways, and accessible facilities for persons with disabilities   |
| <b>Significance</b>                  | Fosters cultural exchange, highlights regional voices in Indian cinema, promotes emerging talent, and strengthens India’s international film industry  |
| <b>Historical Background</b>         | Founded in 1952, IFFI is one of Asia’s premier film festivals. Accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers’ Associations (FIAPF) and has a long-standing reputation as a competitive international film festival.                           |

**Other Important Awards**

Here is a table summarizing the recent awards and recognitions:

| Award Name   | Award Winner  | Field                   | Key Notes   |
|--|---|-------------------------|---|
| Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership                               | Bibhab Kumar Talukdar                               | Conservation            | Assam-based conservation scientist awarded by the IUCN's Species Survival Commission in Abu Dhabi.  |
| A+ Grade in Central Bank Report Cards 2024                                   | Shaktikanta Das                                     | Banking & Finance       | RBI Governor awarded by Global Finance for the second consecutive year in Washington, D.C.  |
| ANR National Award 2024  | Chiranjeevi   | Cinema                  | Honored by Amitabh Bachchan for lifetime contributions to Telugu cinema.  |
| Best Sports League of the Year   | Pro Kabaddi League (PKL)                            | Sports                  | Awarded at the CII Sports Business Awards 2024.   |
| Honorary Officer of the Order of Fiji  | Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar                        | Social Service          | Fiji's highest civilian award presented in recognition of his contributions.  |
| Generational Legacy Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Indian Economy | Wagh Bakri Tea Group                                | Business & Economy      | Presented by Hurun India for the group's impact on the Indian economy.  |
| AFC President's Recognition Award for Grassroots Football (Silver)           | All India Football Federation (AIFF)                | Sports                  | Awarded for grassroots football development at the AFC Annual Awards in Seoul.  |
| Best Companies for Women in India (BCWI) 2024                                | DBS Bank India                                      | Corporate & Diversity   | Recognized for the ninth consecutive year for gender equity and diversity by Avtar and Seramount.   |
| AFI Life Achievement Award   | Francis Ford Coppola                                | Cinema                  | To be awarded at Dolby Theatre, Hollywood in April 2025 for his lifetime achievements in film.  |
| Education Leader of the Year   | Kunal Dalal   | Education               | - Managing Director of JBCN Education.<br>- Recognized at the Education World India School Ranking Awards 2024-2025 for visionary leadership in international schools.  |
| Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award                                      | Phillip Noyce                                       | Film                    | - Veteran Australian filmmaker.<br>- Honored at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).   |
| ICC Players of the Month (October 2024)                                      | Amelia Kerr (New Zealand) & Noman Ali (Pakistan)    | Cricket                 | - Amelia Kerr: All-rounder from New Zealand.<br>- Noman Ali: Spinner from Pakistan.   |
| Booker Prize for Fiction   | Samantha Harvey                                     | Literature              | - Won for her novel "Orbital," set on the International Space Station (ISS).  |
| Dominica Award of Honour   | Narendra Modi                                       | International Relations | - Recognized by Dominica for contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic.  |
| Best Film (Constellation Film Competition)                                   | The Fable (Directed by Raam Reddy)                  | Film                    | - Starred Manoj Bajpayee.<br>- Won at the 38th Leeds International Film Festival for its unique storytelling and magical realism.   |
| Airport Excellence Awards  | GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) | Aviation                | - Recognized globally at the Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024 for excellence.  |
| Rohini Nayyar Prize  | Anil Pradhan  |                         | Recognizing his impactful contributions to rural development in India. Known for his dedication to empowering rural communities, Pradhan's work has brought positive change and opportunities to underserved areas. |



| Award Name   | Award Winner  | Field | Key Notes   |
|--|---|-------|---|
| Grand Commander of the Order of Niger                                | Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi                             |       | Awarded the prestigious "Grand Commander of the Order of Niger" by H.E. Mr. Bola Ahmed Tinubu, President of Nigeria, at the State House. This honor recognizes Modi's visionary leadership, transformative governance, and his significant efforts in strengthening India-Nigeria relations and supporting the aspirations of the Global South.                   |
| 73rd Miss Universe   | Victoria Kjaer Theilvig                                       |       | At the 73rd Miss Universe pageant in Mexico, Victoria Kjaer Theilvig from Denmark made history by becoming the country's first-ever Miss Universe. The 21-year-old from Søborg outshone 125 contestants, including India's Rhea Singha. The first runner-up was Chidimma Adetshina from Nigeria, and the second runner-up was Maria Fernanda Beltran from Mexico. |
| Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 | Daniel Barenboim  |       | The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 was awarded to Daniel Barenboim, a renowned pianist and conductor, and Ali Abu Awwad, a Palestinian peace activist, on November 19, 2024. The prestigious award honors their exceptional contributions to promoting peace and non-violence.  |
| Green World Environment Award 2024                                   | Coal India Limited (CIL)                                      |       | Green World Environment Award 2024 in the CSR category and was named Green World Ambassador. This recognition highlights CIL's commitment to sustainability and social welfare, acknowledging its balance between industrial operations and environmental contributions.  |
| Miss Charm India 2024 title  | Shivangi Desai  |       | Shivangi Desai, a 22-year-old final-year law student at the Indian Law School (ILS) Pune, has made India proud by winning the prestigious Miss Charm India 2024 title. Representing India at Miss Charm 2024 in Vietnam this December.  |
| Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftmen | Prime Minister Narendra Modi                                  |       | Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honored in absentia with the 'Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award for Minority Upliftment' for his contributions to inclusive development and minority welfare.  |
| Special Appreciation Medal   | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 'One Health' Pavilion |       | The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's 'One Health' Pavilion at the 43rd India International Trade Fair (IITF) in New Delhi was awarded a Special Appreciation Medal for its innovative design and impactful presentation of India's healthcare initiatives.   |
| 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award  | Indian Chemical Council                                       |       |   |

55th International Film Festival of India 2024

| Category                           | Details   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Why in News                        | The 55th IFFI concluded in Goa, celebrating global and Indian cinema with a grand closing ceremony. |
| Theme                              | "Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now"   |
| Venue                              | Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Goa   |
| Duration                           | 20th November 2024 – 28th November 2024   |
| Golden Peacock (Best Film)         | Toxic (Lithuania) - A coming-of-age narrative by Saulė Bliuvaitė.                                   |
| Silver Peacock (Best Director)     | Bogdan Muresanu (The New Year That Never Came) - Recognized for outstanding storytelling.           |
| Silver Peacock (Best Actor - Male) | Clément Faveau (Holy Cow) - For portraying a transformative journey.                                |

| Category                             | Details  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Silver Peacock (Best Actor - Female) | Vesta Matulytė & Ieva Rupeikaitė (Toxic) - Jointly awarded for exceptional performances. |
| Special Jury Award                   | Louise Courvoisier (Holy Cow) - Honored for creative excellence.                         |
| Best Debut Feature Film              | Familiar Touch by Sarah Friedland - Celebrated for a remarkable debut.                   |
| Best Debut Director (Indian Feature) | Navjyot Bandiwadekar (Gharat Ganpati) - For outstanding storytelling in Marathi cinema.  |
| ICFT-UNESCO Gandhi Medal             | Crossing by Levan Akin - Recognized for promoting peace, tolerance, and non-violence.    |
| Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement    | Phillip Noyce (Australia) - Honored for contributions to cinema.                         |
| Best Web Series (OTT)                | Lampan (Sony Liv) - Directed by Nipun Dharmadhikari.                                     |
| Indian Film Personality of the Year  | Vikrant Massey - Recognized for his contributions to Indian cinema.                      |

**SUMMITS, EVENTS & CONFERENCE**

| Category | Event        | Venue                              | Key Points  |
|----------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|
| Summits  | COP29 Summit | Baku, Azerbaijan (Nov 11-22, 2024) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>COP 29 Venue:</b> The 2024 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29) held in Baku, Azerbaijan, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.</li> <li>• <b>Key Focus:</b> Enhanced transparency framework, collective quantified goal on finance, and the next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).</li> <li>• <b>Parallel Meetings:</b> CMP 19 (Kyoto Protocol), CMA 6 (Paris Agreement), SBSTA 61, and SBI 61 will also take place alongside COP 29.</li> <li>• <b>Theme:</b> Azerbaijan’s COP 29 Presidency operates under the theme “In Solidarity for a Green World.”</li> <li>• <b>COP 29 Presidency Pillars:</b> Enhancing Ambition for the 1.5°C goal and Enabling Action with financial and technical support for NDCs.</li> <li>• <b>Minister Mukhtar Babayev:</b> Leads Azerbaijan’s COP 29 Presidency.</li> <li>• <b>Roadmap to Mission 1.5°C:</b> Joint initiative by COP 28, COP 29, and COP 30 Presidencies to enhance NDC ambition through global cooperation.</li> <li>• <b>Climate Finance Focus:</b> Discussions on achieving the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for developing nations.</li> <li>• <b>Unmet Commitments:</b> Developed countries pledged \$100 billion annually in 2009 but remain short of targets.</li> <li>• <b>Estimated Needs:</b> \$580 billion is required by 2030 for addressing climate-induced loss and damage.</li> <li>• <b>Carbon Markets:</b> Key discussions on carbon trading to meet Paris Agreement targets.</li> <li>• <b>NDC Submission Deadline:</b> New NDCs due by February 2025 with updated emission reduction goals.</li> <li>• <b>US Political Influence:</b> Possible re-election of Donald Trump could impact global climate cooperation.</li> <li>• <b>Azerbaijan’s Controversies:</b> Critics question its human rights record and reliance on fossil fuels as a “petro-state.”</li> <li>• <b>Financial Goals:</b> Success indicators include securing financial agreements and advancing carbon market mechanisms.</li> <li>• <b>Future COP Host:</b> Australia is likely to host COP 31, with a focus on Pacific region climate issues.</li> </ul> |

| Category | Event                             | Venue                  | Key Points  |
|----------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Summits  | SATRC-25                          | New Delhi              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SATRC-25 held in New Delhi (Nov 11-13, 2024), inaugurated by Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.</li> <li>Highlighted India's role as the "Voice of the Global South" and need for collaborative telecom policies.</li> <li>Focused on digital inclusivity, sustainable infrastructure, consumer protection, and regulatory innovation.</li> <li>India's digital economy: 1.2 billion phones, 970 million internet users, projected to reach 20% of GDP by 2026-27.</li> <li>Emphasized knowledge sharing, regional cooperation, and policy harmonization for sustainable growth.</li> <li>Organized by Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT); hosted by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).</li> </ul>  |
| Summits  | Asian Buddhist Summit             | New Delhi              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>India is hosting the first-ever <b>Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS)</b> in New Delhi from November 5 to 6, 2024, under the theme, <b>"Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia."</b></li> <li>This event, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), celebrates the deep-rooted Buddhist heritage in India and underscores its role in promoting peace and unity across Asia.</li> </ul>   |
| Summits  | G-20 Summit                       | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in News:</b> 2024 G20 Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, addressing global challenges like hunger, poverty, and climate change.</li> <li><b>Brazil's Role:</b> Hosted by Brazil under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.</li> <li><b>Key Proposals:</b> Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, Tropical Forest Forever Fund, and a transition to a low-carbon economy.</li> <li><b>Key Declaration:</b> Rio de Janeiro Declaration emphasizing food sovereignty, agroecological practices, and governance reform.</li> <li><b>Climate Change:</b> Focus on emission reduction, deforestation prevention, and sustainable economies.</li> <li><b>Global Governance Reform:</b> Call to reform the UN Security Council for better Global South representation.</li> <li><b>Tax Justice:</b> Advocacy for progressive taxation of the super-rich to fund social policies.</li> <li><b>Participating Countries:</b> Brazil, with contributions from civil society groups and marginalized communities.</li> <li><b>Social Movements Representation:</b> Involvement of women, black communities, indigenous peoples, workers, and LGBTQIA+ communities.</li> <li><b>Notable People:</b> President Lula da Silva, Mazé Morais, Oliver Röpkke.</li> <li><b>Key Schemes:</b> Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty aligned with SDGs for food sovereignty.</li> <li><b>Next G20 Host:</b> South Africa will host the next G20 Summit.</li> </ul> |
| Summits  | India-Australia 2nd Annual Summit | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why in the news?</b> India and Australia concluded their 2nd Annual Summit alongside G20 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.</li> <li><b>Economic and Trade Relations:</b> Surge in bilateral trade under ECTA, progress on CECA, and extension of AIBX till 2028.</li> <li><b>Energy, Science, and Technology:</b> Launch of Renewable Energy Partnership (REP) for green hydrogen, solar PV, and energy storage, collaboration on critical minerals, and deepening space cooperation.</li> </ul>   |

| Category   | Event  | Venue  | Key Points   |
|------------|--|--------|--|
|            |  |        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Defence and Security:</b> Renewal of Defence and Security Declaration in 2025, joint maritime security roadmap, and enhanced interoperability.</li> <li>• <b>Parliamentary Cooperation:</b> Agreement to strengthen inter-parliamentary exchanges.</li> <li>• <b>Education and People-to-People Ties:</b> New consulates in Bengaluru and Brisbane, launch of Working Holiday Maker Visa and MATES Scheme, and expansion of Australian university campuses in India.</li> <li>• <b>Sports Diplomacy:</b> Collaboration in training, workforce development, and sports science.</li> <li>• <b>Regional and Multilateral Cooperation:</b> Commitment to an open Indo-Pacific, enhanced cooperation in Quad and IORA, and bilateral efforts under IPOI for maritime ecology.</li> <li>• <b>Global Peace and Security:</b> Joint condemnation of terrorism, support for FATF initiatives, and advocacy for conflict resolution via diplomacy.</li> <li>• <b>Looking Ahead:</b> Plans to commemorate the 5th anniversary of CSP in 2025 and India to host the 3rd Annual Summit.</li> </ul> |
| Events     | 352nd Governing Body meeting of the <b>International Labour Organisation</b> | Geneva | <p>The 352nd Governing Body meeting of the <b>International Labour Organisation (ILO)</b> is currently taking place in <b>Geneva</b>.<br/>Dates : 28th October to November 7th.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From India <b>Sumita Dawra, Labour and Employment Secretary of India</b>, presented India's initiatives and progress in improving living standards and employment.</li> </ul> <p>Agenda Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Plan for 2026–2029</li> <li>• Global Coalition for Social Justice</li> <li>• Democratization of Governance</li> </ul> <p>World Summit for Social Development 2025</p>   |
| Events     | ISA's Key Decisions In 7 <sup>th</sup> Assembly Session                      |        | <p>India, France elected President, Co-president of International Solar Alliance for 2 years from 2024-2026<br/>Decision was taken at the 7th Session of ISA at Bharat Mandapam.<br/>Regional Vice Eight Vice Presidents appointed across four regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Africa: Ghana and Seychelles (Vice Presidents); South Sudan and Comoros (Vice Chairs).</li> <li>• Asia and the Pacific: Australia and Sri Lanka (Vice Presidents); UAE and Papua New Guinea (Vice Chairs).</li> <li>• Europe and Others: Germany and Italy (Vice Presidents); Greece and Norway (Vice Chairs).</li> <li>• Latin America and Caribbean: Grenada and Suriname (Vice Presidents); Jamaica and Haiti (Vice Chairs).</li> </ul> <p>Ashish Khanna appointed Director General-Designate, to assume office in March 2025 following Ajay Mathur's term.</p>  |
| Conference | <b>Sagarmanthan Dialogue 2024</b>  |        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Sagarmanthan Dialogue 2024</b> highlights India's push to lead in <b>sustainability, innovation, and connectivity</b>.</li> <li>• India's <b>maritime sector</b> is crucial to its economic growth, with a <b>7,500-kilometer coastline, 12 major ports, and over 200 minor ports</b>. It handles <b>95% of trade by volume and 70% by value</b>, and ranks as the <b>third-largest in ship recycling</b> globally.</li> <li>• In 2023, India had a fleet of <b>1,530 ships</b>. The sector has seen significant growth, with cargo capacity at major ports increasing by <b>87.01%</b> from 2014-15 to 2023-24.</li> </ul>  |

| Category   | Event                                     | Venue | Key Points  |
|------------|---|-------|---|
|            |   |       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Merchandise <b>exports</b> reached <b>USD 451 billion</b> in FY23. <b>Paradip Port</b>: Became India's largest port by cargo volume in FY24, handling 145.38 million tonnes.</li> </ul>  |
| Conference | <b>Global Cooperative Conference 2024</b> |       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>Global Cooperative Conference 2024</b> was inaugurated by <b>Prime Minister Narendra Modi</b> at <b>Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi</b>, marking the launch of the <b>United Nations' International Year of Cooperatives 2025</b>.</li> <li>The event highlighted the role of cooperatives in global development, particularly for <b>rural populations, women, and farmers</b>.</li> <li>Key moments included the release of a <b>commemorative postal stamp</b> and an address by <b>Union Home Minister Amit Shah</b>.</li> </ul> |

