



# Shankar School of Banking

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

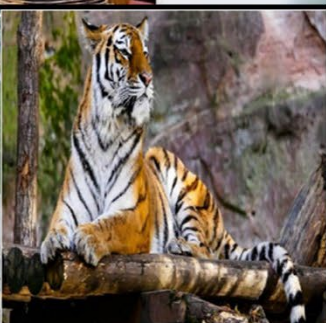
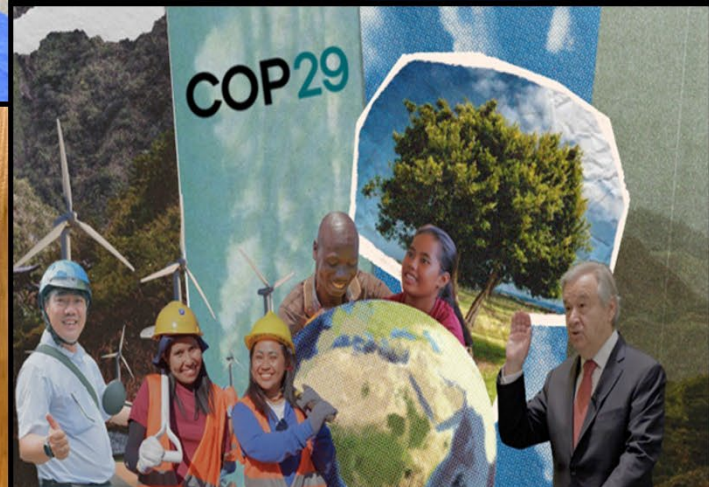
## NOVEMBER - 2024



**DEFENCE SPACE AGENCY**  
**Antariksha Abhyas 2024**



**RBI to Launch Affordable  
Cloud Services**



**POPULATION OF INDIA**  
**144.46.05.335**

**POPULATION OF KARNATAKA**  
**6.84.18.218**



## Contents

<b>NATIONAL NEWS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Union Home Minister Amit Shah Launches Civil Registration System Mobile App .....	1
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Introduces Deepam 2.0 Scheme .....	1
India Is Likely To Invite Indonesian President As Chief Guest .....	1
Mizoram to Issue Special Ration Cards for Non-NFSA Households .....	2
Government Approves PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme for Higher Education's in India .....	2
New Flight Connectivity Rules Allow Wi-Fi Use Above 3,000 Meters Altitude .....	3
Uttar Pradesh Boosts Solar Capacity with Floating Solar Plants .....	3
BEML Limited Receives "Self-Certification" Status for Defence Equipment .....	3
India Launches 'National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024-2030' .....	3
Fisheries Ministry, NFDB, and CMFRI to Launch Drone Technology .....	4
TULIP Brand Launched to Promote Products of Disadvantaged Artisans .....	4
Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 3.0 .....	4
First Phase of Barda Wildlife Sanctuary and Jungle Safari Inaugurated in Gujarat .....	5
Bengaluru to Launch its First Digital Population Clock .....	5
International Ancient Arts Festival and Symposium .....	5
India's Progress and Challenges in Achieving TB Elimination by 2025 .....	6
Union Finance Minister Launched National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme .....	6
Madhya Pradesh Increases Women's Reservation to 35% in All Government Jobs .....	6
PM Modi to Lay Foundation Stone for AIIMS Darbhanga on November 13 .....	7
Odisha to Roll Out National Education Policy 2020 in Universities .....	7
Government Expands e-Shram Portal .....	7
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Inaugurates Seaplane Demo Flight .....	8
Union Ministry of Mines Sign MoU with IEA .....	8
NITI Aayog Launches ASSET Platform .....	8
Come and Install Solar Power Projects Initiative of The HP Government .....	9
Central Government Approves Fire Services Projects Worth ₹725 Cr For 3 States .....	9
Chief Minister Unveils Uttar Pradesh's First Double-Decker Electric Bus .....	10
Meluri Declared as Nagaland's 17 <sup>th</sup> District .....	10
First Bodoland Mahotsav Inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi .....	10
Meghalaya to Celebrate 'Year of Legends' with Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival .....	11
Union Minister Launches 'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' App .....	11
Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve Notified 56 <sup>th</sup> Tiger Reserve .....	11
Government of India Has Launched the PAIR Initiative .....	12
"Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman" Campaign Launched .....	12
Integrated QR-Ticketing System for Namoo Bharat and Delhi Metro Launched .....	12
Tamil Nadu Proposes 'Income Distance' Criteria for Devolution .....	13

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Launches VISION Portal .....	13
Prasar Bharati Launches its OTT Platform, WAVES.....	14
Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Launch ‘United Nations International Year of Co-operatives 2025’14	
ICA Global Co-operative Conference 2024.....	14
Center Launches AbKoiBahanaNahi Campaign to End Violence Against Women.....	15
Assam to Hold Business Summit in February 2025 .....	15
Government Launched ‘One Nation One Subscription Scheme’ .....	16
IIT Guwahati to host 2024 India International Science Festival .....	16
India Launches ‘Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat’ Campaign Against Child Marriage.....	16
12 <sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart 2024 .....	17
India Targets Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Eradication by 2030.....	17

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS ..... 18**

Union Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates ODOP Wall in Saudi Arabia .....	18
Arya.ag Secures \$19.8 million Investment from the US International DFC .....	18
India Re Elected President of International Solar Alliance for 2024- 26 .....	18
43 <sup>rd</sup> International Trade Fair.....	19
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi May Skip COP29 Due to Scheduling Conflicts .....	19
47 <sup>th</sup> President of the United States .....	19
Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates SATRC-25 .....	20
First DY. Prime Minister of Russia Dennis Manturov’s Visit to India.....	20
Australia to Launch New Scheme Mobility Arrangement.....	21
Peru Hosted The 31 <sup>st</sup> APEC Summit Economic Leaders Meeting .....	21
Global Soil Conference 2024 Inaugurated in New Delhi .....	21
Symbiosis International University’s First Global Campus in Dubai .....	22
India and Sweden Co chair the 6 <sup>th</sup> Annual LeadIT Summit .....	22
COP29 Summit Concludes with \$300 Billion Agreement.....	23
Australia Passes Law to Ban the Use of Social Media for Minor Below 16 .....	23
India UK Sign Agreement on Electric Propulsion System .....	24

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ..... 24**

Syngenta India Collaborates with ICAR and HAU .....	24
Japan Achieves Successful Launch of Defense Satellite Using New H3 Rocket .....	25
ISRO Launches India’s First Analog Space Mission.....	25
First Major Results from Payload on Aditya-L1’s Maiden Solar Mission .....	25
Russia to Deliver First of Two Missile Frigates .....	26
IIT Madras Collaborates with ISRO.....	26
Japan Launched Lingosat, the World’s First Wooden Satellite .....	26
Indian Space Research Organisation to Launch NISAR Satellite in Early 2025 .....	27
Space X Falcon 9 Rocket Successfully Launched GSAT-20 Satellite of NSIL .....	27

Google Introduces Air View+.....	28
Indian Institute of Spices Research Kozhikode Receives NABL Accreditation for Its Laboratories .....	28
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay Unveils AroTrack .....	29
PSLV to Launch Two Satellites as Part of Proba-3 Mission.....	29
India Launches First Artificial Intelligence Data Bank .....	29

## **BANKING, FINANCE & ECONOMICS.....30**

Axis Bank Partners with Mintoak.....	30
RBI Innovation Hub Launches MuleHunter Artificial Intelligence .....	31
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to Integrate with the CIMS .....	31
Punjab and Sind Bank Introduces Digital Bank Guarantee Service.....	31
RBL Bank and Mahindra Finance Receive RBI Approval to Introduce Co-Branded Credit Cards .....	32
Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund Introduces New Arbitrage Fund.....	32
IBBI Suggests a Mediation Process For Operational Creditors Under The IBC.....	33
Income Tax Department Introduces Monetary Cap for Officers .....	33
CARE Ratings Gives 'AA' Rating to Karur Vysya Bank's Fixed Deposit Scheme .....	33
National Stock Exchange Eases Regulations for Dormant Trading Accounts.....	34
IBBI Partners with Indian Banks' Association .....	34
ADB Approves \$200 million for Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project .....	34
IFC Partners with Bajaj Finance.....	35
RBI Approves 10-Year Sovereign Green Bonds.....	35
IRDAI to Revise Regulatory Sandbox Guidelines .....	35
LIC of India's New Endowment Plan Age Limit Reduced .....	36
Star India to Produce Web Series on the Reserve Bank of India .....	36
Shriram Mutual Fund to Introduce India's First Multi-Sector Rotation Fund .....	37
NPCI Launches Auto Top-Up Feature and Raises Transaction Limits .....	37
PFRDA Launched the PFRDA-Connect Project .....	37
Visa Partners with Affirm .....	38
Federal Bank Raises ₹1,500 Crore through Inaugural 10-Year Infrastructure Bond Issue.....	38
RBI's 2024 List of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) .....	39
SBI Aims for \$1.25 Billion in India's Biggest Dollar-Denominated Loan of 2024 .....	39
SBI Increases Marginal Cost of Fund-Based Lending Rate by 0.05% .....	39
Karnataka Bank Unveils Two New Financial Products.....	40
IDFC First Bank Enables Real-Time Tracking for International Money Transfers Through SWIFT ..	40
Reserve Bank of India Extends Deadline for Banks and ATM Operators .....	40
Galaxy Health Insurance Launches its First Insurance Product, 'Galaxy Promise' .....	41
JPMorgan Establishes GIFT City Unit to Create Derivative Products.....	41
World Bank Increases Lending Capacity by 50%, Pledges \$150 Billion for Green Projects .....	42
ADB Issues First Biodiversity and Nature-Themed Bond .....	42
Canara Bank Designates RCom and Its Subsidiary As 'Fraud' Accounts.....	42

Reserve Bank of India to Launch Cloud Services in 2025 .....	43
State Bank of India to Open 300-400 Branches Annually in the Medium Term .....	43
Matrimony.com Launches 'Weddingloans.com' Platform to Provide Wedding Loans .....	43
RBI Creates Booklets in Santali Language to Promote Financial Awareness Among Tribals .....	44
IBBI Suggests Mandatory Monitoring Committees for Resolution Plans .....	44
\$434.25 Million Loan Sanctioned by ADB for Assam Solar Project .....	45
India Maldives to Settle Cross Border Transaction in Local Currency .....	45
Reserve Bank of India Infuses ₹25,000 Crore Through VRR Auction .....	45
Axis Mutual Fund Introduces Momentum Fund .....	46
Jammu Kashmir Bank Introduces Virtual ATM Service .....	46
Punjab National Bank Joins Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials .....	47
Yes Bank Collaborates with Vegapay .....	47
ICICI Prudential Life Introduces 'Increasing Income' Option in Annuity Plan .....	47
Canara HSBC Life Insurance Unveils OmniGen AI .....	48
NPCI Plans Rupay and Unified Payments Interface Expansion Across 10 Countries .....	48
Public Sector Banks to Raise ₹25,000 Crore Through Equity Market .....	48
HDFC Bank Introduces Savings Account Targeting Rural and Semi-Urban Customers .....	49
<b>BUSINESS NEWS .....</b>	<b>49</b>
HDFC Bank and TOI Host Cyber Security Summit .....	49
<b>DEFENCE .....</b>	<b>49</b>
India-Indonesia Military Ex Garud Shakti .....	49
India-Vietnam Exercise 'Vinbax 2024' .....	50
Third Edition of MAHASAGAR Virtually Hosted by the Indian Navy .....	50
Indian Military Heritage Festival .....	50
3 <sup>rd</sup> AUSTRALIND Military Exercise Commences in Maharashtra .....	51
Theatre Command Level EX Poorvi Prahar .....	51
First Space Exercise 'Antariksha Abhyas – 2024' .....	52
India-Vietnam Joint Military Exercise VINBAX 2024 .....	52
India Ships First Batch of Akash Weapon System to Armenia .....	52
4 <sup>th</sup> Sea Vigil Exercise 2024 .....	53
Union Government Approves First-Ever All-Women Battalion In CISF .....	53
India and Japan Sign MoI on UNICORN Tech for Indian Navy .....	54
Indian Coast Guard Conducts Regional Pollution Response Exercise (Re-PREX-24) .....	54
Indian Army's Annual HADR Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan 2024 Concludes .....	54
Rajnath Singh Attends 11 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting .....	55
2025 Indian Army Day to be Held in Pune, Maharashtra .....	55
Indian Coast Guard Commences 2-day SAREX-24 Exercise .....	56
Indian Navy Successfully Test Fires K-4 Missile from INS Arighaat .....	56