## INDEX

### RANKING

#### World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024

| Aspect                           | Global Rank | Regional Rank     | Income Rank         | Observations  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|---|
| Overall Ranking                  | 79/142      | 3rd in South Asia | 8th in Income Group | India ranks 79th globally, 3rd in South Asia, 8th among lower-middle-income countries |
| Constraints on Government Powers | 60/142      | 2/6               | 3/38                | Slight decline indicating challenges in balancing executive power                     |
| Absence of Corruption            | 97/142      | 3/6               | 15/38               | Improved; reflects progress against corruption  |
| Open Government                  | 44/142      | 1/6               | 1/38                | India leads in South Asia, showing transparency improvements                          |
| Fundamental Rights               | 102/142     | 3/6               | 15/38               | Low ranking highlights ongoing issues in civil liberties                              |
| Order and Security               | 98/142      | 3/6               | 21/38               | Challenges in safety and order  |
| Regulatory Enforcement           | 78/142      | 3/6               | 11/38               | Moderate ranking indicating need for regulatory consistency                           |
| Civil Justice                    | 107/142     | 3/6               | 23/38               | Low ranking due to delays and weak enforcement  |
| Criminal Justice                 | 89/142      | 3/6               | 14/38               | Reflects accessibility challenges in the justice system                               |

#### Top 10 Countries in WJP Rule of Law Index

| Rank | Country     | WJP Rule of Law Score |
|------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1    | Denmark     | 0.87                  |
| 2    | Norway      | 0.86                  |
| 3    | Finland     | 0.84                  |
| 4    | Sweden      | 0.84                  |
| 5    | Germany     | 0.81                  |
| 6    | Netherlands | 0.80                  |
| 7    | New Zealand | 0.80                  |
| 8    | Canada      | 0.79                  |
| 9    | Australia   | 0.79                  |
| 10   | Singapore   | 0.78                  |

**Observations and Key Points**

- Global Trend: Rule of law has declined globally for the 7th consecutive year, with scores dropping in 57% of countries.
- India’s Global Position: India ranks 79th out of 142 countries, holding the 3rd position among 6 South Asian countries.
- Income Group Ranking: Among lower-middle-income countries, India ranks 8th out of 38.
- South Asia Region: India ranks third after Nepal (69) and Sri Lanka (75), ahead of Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- Top Performing Countries: Denmark, Norway, and Finland lead in global rule of law, whereas Venezuela ranks lowest.

**India’s Specific Rankings in Rule of Law Factors**

- Constraints on Government Powers: Ranks 60th, showing a need for balance in executive power.
- Absence of Corruption: Ranked 97th; India has shown improvement here.
- Open Government: Leads in South Asia, indicating progress in transparency and openness.
- Fundamental Rights: Ranked 102nd, reflecting issues in protecting civil liberties.
- Justice System: Low ranks in Civil (107th) and Criminal Justice (89th), highlighting problems in efficiency and accessibility.

This structured format provides a concise overview of India’s position and insights from the WJP Rule of Law Index 2024.

**London Leads Global City Brands Rankings Again**

| Summary/Static      | Details  |
|---------------------|--|
| Why in the news?    | London topped the list of the top 100 “city brands” for the second consecutive year  |
| Top-ranked City     | 1. London (Ranked 1st for 2nd consecutive year)  |
| Other Top 10 Cities | 2. New York,<br>3. Paris,<br>4. Tokyo,<br>5. Dubai,<br>6. Singapore,<br>7. Los Angeles,<br>8. Sydney,<br>9. San Francisco,<br>10. Amsterdam              |
| Survey Respondents  | 15,000 people from 20 countries (Including Türkiye, US, Germany, Australia, UAE, Brazil, China, etc.)  |
| Ranking Criteria    | Based on 7 pillars: Business & Investment, Liveability, Culture & Heritage, People & Values, Sustainability & Transport, Governance, Education & Science |

**India Secures Top-10 Position Globally in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs**

| Key Aspect                 | Details   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Why in News                | India ranked in the global top 10 for patents, trademarks, and industrial designs according to the WIPO 2024 report. It recorded the fastest patent growth at 15.7%, ranked sixth in patent filings, and fourth in trademark filings. |
| Patent Applications (2023) | India filed 64,480 patent applications, with 55.2% resident filings (first time achieving this milestone).  |
| Patent Growth              | 15.7% increase in patent applications, marking the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth.   |
| Patents Granted (2023)     | Increase of 149.4% in patents granted compared to the previous year.  |
| Industrial Design Filings  | 36.4% rise in industrial design applications; top sectors: Textiles and Accessories, Tools and Machines, Health and Cosmetics.  |
| Trademark Filings          | India ranked fourth globally, with a 6.1% increase; nearly 90% filed by residents. Key sectors: Health (21.9%), Agriculture (15.3%), Clothing (12.8%).  |
| Trademarks in Force        | Over 3.2 million trademarks registered, second-largest number of active registrations globally.   |
| Patent-to-GDP Ratio        | Increased from 144 to 381 over the past decade.   |
| Global Context             | Asia accounted for 68.7% of global patent applications in 2023, with notable contributions from China, the US, Japan, South Korea, and India.   |

India's Historic Rise: Ranked 6th Globally in WIPO Patent Filings 2023

| Why in News                               | Key Points  |
|---|---|
| India's Global Patent Filing Rank in 2023 | India ranked <b>6th</b> in global patent filings for the first time in 2023.  |
| Patent Filing Growth in India             | India filed <b>64,480 patents</b> in 2023, showing a <b>15.7% growth</b> from 2022.   |
| Global Patent Filing Total                | Over <b>35 lakh patents</b> were filed worldwide in 2023.   |
| Top Countries in Patent Filings           | 1. <b>China</b> : 1.64 million patents, 2. <b>USA</b> : 518,364, 3. <b>Japan</b> : 414,413, 4. <b>South Korea</b> : 287,954, 5. <b>Germany</b> : 133,053, 6. <b>India</b> : 64,480.   |
| Global Patent Filing Growth               | Global patent filings increased by <b>15.7%</b> in 2023, the <b>4th consecutive year</b> of positive growth.  |
| Asia's Share in Global IP Filings         | <b>Asia</b> accounted for <b>68.7%</b> of global patent filings, <b>66.7%</b> of trademark filings, and <b>69%</b> of industrial design filings in 2023.  |
| India's Growth in IP Rights               | India also ranked in the top 10 for <b>industrial designs</b> and <b>trademarks</b> .   |
| Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)        | Includes patents, copyrights, trademarks, industrial designs, geographical indications, and trade secrets.  |
| Types of IPR:                             | <b>Patents</b> : Exclusive rights for inventions. <b>Copyright</b> : Literary and artistic works. <b>Trademarks</b> : Company identifiers. <b>Industrial Designs</b> : Aesthetic features of products. <b>Geographical Indications</b> : Origin-based goods. <b>Trade Secrets</b> : Confidential business info. |

India Drops Two Spots in Global Climate Index

| Summary/Static           | Details   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Why in the news?         | India drops two places but remains among top 10 climate performers: Report  |
| India's Rank             | 10th out of over 60 countries   |
| Strengths                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Low per-capita emissions (2.9 tCO2e, below global average of 6.6 tCO2e)</li> <li>– Rapid renewable energy growth (e.g., solar projects, Rooftop Solar Scheme)</li> <li>– Advancements in EV deployment, especially two-wheelers</li> <li>– Improved energy efficiency standards</li> </ul> |
| Challenges               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Heavy reliance on coal with plans to increase production</li> <li>– Growth-oriented approach driven by rising energy and industrial demand</li> </ul>  |
| Global Commitments       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Net-zero emissions by 2070</li> <li>– 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030</li> </ul>  |
| Global Context           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Top 3 CCPI spots left vacant due to no country achieving "very high" performance</li> <li>– 63 countries and EU assessed, contributing 90% of global emissions</li> </ul>  |
| Top Performers           | – Denmark (4th), Netherlands (5th), UK (6th)  |
| Lowest Performers        | – Iran (67th), Saudi Arabia (66th), UAE (65th), Russia (64th)   |
| China and US Rankings    | China (55th) and US (57th) due to heavy coal dependency and weak targets  |
| Argentina's Decline      | Rank 59th due to new president's climate denial stance  |
| India's Climate Approach | Growth-driven, reflecting industrial and population energy demands; need for transition away from fossil fuels  |

**World Bank Launches ‘Jobs at Your Doorstep’ Report in Delhi**

| Summary/Static                  | Details  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Why in the news?</b>         | World Bank Launches ‘Jobs at Your Doorstep’ Report in Delhi  |
| <b>Ministers Present</b>        | Dharmendra Pradhan (Education), Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Labour & Employment, Youth Affairs and Sports)  |
| <b>Main Focus</b>               | Skills gap analysis and aligning school curricula with local industry needs  |
| <b>States Covered</b>           | Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan   |
| <b>Report Title</b>             | Jobs at Your Doorstep: A Jobs Diagnostics for Young People in Six States   |
| <b>Report Objectives</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Analyze skills gaps in youth and align school curricula with industry needs</li> <li>– Focus on skill-based education from grades 9-12</li> </ul> |
| <b>Methodology</b>              | Bottom-up approach: Primary & secondary research in districts of six states  |
| <b>Recommended Framework</b>    | Pan-India framework to broaden the scope beyond the six states   |
| <b>NEP 2020 Alignment</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Emphasizes mainstreaming skill education in schools</li> <li>– Focus on consistent practice to master skills</li> </ul>                           |
| <b>Key Recommendations</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Embed skill-based education early (grades 9-12)</li> <li>– Align skills taught with local industry requirements</li> </ul>                        |
| <b>Government’s Perspective</b> | – Broaden “jobs” to include economic empowerment and opportunities   |
| <b>Expected Outcome</b>         | – Empower youth through skills training, contributing to economic growth   |

**Henley Passport Index 2024 October**

| Rank | Country   | Visa-Free Access |
|------|-----------|------------------|
| 1st  | Singapore | 195              |
| 2nd  | France    | 192              |
| 2nd  | Germany   | 192              |
| 2nd  | Italy     | 192              |
| 2nd  | Japan     | 192              |
| 2nd  | Spain     | 192              |
| 3rd  | Austria   | 191              |
| 3rd  | Denmark   | 191              |
| 3rd  | Finland   | 191              |
| 3rd  | Ireland   | 191              |

**India’s Position**

In contrast, **India** ranks **83rd**, providing its citizens with **visa-free access** to **58 countries**. This ranking underscores the challenges that Indian passport holders face in terms of global mobility. However, the growing emphasis on international relations may pave the way for improved access in the future.

**The World’s Weakest Passports**

While some passports grant their holders considerable travel freedom, others offer limited options. The **Henley Passport Index 2024** highlights the least powerful passports, which require holders to obtain visas for most international travel. The countries that rank at the bottom of the index include:

| Rank  | Country     | Visa-Free Access |
|-------|-------------|------------------|
| 102nd | Pakistan    | 33               |
| 102nd | Yemen       | 33               |
| 103rd | Iraq        | 31               |
| 104th | Syria       | 27               |
| 105th | Afghanistan | 26               |



Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024

Top 10 Philanthropists in 2024:

| Rank | Name                          | Donation (INR Cr) | Growth (%) | Primary Cause                           | Company/Foundation              |
|------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------|---|---------------------------------|
| 1    | Shiv Nadar & Family           | 2,153             | 5%         | Education                               | Shiv Nadar Foundation           |
| 2    | Mukesh Ambani & Family        | 407               | 8%         | Admission for Disadvantaged Communities | Reliance Foundation             |
| 3    | Bajaj Family                  | 352               | 33%        | Education for Engineering               | Bajaj Group Trust               |
| 4    | Kumar Mangalam Birla & Family | 334               | 17%        | Education                               | Aditya Birla Capital Foundation |
| 5    | Gautam Adani & Family         | 330               | 16%        | Education for Remote Villages           | Adani Foundation                |
| 6    | Nandan Nilekani               | 307               | 62%        | Ecosystem Building                      | Nilekani Philanthropies         |
| 7    | Krishna Chivukula             | 228               | New        | Education                               | ASHA Foundation                 |
| 8    | Anil Agarwal & Family         | 181               | -25%       | Education                               | Anil Agarwal Foundation         |
| 9    | Susmita & Subroto Bagchi      | 179               | 63%        | Public Healthcare                       | Mindtree                        |
| 10   | Rohini Nilekani               | 154               | -10%       | Ecosystem Building                      | Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies  |

QS Asia Rankings 2025

| Category             | Details  |
|----------------------|--|
| Top 5 Rankings       | - 2025 Top Asian Universities include leading institutions from China, Singapore, and Japan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peking University</li> <li>• location Beijing, China (Mainland)</li> <li>• The University of Hong Kong</li> <li>• location Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR</li> <li>• National University of Singapore (NUS)</li> <li>• location Singapore, Singapore</li> <li>• Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore)</li> <li>• location Singapore, Singapore</li> <li>• Fudan University</li> <li>• location Shanghai, China (Mainland)</li> </ul> |
| Indian Perspective   | - India's top-ranked: <b>IIT Delhi (44th), IIT Bombay (48th), IIT Madras (56th).</b>   |
| Produced By          | <b>Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)</b> , an internationally recognized provider of global university rankings.   |
| Past Ranking (India) | - In 2024, IIT Delhi was at 46th, IIT Bombay at 50th, and IIT Madras at 58th. Shows consistent improvement in Indian rankings over the years.  |
| Parameters           | - Academic Reputation<br>- Faculty-Student Ratio<br>- Citations per Paper<br>- Papers per Faculty<br>- International Research Network<br>- Employer Reputation<br>- Proportion of International Faculty and Students<br>- Inbound and Outbound Exchange<br>- Faculty with PhDs.  |
| Organization Facts   | - Headquarters in London, UK<br>- Founded in 1990<br>- Specializes in global education and rankings.   |

| Category                  | Details   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Edition                   | 2025, representing the latest insights and rankings in Asian academia.  |
| Total Members / Countries | - Rankings include <b>984 institutions</b> from <b>30+ Asian countries</b> .  |
| Reports Director's Name   | - <b>Ben Sowter</b> , Senior Vice President and Director of QS Intelligence Unit.   |
| Major Changes in Ranks    | - <b>IIT Delhi, Bombay, and Madras</b> improved in Asian standings, entering <b>top 50 for the first time</b> in QS Asia.<br>- Regional rank improvements noted for BRICS and G20 countries, especially in STEM-based metrics. NUST Islamabad from Pakistan shares the 6th position in South Asia alongside IIT Kanpur. |

**Global AI Preparedness India's Position Among Leading Nations**

| Summary               | Details  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Why in the news?      | <p>AI is revolutionizing the global economy. In the AI Preparedness Index India ranks 72 in the list. IMF AI Preparedness Index 2023</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital infrastructure,</li> <li>Human capital,</li> <li>Technological innovation,</li> <li>Legal frameworks.</li> </ol> <p>Top 10 Countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Singapore,</li> <li>Denmark,</li> <li>USA,</li> <li>Netherlands,</li> <li>Estonia,</li> <li>Finland,</li> <li>Switzerland,</li> <li>New Zealand,</li> <li>Germany,</li> <li>Sweden</li> </ol> <p>India - 72nd, China - 31st, Sri Lanka 92nd, Bangladesh - 113th.</p> |
| AI Preparedness Index | Released By IMF (Internal Monetary Fund)   |
| Total Countries       | 174  |

**Times Higher Education (THE) Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025**

| Category   | Details   |
|--|---|
| Key Highlight  | India's growing role in interdisciplinary research, with 65 universities featured in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025.   |
| Top Indian Universities in THE Interdisciplinary Science Rankings 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anna University (Rank 42),</li> <li>VIT University (Rank 65),</li> <li>SRM Institute of Science and Technology (Rank 84),</li> <li>KIIT University (Rank 92),</li> <li>University of Delhi (Rank 98),</li> <li>Lovely Professional University (Rank 99),</li> <li>Amity University (Rank 101),</li> <li>Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences (Rank 102),</li> <li>Jamia Millia Islamia (Rank 103),</li> <li>Jawaharlal Nehru University (Rank 105).</li> </ul> |

| Category   | Details  |
|--|--|
| <b>Global Leaders in Interdisciplinary Science</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MIT (USA) - Rank 1,</li> <li>Stanford University (USA) - Rank 2,</li> <li>National University of Singapore (Singapore) - Rank 3,</li> <li>California Institute of Technology (USA) - Rank 4,</li> <li>Duke University (USA) - Rank 5,</li> <li>University of Minnesota (USA) - Rank 6.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Significance for India</b>                      | Reflects India's growing contribution to interdisciplinary research that combines various fields (engineering, life sciences, computer science) to address global issues such as healthcare, climate change, and technological advancements.   |

**Network Readiness Index 2024**

| Summary/Static                          | Details  |
|---|--|
| <b>Why in the news?</b>                 | India ranks 49th in Global Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024  |
| <b>Overall Global Rank</b>              | 49th (Improved from 60th in 2023)  |
| <b>NRI Score</b>                        | 53.63 (Improved from 49.93 in 2023)  |
| <b>Global Ranking in Key Indicators</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AI Scientific Publications - 1st</li> <li>- AI Talent Concentration - 1st</li> <li>- ICT Services Exports - 1st</li> <li>- FTTH/Building Internet Subscriptions - 2nd</li> <li>- Mobile Broadband Internet Traffic - 2nd</li> <li>- International Internet Bandwidth - 2nd</li> <li>- Domestic Market Scale - 3rd</li> <li>- Annual Investment in Telecom Services - 4th</li> </ul> |
| <b>Regional Rank</b>                    | 2nd (Among lower-middle-income countries, after Vietnam)   |
| <b>Telecom Infrastructure Growth</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tele Density 84.69% (Increased from 75.2%)</li> <li>- Wireless Connections - 119 crore</li> <li>- Broadband Expansion - 94.4 crore (Increased from 25.1 crore)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>5G Launch</b>                        | 2022 (Improved mobile broadband speed from 118th to 15th)  |
| <b>Future Vision</b>                    | Bharat 6G Vision (Leadership in 6G telecom technologies)   |
| <b>Top 10 Countries</b>                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. United States</li> <li>2. Singapore</li> <li>3. Finland</li> <li>4. Sweden</li> <li>5. Republic of Korea</li> <li>6. Netherlands</li> <li>7. Switzerland</li> <li>8. United Kingdom</li> <li>9. Germany</li> <li>10. Denmark</li> </ol>  |
| <b>India's Neighbouring Countries</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- China - 17th</li> <li>- India - 49th</li> <li>- Bangladesh - 89th</li> <li>- Sri Lanka - 95th</li> <li>- Pakistan - 97th</li> </ul>   |

**REPORT**

**Rise in Glacial Lake Himalaya Report Tells**

| Summary                            | Details  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Why in the news?</b>            | <p>A government report indicated Glacial lake in Himalayan region <b>have experienced a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The total area of glacial lakes in <b>India grew from 1,962 hectares in 2011 to 2,623 hectares in 2024</b>, marking a 33.7% increase.</li> <li>A total of 67 lakes in India experienced over 40% increase in surface area, categorizing them as high-risk for GLOFs.</li> <li>The most notable <b>expansions were recorded in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Central Water Commission HQ</b> | New Delhi  |
| <b>CWC Chairman</b>                | Shri Kushvinder Vohra  |

**ISA Launches World Solar Report Series**

| Summary/Static                               | Details  |
|--|--|
| <b>Why in the news?</b>                      | 3rd Edition of World Solar Report Series launched at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).   |
| <b>Released By</b>                           | Pralhad Joshi, President of ISA Assembly and India’s Minister for New and Renewable Energy.  |
| <b>Reports</b>                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Solar Market Report</li> <li>World Investment Report</li> <li>World Technology Report</li> <li>Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Overview of World Solar Report Series</b> | First introduced in 2022, provides an overview of global solar progress, investment trends, challenges, and technological advancements.  |
| <b>High-Level Conference</b>                 | Held alongside the 7th ISA Assembly. Co-organized with India’s Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Solar Energy Society.   |
| <b>Conference Objectives</b>                 | Drive actionable change in solar technology and policy for a clean energy transition. Focus on emerging technologies, storage, and the role of solar in socio-economic development.  |
| <b>About ISA</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Founded:</b> December 6, 2017, headquartered in India.</li> <li>- <b>Mission:</b> \$1 trillion solar investment by 2030, promoting affordable solar.</li> <li>- <b>Partnerships:</b> MDBs, DFIs, private/public sector collaborations to aid LDCs and SIDS.</li> <li>- <b>Initiatives:</b> Policy support, investment mobilization, cost reduction, training, and data access for stakeholders.</li> </ul> |

**ACQUISITION & MERGERS**

- DPIIT has approved the ₹10,000-crore acquisition** of Reliance Capital (RCAP) by IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL), backed by the Hinduja Group. This acquisition helps resolve RCAP’s ₹40,000-crore liabilities and moves the troubled financial entity closer to finalizing the deal.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved **Alphabet Inc.’s subsidiary, Shoreline International Holdings LLC**, to acquire a stake in **Walmart-owned Flipkart**. This follows **Flipkart’s May 2024 funding round**, where **Google** invested **\$350 million** of the **\$1 billion** raised. Additionally, CCI approved **MUFG Bank Ltd.’s** acquisition of an additional stake in **DMI Finance**, raising MUFG’s shareholding to **20%**.

**DEFENCE**

EXERCISE

| EXERCISE NAME                                | VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES               | KEY NOTES   |
|--|---|---|
| Special Forces Exercise, <b>VAJRA PRAHAR</b> | <b>Idaho, USA</b>                             | Indian Army contingent embarked on a journey to participate in the 15th edition of the India-US joint Special Forces Exercise, <b>VAJRA PRAHAR</b> , set to be conducted from <b>November 2 to November 22, 2024</b> . This prestigious exercise will take place at the <b>Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, USA</b> , marking a significant step toward bolstering military cooperation and tactical interoperability between the two nations.  |
| <b>GARUD SHAKTI 24</b>                       | <b>Jakarta, Indonesia</b>                     | The Indian Army contingent, consisting of <b>25 skilled personnel from The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)</b> , recently embarked on a journey to <b>Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia</b> to participate in the <b>9th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise, GARUD SHAKTI 24</b> . Scheduled to take place from <b>November 1 to November 12, 2024</b> , this exercise is a testament to the strong military cooperation and shared strategic interests between India and Indonesia.            |
| <b>Sea Vigil-24</b>                          | Coastal states and union territories of India | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The exercise will cover India’s entire coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)</li> <li>Covers 11,098 km of coastline and 2.4 million sq km Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)</li> <li>- CDSRE phase began in late October with audits across coastal states, Union Territories, Lakshadweep, and Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</li> <li>- Safeguarding ports, oil rigs, Single Point Moorings, Cable Landing Points, and critical infrastructure</li> </ul>                       |
| <b>VINBAX 2024</b>                           | <b>Vietnam-India</b>                          | <b>The 5th edition of the Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise, “VINBAX 2024,”</b> began at Ambala the exercise will take place at both <b>Ambala and Chandimandir</b> , aiming to strengthen military cooperation and interoperability between the two nations.   |
| <b>Poorvi Prahaar</b>                        | <b>Tri-services military exercise</b>         | This 10-day exercise follows the recent disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops at key <b>friction points in eastern Ladakh, including Depsang and Demchok</b> , and underscores India’s commitment to enhanced defense capabilities.   |
| <b>AUSTRAHIND</b>                            | <b>India and Australia</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The third edition of the joint military exercise AUSTRAHIND commenced today at the Foreign Training Node in Pune, Maharashtra.</li> <li>Promote military cooperation between India and Australia</li> <li>Enhance interoperability in joint sub-conventional operations</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Sanyukt Vimochan 2024</b>                 | <b>Indian Army</b>                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Army successfully conducted the “Sanyukt Vimochan 2024” exercise, a Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) event, in Ahmedabad and Porbandar, Gujarat on November 18-19, 2024.</li> <li>The exercise demonstrated India’s readiness and collaborative capabilities in disaster response and was attended by various national and international agencies, including Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi.</li> </ul> |
| <b>SAREX-24</b>                              |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) will host the 11th edition of SAREX-24 (National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercises &amp; Workshop) in Kochi from November 27 to 30, 2024.</li> <li>Organized under the National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board, the event aims to enhance India’s maritime search and rescue (SAR) capabilities through collaboration with national and international stakeholders.</li> </ul>   |

**TESTING**

| MISSILES NAME                                  | TESTING LOCATION                     | FEATURES   |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) | Chandipur, Odisha                    | Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the first flight test of the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) with a range of 1,000 km. The test took place at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.   |
| C-295 Full Motion Simulator (FMS) facility     | Air Force Station Agra               | Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Air Command, inaugurated the Indian Air Force (IAF) C-295 Full Motion Simulator (FMS) facility on November 11, 2024, at Air Force Station Agra.   |
| Guided Pinaka Weapon System                    | Odisha                               | The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed a series of flight tests for the Guided Pinaka Weapon System, conducted as part of the Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials.  |
| First long-range hypersonic missile            | Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha | India successfully conducted the flight trial of its first long-range hypersonic missile on November 16, marking a major milestone in its defense capabilities. The missile, developed by DRDO, can travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5 (over 6,174 km/h) and has a range of over 1,500 km. It is capable of hitting both moving sea targets and static land targets. The test was conducted at Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha, placing India in an exclusive group of nations with hypersonic weapons technology. |

**DEAL & MoU's**

**ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS**

- India is set to mark a significant milestone in its aerospace industry with the rollout of the first locally assembled **C295 military transport aircraft** from the **Vadodara facility in September 2026**. This initiative, part of the **“Make in India”** campaign, represents a robust collaboration between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems. The facility was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, highlighting the deepening defense ties between India and Spain.
- **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)** launched **two indigenous fast patrol vessels, Adamyra and Akshar**, designed for the Indian Coast Guard, on 28th October. These vessels are intended to enhance the protection of offshore assets, island territories, and conduct surveillance operations.
- The Defence Space Agency is conducting *Antariksha Abhyas – 2024*, a three-day exercise from November 11-13, to simulate and address threats to space-based assets and services, marking a groundbreaking initiative in space defense.
- Chief of Defence Staff **General Anil Chauhan** chaired the **35th Tri-Services Commanders’ Conference (TSTCC)** at the **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**
- In a move to **strengthen Rajasthan’s defence industrial base**, the Army’s Jaipur-based South Western Command has established a think tank named **Gyan Shakti**.
- The **Indian Navy successfully** conducted the third edition of the **Mahasagar summit**, continuing its flagship outreach initiative for maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Held virtually under the theme, **“Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR**.
- The **2nd edition of the Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF)** is set to begin on November 8, 2024, in New Delhi.
- The **Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini** began the second leg of the **Navika Sagar Parikrama-II (NSP-II)** on **November 24, 2024**, after being flagged off by **Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi** on **October 2, 2024**. The expedition, with a **two-woman naval crew**, aims to circumnavigate the globe. This leg, covering **3,400 nautical miles** from **Fremantle, Australia** to **Lyttelton, New Zealand**, underscores India’s commitment to **gender equality, maritime cooperation, and women’s empowerment**. ([Click here to read article](#))

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**SATELLITES LAUNCHES**

- ISRO is set to launch the European Union’s Proba-3 Solar Observation Mission in December from Sriharikota. The mission aims to study the Sun’s faint corona and is India's third space collaboration with the EU, following Proba-1 and Proba-2.
- Japanese scientists have launched the world’s first wooden satellite, LignoSat, developed by Kyoto University in collaboration with Sumitomo Forestry. The satellite, made from honoki wood, aims to test the viability of timber for future space structures, exploring its resilience in space's extreme conditions.
- Zimbabwe has launched its second satellite, **ZIMSAT-2**, from the **Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia**, a major milestone in the country’s growing space programme. This satellite, equipped with a high-resolution multispectral camera, will aid in agriculture, resource exploration, environmental monitoring, and disaster management.