Indian Army Launches Online Learning Platform Eklavya .....	56
<b>RANKS, INDICES &amp; REPORTS.....</b>	<b>57</b>
IMF Predicts India to Become The 4 <sup>th</sup> Largest Economy in FY 2025.....	57
Henley Passport Index 2024.....	57
WIPO Global Patent Filings in 2023.....	58
QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025.....	58
Fortune 100 Most Powerful Person in Business List .....	59
2024 Network Readiness Index.....	59
<b>AWARDS &amp; PRIZES .....</b>	<b>60</b>
Francis Ford Coppola to Receive AFI Life Achievement Award .....	60
Wagh Bakri Tea Group Honored with Generational Legacy Award .....	60
Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Receives YouTube's 'Golden Button' Award.....	60
Rohini Nayyar Award .....	60
Booker Prize 2024 .....	61
Dominica's Highest National Award .....	61
Airport Excellence Awards 2024.....	62
Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark Crowned Miss Universe 2024.....	62
Chhattisgarh's Dhudmaras Village Chosen by United Nations World Tourism Organisation .....	62
PM Modi Honoured with Guyana and Dominica's Highest National Honour .....	62
Best Marine State award at World Fisheries Day 2024 .....	63
Indian Chemical Council Conferred with 2024 OPCW The Hague Award .....	63
Golden Peacock Award for Best Film .....	64
<b>APPOINTMENTS &amp; RESIGNATIONS .....</b>	<b>64</b>
President of International Brain Research Organisation.....	64
State Bank of India names Debasish Mishra as Chief General Manager for New Delhi Circle .....	64
Additional Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training.....	65
Justice Sanjiv Khanna was Sworn in as 51 <sup>th</sup> CJI.....	65
President of FICCI.....	65
Prime Minister of Mauritius for 4 <sup>th</sup> time .....	66
Chief Executive Officer for India of DBS Bank .....	66
Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand.....	66
New Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation.....	67
Chief Executive Officer of Multi Commodity Exchange of India.....	67
K. Sanjay Murthy Appointed as the Next GAG of India.....	67
President of FICCI.....	68
President of Uruguay.....	68
Google Appoints Ex-Apple Executive Mitul Shah to Head Pixel Business in India.....	69

<b>SPORTS.....</b>	<b>69</b>
Anish Sarkar Becomes Youngest-Rated FIDE Chess Player .....	69
WTT Feeder Caracas 2024 .....	69
Squash's Costa North Coast Open 2024.....	69
Mandeep Jangra Wins WBF Super Featherweight World Title .....	70
India Officially Bids to Host 2036 Olympics .....	70
FIH Hockey Star Award 2024 .....	70
Arjun Erigaisi Jumps to World No. 2 in Chess Rankings.....	71
2024 WTA Finals.....	71
PSA Challenger Title .....	72
Neeraj Chopra Appoints Jan Zelezny as Coach.....	72
IBSF World Billiards Championship.....	72
Tamil Nadu to Likely Host 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup .....	72
V Pranav Triumphs in Chennai Grandmasters Tournament's Challenger Section .....	72
FISU World University Championship Shooting 2024.....	73
Dubai Sports Council Brand Ambassador .....	73
ATP Finals Singles Title.....	74
Magnus Carlsen Clinches Tata Steel Chess India Blitz Title .....	74
Jorge Martin Clinches First MotoGP World Championship .....	74
Women's Asian Champions Trophy.....	75
Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition .....	75
2024 Davis Cup Title .....	75
Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup Title .....	76
Under-8 World Cadets Chess Champion 2024 .....	76
<b>IMPORTANT DAYS .....</b>	<b>77</b>
World Vegan Day .....	77
World Tsunami Awareness Day.....	77
International Day for Preventing Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict .....	77
National Cancer Awareness Day .....	78
World Radiography Day .....	78
World Freedom Day .....	78
National Education Day .....	78
World Science Day for Peace and Development .....	79
World Kindness Day .....	79
World Diabetes Day .....	79
Children's Day in India .....	80
International Day for Tolerance .....	80
National Epilepsy Day.....	80
Universal Children's Day .....	81

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women .....	81
Constitution Day .....	81
<b>OBITUTARY NEWS.....</b>	<b>82</b>
Eminent Economist and Chairman EAC PM Dr Bibek Debroy .....	82
Bihar Kokila Sharda Sinha .....	82
Renowned Padma Bhushan Awardee and Folk Singer Sharda Sinha .....	82



**NOVEMBER – 2024**

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **Union Home Minister Amit Shah Launches Civil Registration System Mobile App**

- ★ Amit Shah, India's Union Home Minister, unveiled a new mobile application designed to facilitate the registration of birth and death, making the process seamless and hassle-free.
- ★ This initiative is part of the Digital India vision spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to integrate technology into governance.
- ★ The Civil Registration System (CRS) mobile app, developed by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, aims to significantly reduce the time needed for birth and death registrations.
- ★ Citizens can now register these vital events anytime and from anywhere, in their state's official language.
- ★ Amit Shah also unveiled a statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel at the Janganana Bhawan, the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner.

### **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Introduces Deepam 2.0 Scheme**

- ★ Andhra Pradesh (AP) Chief Minister (CM) N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the Deepam 2.0 scheme, providing three free LPG cylinders annually to eligible families, as part of the NDA Government's "Super Six" election promises.
- ★ The scheme was officially launched in Eedupuram, Srikakulam district.
- ★ The scheme aligns with the NDA Government's election promise to support women. Self-help groups (SHGs) will also be strengthened, aiming to empower more women as entrepreneurs.
- ★ The scheme is expected to cost the state ₹2,684 crore per year.
- ★ Beneficiaries will receive ₹876 (excluding the central subsidy of ₹25) credited to their personal accounts within 48 hours of purchasing each cylinder.
- ★ The State Government increased welfare pensions, benefiting 64 lakh pensioners. Beneficiaries have the option to withdraw their pensions once every three months.

### **India Is Likely To Invite Indonesian President As Chief Guest**

- ★ India is likely to invite Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto as Chief Guest for the Republic Day parade in January 2025.
- ★ This invitation aligns with India's Act East Policy and reinforces India's diplomatic ties in the Southeast Asian region.
- ★ This will be the fourth time an Indonesian leader is the Chief Guest for India's Republic Day.

- ★ This year marks important anniversaries in India's relations with Southeast Asian nations 75 years with Indonesia and the Philippines, 60 years with Singapore and 40 years with Brunei.
- ★ India and Indonesia share a strong partnership, bolstered by maritime proximity as neighbouring nations.

### Mizoram to Issue Special Ration Cards for Non-NFSA Households

- ★ The Mizoram Government is launching special ration cards for low-income families not covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- ★ The initiative aims to benefit approximately 2,500 families, equating to about 1 lakh individuals with limited financial means.
- ★ **Red Cards:** New special ration cards will be marked in red for the non-NFSA beneficiaries.
- ★ **Yellow Cards:** Holders of yellow cards are part of the Antodaya Anna Yojana and are NFSA beneficiaries.
- ★ **Blue Cards:** Holders of blue cards are classified as Priority Households under state eligibility criteria and are also NFSA beneficiaries.
- ★ **White Cards:** Current white card holders are not covered under the NFSA.
- ★ The Government plans to revise the existing ration card system, potentially discontinuing subsidies for white card beneficiaries.
- ★ The new red cards will replace the existing white cards, targeting individuals with limited means who currently hold white cards.
- ★ Beneficiaries seeking the new red card are advised to contact their respective district civil supply officers.

### Government Approves PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme for Higher Education's in India

- ★ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved a new central sector scheme, 'PM Vidyalaxmi', on 6 November 2024.
- ★ The scheme aligns with the objective of the National Education Policy 2020, which calls for providing financial assistance to meritorious students to pursue higher studies in public or private higher educational Institutions in India.
- ★ The Department of Higher Education under the Union Ministry of Education will implement the PM Vidyalaxmi scheme.
- ★ The department will also manage the unified portal "PM-Vidyalaxmi". The eligible students will have to apply for educational loans and interest subvention on the portal.
- ★ Students admitted to eligible public or private sector higher educational institutions will be eligible for collateral-free, guarantor-free loans from banks and financial institutions.
- ★ The loan amount will cover the tuition fees and other expenses of the student.
- ★ Under the scheme, loans up to ₹7.5 lakhs will be eligible for a credit guarantee of 75% of the outstanding loan default amount.
- ★ This means the Government will reimburse the bank for 75% of the outstanding loan amount if the student who has taken the loan defaults.

## **New Flight Connectivity Rules Allow Wi-Fi Use Above 3,000 Meters Altitude**

- ★ The Government of India clarified those Wi-Fi services for in-flight internet access will be allowed only once the aircraft reaches 3,000 meters in altitude.
- ★ The new guideline is part of the recently updated Flight and Maritime Connectivity (Amendment) Rules, 2024, which amend the previous rules from 2018.
- ★ Wi-Fi services will be accessible when electronic devices (such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops) are permitted onboard.
- ★ The use of these devices, however, is restricted during critical flight phases like takeoff and landing to maintain safety.
- ★ This update specifies that Wi-Fi can be used once electronic devices are cleared for operation at 3,000 meters, in line with existing protocols for electronic device usage on flights.

## **Uttar Pradesh Boosts Solar Capacity with Floating Solar Plants**

- ★ Uttar Pradesh aims to generate 14,000 MW of solar power by 2027, expanding its renewable energy portfolio to reduce carbon emissions and promote sustainable energy.
- ★ The state will develop floating solar power plants across seven major reservoirs in partnership with NTPC, Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN).
- ★ These floating projects will utilize water bodies to produce solar power efficiently without occupying land space.
- ★ Under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, Uttar Pradesh plans to connect 2.5 million households to solar energy, making solar power accessible and reducing dependence on conventional electricity.
- ★ The PM-KUSUM Yojana targets 2,000 MW of solar power by 2027 by installing solar panels on vacant rural land.
- ★ This project has already equipped 48,000 houses with solar power, and another 30,000 homes are expected to follow by the end of FY 2024-25.
- ★ The State Government is also progressing on 4,800 MW of solar parks with ongoing tendering, aiming to bolster large-scale solar production.

## **BEML Limited Receives “Self-Certification” Status for Defence Equipment**

- ★ BEML Limited has been granted the prestigious “Self-Certification” status by the Department of Defence Production (DDP), Government of India, for its defence equipment.
- ★ The certification was presented by RA Govardhana, ADGQA (V&EE), HQ DQAV, to Shantanu Roy, Chairman and Managing Director of BEML Ltd., during a special event at BEML’s headquarters.
- ★ The certification is valid for three years, covering 842 stores of BEML’s defense equipment.
- ★ It permits the manufacturing and delivery of defense equipment without requiring additional third-party inspections, streamlining processes.

## **India Launches ‘National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024-2030’**

- ★ The updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) 2024-2030 was launched at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 16) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Colombia.

- ★ NBSAP provides a comprehensive framework for biodiversity conservation, promotes the sustainable use of biological resources, and ensures fair and equitable sharing of their benefits.
- ★ A National Biodiversity Action Plan (NBAP) was adopted in 2008, which was updated in 2014 to align with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- ★ NBSAP 2024-30 aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) adopted in 2022, which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030

### **Fisheries Ministry, NFDB, and CMFRI to Launch Drone Technology**

- ★ The Fisheries Ministry, National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), and ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) are partnering to introduce drone technology in the marine fisheries sector.
- ★ The aim is to boost operational efficiency, reduce labor costs, and minimize environmental impact across various marine and aquaculture activities.
- ★ Aquaculture Input Dispensing: Precise feed broadcasting in cage fish farming to optimize feed usage.
- ★ Environmental Monitoring: Early detection of algal blooms and other environmental threats, which is crucial for fish health.
- ★ Water Quality Assessment: In coastal and offshore farms, drones can monitor water parameters and ensure optimal conditions for marine life.
- ★ Emergency Rescue Operations: Life jackets and other emergency supplies can be deployed in rescue scenarios.
- ★ Market Access for Remote Farmers: Drones can transport live fish from remote aquaculture sites to markets, ensuring freshness and better prices.

### **TULIP Brand Launched to Promote Products of Disadvantaged Artisans**

- ★ The Government of India has launched the TULIP (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme) brand to provide a platform for the marginalised artisan communities to sell their products.
- ★ The TULIP brand was launched by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment at the opening of the 'Shilp Samagam Mela 2024',
- ★ The ministry organises the Shilp Samagam to provide a marketing opportunity for marginalised artisans to display and sell their products.
- ★ The TULIP (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme) is an e-marketplace where artisans from Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, sanitation workers, and persons with disabilities can sell their products in India and abroad.
- ★ It is expected to improve the socio-economic conditions of these marginalised communities and empower them.

### **Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 3.0**

- ★ Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, launched the Nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 3.0 to empower pensioners digitally.



- ★ This campaign aligns with Prime Minister Modi's vision for a "Nation First, Citizen First" approach to pensioners' welfare.
- ★ The campaign will operate from November 1-30, 2024, covering 800 cities and towns across India. Pensioners of Central and State Governments, EPFO, and Autonomous Bodies can submit their DLCs at designated locations.
- ★ Pensioners over 80 years old can submit their certificates from home, with services provided by Gramin Dak Sewaks (GDS) and IPPB.
- ★ Collaborative Implementation: Major banks like SBI, PNB, CGDA, IPPB, and UIDAI will co-ordinate for smooth, accessible service delivery.

### **First Phase of Barda Wildlife Sanctuary and Jungle Safari Inaugurated in Gujarat**

- ★ The first phase of the Barda Wildlife Sanctuary and Barda Jungle Safari will be inaugurated at the Kapurdi check post in Devbhoomi Dwarka, Gujarat.
- ★ This initiative aims to reduce the pressure on the nearby Sasan Gir National Park.
- ★ The development of the sanctuary is intended to boost wildlife tourism in Gujarat, creating a new attraction for nature enthusiasts and tourists.
- ★ The sanctuary spans approximately 192 square kilometres of the Barda region, covering both high and low hills. This area has been designated as a wildlife sanctuary for protection and tourism.
- ★ The Barda Jungle Safari includes some of the most scenic areas within the Bhanvad-Ranavav and Barda Wildlife Sanctuary regions.
- ★ The sanctuary is home to 368 species of plants, with the majority (54%) being shrubs.

### **Bengaluru to Launch its First Digital Population Clock**

- ★ Bengaluru City's first digital population clock, which will display real-time estimates of the population of Karnataka and the country, will be inaugurated at the Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC) in the city.
- ★ It is a joint project of ISEC and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- ★ The population clock will display real-time estimates of:
  - Karnataka's population, updating every 1 minute 10 seconds.
  - India's population, updating every 2 seconds.
  - It aims to raise awareness about population growth and provide authentic data for researchers and scholars.
  - The clock is satellite-connected for precise timekeeping.
  - It operates autonomously with all components integrated into the system.

### **International Ancient Arts Festival and Symposium**

- ★ The 8<sup>th</sup> International Ancient Arts Festival and Symposium was held in New Delhi at the Indira Gandhi National Centers for Arts (IGNCA) from November 8 to 10, 2024.

- ★ The International Ancient Arts Festival and Symposium is country's only multi-arts event of its kind, which tries to educate the people in the ancient Indian art form along with entertaining them with performances.
- ★ The event consists of lectures by esteemed scholars on the latest research on the healing potential of ancient art forms, along with artistic performances.
- ★ At the inaugural session of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Ancient Arts Festival and Symposium Dr. Reela Hota and her troupe presented 'Antar Yatra'.
- ★ The 8<sup>th</sup> International Ancient Arts Festival and Symposium was organised by the Indira Gandhi National Centers for Arts (IGNCA) in collaboration with the Rays of Wisdom Society.
- ★ It is also being supported by the Union Ministry of Culture.
- ★ The IGNCA works to preserve and be a major resource centre for the written, oral and visual arts.
- ★ Rays of Wisdom Society is a Delhi-based non-profit organisation (NGO) that preserves and propagates classical, ancient Indian dance forms.

### **India's Progress and Challenges in Achieving TB Elimination by 2025**

- ★ In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed to "eliminating" TB in India by 2025, five years ahead of the UN SDG target of 2030.
- ★ SDG targets by 2030 include 90% reduction in TB deaths and 80% reduction in TB incidence compared to 2015.
- ★ WHO's End TB Strategy milestones for 2025 is 75% reduction in TB deaths and 50% reduction in TB incidence from 2015 levels.
- ★ India has achieved a 17.7% decline in TB incidence from 2015 to 2023, surpassing the global average decline of 8.3%.
- ★ However, as per the WHO Global TB Report 2024, India is unlikely to meet the 2025 WHO milestones.

### **Union Finance Minister Launched National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme**

- ★ Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched the National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme, organised jointly by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- ★ The programme was organized jointly by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- ★ The initiative aims to promote the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) across India by ensuring access to financial services.
- ★ The programme connects 150 MSME clusters virtually, bringing together MSMEs and senior banking officials to discuss financial solutions and growth strategies.

### **Madhya Pradesh Increases Women's Reservation to 35% in All Government Jobs**

- ★ Madhya Pradesh increases women's reservation to 35% in all government jobs.

- ★ The reservation applies to SC, ST, OBC, and General categories, with 35% of reserved posts allocated to women candidates within each category.
- ★ This increase aims to empower women by providing greater access to government jobs across all social categories.
- ★ It reflects Madhya Pradesh's commitment to gender inclusivity and equal opportunities in public employment.

### **PM Modi to Lay Foundation Stone for AIIMS Darbhanga on November 13**

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Darbhanga, Bihar, on November 13, 2024, to lay the foundation for the AIIMS Darbhanga project.
- ★ The construction of AIIMS Darbhanga is a ₹1,700 crore initiative to improve healthcare access in north Bihar and neighbouring regions.
- ★ The foundation-laying ceremony, or 'bhumi puja', will be attended by dignitaries including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Union Ministers Chirag Paswan and Jitan Ram Manjhi.
- ★ Darbhanga is set to become Bihar's second AIIMS facility, enhancing healthcare options alongside the existing AIIMS in Patna.
- ★ The project is expected to significantly boost medical infrastructure in northern Bihar, making high-quality super-specialty services more accessible to the region.

### **Odisha to Roll Out National Education Policy 2020 in Universities**

- ★ The Odisha Government will implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 across all state-run universities and affiliated colleges starting from the current academic year.
- ★ The traditional three-year undergraduate courses will be replaced by four-year programs, allowing students to earn a certificate, diploma, degree, or degree with honours after each year of study.
- ★ The state has developed a credit-based framework aligned with University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines, enabling students to earn credits through skill development, internships, community service, and extra-curricular activities like NCC and NSS.
- ★ Students can complete their degree within a maximum of seven years, with options for multiple entries and exits from their institution.
- ★ NEP 2020 aims to enhance quality, autonomy, and inclusivity within Odisha's higher education system, aligning with national policy goals.

### **Government Expands e-Shram Portal**

- ★ The Indian Government is enhancing the e-Shram portal to encourage self-employed workers—including owners of micro-enterprises, hawkers, and vendors—to register.
- ★ This move is part of an ongoing effort to ensure social security and welfare benefits reach workers in the unorganized sector.
- ★ A special functionality is being added to the portal for self-employed workers who may not consider themselves "workers" despite being a part of the unorganized sector.

- ★ The Government aims to include hawkers, street vendors, kirana store owners, and other micro-business operators in the portal's database.
- ★ The e-Shram portal serves as a National Database of Unorganized Workers (NDUW).
- ★ It targets unorganized sector workers, facilitating their registration and linking them with Aadhaar to provide easy access to welfare schemes.

### **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Inaugurates Seaplane Demo Flight**

- ★ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched a seaplane demo flight operation from Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada to Srisailem in Nandyal district.
- ★ The initiative is called "Sky Meets Sea", aimed at connecting Vijayawada and Srisailem.
- ★ The service will be managed by the Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Limited (APADCL).
- ★ The seaplane is a 10-seater aircraft designed for the service.
- ★ The flight route starts from Prakasam Barrage in Vijayawada and ends near Pathalaganga in Srisailem, flying over the Krishna River.
- ★ Passengers on this route will experience scenic views while flying over the Krishna River.

### **Union Ministry of Mines Sign MoU with IEA**

- ★ The Union Ministry of Mines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to collaborate in the field of critical minerals.
- ★ India will get access to the IEA data, analysis, and policy recommendations in the critical mineral sector.
- ★ It will help improve India's decision-making capabilities and ensure strategic resource management.
- ★ It will enable India to develop policies, regulations, and investment strategies in the critical mineral sector that comply with global standards and best practices.
- ★ It will also facilitate capacity building and knowledge exchange between India and the IEA member states.
- ★ It will foster collaboration in technology development, extraction techniques, and recycling methods for critical minerals.
- ★ Critical minerals are those minerals that are considered essential for the economic development and national security of a country.

### **NITI Aayog Launches ASSET Platform**

- ★ NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the Ministry of Power and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has introduced the ASSET platform to support India's green energy transition and assist states in developing energy transition blueprints.
- ★ The platform aims to accelerate renewable energy adoption and sustainable growth in alignment with national goals.



- ★ ASSET stands for Accelerating Sustainable Solutions for Energy Transition. It helps states create energy transition plans, implement projects, and showcase best practices in various energy sectors.
- ★ States must prepare comprehensive energy transition blueprints detailing strategies for renewable energy adoption to align with India's national sustainability goals.
- ★ Bankable projects must be developed for effective energy transition, ensuring financial feasibility and successful implementation.
- ★ The ASSET platform will feature upcoming technologies and best practices in energy efficiency and e-mobility, fostering collaboration among states and contributing to the development of a robust energy ecosystem.

### **Come and Install Solar Power Projects Initiative of The HP Government**

- ★ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has launched the 'Come and Install Solar Power Projects' initiative to encourage investment in the state's solar and solar energy projects.
- ★ This is part of the State Government initiative to turn Himachal Pradesh into a clean and green energy state by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- ★ The State Government has launched a scheme to encourage people to rent lands to the government.
- ★ Under this scheme, the Government will pay a rent of ₹20,000 per month to the farmers if they donate three bighas of land for the construction of a solar power plant.
- ★ Under the State Government's Come and Install Solar Power Projects initiative, the private sector will be encouraged to invest in the solar power sector in the state.
- ★ The Government will fast-track the solar energy investment proposals and expedite the process regarding paper formalities and other procedures.
- ★ According to the Government, 300 MW of ground-mounted solar power projects have been awarded to the private sector, of which 62 MW are operational.
- ★ The public sector is setting up 32 MW solar projects.

### **Central Government Approves Fire Services Projects Worth ₹725 Cr For 3 States**

- ★ The Union Home Ministry, under the leadership of the Union Home Minister and Minister of Co-operation, has approved three major fire service modernization projects totalling 725.62 crore for the states of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, and West Bengal.
  - Chhattisgarh: ₹147.76 crore
  - Odisha: ₹201.10 crore
  - West Bengal: ₹376.76 crore
- ★ The approval comes from a high-level committee comprising the Finance Minister, Agriculture Minister, and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- ★ The initiative is aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a disaster-resilient India, aiming to enhance disaster management capabilities, focusing on fire services and disaster risk reduction.

- ★ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has committed 5000 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for the modernization of fire services in various states.