## NATIONAL

- ISRO announced the launch of its **analogue space mission in Leh, Ladakh**. This innovative mission aims to simulate life in an interplanetary habitat, addressing the challenges associated with establishing a base station beyond Earth. Through this initiative, ISRO seeks to gather insights and prepare for future space exploration endeavors.
- India's **GSAT-20** heavy communication satellite, weighing **4,700 kg**, will be launched from **Cape Canaveral, USA** on **November 19, 2024**, by **Elon Musk's SpaceX**. Developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**, the satellite will provide crucial **communication services**, including internet connectivity to remote areas. This launch marks a significant milestone in **India's space endeavors**, as the satellite is too heavy for India's own launch vehicle, the **LVM-3 "Bahubali"**.
- **STRONG** is a new **computational language** developed by researchers at the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** for encoding the shape and structure of **nanopores**. It uses unique letters to represent atomic configurations at nanopore edges, simplifying their representation for **machine learning (ML)** models. STRONG enables **data reduction**, integrates with **ML** for accurate property predictions, and aids in **reverse engineering** nanopores with desired characteristics. The tool is a major advancement in **nanopore research and materials science**.
- **TakeMe2Space (TM2Space)**, a **Hyderabad-based** space tech company, will launch **India's first AI laboratory in space, MOI-TD**, aboard **ISRO's PSLV C60 rocket** in December 2024. The mission will enable **real-time in-orbit data processing**, reducing **data transmission costs** and expanding space research access. Developed with support from **IN-SPACE Technical Centre**, the initiative aims to **democratize space technology** and accelerate **India's space innovation**.
- **ISRO** will launch the **ESA's Proba-3 mission** on **December 4, 2024**, using the **PSLV-XL rocket**. The mission will study the **Sun's corona** through **precision formation flying** with two satellites: the **Oculter Spacecraft** (200 kg) and the **Coronagraph Spacecraft** (340 kg). This mission, the first of its kind, aims to create an **artificial solar eclipse** to observe the Sun's outer atmosphere, showcasing a **technological breakthrough** and **international collaboration** in space exploration.
- **ISRO** has announced several **groundbreaking initiatives**, including the **Shukrayaan Venus Mission** set for launch in **2028** to explore **Venus's atmosphere and surface**. Other plans include advancements in **lunar, Mars missions**, the development of **India's space station**, and upgrades to **weather and communication systems**, reflecting India's growing ambitions in **space exploration** and interplanetary studies.
- Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** announced the selection of **eight startups** under the **National Quantum Mission (NQM)** and **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NMICPS)**. These startups are driving innovations in **quantum technology**, focusing on areas like **secure communication, quantum computing, quantum sensing, and energy efficiency**. Notable startups include **QNu Labs, QPIAI India, Dimira Technologies, and Pristine Diamonds**, among others, contributing to advancements in **cryogenics, superconducting materials, and quantum applications**.

## INTERNATIONAL

- China successfully launched a new spacecraft carrying three astronauts, including the country's first female space engineer, on a six-month mission. This crew will work on fine-tuning operations at **China's low-orbit space station, marking a significant step in the country's advancing space exploration efforts**.
- NASA and Microsoft have partnered to develop "Earth Copilot," an AI-powered chatbot designed to simplify access to NASA's vast geospatial data. By utilizing Microsoft's **Azure cloud** and advanced AI, Earth Copilot enables users to interact with complex **Earth Science data** through simple, **plain-language queries**. This makes it easier for a broader audience to retrieve and understand information on topics like **hurricane impacts** and **climate change monitoring**, which previously required specialized knowledge.
- **SpaceX** successfully launched the **ISRO's GSAT-N2** communication satellite from **Canaveral Space Force Station** in Florida. The satellite is designed to enhance **broadband connectivity** and support India's **Smart Cities Mission**. This launch, carried aboard **SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket**, marks the first **commercial collaboration** between **ISRO** and **SpaceX**, highlighting India's increasing reliance on **international partnerships** to achieve its ambitious space and technological goals.

## **SPORTS**

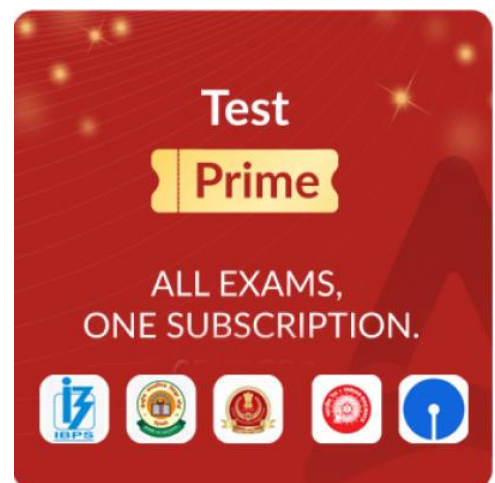
### CRICKET

- **Veteran Australian wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade** has officially retired from international cricket after an illustrious 13-year career, leaving a lasting impact on the sport. Known for his fighting spirit, Wade's journey from a hard-hitting batter to a strategic finisher has been nothing short of inspiring.
- **Ravindra Jadeja** achieved a significant milestone by becoming the **fifth-highest wicket-taker** for India in Test cricket. This feat was accomplished on the first day of the third Test match against New Zealand in Mumbai, where Jadeja surpassed Ishant Sharma's wicket tally. Jadeja now stands among India's legendary bowlers, with only four players ahead of him. Anil Kumble, Ravichandran Ashwin, Kapil Dev, Harbhajan Singh.

- **Tim Southee, New Zealand's all-time leading wicket-taker**, has announced his decision to **retire from international cricket** after the completion of the current ICC World Test Championship campaign.
- Indian wicketkeeper-batter **Wriddhiman Saha** has announced his retirement from all formats of cricket, bringing an end to his nearly two-decade-long career. He revealed that the ongoing Ranji Trophy season would be his last.
- Afghanistan's iconic all-rounder, **Mohammad Nabi**, will bring his illustrious **ODI career** to a close following the **2025 ICC Champions Trophy** in Pakistan.
- India's legendary cricketer **Jhulan Goswami** will be honored with a **stand named after her** at the **Eden Gardens, Kolkata**, by the **Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB)**, making her the **first woman cricketer** to receive such recognition. The unveiling will occur on **January 22, 2025**, during the **India-England T20I match**, celebrating her **extraordinary achievements** and contributions to **women's cricket**.
- On **22nd November**, **Jay Shah**, ICC president-elect and chief of the **BCCI** and **ACC**, announced a historic partnership between the **Asian Cricket Council (ACC)** and **Sony Sports Networks**. The deal, effective from **2024 to 2031**, ensures exclusive broadcasting of all **ACC tournaments** on **Sony Sports**, significantly enhancing cricket's visibility in the region.
- **Rishabh Pant** made history by becoming the **costliest player** in IPL history, fetching ₹27 crore from **Lucknow Super Giants (LSG)**, despite mixed white-ball performances. His move was influenced by uncertainty over his **captaincy** at **Delhi Capitals**. **Shreyas Iyer** followed closely with ₹26.75 crore, while **Venkatesh Iyer** was a surprise, returning to **Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)** for ₹23.75 crore, showcasing the franchise's faith in him.
- **Vaibhav Suryavanshi**, a 13-year-old cricketer from **Bihar**, made history by becoming the youngest player ever signed at an **IPL auction**. On **Day 2 of the IPL 2025 Mega Auction** in **Jeddah**, **Rajasthan Royals** secured him for ₹1.10 crore, outbidding **Delhi Capitals** in a fierce bidding war. This remarkable achievement has positioned Suryavanshi as a promising **rising star** in Indian cricket.
- **Siddarth Kaul**, a 34-year-old fast bowler, announced his retirement from Indian cricket after a 17-year career. Kaul, who played six international matches (3 ODIs, 3 T20Is), was part of India's **Under-19 World Cup winning team** in 2008 and had **IPL success** with **Sunrisers Hyderabad**, where he was the joint-highest wicket-taker in 2018. He intends to explore **opportunities overseas** after achieving his childhood dream of representing India.
- On **November 25, 2024**, **India** achieved a historic **295-run victory** over **Australia** in the **first Test** of the **Border-Gavaskar Trophy** at **Optus Stadium, Perth**. This stunning win gave India a **1-0 lead** in the series and shattered a **47-year-old record**, marking India's **biggest victory against Australia** in Australia in terms of runs, surpassing the previous record of **222 runs** set in **Melbourne** in 1977.

### BADMINTON & TENNIS

- **Prajnesh Gunneswaran**, the Indian tennis star who won a **bronze medal in singles** at the **2018 Jakarta Asian Games**, announced his **retirement from professional tennis**.
- **Harshit Mahimkar** and **Prisha Shah** dominated the **Maharashtra State Open Badminton Tournament 2024**, winning the **men's** and **women's singles** titles, as well as the **U-17 boys'** and **girls' singles** crowns. Held at the **Willingdon Sports Club**, their performances showcased exceptional skill, harking back to previous triumphs in Maharashtra's badminton circuit and setting a high standard for future competitors.
- **Rafael Nadal**, one of tennis's greatest players, bid farewell to professional tennis at the **2024 Davis Cup** in **Málaga, Spain**. His final match ended in a **6-4, 6-4 loss** to **Botic Van de Zandschulp** of the Netherlands, marking the end of an extraordinary career. With **22 Grand Slam titles**, **four Davis Cup victories**, and **two Olympic golds**, Nadal leaves behind an **unmatched legacy** defined by **grit**, **humility**, and incredible prowess on the court.
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**ARCHERY & SHOOTING**

- At the **GT Open 2024** in **Luxembourg**, India's **Jyothi Surekha Vennam** won the **gold** in women's compound archery, defeating **Sarah Priiels** of Belgium with a **147-145** victory. In the men's competition, **Abhishek Verma**, who shot a perfect **600** in qualifications, claimed **silver** after a shoot-off loss to **Mike Schlosser**.

**ATHLETIC & FOOTBALL**

- FIFA has unveiled the **2025 Club World Cup** trophy, designed in collaboration with **Tiffany & Co**. The golden trophy features a **24-carat gold-plated finish** with intricate engravings, drawing inspiration from **NASA's Voyager missions**, the **periodic table**, and **astronomical maps**. Its design symbolizes the future of football and global unity, with engravings in 13 languages, **Braille**, and a **world map**.
- Italy** won its **fifth Billie Jean King Cup** title on **November 20, 2024**, defeating **Slovakia 2-0** in the final in **Malaga, Spain**. **Jasmine Paolini** secured the victory with a dominant **6-2, 6-1** win over **Rebecca Sramkova**, following **Lucia Bronzetti's 6-2, 6-4** triumph against **Viktoria Hrucakova**.
- The **40th edition** of the **Governor's Gold Cup International Football Tournament** concluded on **November 24, 2024**, at **Paljor Stadium** in **Gangtok**, with **NorthEast United FC** winning in a dramatic **4-3 penalty shootout** over **Gangtok Himalayan SC**.

**Hockey**

- Odisha** triumphed in a spectacular fashion at the **14th Hockey India Senior National Championship**, defeating **two-time champions Haryana 5-1** in the final at the **SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium** in **Chennai**. This historic victory secured Odisha's **first-ever gold medal** in the tournament, with **Shilanand Lakra** delivering an outstanding **hat-trick**, making a pivotal contribution to the win.
- India's **Women's Hockey Team** defended their title at the **Women's Asian Champions Trophy**, defeating **China 1-0** in the final. **Deepika's reverse-hit goal** in the 31st minute secured India's **third ACT title** and back-to-back championships, highlighting their dominance alongside **South Korea**.

**FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2024**

- The **FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024** ceremony, which took place on **November 8, 2024**, in **Muscat, Oman**, celebrated the top performers in international hockey. Indian hockey team captain **Harmanpreet Singh** was named the **Men's Player of the Year**, while legendary goalkeeper **PR Sreejesh** was awarded the **Men's Goalkeeper of the Year**. The awards are determined by a voting process that includes national team captains, coaches, experts, and fans, as well as media representation.

**FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024 – Full List of Winners**

Below is the complete list of winners at the **FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024**:

| Award Category                  | Winner            | Country     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Men's Player of the Year        | Harmanpreet Singh | India       |
| Women's Player of the Year      | Yibbi Jansen      | Netherlands |
| Men's Goalkeeper of the Year    | PR Sreejesh       | India       |
| Women's Goalkeeper of the Year  | Ye Jiao           | China       |
| Men's Rising Star of the Year   | Sufyan Khan       | Pakistan    |
| Women's Rising Star of the Year | Zoe Diaz          | Argentina   |
| Men's Coach of the Year         | Jeroen Delmee     | Netherlands |
| Women's Coach of the Year       | Alyson Annan      | China       |
| Men's Umpire of the Year        | Steve Rogers      | Australia   |
| Women's Umpire of the Year      | Sarah Wilson      | Scotland    |

## OTHER SPORTS NEWS

- **Chirag Chikkara** made history by becoming **only the third Indian wrestler to win the Under-23 World Championship**.
- India achieved a commendable **runner-up position** in the overall team standings at the Asian Arm Wrestling Cup 2024, which took place at the Aurika Skycity Hotel in Mumbai. The Indian team **finished second in the medal tally, only behind Kazakhstan**, the top-ranking nation in the world of arm wrestling.
- Pankaj Advani clinched his 28th world title by defeating England's Robert Hall 4-2 at the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Doha on November 9, 2024. This victory marked his seventh consecutive World Billiards Championship win.
- **GM Aravindh Chithambaram** made a remarkable late surge in the final rounds, winning the last two classical games to secure the **Chennai Grand Masters 2024 title**.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, launched a nationwide initiative to combat doping in sports, encouraging athletes, coaches, and the sporting community to use the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India's 'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' app.
- India has submitted a Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, marking a major step toward fulfilling Prime Minister Modi's vision of hosting the prestigious event for the first time.
- **Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd)**, the **Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh**, inaugurated the much-awaited **4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament** at the newly constructed **Polo Stadium at Goshan, Drass**. This event, organized by the **Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh**.
- India's celebrated badminton star and **Olympic medallist, PV Sindhu, laid the foundation stone** for the **PV Sindhu Centre for Badminton and Sports Excellence** on November 7, in **Chinna Gadili village on the outskirts of Visakhapatnam**.
- Indian professional boxer **Mandeep Jangra** claimed the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in an intense match in the Cayman Islands.
- Max Verstappen's incredible victory at the Brazil Grand Prix has captivated the Formula 1 world. Starting from 17th place, Verstappen showcased remarkable skill and resilience, storming to the front despite challenging rain-soaked conditions at the Interlagos circuit in Sao Paulo.
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- Three-year-old Anish Sarkar from Kolkata has become the world's youngest-rated chess player, achieving an impressive FIDE rating of 1555.
- **Arjun Erigaisi** made a significant leap in the chess world by securing the world No. 2 spot in live ratings on 7th November.
- The **4th National Finswimming Championship 2024** concluded in New Delhi with impressive performances from 1500 participants across 26 states and union territories. **West Bengal** emerged as the **team champions** with 151 medals (67 gold, 43 silver, 41 bronze), followed by **Karnataka** (50 medals) and **Uttarakhand** (21 medals). Organized by the **Underwater Sports Federation of India (USFI)**, the event highlighted India's growing success in **finswimming**.
- India will host the inaugural **Kho Kho World Cup** from **January 13 to 19, 2025**, at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi**. This historic event aims to elevate **Kho Kho**, one of India's cherished indigenous games, to the global stage. Supported by the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** and the **Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI)**, the tournament is set to be a major milestone in promoting **traditional sports**.
- **Alistair Brownlee**, a **double Olympic champion** and pivotal figure in British triathlon, has announced his **retirement** at **36**. Renowned for his iconic victories in **London 2012** and **Rio 2016**, he has inspired a new generation, including current Olympic champion **Alex Yee**, leaving a lasting legacy in the sport.
- **Reetika Hooda** made history by winning the **gold medal** in the **women's 76kg** category at the **World Military Championships**, becoming the second **Indian woman** to achieve this feat. This victory follows **Jyoti Sihag's** gold in the **55kg category**, marking a significant debut for **India's women's wrestling contingent** at the prestigious event.
- **Emma McKeon**, Australia's most decorated Olympian, announced her retirement on **November 25, 2024**, at age 30. She leaves a remarkable legacy with **14 Olympic medals—six golds, three silvers, and five bronzes—**earned across **three Olympics: Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020, and Paris 2024**. McKeon's **historic seven-medal performance** at **Tokyo 2020** remains the most by a female swimmer at a single Games and tied for the most by any female athlete in one Olympics.
- The **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** has imposed a **four-year suspension** on Olympic bronze medallist **Bajrang Punia** for violating the **anti-doping code**. The suspension follows his refusal to provide a **urine sample** during **selection trials** on **March 10, 2024**. This decision extends the **provisional suspension** from April 2024, barring him from **competitive wrestling** and **coaching opportunities abroad**.