### **Chief Minister Unveils Uttar Pradesh's First Double-Decker Electric Bus**

- ★ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the state's first double-decker electric bus service in Lucknow as part of efforts to improve public transportation and eco-friendly conveyance.
- ★ The initiative aims to reduce traffic congestion and promote environmental conservation in urban areas.
- ★ 50% ticket discount for women passengers using the double-decker electric bus.
- ★ 10% discount on digital payments for all passengers.
- ★ Initially, the bus will operate as a heritage bus service in the morning and a regular passenger service in the evening.
- ★ The bus has a 65-passenger capacity.
- ★ The bus is equipped with five CCTV cameras and a panic button for enhanced women's safety.

### **Meluri Declared as Nagaland's 17<sup>th</sup> District**

- ★ Meluri has been officially declared the 17<sup>th</sup> district of Nagaland, following its elevation from a sub-division of Phek District.
- ★ Meluri is primarily inhabited by the Pochury Naga tribe, adding cultural significance to its district status.
- ★ The elevation to district status was announced by the Nagaland State Government with immediate effect.
- ★ Meluri is the 5<sup>th</sup> district created in Nagaland within the last three years, reflecting an ongoing administrative restructuring.

### **First Bodoland Mahotsav Inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi**

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first Bodoland Mahotsav in New Delhi on 15 November 2024.
- ★ The two-day festival on 15 and 16 November 2024 celebrates and showcases the cultural and linguistic heritage of the Bodos and other communities of the Bodoland Territorial Region of Assam.
- ★ During the Mahotsav, over five thousand cultural, linguistic, and art enthusiasts from the Bodoland region of Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, and other parts of India participated.
- ★ Delegates from Bhutan and Nepal also participated in the Mahotsav.
- ★ Bodos are considered the earliest settlers in the Brahmaputra valley region of Assam. They are descendants of the Mongolian race and migrated from Tibet and China to Assam.

## **Meghalaya to Celebrate 'Year of Legends' with Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival**

- ★ Meghalaya is celebrating the “Year of Legends” with the return of the Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival 2024.
- ★ The festival will take place on November 15-16, 2024, at the RDSA Sports Complex in Shillong.
- ★ The Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival has become one of India’s most anticipated cultural events, blending culture, music, and nature.
- ★ The celebration of Cherry Blossoms (Hanami) has been a part of Japanese tradition for over a thousand years.
- ★ The Shillong Cherry Blossom Festival, first launched in 2016, is the world’s first autumn Cherry Blossom festival.

## **Union Minister Launches 'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' App**

- ★ Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, has unveiled the ‘Know Your Medicine (KYM)’ app, a key step in India’s commitment to combating doping in sports.
- ★ The initiative is spearheaded by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India and aims to ensure fair competition while empowering athletes with the tools to maintain clean sports practices.
- ★ The KYM app serves as a critical tool in the nationwide campaign to eliminate doping from Indian sports.
- ★ It enables users to verify if a medicine or its ingredients contain substances prohibited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- ★ It helps athletes avoid accidental consumption of banned substances.
- ★ Users can identify substances by uploading images or providing audio inputs for ease of access.

## **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve Notified 56<sup>th</sup> Tiger Reserve**

- ★ The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve of Chhattisgarh as the 56<sup>th</sup> Tiger Reserve of India.
- ★ The Ministry issued the notification on 18 November 2024.
- ★ The apex Tiger conservation body, the National Tiger Conservation Authority, had given its approval in 2021, and the Ministry has issued the notification now.
- ★ Tiger reserve area 2,829 square km area.
- ★ The reserve’s core tiger habitat is 2049.2 square km, comprising the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary, and has a buffer of 780.15 square km.
- ★ The Guru Ghasidas -Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is geographically spread mainly over the Chota Nagpur plateau and partially over the Baghelkhand plateau.
- ★ Seven hundred fifty-three species, including 365 invertebrates and 388 vertebrates, are found in the reserve.

## Government of India Has Launched the PAIR Initiative

- ★ The Government of India has launched the PAIR Initiative under the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) to foster research excellence and innovation in central and state public universities, especially those with limited research infrastructure.
- ★ **Objectives:**
  - Enhance Research Capacity: Support internationally competitive research and stimulate innovation in emerging institutions.
  - Collaborative Networks: Build productive partnerships between top-ranking and emerging institutions.
  - Mentorship-Driven Model: Foster research excellence through a hub-and-spoke model, where leading institutions mentor others.
  - Institutional Development: Upscale research infrastructure, Improve research quality and Introduce best practices in research culture.
- ★ It bridges the research gap by leveraging the expertise of top-tier institutions.
- ★ It also creates a robust network for collaborative research.

## “Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman” Campaign Launched

- ★ The Government of India has launched a three-week campaign, “Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman”, on the occasion of World Toilet Day on 19 November 2024.
- ★ The campaign will end on 10 December 2024, on the occasion of Human Rights Day.
- ★ The end of the campaign on Human Rights Day symbolises the powerful link between sanitation, human rights, and an individual’s dignity.
- ★ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, has launched the three-week Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman.
- ★ The responsibility for implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen component of the Swachh Bharat Mission lies with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ★ The campaign will affirm the country’s commitment to behavioural change regarding sanitation.
- ★ It focuses on total Sampoon Swachhata—sustaining the ODF status, managing solid and liquid waste by 2024-25, and transforming all the villages from ODF to ODF Plus Model.
- ★ The campaign will focus on empowering vulnerable groups, especially women and girls, and will involve all stakeholders from village panchayat to State levels.

## Integrated QR-Ticketing System for Namoo Bharat and Delhi Metro Launched

- ★ The NCRTC (National Capital Region Transport Corporation) and DMRC (Delhi Metro Rail Corporation) have introduced a unified QR-ticketing system, enabling seamless travel across Namoo Bharat and Delhi Metro services via their respective mobile apps.
- ★ This initiative simplifies commutes in Delhi-NCR, boosts public transport adoption, and aligns with the Government’s “One India – One Ticket” vision, emphasizing sustainability and convenience.



- ★ It ensures smooth transitions between regional transit (RRTS) and intra-city modes (Metro).
- ★ It also reduces time, effort, and the need for multiple ticketing systems.

### **Tamil Nadu Proposes 'Income Distance' Criteria for Devolution**

- ★ The Tamil Nadu Government has asked the 16<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission to adopt a different method of measuring per capita income, from nominal to purchase power parity, while calculating the biggest criterion for devolution of funds between the Centre and the State, namely, 'income distance'.
- ★ Income distance measures how far a state's per capita income is from the state with the highest per capita income.
- ★ States with a greater income gap receive more funds.
- ★ Tamil Nadu requests a 50 : 50 split of tax pool between the Centre and State, an increase from the 41 : 59 split recommended by the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
- ★ Tamil Nadu proposes the introduction of a new criterion — contribution to the national GDP for a fair distribution of taxes.
- ★ Tamil Nadu suggests reducing the weight for income distance from 45% to 35%.
- ★ Tamil Nadu requests the Commission to use the 1971 Census as the base, rather than the 2011 Census used by the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
- ★ It also wants the population weight raised from 15% to 20%.
- ★ This proposal is the first time a state has suggested such a change in the devolution methodology to the Finance Commission.

### **Union Minister Jitendra Singh Launches VISION Portal**

- ★ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the VISION ("Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network") Portal in New Delhi
- ★ The Portal aims to empower and uplift youth from the underprivileged section of the country through education, skill development and sustainable livelihood.
- ★ The Gurugram, Haryana-based non-profit organisation Utsav Foundation developed the VISION ("Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network") Portal.
- ★ The Utsav Foundation works to empower the youth by providing them with the necessary skills and resources through internship and skill development.
- ★ It funds the internship projects of Indian students studying in Schools, Industrial Training Institutes and Colleges.
- ★ It aims to foster the spirit of innovation among students who want to start their own businesses by providing funding and mentorship.
- ★ Preference is given to projects that address societal challenges and drive technological advancements.

- ★ The Scheme aims to develop problem-solving abilities among the youth by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical experience.

### **Prasar Bharati Launches its OTT Platform, WAVES**

- ★ The Government of India-owned public sector broadcaster Prasar Bharati has launched its own OTT (Over the Top Platform) named WAVES.
- ★ The platform will broadcast the new and old content of the Doordarshan (DD), All India Radio (AIR) and other content providers.
- ★ The WAVES was unveiled by Prasar Bharati at the 55<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India at Panaji, Goa.
- ★ Goa, which is the permanent venue of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is hosting the 55<sup>th</sup> edition of the IFFI from 20-28 November 2024.
- ★ The WAVES platform of the Prasar Bharati was launched by Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa on the opening day of the 55<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- ★ The WAVES platform is a digital platform developed by Prasar Bharati which will provide media contents to the users on demand through the internet.

### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Launch ‘United Nations International Year of Co-operatives 2025’**

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives 2025 during the ICA (International Co-operative Alliance) Global Co-operative Conference and General Assembly, being hosted for the first time in India from November 25–30, 2024.
- ★ This marks the first time in ICA’s 130-year history that its General Assembly and Global Conference are being held in India, initiated by IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative Limited).
- ★ Around 3,000 delegates will attend, including 1,000 international participants from over 100 countries.
- ★ A commemorative stamp for the International Year of Co-operatives 2025 will also be launched.
- ★ India accounts for 25% of the world’s co-operatives, with 8 lakh co-operatives operating nationwide.

### **ICA Global Co-operative Conference 2024**

- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the ICA Global Co-operative Conference 2024 on 25 November 2024 in New Delhi.
- ★ The Prime Minister also inaugurated the year-long United Nations International Year of Co-operatives 2025 celebration.
- ★ India is hosting the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Global Conference for the first time in New Delhi from 25 to 30 November 2024.
- ★ The ICA is the apex body of co-operatives around the world, and it was founded in 1895.

- ★ The ICA Global Conference is the annual conference of the ICA where all the members of the ICA, people associated with co-operative movements, academicians, etc, participates
- ★ The theme of the ICA Global Co-operative Conference 2024 is “Co-operatives Build Prosperity for All”.

### Center Launches AbKoiBahanaNahi Campaign to End Violence Against Women

- ★ The Government of India launched a nationwide “#AbKoiBahanaNahi” and “Nayi Chetna 3.0” campaign on 25 November 2024 in New Delhi on the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.
- ★ The campaign, which will run until 10 December 2024, which is Human Rights Day, will focus on raising awareness against gender-based violence and the need to end it.
- ★ The “AbKoiBahanaNahi” campaign was inaugurated by Annpurna Devi, Union Minister of Women and Child Development.
- ★ Women leaders from Self Help Groups across the country and service providers for redressal for survivors of violence against women and girls were also present during the launch of the campaigns.
- ★ The United Nations launched the UNITE to End Violence against Women initiative in 2008 to support the civil society-led 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign around the world.
- ★ The campaign starts on 25 November and ends on Human Rights Day on 10 December.
- ★ The UN Women has chosen **“Every 10 Minutes, a woman is killed. #NoExcuse. UNiTE to End Violence against Women”** as the theme of the campaign for 2024”.

### Assam to Hold Business Summit in February 2025

- ★ Assam will host a two-day business summit, Advantage Assam 2.0 – the Global Infrastructure and Investors’ Summit, in February 2025, aimed at attracting investment and developing the state’s infrastructure.
- ★ The summit will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 24, 2025, and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be invited for the valedictory session.
- ★ The summit will focus on attracting investment in infrastructure, with sessions dedicated to road connectivity, railway networks, civil aviation, agriculture, industrial parks, and the hydrocarbon sector.
- ★ Delegations will visit Singapore, Japan, the US, UK, and Dubai to promote the summit and invite participation.
- ★ Theme-oriented roadshows will be held in six cities: Mumbai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, and Ahmedabad.
- ★ The summit will feature a Jhumur dance performance involving 7,500 participants to showcase Assam’s cultural heritage, particularly the tea tribes.
- ★ A delegation will also visit Bhutan to explore water resources for irrigation and drinking water in Assam.

### **Government Launched 'One Nation One Subscription Scheme'**

- ★ The Government of India has approved a new central sector scheme, the One Nation One Subscription scheme, to expand access to scholarly journals to students, faculty, researchers, and scientists in the country under one platform.
- ★ The initiative aims to provide access to nearly 13000 scholarly journals published by 30 international publishers through a unified digital portal to eligible higher educational institutions and research and development laboratories.
- ★ This is expected to boost research and development (R&D) and innovation in the country.
- ★ The Department of Higher Education under the Union Ministry of Education will implement the One Nations One Subscription Scheme.
- ★ It will launch a unified portal, "One Nation One Subscription", through which the institutions can access the journals digitally.
- ★ The portal is expected to go live on 1 January 2025.
- ★ The duration of the One Nation One Subscription Scheme is three years. It will start on 1 January 2025 and end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027.
- ★ The total allocated amount for the scheme over three years is ₹6,000 crore. It will cover the cost of journal subscriptions.

### **IIT Guwahati to host 2024 India International Science Festival**

- ★ For the first time, the prestigious India International Science Festival will be held in the country's Northeastern region.
- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology - Guwahati will host the 10<sup>th</sup> India International Science Festival 2024 from 30 November to 3 December 2024.
- ★ The India International Science Festival is the largest science event in the country, engaging the general public and the scientific community.
- ★ The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the India International Science Festival 2023 was held in Faridabad, Haryana, from 17-20 January 2024.
- ★ A large number of students, the Indian and foreign scientific community and the general public are expected to participate in the India International Science Festival 2024.
- ★ The 10<sup>th</sup> India International Science Festival theme is "Transforming India into an S&T-driven Global Manufacturing Hub".
- ★ The theme focuses on the government's mission to make India the global manufacturing hub and the crucial contribution of science and technology to industrial growth.
- ★ The India International Science Festival is organised by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology and the Union Ministry of Earth Science in association with Vijnana Bharati.

### **India Launches 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' Campaign Against Child Marriage**

- ★ The Government of India launched the 'Bal Vivah Mukht Bharat' campaign to eradicate the social evil of child marriage.



- ★ The Government also unveiled the Child Marriage Free Bharat portal to support the campaign.
- ★ The Campaign will be supervised by the Union Ministry of Child and Women Development.
- ★ According to the Government, it will continue until the social evil of child marriage is eradicated from the country.
- ★ The portal will support the campaign's mission by raising public awareness against child marriage, preventing child marriage, and reporting incidents of child marriage.
- ★ The campaign will focus on 130 districts of the country where the incidence of child marriage is very high.
- ★ It will involve the concerned central and State Government departments, district Child Marriage Prohibition Officers, civil society members and organisations and the media.

### **12<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart 2024**

- ★ The 12<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart is being held in the UNESCO World Heritage site Kaziranga National Park, Assam, from 26- 29 November 2024.
- ★ The International Tourism Mart will highlight the vast potential of tourism in the North-Eastern Region to domestic and international audiences and bring together the Tourism and hospitality industry stakeholders to promote tourism in the region.
- ★ Kaziranga National Park is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being declared a national park.
- ★ The International Tourism Mart has been organised by the Union Ministry of Tourism every year since 2013.
- ★ The International Tourism Mart is held on a rotational basis in one of the eight North Eastern States: Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, or Sikkim.
- ★ At the 12<sup>th</sup> International Tourism Mart, senior officials of the Central Government, State Government and Tourism sector representatives are participating.
- ★ Representatives of 30 foreign countries are also participating in the Tourism Mart.

### **India Targets Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) Eradication by 2030**

- ★ India is intensifying efforts to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) by 2030, with an intermediary goal of controlling it by 2025.
- ★ This ambitious initiative, announced by the Union Minister of Animal Husbandry and Dairying Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aims to enhance milk production, improve livestock productivity, and enable significant growth in dairy exports.
- ★ FMD severely impacts livestock, with a morbidity rate of 100% and a mortality rate of 5% in adult animals.
- ★ It reduces milk production, weight, and overall economic returns.
- ★ Scaling up vaccination efforts, aim for an FMD-free India by 2030.
- ★ Only 35% of cattle benefit from Artificial Insemination (AI) compared to 100% in developed countries.

- ★ Increase in AI coverage to at least 70%, aims to boost productivity and disease resistance.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Union Minister Piyush Goyal Inaugurates ODOP Wall in Saudi Arabia

- ★ Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated the “One District One Product” (ODOP) Wall at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh during his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia.
- ★ The ODOP initiative seeks to promote unique local products from Indian districts internationally, bolstering the “Made in India” movement.
- ★ The ODOP Wall highlights distinctive products from various Indian districts, aiming to transform these regions into global “Made in India” hubs.
- ★ The initiative fosters sustainable livelihoods by connecting Indian artisans and entrepreneurs with global retail opportunities, boosting market reach.

### Arya.ag Secures \$19.8 million Investment from the US International DFC

- ★ Arya.ag, a grain commerce platform, has secured \$19.8 million from the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to guarantee a debt facility for its agri-commerce subsidiary, Aryatech.
- ★ These funds will be utilised to connect farmers and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) with buyers across the country, ensuring payment security, transaction transparency, and improved market access.
- ★ ag previously raised \$29 million in an equity round last quarter, indicating strong investor interest in the agritech sector.
- ★ The facility will enable us to connect more farmers and FPOs to buyers much beyond their existing networks, creating a more efficient and inclusive agricultural marketplace
- ★ ag is an agri-commerce platform that connects sellers and buyers of agriproducts to facilitate and streamline commerce, driving efficiencies and reducing waste to benefit the entire market.

### India Re Elected President of International Solar Alliance for 2024- 26

- ★ India has been re-elected as the President of the International Solar Alliance for another two-year term from 2024 to 2026.
- ★ The Office bearers for 2024-26 were elected at the Seventh annual session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly, held in New Delhi from 3-6 November 2024.
- ★ India was re-elected unopposed as the President of the International Solar Alliance for a fresh two-year term. France was elected as the Co-President, defeating Grenada.
- ★ The International Solar Alliance has been divided into four geographical regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Others, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ★ The Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Prahlad Joshi, inaugurated the Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance Assembly.

- ★ The International Solar Alliance Assembly is the apex decision-making body of the Alliance, which sets the strategic direction of the organisation. It is a ministerial-level meeting held every year, and all the member countries of the ISA participate in the Assembly.

### **43<sup>rd</sup> International Trade Fair**

- ★ The annual India International Trade Fair (IITF) is a mega trade show organised at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan (Bharat Mandapam) by the India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO).
- ★ It provides a platform for traders, small businesses, startups, and artisans to showcase their products and services to domestic and international buyers.
- ★ The fair is held from November 14 to November 27, with November 14-18 for B2B visitors and November 19 - 27 for general visitors.
- ★ The theme for the 43<sup>rd</sup> edition of IITF 2024 is "Viksit Bharat @ 2047".

### **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi May Skip COP29 Due to Scheduling Conflicts**

- ★ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi may skip the UN Climate Change Conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan next month due to scheduling issues.
- ★ The absence will also rule out the potential for a meeting between Modi and Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, which had been a point of interest after Jaishankar's recent visit to Islamabad.
- ★ Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav will lead India's delegation to COP29 in Modi's absence.
- ★ Other notable heads of state like Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Joe Biden, and French President Emmanuel Macron are also expected to miss the summit
- ★ COP conferences are used by leaders for informal bilateral discussions.
- ★ India is scheduled to speak at COP29 either on November 19 or 20, as part of the Like-Minded Developing Countries (LMDC)
- ★ India's address is likely to focus on global climate finance and the ongoing need for developed nations to fulfill their climate commitments.

### **47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States**

- ★ Donald Trump won a non-consecutive second term as the 47<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, defeating Vice-President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee.
- ★ Republicans gained control of the Senate with at least 52 seats out of 100.
- ★ Trump becomes only the second U.S. President to serve non-consecutive terms and, at 78 years old, is now the oldest U.S. President to enter office.
- ★ Joe Biden, the incumbent President (82 years), withdrew due to party concerns regarding age-related cognitive issues.
- ★ Trump had secured 292 Electoral College votes to Harris's 224 (270 votes are needed to win).
- ★ He was projected to win the popular vote, marking the first Republican to do so since George W. Bush in 2004.

### **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates SATRC-25**

- ★ The 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of SATRC-25 (South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council) was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia on 11 November 2024.
- ★ The meeting is held annually to discuss and co-ordinate regulatory and other issues related to the telecommunication and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sectors common for the regulators of SATRC Members.
- ★ The 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council has been organised by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity.
- ★ It is being hosted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in New Delhi from 11 to 13 November 2024.
- ★ The meeting is being held in hybrid- both physical and online mode.
- ★ The Telecom sector regulators of 9 countries -Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are attending the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council.
- ★ The SATRC-25 provides a platform for telecommunications experts, service providers, industry representatives and international delegates of the region to discuss issues related to telecommunication regulations and policy challenges.
- ★ It will discuss and explore opportunities to encourage regional collaboration amongst the telecommunication regulatory bodies.

### **First DY. Prime Minister of Russia Dennis Manturov's Visit to India**

- ★ Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Dennis Manturov visited India from 10 to 12 November 2024.
- ★ Dennis Manturov first visited Mumbai, where he co-chaired the India- Russia Business Forum meeting.
- ★ He later visited New Delhi and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman and the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
- ★ In New Delhi, on 12 November 2024, he co-chaired the 25<sup>th</sup> Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Co-operation (IRIGC-TEC).
- ★ Both countries have set a target to achieve a bilateral trade target of \$100 billion by 2030.
- ★ The total trade between India and Russia in 2023-24 was \$65.70 billion. India is the second largest trading partner of Russia after China.
- ★ Russia was India's fourth largest trading partner in 2023-24, after China the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

## **Australia to Launch New Scheme Mobility Arrangement**

- ★ From December 2024, Australia will open a new scheme named Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES) which allows talented young people from India to work in the country.
- ★ MATES gives Indian university graduates and early career professionals a chance to work in Australia for two years.
- ★ On 23 May 2023, Australia and India entered into a Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA).
- ★ The MMPA is a bilateral framework that supports and promotes two-way migration and mobility between our two countries while addressing issues pertaining to illegal and irregular migration.
- ★ The Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme or 'MATES' is a new scheme, established under the MMPA, to enable the temporary mobility of Indian university graduates and early career professionals.
- ★ MATES aims to encourage mutually-beneficial skills and knowledge transfer between Australia and India.
- ★ MATES participants will be able to live and work in Australia for up to 2 years.

## **Peru Hosted The 31<sup>st</sup> APEC Summit Economic Leaders Meeting**

- ★ The 31<sup>st</sup> Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) Economic Leaders Meeting, in which the leaders of the 21 member countries participated, was held in Lima, Peru.
- ★ Along with the Economic Leaders Meeting, the 35<sup>th</sup> APEC Ministerial meeting was held in Lima.
- ★ The meeting was hosted by the Peruvian President, Dina Boluarte.
- ★ It was the last summit meeting of United States President Joe Biden, as his terms end on 19 January 2024, and Donald Trump will be sworn in on 20 January 2025.
- ★ APEC is an intergovernmental group of 21 countries in the Asia Pacific region that promotes economic ties among its members. Around 40 per cent of the world's population lives here.
- ★ The members of APEC contribute around 50% of world trade, and they constitute around 60 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).
- ★ The next Summit meeting will be hosted by South Korea in 2025, followed by China in 2026 and Vietnam in 2027.
- ★ The theme of the 2024 APEC Economic Leaders meeting was "Empower. Include. Grow".
- ★ The leaders issued a declaration after their meeting titled "Machu Picchu Declaration".
- ★ The declaration called for increased trade and investment, supply chain connectivity, anti-corruption, sustainable and inclusive growth.

## **Global Soil Conference 2024 Inaugurated in New Delhi**

- ★ The four-day Global Soils Conference 2024 was inaugurated in New Delhi on 19 November 2024 and will be held from 19 to 22 November 2024.



- ★ The conference, which is the apex global platform for world soil scientists and stakeholders, provides a platform for the stakeholders – government, scientists, industry leaders, farmers, etc. to discuss various issues regarding the importance of soils and to find a solution to concerns about the issue of soil degradation and its sustainable management.
- ★ The Global Soils Conference is being organised by the Indian Society of Soil Science, New Delhi, under the aegis of the International Union of Soil Sciences, Italy, with the collaboration of the New Delhi-based Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Academy of Agricultural Science.
- ★ “Caring Soils Beyond Food Security: Climate Change Mitigation and Ecosystem Services” was the 2024 Global Soils Conference theme.