- **Divith Reddy**, an **eight-year-old** from **Hyderabad**, won the **Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship**, securing **9/11 points** and the **gold medal** on tie-break over fellow Indian **Sattwik Swain**, who earned silver. **Ziming Guo** of **China** took the bronze with 9/11 points. This victory highlights **India's growing dominance** in junior chess.
- **Max Verstappen** secured his **fourth consecutive Drivers' Championship title** despite finishing **fifth** in the **2024 Las Vegas Grand Prix**. The race, held on **November 24** in the **United States**, saw **George Russell** of **Mercedes** emerge victorious, with **Lewis Hamilton** finishing second. Verstappen's dominance continued, as his commanding lead in the points table ensured his historic fourth title, making him the **sixth driver** in history to achieve this feat.

## BOOKS & AUTHORS

| Book Name   | Author                         | Key Notes   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Maa-Mother'</b>  | Dr. Davendra Kumar Dhodawat    | Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launched the book 'Maa-Mother' in New Delhi, with Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and West Bengal Governor Dr. C.V. Anand Bose in attendance. The book, centered on the theme of motherhood, explores the subject through poetry. |
| Why Bharat Matters  | <b>S. Jaishankar</b>           | External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar launched his new book, Why Bharat Matters, at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Library in Dubai, UAE   |
| Friends – India's Closest Strategic Partners  | <b>Prof. Sreeram Chaulia's</b> | Friends – India's Closest Strategic Partners, dives into the intricate world of India's foreign relations, offering a unique perspective on India's closest allies and strategic partners.  |
| <i>Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism</i>                 | <b>Ramachandra Guha</b>        | Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism  |
| Beyond the Higgs Boson: The W Boson and Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal's Quest for the Unknown | <b>Manik Kotwal</b>            | The book chronicles the journey of Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal, an Indian physicist pivotal in Higgs boson and W boson research, offering a deeply personal perspective on his groundbreaking achievements.   |
| <i>My Beloved Life</i>  | <b>Amitava Kumar</b>           | Amitava Kumar's My Beloved Life tells the story of Jadunath "Jadu" Kunwar from a small village in Bihar, and his daughter Jugnu, as they navigate love, loss, and personal growth in a changing India.  |

## OBITUARY

### NATIONAL

| S.No | Person Name                  | Field           | Born Place | Key Notes   |
|------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|---|
| 1    | Justice K.S. Puttaswamy      | Law & Judiciary | India      | Petitioner in landmark case establishing the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right; passed away at 98.  |
| 2    | Bibek Debroy                 | Economics       | India      | Economist and Chairman of PM's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM); passed away at 69.   |
| 3    | Rohit Bal                    | Fashion Design  | India      | Renowned Indian designer celebrated for his intricate craftsmanship; passed away at 63.   |
| 4    | <b>Sharda Sinha</b>          | Bihar Kokila    | India      | Legendary folk singer, <b>Sharda Sinha</b> , known fondly as the "Bihar Kokila" (Nightingale of Bihar) has passed away at age 72 due to complications from cancer. Sinha's voice brought joy and pride to countless people, especially those who celebrated the traditional festivals of <b>Bihar</b> . |
| 5    | Harinder Singh Sodhi (Billy) | Polo            | -          | Passed away at 86 due to age-related issues. A legendary Indian polo player with a rare plus-five handicap. Received the Arjuna Award.  |

| S.No | Person Name                  | Field  | Born Place         | Key Notes  |
|------|------------------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| 6    | Pandit Ram Narayan           | Sarangi virtuoso   | Mumbai             | Passed away on November 8, 2024, at 96. Transformed the sarangi into a prominent solo instrument in Hindustani classical music.                                |
| 7    | Mahendra Singh Mewar         | Politics (Former BJP MP)   | Udaipur, Rajasthan | Passed away on November 10, 2024, at 83 after prolonged illness. Member of the Mewar royal family.   |
| 8    | 'Delhi' Ganesh               | Acting   | -                  | Passed away at 80. Renowned Tamil actor with remarkable versatility in over 400 films.   |
| 9    | Varadarao Kamalakara Rao     | Mridangam Artist & Scholar   | Rajahmundry        | Passed away at 88. Known for innovative techniques and contributions to Indian classical music, inspiring generations with his exceptional rhythm.             |
| 10   |                              |  |                    |  |
| 11   | Justice Harjit Singh Bedi    | former Supreme Court judge and ex-Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court |                    | Renowned for reviewing alleged fake encounter cases in Gujarat, he was a distinguished figure in the judiciary. His cremation is set for Friday in Chandigarh. |
| 12   | Shashikant Ruia              | Business (Essar Group)   | -                  | Co-founder and Chairman of Essar Group; transformed Essar into a global conglomerate.  |
| 13   | Professor Amiya Kumar Bagchi | Economics (Economic History)   | -                  | Renowned economic historian and macroeconomist; contributed significantly to understanding colonial India's economy.   |

**INTERNATIONAL**

| S.No | PERSON NAME         | FIELD                           | BORN PLACE    | KEY NOTES  |
|------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|--|
| 1    | John Prescott       | Deputy prime minister of the UK | UK            | John Prescott, former deputy prime minister of the UK, passed away at 86. A prominent figure in the Labour Party and trade union movement, Prescott modernized the party while upholding its working-class values. Known for his plain-speaking style, he made significant contributions to environmental policy and social justice, leaving a lasting impact on British politics. |
| 2    | Princess Mikasa     | Royalty                         | Japan         | Passed away at 101. The oldest member of Japan's royal family.   |
| 3    | Breyten Breytenbach | Literature (Poetry, Memoirs)    | South Africa  | Anti-apartheid activist, poet, and memoirist; passed away at 85 in Paris.  |
| 4    | John Tinniswood     | Longevity                       | Liverpool, UK | World's oldest man at 112; lived through major historical events, including both World Wars.   |

**IMPORTANT DAYS**

| Date       | Day/Observance  | Theme/Description  |
|------------|---|--|
| November 1 | Coal India Limited's 50th Foundation Day  | Marked the golden jubilee year with tributes at the Coal Martyrs' Memorial.                            |
| November 2 | International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (IDEI)                   | Highlights the need to protect journalists and combat impunity for crimes against them.                |
| November 5 | World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD)  | <b>Theme 2024:</b> "Building Resilient Communities"; promotes awareness and preparedness for tsunamis. |
| November 6 | International Day for Prevention of Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict | Raises awareness about protecting the environment during conflicts.                                    |

| Date           | Day/Observance   | Theme/Description   |
|----------------|--|---|
| November 7     | National Cancer Awareness Day  | Raises awareness about cancer prevention, detection, and treatment in India.  |
| November 8     | World Radiology Day  | <b>Theme 2024:</b> "Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen"; honors Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen's discovery of X-rays.   |
| November 9     | International Week of Science and Peace (IWOSP)  | Celebrated annually from November 9–15 to promote the role of science in global peace.  |
| November 9     | Uttarakhand Foundation Day   | Marks the formation of Uttarakhand as a separate state.   |
| November 9     | World Adoption Day   | Raises awareness about the impact of adoption.  |
| November 10    | World Science Day for Peace and Development  | <b>Theme 2024:</b> "Youth at the Forefront"; highlights science's role in global peace and sustainability.  |
| November 10    | World Immunization Day   | Highlights the importance of vaccines and public health initiatives.  |
| November 11    | National Education Day   | Honors Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's contributions to India's education system.   |
| November 11    | World Quality Week   | <b>Theme 2024:</b> "Quality: From Compliance to Performance"; focuses on improving organizational performance.  |
| November 12    | World Pneumonia Day  | <b>Theme 2024:</b> "Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Tracks"; raises awareness about pneumonia.   |
| November 14    | World Diabetes Day (WDD)   | <b>Theme 2024–26:</b> "Diabetes and Well-being"; focuses on diabetes awareness and prevention.  |
| November 14    | Children's Day (Bal Diwas)   | Celebrates the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and promotes children's welfare.  |
| November 14    | All India Cooperative Week   | <b>Theme 2024:</b> "Role of Cooperatives in Building Viksit Bharat"; focuses on cooperatives in development.  |
| November 15    | Birsa Munda Jayanti (Janjatiya Gaurav Divas)   | Celebrates the tribal leader's legacy and contributions.  |
| November 15    | Jharkhand Foundation Day   | Marks the creation of the state of Jharkhand.   |
| November 16    | National Press Day   | Commemorates the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966.   |
| November 16    | International Day for Tolerance  | Promotes mutual understanding among cultures and encourages tolerance.  |
| November 17    | World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims  | Observed on the third Sunday of November to honor victims of road accidents.  |
| November 18-24 | <b>World AMR Awareness Week</b>  | The <b>2024 theme</b> , "Educate. Advocate. Act Now.,"  |
| November 18    | <b>World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence</b> | This day emphasizes raising awareness about the widespread and devastating issue of child sexual abuse and violence.  |
| November 19    | International Men's Day  | The theme for <b>2024</b> is " <b>Positive Male Role Models</b> ".  |
| November 19    | National Integration Day   | Marks the birth anniversary of <b>Indira Gandhi</b> , India's first woman Prime Minister.   |
| November 20    | World Children's Day   | The 2024 theme, " <b>Listen to the Future</b> ,"  |
| November 21    | World Fisheries Day  | <b>Theme for 2024</b> is " <b>India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Small-Scale and Sustainable Fisheries</b> ," underscoring India's commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable practices in the sector.  |
| 21st November  | National Philosophy Day  | Established by <b>UNESCO</b> in 2002, the day emphasizes the <b>importance of philosophy</b> in shaping human thought, promoting <b>critical discourse</b> , and addressing <b>global challenges</b> . It also fosters <b>intercultural dialogue</b> and encourages questioning foundational assumptions. |
| November 21    | World Television Day   | <b>World Television Day</b> is celebrated every year on <b>November 21</b> to underscore the role of television as a vital medium of communication.   |

| Date              | Day/Observance   | Theme/Description   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| November 25       | <b>International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women</b> | November 25, the <b>International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women</b> , raises global awareness about <b>violence against women and girls</b> . Observed annually, it urges <b>governments, organizations, and civil society</b> to take action to combat this issue.   |
| November 26       | <b>National Milk Day</b>   | The day marks the <b>birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien</b> , the <b>Father of the White Revolution</b> in India.   |
| November 25 to 29 | <b>Aviation Safety Awareness Week</b>                                  | The Airports Authority of India (AAI) observes <b>Aviation Safety Awareness Week</b> from <b>November 25 to 29</b> to emphasize its commitment to aviation safety. Led by Chairman Vipin Kumar, the initiative promotes a strong safety culture across airports and Air Navigation Services in India, aligning with global safety standards.  |
| 29 November       | <b>International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People</b>     | <b>International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People</b> is observed on <b>29 November</b> annually, established by the <b>UN General Assembly</b> in <b>1977</b> . The day emphasizes the <b>inalienable rights</b> of the Palestinian people and calls for support in achieving <b>peace</b> . It marks the adoption of <b>UN Resolution 181</b> on this date in <b>1947</b> , which proposed the <b>Partition Plan for Palestine</b> . |
| November 29       | <b>International Jaguar Day</b>  | <b>International Jaguar Day</b> is observed on <b>November 29</b> each year to raise awareness about the <b>importance of jaguars</b> ( <i>Panthera onca</i> ) and their <b>conservation</b> . As apex predators in the <b>Americas</b> , jaguars play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance.  |
| November 30       | <b>Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare</b>          | <b>Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare</b> is observed on <b>November 30</b> to honor victims of chemical warfare and reinforce global commitment to eradicating <b>chemical weapons</b> . Established during the 20th session of the <b>Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)</b> , it emphasizes principles of <b>peace, security, and multilateral cooperation</b> .  |

## ENVIRONMENT

| Discovery  | Details   |
|--|---|
| New fire-resilient species of <i>Dicliptera</i> , named <i>Dicliptera polymorpha</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientists have discovered a new fire-resilient species of <i>Dicliptera</i>, named <i>Dicliptera polymorpha</i>, in the Northern Western Ghats of India.</li> <li>Found in the fire-prone grasslands of Talegaon-Dabhade, this species is notable for its ability to thrive in harsh conditions and its rare dual-blooming behavior.</li> </ul>   |
| Kathleen Charlton from the University of Cape Town, discovered a new giant radio galaxy (GRG) using the MeerKAT radio telescope in the Cosmological Evolution Survey (COSMOS) field. | An international team of astronomers, led by Kathleen Charlton from the University of Cape Town, discovered a new giant radio galaxy (GRG) using the MeerKAT radio telescope in the Cosmological Evolution Survey (COSMOS) field. The discovery, published on November 11, 2024, reveals MGTC J100022.85+031520.4, a galaxy with remarkable properties that offer insights into galaxy evolution and radio source formation. GRGs are rare, massive structures known for their immense size and powerful emissions. |

## Miscellaneous

- In the heart of the North Sea, an ambitious green energy project is taking shape. Named after **Belgium's Princess Elisabeth**, this groundbreaking **energy island** represents a bold step towards renewable energy transformation. At a bustling shipyard along the North Sea coast, workers are constructing massive concrete structures that will form the foundation of this world-first initiative.
- Typhoon Kong-rey made landfall in Taiwan** on 31st October 2024. Considered the largest typhoon to directly impact Taiwan in nearly 30 years. Made landfall on Taiwan's eastern coast around 13:40 local time (04:40 GMT)
- Collins Dictionary has selected "brat" as its Word of the Year for 2024, reflecting shifting social dynamics and pop culture influences. Once synonymous with misbehaving children, the term has evolved, largely through British singer Charli XCX's album, to embody a confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude.