### **Symbiosis International University's First Global Campus in Dubai**

- ★ External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar presided over the inauguration of Symbiosis International University's first overseas campus at Dubai Knowledge Park.
- ★ The ceremony was attended by Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, UAE's Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence.
- ★ The event marked a significant milestone in India-UAE relations.
- ★ It aligns with Dubai's Economic Agenda 33, which aims to transform the emirate's economy over the next decade by focusing on human capital development and the education sector.
- ★ The Dubai campus will offer programs in management, technology, and media.
- ★ The emphasis is on developing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to prepare students for the global workforce.
- ★ The initiative reflects the philosophy of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”, meaning “The world is one family”, promoting international co-operation and harmony.
- ★ The campus will contribute to the development of human capital, which is a key priority of Dubai's economic agenda.

### **India and Sweden Co chair the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual LeadIT Summit**

- ★ India and Sweden co-chaired the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ★ The Summit meeting was held on the sidelines of the United Nations Climate Summit, Conference of Parties 29 (COP29), which was held in the Azerbaijani capital city of Baku
- ★ India and Sweden jointly launched the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in New York City, United States of America.
- ★ The LeadIT2.0 was launched during the CoP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2023, and it has set a new target for 2024-26.
- ★ The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) is an initiative of India and Sweden and is supported by the World Economic Forum.
- ★ It brings together the countries that are committed to the goal of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference.

- ★ LeadIT was set up to target energy-intensive industries where it was very difficult to reduce carbon emissions.
- ★ LeadIT aims to bring net zero carbon emissions from energy-intensive heavy industry by 2050.

### **COP29 Summit Concludes with \$300 Billion Agreement**

- ★ COP29 climate talks concluded in Azerbaijan with a deal offering \$300 billion for climate finance by 2035.
- ★ This amount is seen as insufficient by developing countries and activists, who had sought \$600 billion.
- ★ The \$300 billion commitment will be sourced from public finance, bilateral, and multilateral agreements, with a larger portion coming from private finance.
- ★ The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) was adopted, aiming for at least \$1.3 trillion in climate finance annually by 2035, primarily from private finance, with contributions from developing nations and multilateral development banks (MDBs).
- ★ Article 6 negotiations on carbon markets were concluded, though experts raised concerns over its effectiveness and transparency.
- ★ The rules under Article 6.2 were criticised for being “loose and opaque”, potentially favouring free-market approaches.
- ★ Article 6.4 rules on carbon removals raised concerns about insufficient guarantees on permanence.
- ★ The enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender was adopted, establishing a 10-year plan to integrate gender and age-disaggregated data and develop a gender action plan (GAP) leading up to COP30.
- ★ The deal was viewed as a setback in the fight against climate change, particularly due to insufficient financial commitments.

### **Australia Passes Law to Ban the Use of Social Media for Minor Below 16**

- ★ The Australian Parliament has passed a law banning children under 16 years from using social media such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.
- ★ The law provides a fine of up to Australian \$ 50 million (US\$32.5 million) on social media platforms if they fail to stop minors below 16 years of age from logging in on their platform.
- ★ The law will not be implemented immediately, as the Government has to work out the details. It is expected to come into force in a year, but the Government intends to start the trial of the enforcement methods in January of next year.
- ★ Australia is the first country in the world to impose a blanket ban on the use of social media by children less than 16 years of age.
- ★ The Australian law comes at a time when there is increasing concern across the world about social media platforms, their addictive features and their role in teens’ mental health crises.

## India UK Sign Agreement on Electric Propulsion System

- ★ India and the United Kingdom have signed a framework agreement for co-designing, co-creating and co-production of Electric Propulsion Systems (engines) for the next generation of Indian Naval ships.
- ★ The Statement of Intent on Co-operation on Design and Development of Electric Propulsion Systems for the Indian Navy was signed between the Ministries of Defence of India and the United Kingdom in Portsmouth, England.
- ★ The Statement of Intent between the two countries was signed during the third Joint Working Group Meeting of the Electric Propulsion Capability Partnership of India and the United Kingdom in England.
- ★ The agreement with the United Kingdom is expected to build an ecosystem in India for the development of electric engines for the Indian Navy.
- ★ The Electric Propulsion Systems jointly developed by BHEL and GE Power Conversion will be tested on landing platform docks to be built in India, and after its successful test, it will be used on the next-generation Indian Naval warships.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Syngenta India Collaborates with ICAR and HAU

- ★ Syngenta India has entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI) in Karnal and Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (HAU) in Hisar.
- ★ This collaboration aims to expand sustainable farming practices and enhance crop productivity across India, focusing on research-based solutions to tackle challenges such as soil health, crop resilience, and yield enhancement.
- ★ The MoU with CSSRI will concentrate on sustainable practices in salt-affected soils.
- ★ The HAU partnership aims to promote diversified farming systems to improve productivity.
- ★ Initiatives Under the MoUs
  - ★ Training Programs: Plans for various training initiatives to educate farmers on sustainable practices.
  - ★ ICT-Driven Tools: Development of decision-making tools utilizing Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
  - ★ Capacity Building: Support for rural youth capacity building through Syngenta's IRISE (Inculcating Rural India Skill Enhancement) initiative.
  - ★ Safe Crop Protection Practices: Syngenta will also provide support in implementing safe crop protection methods.
  - ★ Collaboration with HAU: The partnership involves enhancing capacity through Krishi Vigyan Kendras, farmer groups, and agricultural schools

### **Japan Achieves Successful Launch of Defense Satellite Using New H3 Rocket**

- ★ Japan launched a defence satellite named Kirameki No. 3 aboard its new flagship H3 rocket.
- ★ The launch took place from the Tanegashima Space Centre, located on a southwestern island of Japan.
- ★ The H3 rocket successfully placed the satellite into its targeted orbit.
- ★ Kirameki No. 3 is equipped with X-band communication technology, designed to enhance military operations and information sharing.
- ★ X-band satellites are less susceptible to weather interference, ensuring stable communication.
- ★ This satellite joins two earlier X-band satellites, Kirameki No. 1 and No. 2, already operational to meet Japan's increasing communication needs.
- ★ The new satellite system aims to improve high-speed, large-capacity data transmission among Japan's Ground, Maritime, and Air Self Defence Forces.
- ★ It is expected to bolster national security and operational capabilities, especially for units deployed on peacekeeping missions.

### **ISRO Launches India's First Analog Space Mission**

- ★ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched India's inaugural analog space mission in Leh, Ladakh, marking a pioneering step in the nation's space exploration efforts.
- ★ The mission, spearheaded by ISRO's Human Spaceflight Centre, brings together partners from AAKA Space Studio, the University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and is supported by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.
- ★ This mission aims to simulate interplanetary habitat conditions, helping scientists explore the feasibility of establishing a sustainable base station beyond Earth.
- ★ Ladakh's extreme isolation, dry climate, and barren, high-altitude terrain make it ideal for simulating conditions similar to Mars and the Moon.
- ★ The environment presents an opportunity for researchers to gather critical data that will support India's Gaganyaan program and future missions.
- ★ The mission includes a compact, inflatable habitat named Hab-1, which is equipped with essentials like a hydroponics farm, kitchen, and sanitation facilities.

### **First Major Results from Payload on Aditya-L1's Maiden Solar Mission**

- ★ Scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) Bengaluru reported the "first significant" results from the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) payload onboard the ADITYA-L1 Mission.
- ★ ADITYA-L1 — India's maiden solar mission launched on September 2, 2023 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to observe the Sun at Lagrangian point L1.
- ★ The spacecraft was inserted into its targeted halo orbit on January 6, 2024.
- ★ VELC is the primary payload on the ADITYA-L1 mission, developed by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru.

- ★ It is an internally occulted solar coronagraph that allows simultaneous imaging, spectroscopy, and spectro-polarimetry near the solar limb.
- ★ It will observe the solar corona, the outermost layer of the Sun, and help study solar phenomena such as Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) and the solar wind.
- ★ VELC can image the solar corona down to 1.05 times the solar radius, the closest any instrument has imaged the corona.

### **Russia to Deliver First of Two Missile Frigates**

- ★ India is set to receive its first of two guided-missile warships built in Russia by the end of November 2024.
- ★ The warship is a multi-role frigate with a displacement of almost 4,000 tonnes.
- ★ It will be commissioned as INS Tushil by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during his visit in early December.
- ★ The second frigate, Tamal, will be handed over early next year.
- ★ The frigates are equipped with advanced weapons, including BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and sensors for various missions.
- ★ The delivery of the fourth and fifth squadrons of S-400 Triumph air defense missile systems will be delayed until 2026.

### **IIT Madras Collaborates with ISRO**

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up a Centre of Excellence focused on 'Fluid and Thermal Sciences'.
- ★ ISRO has provided seed funding of ₹1.84 crore for the establishment of the research centre.
- ★ The ISRO and IIT Madras had previously collaborated by setting up the ISRO-IIT-M Space Technology Cell in 1985.
- ★ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Manu Santhanam (Dean of Industrial Consultancy, IIT Madras) and Victor Joseph T. (Director, Directorate of Technology Development and Innovation, ISRO).
- ★ The centre will focus on critical areas like spacecraft thermal management, combustion instability in hybrid rockets, and cryo-tank thermodynamics.
- ★ The Centre will serve as the nodal point for spacecraft and launch vehicle thermal management research activities for ISRO, leveraging IIT Madras faculty expertise in design, analysis, and testing.
- ★ Objective is to foster industry-academia collaboration, allowing ISRO scientists and IIT Madras faculty/students to advance research in thermal sciences.

### **Japan Launched Lingosat, the World's First Wooden Satellite**

- ★ The world's first wooden satellite, LignoSat, has been launched, aiming to revolutionize sustainable space exploration by tackling space debris and minimizing environmental impact.



- ★ It was developed by Kyoto University and Sumitomo Forestry and launched by a SpaceX rocket from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.
- ★ Objective is to explore sustainable satellite designs that reduce harmful metal particle release upon atmospheric re-entry.
- ★ A wooden satellite may prevent the release of aluminium oxides and other pollutants that are problematic for the upper atmosphere, especially for the ozone layer.
- ★ LignoSat's six-month mission will assess wood's resilience in space, potentially paving the way for sustainable alternatives in satellite manufacturing.
- ★ This experiment could lead to a new generation of satellites designed with environmentally friendly materials, helping mitigate space debris issues.

### **Indian Space Research Organisation to Launch NISAR Satellite in Early 2025**

- ★ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to launch the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) Earth Observation Satellite in early 2025.
- ★ The satellite will be launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- ★ ISRO has shown interest in building an Earth Observation (EO) satellite for Mexico to strengthen bilateral relations.
- ★ This co-operation is aimed at enhancing the 75-year-old diplomatic relationship between India and Mexico.
- ★ Mexico's Ambassador to India, Federico Salas, met ISRO Chairman S. Somanath in Bengaluru.
- ★ The meeting highlighted the successful co-operation between the two countries' space agencies.

### **Space X Falcon 9 Rocket Successfully Launched GSAT-20 Satellite of NSIL**

- ★ American billionaire Elon Musk's company, Space X, successfully launched the New Space India Limited (NSIL) GSAT-20, also known as the GSAT-N2 satellite.
- ★ In January 2024, the New Space India Limited (NSIL) entered into an agreement with Space X to launch the GSAT-20 satellite.
- ★ The Government of India set up NSIL in 2019 as the marketing arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), India's premier space agency.
- ★ The GSAT-20 satellite was built by ISRO on demand from NSIL, but it is owned and operated by NSIL.
- ★ The Falcon 9 is a two-stage reusable rocket from Space X. It is the world's first orbital-class reusable rocket that can carry humans and satellites into Earth orbit.
- ★ The GSAT-20 satellite, also known as GSAT-N2, weighs 4,700 kg.
- ★ It is a high throughput (HTS) communication satellite with a capacity of 48 Gbps.
- ★ The satellite has 32 Spot beams. It will cover even the remotest part of mainland India and the Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep islands.
- ★ The satellite will provide cellular and internet connectivity in the remotest part of the country.
- ★ The lifespan of the satellite is 14 years.

## Google Introduces Air View+

- ★ Google launched Air View+, an ecosystem-based solution aimed at providing hyperlocal air quality information to users and Government authorities in collaboration with local climate tech firms.
- ★ The initiative is designed to help Government agencies and urban planners with real-time air quality data, particularly in cities with insufficient infrastructure for monitoring air quality.
- ★ Google collaborated with climate tech firms Aurassure and Respirer Living Sciences to set up an air quality sensor network in cities lacking the infrastructure to monitor air quality.
- ★ The sensors measure various air quality parameters like 5, PM<sub>10</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, Ozone, VOCs, along with temperature and humidity, taking measurements every minute.
- ★ Air View+ uses Google AI to combine data from various sources such as sensor networks, government data, satellite imagery, weather conditions, and traffic patterns to create real-time, granular air quality insights.
- ★ Real-time hyperlocal air quality data is integrated into Google Maps, enabling users across India to access air quality information.
- ★ The system generates a dynamic Air Quality Index (AQI) at a granular level, reflecting the methodology and categorization defined in the National Air Quality Index (NAQI).
- ★ The platform aims to empower local municipal corporations, urban planners, and citizens with valuable air quality insights for better environmental monitoring and decision-making.
- ★ The solution helps identify air quality hotspots, make necessary interventions, and improve the overall urban planning and sustainability of cities in India.

## Indian Institute of Spices Research Kozhikode Receives NABL Accreditation for Its Laboratories

- ★ ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR), Kozhikode, Kerala has been accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for its spices quality and organic manure testing laboratories.
- ★ NABL certification ensures global recognition, enhancing the reliability and accuracy of testing processes.
- ★ This accreditation reflects the institute's commitment to meeting stringent standards.
- ★ The accreditation supports testing of organic manure quality, including key parameters like moisture, pH, electrical conductivity, organic carbon content, and nutrient content (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium), which are critical for sustainable farming.
- ★ IISR will support the spice processing industry by testing essential spice quality parameters such as piperine, oleoresin, curcumin, and moisture content, helping meet regulatory requirements and boosting consumer confidence.
- ★ IISR aims to pursue additional NABL accreditation to expand its scope for comprehensive coverage of regulatory requirements for spice samples.

### **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay Unveils AroTrack**

- ★ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) have introduced AroTrack, an economical and portable device to accurately detect harmful pollutants such as phenol or benzene in water.
- ★ AroTrack targets aromatic xenobiotic pollutants such as phenol, benzene, and xylenols, which are commonly found in polluted water.
- ★ The device leverages proteins typically found in bacteria living in polluted environments to detect aromatic pollutants.
- ★ These proteins undergo a selective ATP hydrolysis reaction when they come in contact with pollutants, indicating their presence.
- ★ The key component of AroTrack is the MopR biosensor, which is highly sensitive for detecting phenol in water.
- ★ The device uses a light-emitting diode (LED)-phototransistor system to shine light through the sample.
- ★ The amount of light absorbed by the sample helps detect the concentration of pollutants.
- ★ AroTrack operates effectively in water temperatures up to 50°C, demonstrating its robustness in various environmental conditions.
- ★ The device can complete tests in under 30 minutes, providing quick and reliable results for water quality testing.

### **PSLV to Launch Two Satellites as Part of Proba-3 Mission**

- ★ PSLV will launch the Proba-3 mission on December 4, 2024 to deploy two satellites developed by the European Space Agency (ESA).
- ★ Proba-3 is the first mission in the world where two satellites will fly in a parallel formation for long durations.
- ★ The satellite pair is designed to study the solar corona, the outer layer of the Sun's atmosphere.
- ★ The mission will use a coronagraph (on one satellite) and an occulter (on the other) to block light from the Sun's bright layers, allowing detailed observation of the corona.
- ★ The satellites will maintain a distance of about 150 meters from each other for six hours per day.
- ★ A laser from one satellite will be reflected onto the other satellite's reflector to maintain a relative position.
- ★ Initially, the satellites will be launched into a highly elliptical orbit of 600 × 60,530 km.
- ★ After launch, they will enter a tandem orbit for formation flying.
- ★ The satellites will demonstrate Collision Avoidance Manoeuvre, where they will autonomously avoid collisions and maintain formation without ground control support.

### **India Launches First Artificial Intelligence Data Bank**

- ★ India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) Data Bank was launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology, aimed at fostering innovation and enhancing national security.

- ★ The AI Data Bank will provide access to diverse and high-quality datasets crucial for developing scalable and inclusive AI solutions.
- ★ The initiative is designed to benefit researchers, startups, and developers by offering essential datasets for AI development.
- ★ The AI Data Bank was launched by Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh at the 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the ASSOCHAM AI Leadership Meet 2024.
- ★ The event's theme was "AI for India: Advancing India's AI Development – Innovation, Ethics, and Governance", reflecting India's strategy to leverage AI in various sectors.
- ★ The AI Data Bank will contribute to enhancing national security through real-time analytics of satellite, drone, and IoT data.
- ★ The initiative supports AI use in areas like healthcare, space exploration, disaster management, and cybersecurity.
- ★ AI is positioned as a key enabler for critical sectors in India, including national security, healthcare, and space exploration.
- ★ The event provided a platform for policymakers, industry experts, and thought leaders to discuss responsible AI adoption in India.

## **BANKING, FINANCE & ECONOMICS**

### **Axis Bank Partners with Mintoak**

- ★ Mintoak and Axis Bank have partnered to promote financial inclusion and enhance digital payment adoption among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the digital ecosystem.
- ★ Axis Bank will use Mintoak's white-labelled mobile SaaS platform to support SMEs with merchant payment acceptance, access to transaction reports, and easy service request submissions through a dedicated app.
- ★ This partnership has introduced the "neo for merchants" app, a payment acceptance and commerce enablement solution aimed at simplifying digital payments and business solutions for SMEs.
- ★ Mintoak's cloud-native, API-first platform allows banks and merchant acquirers to offer digital business solutions that include payments, lending, and engagement, catering to SMEs across India, Africa, and the Middle East.
- ★ The platform tackles common SME challenges such as fragmented payment systems, high operational costs, and external reliance by providing a cost-effective app that integrates payment acceptance and transaction management.
- ★ The platform offers data insights to help SMEs manage transactions, service requests, and independent business operations in a digital-first marketplace.

## **RBI Innovation Hub Launches MuleHunter Artificial Intelligence**

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India Innovation Hub (RBIH) has created an artificial intelligence and machine learning (AI/ML) model named MuleHunter AI aimed at detecting mule accounts for banks and financial institutions.
- ★ The rise of fraud through mule accounts has raised concerns within the financial ecosystem, prompting the need for effective detection mechanisms.
- ★ The MuleHunter AI model and its applications were presented at the Global Fintech Fest in August, highlighting its relevance and utility in the fintech space.
- ★ Mule accounts are accounts that are created by one individual but operated by another, often utilised for illicit activities such as money laundering and tax evasion.
- ★ The operation of mule accounts violates various regulations and can lead to prosecution under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- ★ These accounts are also illegal under tax laws, and their usage is prohibited by both the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and RBI regulations.
- ★ RBIH aims to foster innovation within the financial sector, and the development of MuleHunter AI is part of its broader initiative to enhance technological solutions in banking.

## **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to Integrate with the CIMS**

- ★ Banks have approached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to integrate with the Centralised Information Management System (CIMS) for real-time verification of limit utilization under the Liberal Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- ★ Under LRS, Indian citizens can remit up to \$250,000 per financial year for various permissible transactions.
- ★ The integration with CIMS will allow banks to track LRS transactions in real time and flag breaches in the remittance limit.
- ★ The move will facilitate the inclusion of international credit card spending under LRS regulations for seamless tax collection and remittance.
- ★ The RBI's CIMS platform is a next-generation data warehouse where banks submit data, including statutory returns.
- ★ Initially, international credit card transactions were exempted from LRS. Later, the Government restored a TCS exemption for transactions up to ₹7 lakh per financial year across all modes of LRS payments.
- ★ The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transactions) (Amendment) Rules, 2023, aimed to align credit card transactions with other foreign exchange draws under LRS.
- ★ The Government is working on implementing these regulatory changes in phases, considering stakeholder feedback and the readiness of IT systems.

## **Punjab and Sind Bank Introduces Digital Bank Guarantee Service**

- ★ Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB), a public sector bank, has launched an e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in partnership with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL).



- ★ The e-BG facility replaces the traditional paper-based bank guarantee issuance, which requires physical stamping and signatures.
- ★ The new facility ensures secure transmission of bank guarantees.
- ★ It increases transparency in the issuance process.
- ★ Beneficiaries save time and effort on the verification of physical bank guarantees.
- ★ The e-BG facility is a significant step towards enhancing the ease of doing business for applicants and beneficiaries.
- ★ The implementation of the e-BG process aims to reduce the turnaround time for bank guarantee issuance.
- ★ The new system is designed to curb fraud and eliminate inconveniences associated with the physical movement of documents.

### **RBL Bank and Mahindra Finance Receive RBI Approval to Introduce Co-Branded Credit Cards**

- ★ Non-bank lender Mahindra Finance announced that it will be launching a co-branded credit card with RBL Bank.
- ★ Mahindra Finance has received the RBI nod for launching the offering.
- ★ A Mahindra group entity has 3.53% “strategic” stake in RBL Bank which was bought for ₹417 crore, while RBL Bank is attempting to decrease its reliance on Bajaj Finance to distribute credit cards.
- ★ The partnership aims to leverage the growth potential in the credit card market, particularly with the rise of e-commerce and technological advancements in both metro and non-metro areas.

### **Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund Introduces New Arbitrage Fund**

- ★ Franklin Templeton (India) Mutual Fund has launched the Franklin India Arbitrage Fund.
- ★ Arbitrage funds are mutual funds that profit from price differentials in the derivatives and cash markets through simultaneous buy and sell transactions.
- ★ It is an arbitrage-focused, open-ended hybrid scheme that seeks to capitalize on arbitrage opportunities in the cash and derivatives segments of the equity market.
- ★ The New Fund Offer (NFO) period closes on November 18 and will reopen for continuous sale and repurchase on November 21.
- ★ The fund will employ an active investment strategy, adjusting its defensive or aggressive posture based on available opportunities.
- ★ It aims to exploit the implied cost of carry between cash and derivatives markets to provide potential returns.
- ★ The fund is expected to allocate a minimum of 65% of its investments to equity and equity-related securities, and up to 35% in debt, money market instruments, and cash equivalents.
- ★ The fund will be benchmarked against the Nifty 50 Arbitrage Index.

- ★ The minimum investment for a lumpsum is ₹5,000, while for a Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), it is ₹500.

### **IBBI Suggests a Mediation Process For Operational Creditors Under The IBC**

- ★ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed new regulations allowing operational creditors (OCs) to opt for voluntary mediation before initiating insolvency proceedings against a company.
- ★ The aim of this proposal is to ease the burden on the judiciary, reduce delays in the insolvency process, and expedite the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP).
- ★ If mediation fails, the mediator will prepare a non-settlement report, which will be annexed to the application for initiating CIRP before the adjudicating authority (AA).
- ★ The proposal follows recommendations from an expert committee, which had called for pre-institutional mediation as a step before filing insolvency applications.
- ★ IBBI has invited public comments on the proposed framework by November 24, 2024.
- ★ Disputes often arise due to disagreements over goods and services, contractual issues, discrepancies over amounts owed and alleged underpayments.