- Tropical Storm Sara made landfall in northern Honduras, near Brus Laguna, on Thursday, bringing heavy rain and flooding risks to Central America and southern Mexico.
- New Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan Chowk was renamed Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chowk on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary. The change was announced by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- A potential cyclone, named 'Fengal' by Saudi Arabia, is forming in the **Bay of Bengal**, according to the **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**. Starting as a cyclonic circulation on **November 21** near the South Andaman Sea, it is expected to develop into a **Low Pressure Area (LPA)** by **November 23** and intensify into a depression by **November 24**. This follows the impact of **Cyclone Dana** on **Odisha** in **October 2024**.
- **Operation Tamarisk** was a **covert Cold War intelligence operation** involving **U.S., U.K., and French** agents. The mission targeted **Soviet troops** in **East Germany**, collecting and analyzing **discarded waste** (food scraps, letters, used toilet paper) for intelligence. The operation, known as **Tamarisk**, aimed to gain any advantage in the intense rivalry between the **United States** and the **Soviet Union**.

### Static Takeaways

| Sr. No | Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs                           | Static Details  | HQ                  |
|--------|--|---|---------------------|
| 1      | World Meteorological Organization (WMO)                        | Estd. Year - 1950,<br>President - Abdulla Al Mandous, Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland                | Geneva, Switzerland |
| 2      | World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)                | Estd. Year - 1967,<br>Director General - Daren Tang, Headquarters - Geneva, Switzerland                 | Geneva, Switzerland |
| 3      | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) | Estd. Year - 1992,<br>Headquarters - Bonn, Germany  | Bonn, Germany       |
| 4      | Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)           | Estd. Year - 1968,<br>Director General - Dr. Manu Korulla, Headquarters - New Delhi                     | New Delhi           |
| 5      | Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)                      | Estd. Year - 1969,<br>Chairman - S. Somnath, Headquarters - Bengaluru                                   | Bengaluru           |
| 6      | Indian Meteorological Organization (IMD)                       | Estd. Year - 1875,<br>Director General - Dr. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Headquarters - New Delhi             | New Delhi           |
| 7      | Indian Coast Guard (ICG)                                       | Estd. Year - 1977 (Formally in 1978),<br>Director General - Paramesh Sivamani, Headquarters - New Delhi | New Delhi           |
| 8      | Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)                                   | Estd. Year - 1959,<br>Chairman - Arvindar Singh Sahney, Head office - New Delhi                         | New Delhi           |
| 9      | Reserve Bank Of India (RBI)                                    | Estd. Year - 1935,<br>Governor - Shashikant Das, Head office - Mumbai                                   | Mumbai              |
| 10     | State Bank of India (SBI)                                      | Estd. Year - 1955,<br>Chairman - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Head office - Mumbai                        | Mumbai              |
| 11     | Asian Development Bank (ADB)                                   | Estd. Year - 1966,<br>Chairman - Masatsugu Asakawa, Head office - Manila, Philippines                   | Manila, Philippines |
| 12     | SoftBank Group Corp.   | Estd. Year - 1990,<br>Chairman - Masayoshi Son, Head office - Tokyo, Japan                              | Tokyo, Japan        |
| 13     | Tata Power   | Chairman - Natarajan Chandrasekaran   | -                   |
| 14     | Minister of Finance  | Nirmala Sitharaman  | -                   |
| 15     | Minister of Home Affairs                                       | Amit Shah   | -                   |

| Sr. No | Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs                         | Static Details   | HQ                    |
|--------|--|--|-----------------------|
| 16     | Minister of Power  | Manohar Khattar  | -                     |
| 17     | Minister of Communications                                   | Jyotiraditya Scindia   | -                     |
| 18     | Minister of Law and Justice                                  | Arjun Ram Meghwal  | -                     |
| 19     | Canada   | President - Justin Trudeau, Capital - Ottawa, Currency - Canadian Dollar       | Ottawa                |
| 20     | China  | President - Xi Jinping, Capital - Beijing, Currency - Yuan                     | Beijing               |
| 21     | Japan  | PM - Shiegru Ishiba, Capital - Tokyo, Currency - Yen                           | Tokyo                 |
| 22     | Haiti  | President - Jovenel Moise, Capital - Port-au-Prince, Currency - Gourde         | Port-au-Prince        |
| 23     | Mauritius  | PM - Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, Capital - Port Louis, Currency - Mauritian Rupee     | Port Louis            |
| 24     | Australia  | PM - Anthony Albanese, Capital - Canberra, Currency - Australian Dollar        | Canberra              |
| 25     | Commonwealth of Dominica                                     | PM - Roosevelt Skerit, Capital - Roseau, Currency - East Caribbean Dollar      | Roseau                |
| 26     | Uttar Pradesh  | Governor - Anandiben Patel, CM - Yogi Adityanath, Capital - Lucknow            | Lucknow               |
| 27     | Delhi  | L. Governor - Vinai Kumar Saxena, CM - Atishi Marlena, Capital - New Delhi     | New Delhi             |
| 28     | Rajasthan  | Governor - Haribhau Kisanrao Bagade, CM - Bhajan Lal Sharma, Capital - Jaipur  | Jaipur                |
| 29     | International Labour Organization                            | Gilbert Hounbo (President)   | Geneva, Switzerland   |
| 30     | International Solar Alliance                                 | Prahlad Joshi (President)  | Gurugram              |
| 31     | FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) | Dr. Anish Shah (President)   | New Delhi             |
| 32     | SBI  | Challa Sreenivasalu Shetty (Chairman)  | Mumbai                |
| 33     | RBI  | Shashikant Das (Governor)  | Mumbai                |
| 34     | SEBI   | Madhabi Buch (Chairman)  | Mumbai                |
| 35     | NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation)                    | Gurdeep Singh (Chairman)   | New Delhi             |
| 36     | International Olympic Committee                              | Robin Mitchell (President)   | Lausanne, Switzerland |
| 37     | Punjab and Sind Bank   | Dr. Charan Singh (Chairman)  | New Delhi             |
| 38     | Canara Bank  | Vijay Sri Rangan (Chairman)  | Bengaluru             |
| 39     | ISRO   | S. Somnath (Chairman)  | Bengaluru             |
| 40     | International Finance Corporation                            | Makhtar Diop (Chairman)  | Washington D.C., USA  |
| 41     | BEML (Bharat Earth Movers Limited)                           | Shantanu Roy (Chairman)  | Bengaluru             |
| 42     | IDFC   | V. Vaidyanathan  | Mumbai                |
| 43     | USA  | President - Donald Trump (New), Capital - Washington D.C.                      | Washington D.C.       |
| 44     | South Africa   | President - Cyril Ramaphosa, Capital - Pretoria (Administrative)               | Pretoria              |
| 45     | Zimbabwe   | President - Emmerson Mnangagwa, Capital - Harare                               | Harare                |
| 46     | Australia (repeated)   | President - Anthony Albanese, Capital - Canberra, Currency - Australian Dollar | Canberra              |



| Sr. No | Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs              | Static Details  | HQ                   |
|--------|---|---|----------------------|
| 47     | Switzerland                                       | President - Viola Amherd, Capital - Bern                | Bern                 |
| 48     | Botswana  | President - Duma Boko (New Elected), Capital - Gaborone | Gaborone             |
| 49     | Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd             | MD - Ajay Yadav   | New Delhi            |
| 50     | Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd (DGPC)           | Dasho Chhewang Rinzin - Managing Director               | Thimpu, Bhutan       |
| 51     | Tata Power  | Mr. Praveer Sinha - MD                                  | Mumbai               |
| 52     | All India Institute of Ayurveda                   | Head Office - Delhi                                     | Delhi                |
| 53     | Sangeet Natak Akademi                             | Shri Raju Das - Secretary                               | -                    |
| 54     | UNFCCC  | Mr. Simon Stiell - Executive Secretary                  | Bonn, Germany        |
| 55     | United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) | Zura Pololikashvili - Secretary General                 | -                    |
| 56     | Coal India Limited (CIL)                          | PM Prasad - Chairman and MD                             | Kolkata, West Bengal |
| 57     | Asian Cricket Council                             | -   | Colombo, Sri Lanka   |
| 58     | FIFA  | President - Jay Shah                                    | -                    |
| 59     | EPFO (Employees Provident Fund Organization)      | Central Provident Fund Commissioner - Neelam Shami Rao  | New Delhi            |
| 60     | SBI   | Chairman - Challa Sreenivasalu Shetty                   | Mumbai               |
| 61     | RBI   | Governor - Shashikant Das                               | Mumbai               |
| 62     | Karnataka Bank                                    | MD - Mr. Srikrishnan                                    | Karnataka            |
| 63     | World Bank  | President - Ajay Banga                                  | Washington D.C.      |
| 64     | SEBI  | Chairman - Madhabi Puri Buch                            | Mumbai               |
| 65     | Reliance Capital                                  | Chairman - Anil Ambani                                  | Mumbai               |
| 66     | CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General of India)    | Sanjay Murthy   | -                    |
| 67     | ISRO  | Chairman - S. Somnath                                   | Bengaluru            |
| 68     | NASA  | Chairman - Bill Nelson                                  | Washington, D.C.     |
| 69     | ASA   | Chairman - Enrico Palermo                               | Adelaide             |
| 70     | Space X   | Chairman - Elon Musk                                    | Texas                |
| 71     | Saudi Arabia                                      | Head of State - King Salman                             | Riyadh               |
| 72     | Italy   | PM - Giorgia Meloni                                     | Rome                 |
| 73     | Spain   | PM - Pedro Sanchez                                      | Madrid               |
| 74     | Australia   | PM - Anthony Albanese                                   | Canberra             |
| 75     | Azerbaijan  | President - Ilham Aliyev                                | Baku                 |
| 76     | Armenia   | President - Vahagn Khachaturyan                         | Yerevan              |
| 77     | Brazil  | President - Lula Da Silva                               | Brasilia             |
| 78     | Niger   | President - Abdourahamane Tchiani                       | Niamey               |
| 79     | Guyana  | President - Irfaan Ali                                  | Georgetown           |
| 80     | Dominica  | President - Sylvanie Burton                             | Roseau               |
| 81     | Tamil Nadu  | Governor - R. N. Ravi, CM - Thiru M.K.Stalin            | Chennai              |
| 82     | Telangana   | Governor - Shri Jushnu Dev Varma, CM - Revanth Reddy    | Hyderabad            |
| 83     | Nagaland  | Governor - Shri La Ganesan, CM - Neiphiu Rio            | Kohima               |

| Sr. No | Organization/Banks/Country/State/UTs   | Static Details  | HQ                  |
|--------|--|---|---------------------|
| 84     | Bihar                                  | Governor - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, CM - Nitish Kumar | Patna               |
| 85     | Minister of Rural Development          | Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan                                | -                   |
| 86     | Minister of Jal Shakti                 | C.R. Patil  | -                   |
| 87     | NADA (National Anti Doping Agency)     | -   | Delhi               |
| 88     | CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) | President - Sanjiv Puri                                   | -                   |
| 89     | CCI (Competition Commission of India)  | Chairperson - Ravneet Kaur                                | -                   |
| 90     | SBI                                    | Chairman - Challa Sreenivasulu Setty                      | Mumbai              |
| 91     | PNB                                    | Chairman - Shri K G Ananthakrishnan                       | New Delhi           |
| 92     | RBI                                    | Governor - Shashikant Das                                 | Mumbai              |
| 93     | ADB (Asian Development Bank)           | President - Masatsugu Asakawa                             | Manila, Philippines |
| 94     | ISRO                                   | Chairman - S. Somnath                                     | Bengaluru           |
| 95     | ICG (Indian Coast Guard)               | DG - Vice Admiral Paramesh Sivamani                       | -                   |
| 96     | Switzerland                            | President - Vila Amherd                                   | Bern                |
| 97     | Iceland                                | President - Halla Tomosdottir                             | Reykjavik           |
| 98     | Norway                                 | PM - Jonas Gahr Store                                     | Oslo                |
| 99     | Uruguay                                | President - Yamandu Orsi                                  | Montevideo          |
| 100    | Bosnia and Herzegovina                 | President - Nermin Niksic                                 | Sarajevo            |
| 101    | Sri Lanka                              | President - Anura Kumara Dissanayake                      | Colombo             |
| 102    | Gujarat                                | Governor - Acharya Devvrat, CM - Bhupendra Patel          | Gandhinagar         |
| 103    | Nagaland                               | Governor - Shri La Ganesan, CM - Neiphiu Rio              | Kohima              |
| 104    | Uttar Pradesh                          | Governor - Anandi Ben Patel, CM - Yogi Adityanath         | Lucknow             |
| 105    | Haryana                                | Governor - Bandaru Dattatraya, CM - Nayab Singh Saini     | Chandigarh          |
| 106    | Andhra Pradesh                         | Governor - S. Abdul Nazeer, CM - Chandra Babu Naidu       | Amaravati           |
| 107    | Jharkhand                              | Governor - Santosh Gangwar, CM - Hemant Soren             | Ranchi              |

### November Month Current Affairs Questions

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| <p>1. Who may be invited as the chief guest for India's Republic Day 2025?<br/><b>Ans:</b> Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto.</p> <p>2. What new feature has the National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched to promote financial inclusivity?<br/><b>Ans:</b> A multilingual mobile app and website supporting 12 languages.</p> <p>3. What is India's commitment under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) by 2030?<br/><b>Ans:</b> India has committed to protecting 30% of its terrestrial and marine areas.</p> | <p>4. Where did External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurate India's new consulate?<br/><b>Ans:</b> Brisbane, Australia.</p> <p>5. Who launched the 'Shilp Samagam Mela 2024' at Dilli Haat, New Delhi?<br/><b>Ans:</b> Dr. Virendra Kumar.</p> <p>6. What platform was unveiled to promote artisan empowerment in India?<br/><b>Ans:</b> TULIP platform.</p> <p>7. On which ship did President Droupadi Murmu witness advanced naval operations?<br/><b>Ans:</b> INS Vikrant.</p> |
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8. **When was Bengaluru's first digital population clock inaugurated?**  
Ans: November 8, 2024.
9. **What was the new penalty for stubble burning doubled to, according to the Union Environment Ministry?**  
Ans: Penalties for stubble burning were doubled under the Environmental Protection Act (EPA).
10. **Where is the ATMOS 2024 tech fest taking place?**  
Ans: BITS Pilani, Hyderabad.
11. **What milestone did NTPC celebrate recently?**  
Ans: NTPC celebrated its 50th Raising Day.
12. **What initiative did the government call for in relation to green hydrogen?**  
Ans: The government called for proposals to establish Centers of Excellence for green hydrogen research.
13. **Who became the first Black woman to lead the UK Conservative Party?**  
Ans: Kemi Badenoch.
14. **Who were the main contenders in the US Election 2024?**  
Ans: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.
15. **Which country re-elected Maia Sandu as President amid Russian interference claims?**  
Ans: Moldova.
16. **When will Switzerland's burqa ban law take effect?**  
Ans: In 2025.
17. **What was Zimbabwe's latest achievement in space exploration?**  
Ans: The launch of ZIMSAT-2 to support agriculture and disaster management.
18. **Which country did India oppose regarding the UN Arms proposal?**  
Ans: Pakistan.
19. **What festival does Karnataka celebrate to mark the return of Asura king Bali?**  
Ans: Bali Padyami Festival.
20. **What new policy did Uttar Pradesh introduce to improve animal husbandry?**  
Ans: A new veterinary policy offering diploma courses for para-veterinarians.
21. **Which community in Manipur celebrates the Ningol Chakkouba festival?**  
Ans: The Meitei community.
22. **What major semiconductor project was approved by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet?**  
Ans: A ₹3,706 crore HCL-Foxconn semiconductor project.
23. **What new survey did Telangana begin statewide?**  
Ans: A door-to-door caste and socio-economic data survey.
24. **Which two states formed a joint committee for cheetah conservation?**  
Ans: Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
25. **Which Bihar station is being renamed as Ajaibinath Dham?**  
Ans: Sultanganj Station.
26. **How much loan did Uttarakhand receive from the ADB for urban infrastructure and green mobility?**  
Ans: \$200 million.
27. **What percentage of job reservation for women was approved in Madhya Pradesh state government services?**  
Ans: 35%.
28. **What target did the Supreme Court set for eliminating child marriages in Rajasthan?**  
Ans: By 2030.
29. **Who was appointed as the Chairman of India Yamaha Motor?**  
Ans: Itaru Otani.
30. **Who is the new Defence Secretary of India?**  
Ans: Rajesh Kumar Singh.
31. **Who is appointed as Secretary General of the World Agriculture Forum (WAF)?**  
Ans: Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes.
32. **Who assumed the role of CEO and MD of MCX?**  
Ans: Praveena Rai.
33. **Who announced his retirement from all forms of cricket?**  
Ans: Wriddhiman Saha.
34. **Who has been recommended as MD & CEO of IFCI by the FSIB?**  
Ans: Rahul Bhawe.
35. **Who will assume the FICCI presidency on November 21, 2024?**  
Ans: Harsha Vardhan Agarwal.
36. **What were India's GST collections for October 2024?**  
Ans: ₹1.87 lakh crore.
37. **How much recovery target did Canara Bank set for FY25?**  
Ans: ₹6,000 crore.
38. **What equity infusion was approved for the Food Corporation of India?**  
Ans: ₹10,700 crore.
39. **What is the goal of reconstituting the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC)?**  
Ans: To promote apprenticeship programs and industry reforms.
40. **What reforms did SEBI propose for REITs and InvITs?**  
Ans: SEBI proposed changes to enhance flexibility and investor protection.
41. **What new rules did SEBI propose regarding securitisation?**  
Ans: SEBI proposed reforms including investment thresholds and liquidity safeguards.
42. **What milestone did SBI Mutual Fund achieve recently?**  
Ans: It crossed ₹10 lakh crore in assets under management (AUM).
43. **Which bank introduced e-Bank Guarantee with NeSL?**  
Ans: Punjab & Sind Bank.
44. **How much investment did Deutsche Bank inject to boost its India operations?**  
Ans: ₹5,113 crore.

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| <p>45. <b>Which bank introduced real-time tracking for international money transfers?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> IDFC FIRST Bank.</p> <p>46. <b>What did the RBI include in the Fully Accessible Route for non-resident investments?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds.</p> <p>47. <b>What new amendments did the RBI introduce to strengthen KYC processes?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Six amendments effective from November 6, 2024.</p> <p>48. <b>How many UPI transactions were recorded in October 2024?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> 16.58 billion UPI transactions.</p> <p>49. <b>Which two companies formed a joint venture for green energy?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> NTPC and ONGC.</p> <p>50. <b>What self-certification status was awarded to BEML for defense equipment?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Self-Certification status by the Department of Defence Production.</p> <p>51. <b>What was the IFC's investment in Bajaj Finance aimed at?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Promoting climate finance and women's empowerment.</p> <p>52. <b>What electric vehicle brand was launched by Royal Enfield?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Flying Flea.</p> <p>53. <b>Which country did India surpass to become the second-largest smartphone market?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> The United States.</p> <p>54. <b>Which country did CDS Gen Anil Chauhan sign a defense cooperation MoU with?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Algeria.</p> <p>55. <b>What milestone did Cairn Oil &amp; Gas achieve regarding methane emissions?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> It joined UNEP's OGMP 2.0 for methane emissions reduction.</p> <p>56. <b>Which companies formed a joint venture to produce titanium slag in Odisha?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> IREL and Kazakhstan's UKTMP.</p> <p>57. <b>Who was awarded the Rohini Nayyar Prize 2024 for contributions to rural development?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Anil Pradhan.</p> <p>58. <b>Where is the ILO's 352nd Governing Body meeting being held?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Geneva.</p> <p>59. <b>Who was re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> India.</p> <p>60. <b>What is the focus of the first-ever Asian Buddhist Summit hosted by India?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Strengthening Asia's spiritual development.</p> <p>61. <b>Where is the Indian Navy's 3rd Mahasagar Summit on maritime security being conducted?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Indian Ocean Region.</p> | <p>62. <b>Who chaired the 32nd Kendriya Hindi Samiti meeting?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Amit Shah.</p> <p>63. <b>Where did the Indian Army participate in the 15th India-US Special Forces Exercise?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Idaho, USA.</p> <p>64. <b>What new initiative did the Indian Armed Forces start in Gujarat's Defence Corridor?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> A strategic defense conference to bolster industry links.</p> <p>65. <b>Who launched the National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme in Bengaluru?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.</p> <p>66. <b>Which corridor marks its 5th anniversary in 2024, enabling visa-free pilgrimages to Pakistan's Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Kartarpur Sahib Corridor.</p> <p>67. <b>Who retired as the Chief Justice of India on November 2024?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Justice D.Y. Chandrachud.</p> <p>68. <b>Which company was ranked as the world's most sustainable aluminium company by S&amp;P Global in 2024?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Hindalco.</p> <p>69. <b>What was the Supreme Court's historic ruling on November 8, 2024, regarding AMU's minority status?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> The Supreme Court overturned the 1967 ruling, revising AMU's minority institution status.</p> <p>70. <b>What event was celebrated from November 12-15, 2024, to honor Birsa Munda's legacy?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> The 5th National EMRS Fest.</p> <p>71. <b>Where did the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) begin in November 2024?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Goa.</p> <p>72. <b>Which force approved its first all-women battalion in November 2024?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> CISF (Central Industrial Security Force).</p> <p>73. <b>Where will the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention take place in January 2025?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Bhubaneswar.</p> <p>74. <b>What was the Supreme Court's decision regarding illegal property demolitions on November 2024?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> The SC issued guidelines against demolitions based on mere accusations, emphasizing rights under Article 21.</p> <p>75. <b>Which Canadian province reported the first human case of H5 bird flu in 2024?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> British Columbia.</p> <p>76. <b>Who was re-elected as the World Sailing President in 2024?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Li Quanhai.</p> <p>77. <b>What program did Canada end, affecting students from India and 13 other countries?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> The Student Direct Stream (SDS) program.</p> <p>78. <b>Who is set to become the new Prime Minister of Mauritius following the November 2024 elections?</b><br/> <b>Ans:</b> Dr. Navin Ramgoolam.</p> |
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79. What patent did Tokyo's Scarecrow Inc. receive in 2024 for canine treatment?  
**Ans:** A patent for Pinfenon (S)(R), a cardiac disorder treatment for dogs.
80. What cultural festival, celebrated in Uttarakhand, started on November 12, 2024?  
**Ans:** Igas Bagwal.
81. Which states launched double-decker electric buses in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka.
82. What new bike taxi service did Delhi Metro launch in November 2024?  
**Ans:** A women-driven bike taxi service.
83. Which project received a ₹13,500 crore loan from the World Bank and ADB for development in Andhra Pradesh?  
**Ans:** The Amaravati Project.
84. Who won the Delhi Mayor Polls in November 2024?  
**Ans:** AAP's Mahesh Kumar Khichi.
85. What was the name of the event inaugurated by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami in Uttarakhand on November 15, 2024?  
**Ans:** Jauljibi Mela 2024.
86. Who was appointed as the new Chief Justice of India in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Justice Sanjiv Khanna.
87. Who was appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Thailand's tourism in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Sonu Sood.
88. Who became the Managing Director of NEHHDC in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Mara Kocho.
89. Who was appointed Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Arvindar Singh Sahney.
90. Who was appointed as the CEO of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) starting January 2025?  
**Ans:** Amandeep Johl.
91. Who was named Education Leader of the Year at the Education World India School Rankings 2024?  
**Ans:** Kunal Dalal.
92. Which veteran filmmaker received the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFI 2024?  
**Ans:** Phillip Noyce.
93. Who won the Booker Prize in 2024 for the novel "Orbital"?  
**Ans:** Samantha Harvey.
94. Which airport won the 'Airport Excellence Awards' for digital innovations in 2024?  
**Ans:** Hyderabad Airport.
95. Who won the Men's Player and Goalkeeper of the Year awards at the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024?  
**Ans:** Harmanpreet Singh (Men's Player), PR Sreejesh (Goalkeeper).
96. Who won the ICC Players of the Month award for October 2024?  
**Ans:** Amelia Kerr (New Zealand) and Noman Ali (Pakistan).
97. What is celebrated on November 14 in India?  
**Ans:** Children's Day.
98. What date marks National Education Day in India?  
**Ans:** November 11.
99. Where was the 7th Annual India-Sri Lanka Coast Guard Meet held in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Colombo.
100. What is the name of India's first space defense exercise held in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Antariksha Abhyas – 2024.
101. What new project was launched by the Indian Army to enhance air defense capabilities?  
**Ans:** Project Akashteer.
102. Where was the C-295 Full Motion Simulator inaugurated for pilot training in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Air Force Station Agra.
103. What was the name of the Indian Navy's largest coastal defense drill scheduled for November 2024?  
**Ans:** Sea Vigil-24.
104. What new RBI rules allow FPIs to reclassify investments as FDI?  
**Ans:** The RBI framework for FPI to FDI conversion.
105. Which banks were classified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) by the RBI in November 2024?  
**Ans:** SBI, HDFC, and ICICI Bank.
106. Which bank is seeking the largest dollar-denominated loan in 2024?  
**Ans:** SBI (State Bank of India).
107. Which company is investing ₹550 crore in renewable energy for Noida International Airport?  
**Ans:** Tata Power.
108. Which media companies are involved in an \$8.5 billion merger in 2024?  
**Ans:** Disney and Reliance.
109. What was India's Consumer Price Index (CPI) for October 2024?  
**Ans:** 6.21%.
110. What was India's industrial output growth in September 2024?  
**Ans:** 3.1%.
111. What was India's export growth in October 2024?  
**Ans:** 17.3%.
112. Where is the COP29 Climate Summit being held in 2024?  
**Ans:** Baku, Azerbaijan.
113. What major conference did Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurate in New Delhi in November 2024?  
**Ans:** SATRC-25 Meeting.
114. Which two countries signed a deal for an Energy Centre in Bengaluru in November 2024?  
**Ans:** India and BIMSTEC.

115. Which defense system is being jointly manufactured by India and Russia under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative?  
**Ans:** Pantsir air defense system.
116. What fire-resilient plant species was discovered in the Western Ghats in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Dicliptera polymorpha.
117. Which institution is collaborating with ISRO to establish a Centre of Excellence for fluid and thermal sciences?  
**Ans:** IIT Madras.
118. What missile did DRDO successfully test in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM).
119. Which bank launched the Nari Shakti branches for women entrepreneurs in November 2024?  
**Ans:** Union Bank.
120. What rank did India achieve globally in WIPO patent filings in 2023?  
**Ans:** 6th.
121. Which city retained the top position in Brand Finance's Global City Index in 2024?  
**Ans:** London.
122. Who won the Men's Player and Goalkeeper of the Year awards at the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024?  
**Ans:** Harmanpreet Singh (Men's Player), PR Sreejesh (Goalkeeper).
123. Who won the ICC Players of the Month award for October 2024?  
**Ans:** Amelia Kerr (New Zealand) and Noman Ali (Pakistan).
124. What is celebrated on November 14 in India?  
**Ans:** Children's Day.
125. Which university inaugurated its first international campus at Dubai Knowledge Park in 2024?  
**Ans:** Symbiosis University
126. How many villages in Odisha received 'Tsunami Ready' status from UNESCO for disaster preparedness?  
**Ans:** 24 villages
127. Which Chhattisgarh village was selected for the UNWTO's Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme?  
**Ans:** Dhudmaras
128. Who was conferred with the title of Honorary General of the Nepal Army in 2024?  
**Ans:** General Upendra Dwivedi
129. Which city was not identified among the top greenhouse gas emitters according to Climate Trace data?  
**Ans:** Beijing (The top emitters were Shanghai, Tokyo, New York, and Houston)
130. Who was appointed as the Director of National Intelligence by President-elect Donald Trump?  
**Ans:** Tulsi Gabbard
131. Which country became the first African nation to lead the G20 presidency?  
**Ans:** South Africa
132. Which country became the 104th member of the International Solar Alliance?  
**Ans:** Armenia
133. Who replaced Choguel Maiga as Prime Minister of Mali?  
**Ans:** Abdoulaye Maiga
134. What was the worth of development projects launched during Jauljibi Mela 2024 in Uttarakhand?  
**Ans:** ₹64.47 crores
135. Which district in Assam was renamed as Sribhumi?  
**Ans:** Karimganj
136. How much money did SBI raise through 5-year bonds?  
**Ans:** \$500 Million
137. What is the new UPI 123Pay limit set by RBI for feature phone users?  
**Ans:** ₹10,000
138. What GDP growth forecast did Moody's maintain for India in 2024?  
**Ans:** 7.2%
139. Which company will replace JSW Steel on BSE Sensex from December 23, 2024?  
**Ans:** Zomato
140. By how much did India's forex reserves fall in the largest drop since 1998?  
**Ans:** \$17.76 billion
141. What stake did Tata acquire in Pegatron's Tamil Nadu iPhone plant?  
**Ans:** 60%
142. Who succeeded Girish Chandra Murmu as Comptroller and Auditor General of India?  
**Ans:** K Sanjay Murthy
143. What was the value of the deal signed between Tata Power and Asian Development Bank?  
**Ans:** \$4.25 billion
144. Which new flowering species was discovered in the Eastern Ghats by the Botanical Survey of India?  
**Ans:** Crinum andhricum
145. Which team did India defeat to claim its third Women's Asian Champions Trophy title?  
**Ans:** China
146. Who won the 'Airport Excellence Awards' at the Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024?  
**Ans:** GHIAL (Hyderabad Airport)
147. What was the theme of International Men's Day 2024?  
**Ans:** "Positive Male Role Models"
148. What was the theme of World Children's Day 2024?  
**Ans:** "Listen to the Future"
149. Which former UK Deputy Prime Minister passed away at 86?  
**Ans:** John Prescott
150. Where will India's first Constitution Museum be located?  
**Ans:** O.P. Jindal University, Sonapat, Haryana
151. What was the name of the AI chatbot launched by NASA in partnership with Microsoft?  
**Ans:** Earth Copilot

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| <p>152. Which broadcasting company secured ACC Tournament Rights for 2024-2031?<br/>Ans: Sony Sports</p> <p>153. What is the name of the platform introduced by IRDAI to prevent mis-selling of insurance products?<br/>Ans: Bima Sugam</p> <p>154. Which city will host the Khelo India Youth and Para Games in April 2025?<br/>Ans: Bihar</p> <p>155. What is the duration of the ALT EFF 2024 Film Festival in Mumbai?<br/>Ans: November 22 to December 8</p> <p>156. Which government body recommended adding coking coal to critical minerals list?<br/>Ans: NITI Aayog</p> <p>157. What was the amount of fine imposed by CCI on Meta over WhatsApp privacy policy updates?<br/>Ans: ₹213.14 crore</p> <p>158. Who were named as sports ambassadors for Dubai Sports Council?<br/>Ans: Harbhajan Singh &amp; Sania Mirza</p> <p>159. Which space agency did ISRO collaborate with for crew recovery during Gaganyaan mission?<br/>Ans: Australian Space Agency (ASA)</p> <p>160. What is the name of the language developed by IISc for nanopore research?<br/>Ans: STRONG</p> <p>161. Which team did Odisha defeat to win the Hockey India Senior National Championship?<br/>Ans: Haryana</p> <p>162. What was the score in India's victory in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy final?<br/>Ans: 1-0</p> <p>163. Who won the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for promoting peace and non-violence?<br/>Ans: Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad</p> <p>164. What was the age of Princess Mikasa when she passed away?<br/>Ans: 101</p> <p>165. Which university from Australia launched its campus in Gandhinagar?<br/>Ans: University of Wollongong</p> <p>166. Who succeeded Justice Siddharth Mridul as Chief Justice of Manipur HC?<br/>Ans: Justice D. Krishnakumar</p> <p>167. What is the name of the cyclone expected to impact Tamil Nadu?<br/>Ans: Cyclone Fengal</p> <p>168. Which company did the Hinduja Group acquire for ₹10,000 crore?<br/>Ans: Reliance Capital</p> <p>169. Who was elected as the new Interpol Secretary General?<br/>Ans: Valdecy Urquiza</p> | <p>170. Which country's President canceled Gautam Adani's airport and energy projects?<br/>Ans: Kenya's President William Ruto</p> <p>171. When will the UK and India resume their Free Trade Agreement negotiations?<br/>Ans: Early 2025</p> <p>172. What is the name of the Hindu festival of gratitude celebrated in Bali?<br/>Ans: Ngusaba Goreng</p> <p>173. Which SBI branch celebrated its centenary with a commemorative ₹100 coin?<br/>Ans: SBI Horniman Circle</p> <p>174. What is the value of antiques returned by the US to India?<br/>Ans: \$10 Million worth</p> <p>175. What award did PM Modi receive in Washington?<br/>Ans: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Global Peace Award</p> <p>176. Which Indian tennis player announced retirement in 2024?<br/>Ans: Prajnesh Gunneswaran</p> <p>177. What was renamed as Bhagwan Birsa Munda Chowk in Delhi?<br/>Ans: Sarai Kale Khan Chowk</p> <p>178. Which state announced a Centre of Excellence for AI at The Hindu AI Summit 2024?<br/>Ans: Tamil Nadu</p> <p>179. What is the duration of World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week?<br/>Ans: November 18-24</p> <p>180. What anniversary did Awaas Diwas 2024 mark?<br/>Ans: 8th anniversary of PMAY-G</p> <p>181. Which former Supreme Court judge passed away at age 78?<br/>Ans: Justice H.S. Bedi</p> <p>182. What type of plant was inaugurated in India's first self-sufficient Gaushala in Gwalior?<br/>Ans: CBG (Compressed Biogas) plant</p> <p>183. Which operation concluded to enhance India's coastal resilience?<br/>Ans: Sea Vigil 24</p> <p>184. Which companies partnered to create an AI-5G telecom network?<br/>Ans: Nvidia &amp; SoftBank</p> <p>185. What festival did PM Modi inaugurate to promote Bodo culture?<br/>Ans: Bodoland Mohotsav</p> <p>186. How many artifacts were returned by the US to India?<br/>Ans: Over 1,400</p> <p>187. Which event's 8th anniversary was marked by Awaas Diwas 2024?<br/>Ans: Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin</p> <p>188. When is World Television Day observed?<br/>Ans: November 21</p> |
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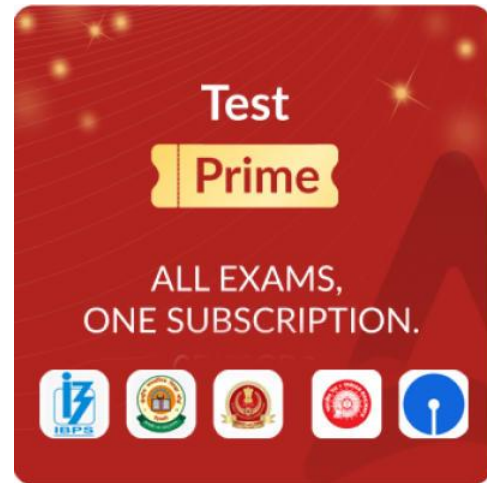
189. **What was the focus of the World Bank's report launched in Delhi?**  
**Ans:** Bridging skill gaps for young people in six states
190. **Which day is celebrated as National Press Day?**  
**Ans:** November 16
191. **What is celebrated on November 21 with a focus on critical thinking?**  
**Ans:** National Philosophy Day
192. **When is Guru Tegh Bahadur's Shaheedi Divas observed?**  
**Ans:** November 24
193. **What initiative did IRDAI introduce to prevent insurance mis-selling?**  
**Ans:** Bima Sugam Platform
194. **Which naval exercise covered India's coastline and Exclusive Economic Zone?**  
**Ans:** Sea Vigil 24
195. **What is the purpose of NASA's Earth Copilot?**  
**Ans:** Making NASA's geospatial data accessible
196. **How many cities will showcase environmental films during ALT EFF 2024?**  
**Ans:** 70+ cities
197. **What was the score in Odisha's victory over Haryana in hockey?**  
**Ans:** 5-1
198. **When is World Fisheries Day celebrated?**  
**Ans:** November 21
199. **Which date marks World Children's Day?**  
**Ans:** November 20
200. **What is observed on November 17?**  
**Ans:** World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
201. **When is International Day for Tolerance celebrated?**  
**Ans:** November 16
202. **Which country handed over the G20 presidency to South Africa?**  
**Ans:** Brazil
203. **What type of bonds did SBI use to raise \$500 Million?**  
**Ans:** 5-year bonds
204. **Which typhoon struck Northern Philippines?**  
**Ans:** Typhoon Man-yi
205. **Which organization recommended adding coking coal to critical minerals?**  
**Ans:** NITI Aayog
206. **Where did Prime Minister Modi inaugurate India's first self-sufficient Gaushala?**  
**Ans:** Gwalior
207. **What does VISION Portal stand for?**  
**Ans:** Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network
208. **How much was allocated for the National Mission on Natural Farming?**  
**Ans:** ₹2,481 crore
209. **What is the budget for PAN 2.0 digital transformation?**  
**Ans:** ₹1,435 crore
210. **Which organizations signed an MoU to enhance commerce-based skill courses?**  
**Ans:** ICAI and CBSE
211. **Who launched the Nayi Chetna Campaign?**  
**Ans:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan
212. **Which expressway's land acquisition was approved by the Supreme Court?**  
**Ans:** Yamuna Expressway
213. **Who unveiled Sanskrit and Maithili translations of the Constitution?**  
**Ans:** President Droupadi Murmu
214. **Till when was the Atal Innovation Mission extended?**  
**Ans:** 2028
215. **What is the campaign to eradicate child marriage called?**  
**Ans:** 'Bal Vivah Mukta Bharat' Campaign
216. **What is the duration of the Gujarat Cottage and Rural Industries Policy?**  
**Ans:** 2024-29
217. **Which app was launched by Indian Railways for passenger safety?**  
**Ans:** Sanraksha App
218. **How many new city development proposals were submitted to the Centre?**  
**Ans:** 28 proposals from 23 states
219. **Where will the India International Science Festival 2024 be hosted?**  
**Ans:** IIT Guwahati
220. **To which UN commission was India re-elected?**  
**Ans:** UN Peacebuilding Commission
221. **Who was recommended for elevation to the Supreme Court?**  
**Ans:** Justice Manmohan
222. **What is the expected cyclone forming in the Bay of Bengal?**  
**Ans:** Cyclone Fengal
223. **Who is scheduled to take oath as Jharkhand CM?**  
**Ans:** Hemant Soren
224. **What milestone did India achieve in cricket against Australia?**  
**Ans:** Biggest-ever Test win in Australia, defeating them by 295 runs
225. **How many films will be showcased at the Kolkata International Film Festival?**  
**Ans:** 175 films from 41 countries
226. **What is the name of the first green hydrogen fuelling station in India?**  
**Ans:** Amara Raja Infra station in Leh
227. **What milestone did India achieve in AI readiness?**  
**Ans:** Ranked 2nd in AI talent and 3rd in research publications
228. **How much did Zomato invest in Flipkart?**  
**Ans:** \$350M as part of a \$1B funding round



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| <p>229. <b>What is the RBI's new UPI 123Pay limit for feature phone users?</b><br/>Ans: ₹10,000</p> <p>230. <b>How many Ayushman Cards were issued to citizens over 70?</b><br/>Ans: 1.4 million</p> <p>231. <b>When will the Rising Rajasthan Summit be held?</b><br/>Ans: December 9-11</p> <p>232. <b>What is the range of the K-4 nuclear-capable missile?</b><br/>Ans: 3,500 km</p> <p>233. <b>How much did S&amp;P Global project India's FY25 GDP growth?</b><br/>Ans: 6.8%</p> <p>234. <b>Which country's oldest man passed away in November 2024?</b><br/>Ans: UK's John Tinniswood (aged 112)</p> <p>235. <b>What is the Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) introduced by Sri Lanka's Central Bank?</b><br/>Ans: 8%</p> <p>236. <b>How much did SBI raise through domestic bond issuances?</b><br/>Ans: ₹50,000 crore</p> <p>237. <b>What is the total investment approved by Odisha across 10 districts?</b><br/>Ans: ₹1.36 lakh crore</p> <p>238. <b>How many jobs does the India-EFTA trade deal aim to create?</b><br/>Ans: 1 million jobs</p> <p>239. <b>What is the digital platform launched to empower educators?</b><br/>Ans: The TeacherApp</p> <p>240. <b>Who was appointed as India's Ambassador to Brazil?</b><br/>Ans: Dinesh Bhatia</p> <p>241. <b>How many GI tags does Gujarat now have?</b><br/>Ans: 27</p> <p>242. <b>What milestone did India achieve in milk production?</b><br/>Ans: 239.30 million tonnes, maintaining world's largest producer status</p> <p>243. <b>How much GST was collected from insurance services in FY24?</b><br/>Ans: ₹16,398 crore</p> <p>244. <b>What is the digital portal celebrating 75 years of India as a Republic?</b><br/>Ans: 'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' Portal</p> <p>245. <b>Where will the Global Cooperative Conference 2024 be held?</b><br/>Ans: New Delhi</p> <p>246. <b>What is the value of the ADB loan for horticulture?</b><br/>Ans: \$98 million</p> <p>247. <b>How many states will the World Bank's jobs report focus on?</b><br/>Ans: Six states</p> <p>248. <b>What is the name of India's first Space AI Lab?</b><br/>Ans: MOI-TD by TM2Space</p> | <p>249. <b>Who is the new BrahMos Aerospace Chief?</b><br/>Ans: Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi</p> <p>250. <b>What is the IFFI 2024 theme?</b><br/>Ans: "Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now"</p> <p>251. <b>How many films were featured at IFFI 2024?</b><br/>Ans: 195 films</p> <p>252. <b>What is the duration of the National Seed Congress?</b><br/>Ans: Not specified in the document</p> <p>253. <b>Who received the Global Peace Award in Washington?</b><br/>Ans: PM Narendra Modi</p> <p>254. <b>What award did the Indian Chemical Council receive?</b><br/>Ans: 2024 OPCW-The Hague Award</p> <p>255. <b>How many test matches did Emma McKeon win before retiring?</b><br/>Ans: Not applicable - she was an Olympic swimmer, not a test cricketer</p> <p>256. <b>Who launched the VISION Portal?</b><br/>Ans: Dr. Jitendra Singh</p> <p>257. <b>What is the Hornbill Festival's partner country for 2024?</b><br/>Ans: USA</p> <p>258. <b>How many students will benefit from One Nation One Subscription?</b><br/>Ans: 1.8 crore students</p> <p>259. <b>What is the budget for ONOS?</b><br/>Ans: ₹6,000 crore</p> <p>260. <b>Who won the U-8 World Chess Championship?</b><br/>Ans: India's Divith Reddy</p> <p>261. <b>How many points did Divith Reddy score?</b><br/>Ans: 9/11 points</p> <p>262. <b>Where will the Proba-3 Solar Mission be launched?</b><br/>Ans: Will be launched by ISRO on Dec 4</p> <p>263. <b>What is ISRO's mission to Venus called?</b><br/>Ans: Shukrayaan Mission</p> <p>264. <b>Who got suspended by NADA?</b><br/>Ans: Bajrang Punia</p> <p>265. <b>For how long was Bajrang Punia suspended?</b><br/>Ans: 4 years</p> <p>266. <b>What is the title of the book about the physicist Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal?</b><br/>Ans: "Beyond the Higgs Boson"</p> <p>267. <b>Who wrote the book about Dr. Ashutosh Kotwal?</b><br/>Ans: His mother</p> <p>268. <b>What is the second book mentioned?</b><br/>Ans: "My Beloved Life" by Amitava Kumar</p> <p>269. <b>Which organization launched the Sea Vigil 24?</b><br/>Ans: Indian Coast Guard</p> <p>270. <b>What is the name of the naval ship that tested the K-4 missile?</b><br/>Ans: INS Arighaat</p> <p>271. <b>What digital platform did Piyush Goyal launch?</b><br/>Ans: CII's Ease of Doing Business Portal</p> <p>272. <b>Who got the President's Colours for Mechanised Infantry?</b><br/>Ans: Four battalions at MICS, Ahilyanagar</p> |
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273. **How many years of Constitution Day was celebrated?**  
**Ans:** 75th anniversary
274. **What is the date of Guru Tegh Bahadur's Shaheedi Divas?**  
**Ans:** November 24
275. **What is the theme of the International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women?**  
**Ans:** Best practices to combat violence (25th anniversary)
276. **Who won the Governor's Gold Cup?**  
**Ans:** North-East United FC
277. **How did they win the cup?**  
**Ans:** 4-3 penalty shootout against Gangtok Himalayan SC
278. **Which international solar mission will ISRO launch?**  
**Ans:** Proba-3 Solar Mission (in collaboration with ESA)
279. **Where did Jaishankar open the new Indian Embassy's Chancery?**  
**Ans:** Rome
280. **What is the RBI's current repo rate?**  
**Ans:** 6.5% (stable since February 2023)
281. **What percentage of GDP growth did S&P project for FY26?**  
**Ans:** 6.7%
282. **What was the core sector growth in October?**  
**Ans:** 3.1%
283. **Who won the China Masters men's singles title?**  
**Ans:** Anders Antonsen

284. **How many BWF Tour wins did Anders Antonsen have in 2024?**  
**Ans:** 4th win
285. **How high did India climb in the Network Readiness Index?**  
**Ans:** 49th position (11 spots up)
286. **Where was the International Tourism Mart held?**  
**Ans:** Kaziranga
287. **Who is the new IFPMA President?**  
**Ans:** Roche CEO Thomas Schinecker



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