### **Income Tax Department Introduces Monetary Cap for Officers**

- ★ The Income Tax Department has introduced a three-layered system for the reduction or waiver of interest on unpaid taxes.
- ★ According to an order issued by the Department, interest up to ₹50 lakhs can be reduced or waived by the Principal Commissioner (Pr. CIT) or Commissioner (CIT).
- ★ For amounts between ₹50 lakhs but below ₹1.5 crore, the Chief Commissioner (CCIT) or Director General of Income Tax (DGIT) has been empowered to provide relief.
- ★ Amount above ₹1.5 crore can be reduced by waived by the Principal Chief Commissioner (Pr. CCIT).
- ★ This will help the assesses to approach the exact hierarchy to get relief.
- ★ There is no change in conditions for waiver or reduction. An assessee needs to satisfy all three conditions to get relief.
- ★ Payment of the tax amount has caused or would cause genuine hardship to the taxpayer.

### **CARE Ratings Gives 'AA' Rating to Karur Vysya Bank's Fixed Deposit Scheme**

- ★ Karur Vysya Bank (KVB) has been assigned an 'A1+' rating for its short-term fixed deposits aggregating ₹12,000 crore and an 'AA' rating (Stable) for its fixed deposits by CARE Ratings.
- ★ 'A1+' Rating: Indicates a very strong safety level for timely payment of financial obligations, with the lowest credit risk
- ★ 'AA' Rating: Denotes a high degree of safety for timely servicing of financial obligations, with very low credit risk.
- ★ 'Stable' Outlook: Suggests expected stability in the credit rating in the medium term due to the bank's stable credit risk profile.

## **National Stock Exchange Eases Regulations for Dormant Trading Accounts**

- ★ The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has revised the period for marking a trading account as inactive from 12 months to 24 months.
- ★ Accounts previously marked as inactive under old guidelines may be reactivated if deemed active under the new 24-month rule, following an update of client details. The new guidelines include trading in IPOs, mutual funds, sovereign gold bonds, OFS, and buybacks, in addition to equity, F&O, commodities, and currencies, for determining account activity.
- ★ An inactive account can only be reactivated after in-person verification (IPV), which can be conducted physically or digitally.
- ★ Brokers must update client details like address, mobile number, email ID, bank/DP account information, and income details when reactivating accounts.

## **IBBI Partners with Indian Banks' Association**

- ★ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has issued a circular announcing collaboration with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to facilitate the auction of assets through the eBKray platform.
- ★ Objective is to improve outcomes for creditors and bidders by leveraging technology to enhance transparency and operational efficiency in asset auctions.
- ★ eBKray Platform is a centralized auction platform providing comprehensive details on corporate debtor assets, including photographs, videos, and geographical co-ordinates.
- ★ Aim is to enhance bidder participation, streamline auction processes, and maximize returns for creditors.
- ★ It focuses on transparency and efficiency through advanced technology.
- ★ eBKray is owned and managed by PSB Alliance Private Limited, a consortium of 12 public sector banks.

## **ADB Approves \$200 million for Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project**

- ★ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a \$200 million loan to finance the Uttarakhand Government's Livability Improvement Project, which aims to upgrade and strengthen its urban infrastructure and make it climate resilient.
- ★ An agreement was recently signed between the Government of India and the Asian Development Bank representative in New Delhi.
- ★ The Uttarakhand Livebality Improvement Project is implemented by the Government of Uttarakhand and co-financed by the Asian Development Bank and the European Investment Bank.
- ★ The total cost of the Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project is \$465.9 million, of which the State Government will provide \$74.9 million, the European Investment Bank \$191 million, and the ADB \$200 million.
- ★ The Livability Improvement Project seeks to enhance the quality of life and climate resilience by upgrading the state's water supply, sanitation, drainage, flood management, urban mobility, and other urban services.

## **IFC Partners with Bajaj Finance**

- ★ The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a part of the World Bank Group, will provide a \$400 million loan to Bajaj Finance Limited (BFL).
- ★ This investment is part of BFL's \$1 billion fundraising initiative aimed at climate finance expansion in India.
- ★ The funding is aimed at expanding access to financing for electric vehicles (EVs) across two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers.
- ★ It also supports energy-efficient consumer goods (EECG) financing, which helps reduce energy consumption.
- ★ The loan will help BFL increase its outstanding climate loans from \$150 million in 2024 to \$600 million by 2027, aiding India's low carbon future and national climate targets.
- ★ The partnership also aims to empower women-owned micro-enterprises and support women micro-borrowers, contributing to gender equality and financial inclusion.

## **RBI Approves 10-Year Sovereign Green Bonds**

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the list of specified Government securities that non-residents can invest in under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) by including 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs).
- ★ The 10-year SGrBs, to be issued by the Government of India in the second half of the fiscal year 2024-25, are designated as specified securities under FAR.
- ★ FAR was introduced in 2020 to allow non-residents to invest in specified Government of India dated securities without investment ceilings.
- ★ Eligible investors include Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and other entities allowed to invest in Government securities under Debt Regulations.
- ★ ₹20,000 crore will be raised through four issuances of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs), two with a 10-year tenor and two with a 30-year tenor, each of ₹5,000 crore.
- ★ SGrBs are issued for funding green and sustainable projects, aligning with India's commitment to addressing climate change and promoting environmental sustainability.

## **IRDAI to Revise Regulatory Sandbox Guidelines**

- ★ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has proposed amendments to the Regulatory Sandbox norms.
- ★ The changes aim to incorporate a principle-based approach instead of the current rule-based approach.
- ★ The amendments are designed to facilitate the adoption of innovative ideas and new concepts across the entire insurance value chain.
- ★ The goal is to support innovation in insurance products, services, and processes by offering a more flexible regulatory framework.

- ★ A regulatory sandbox is a controlled environment where new products or services can be tested live with possible regulatory relaxations.
- ★ The objective is to evaluate innovations and concepts in a real-world setting before they are fully rolled out.
- ★ IRDAI constituted an internal committee to review the existing IRDAI (Regulatory Sandbox) Regulations.
- ★ Based on the committee's recommendations, the amendments to the regulatory sandbox regulations were proposed.
- ★ IRDAI has issued an exposure draft of the IRDAI (Regulatory Sandbox) (Amendment) Regulations, 2024.
- ★ The draft invites public comments on the proposed amendments by November 25, 2024.

### **LIC of India's New Endowment Plan Age Limit Reduced**

- ★ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) reduced the upper age limit for purchasing its New Endowment Plan (Plan-914) from 55 years to 50 years, effective October 1, 2024.
- ★ LIC's New Endowment Plan-914 is a participating endowment policy offering a combination of protection and savings.
- ★ Minimum entry age is 8 years.
- ★ Offers death and maturity benefits, where the death benefit provides a lump sum to the nominee, and the maturity benefit gives a fixed payout upon policy maturity.
- ★ LIC updated surrender value norms for its endowment plans and 32 other products and riders, effective October 1, 2024.
- ★ Premium rates for most LIC endowment products, excluding Amritbaal Plan, have been increased by an average of 8-10%.
- ★ Private insurers have adjusted endowment plan premiums by an average of 6-7%.
- ★ The sum assured for LIC's New Endowment Plan, New Jeevan Anand, and Jeevan Lakshya has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹2 lakh.

### **Star India to Produce Web Series on the Reserve Bank of India**

- ★ Star India will produce a web series on the Reserve Bank of India's 90-year journey, aimed at enhancing public understanding of the RBI's role in India's economy and contributing to financial literacy.
- ★ The Reserve Bank of India was established in 1935 and completed 90 years in April 2023.
- ★ The RBI issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in July 2023 for the web series.
- ★ Star India Pvt Ltd won the tender for ₹6.5 crore.
- ★ The series will consist of five episodes, each approximately 25-30 minutes long.
- ★ The episodes may air on national TV channels and OTT platforms.
- ★ The series will showcase the RBI's vision, mission, achievements, and initiatives and provide insights into its operations, ongoing developments, and collaborations.



- ★ The series aims to make financial concepts accessible and interesting to the public, contributing to financial literacy.

### **Shriram Mutual Fund to Introduce India's First Multi-Sector Rotation Fund**

- ★ Shriram Mutual Fund is launching an industry-first Multi-Sector Rotation Fund, which will invest in 3-6 sectors that are expected to outperform in the near-to-long term.
- ★ The fund will adopt a quantamental approach—a blend of quantitative and fundamental analysis.
- ★ The sectors selected will be based on the proprietary Enhanced Quantamental Investment (EQI) framework, factoring in momentum, fundamentals, macroeconomic indicators, and sentiment.
- ★ The fund will move in and out of sectors based on their relative performance, rebalance dynamically according to changing conditions.
- ★ The fund will be market-cap agnostic, meaning investments will be made across large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap stocks depending on the companies operating within the selected sectors.
- ★ The fund offers tax efficiency, as there will be no capital gains tax implication when the fund Manager rebalances the portfolio across sectors.
- ★ Unlike flexi-cap or business cycle funds, this fund will focus on a limited number of sectors, making it unique in its strategy

### **NPCI Launches Auto Top-Up Feature and Raises Transaction Limits**

- ★ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an auto top-up feature and increased transaction limits for UPI Lite, effective from November 1, 2024.
- ★ The transaction limit for UPI Lite has been raised to ₹1,000 without entering a PIN, up from the previous limit of ₹500.
- ★ The maximum wallet balance for UPI Lite has been increased from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000.
- ★ However, the daily transaction cap remains at ₹4,000.
- ★ The auto top-up feature automatically replenishes a user's UPI Lite account when the balance falls below a set threshold.
- ★ Users can configure their preferred top-up amount through their UPI app, with a maximum of five automatic recharges per day.

### **PFRDA Launched the PFRDA-Connect Project**

- ★ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) launched the PFRDA-Connect project as part of its Technology Architecture (TARCH) initiative.
- ★ The goal is to enhance PFRDA's digital presence by overhauling its official website to improve the user experience.
- ★ PFRDA has invited bids for selecting a System Integrator (SI) to design, develop, implement, and maintain the PFRDA-Connect platform.
- ★ Last date for bid submission is 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

- ★ The enhancement targets the needs of PFRDA's diverse user base through a modular, interactive, and easy-to-use solution.
- ★ It aims to improve user experience across the user journey on the website.
- ★ The solution will be built with the latest technological advancements and include a future development roadmap.
- ★ It will be hosted on a Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) from a MeITY-empanelled provider.

### **Visa Partners with Affirm**

- ★ Visa has partnered with fintech company Affirm to introduce a single card in the U.S. that supports both debit transactions and "Buy Now, Pay Later" (BNPL) purchases, catering to the demand for flexible payment options.
- ★ Visa is also launching this feature in the United Arab Emirates with Liv Bank, with plans to expand into Europe in the coming months.
- ★ A Visa study highlights that 51% of card users prefer having access to multiple accounts and funding sources through a single credential, demonstrating a rising need for payment flexibility.
- ★ Visa's "Flexible Credential" feature, which allows this multi-functionality, is already available in six Asian markets: Hong Kong, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, with plans for expansion over the next year.
- ★ This Visa-Affirm collaboration underscores a trend of partnerships between fintechs and traditional financial institutions to leverage mutual strengths and create new revenue opportunities.
- ★ Affirm had 1.4 million active cardholders as of the end of September, showcasing its established presence in the flexible payments sector.
- ★ This initiative simplifies the user experience by reducing the need to carry separate debit and credit cards for everyday and larger purchases, enhancing convenience in a rapidly digitalizing payment landscape.

### **Federal Bank Raises ₹1,500 Crore through Inaugural 10-Year Infrastructure Bond Issue**

- ★ Federal Bank raised ₹1,500 crore through its first 10-year infrastructure bonds, issued on a private placement basis.
- ★ The bonds carry a coupon rate of 7.76%.
- ★ The issuance included a base amount of ₹750 crore with an additional ₹750 crore greenshoe option, allowing for extra subscription.
- ★ The bonds were priced with a spread of approximately 80 basis points over the 10-year benchmark Government Security.
- ★ The bonds attracted substantial subscription, with primary investors including insurance companies, pension funds, and other institutional investors.
- ★ These bonds will be listed on the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE).

- ★ Following the success of this issuance, Federal Bank may consider another infrastructure bond issuance in the next six months.
- ★ State Bank of India (SBI) is also expected to issue 15-year infrastructure bonds soon, with a target to rise up to ₹10,000 crore to fund sectors like steel, roads, and renewable energy.

### **RBI's 2024 List of Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that State Bank of India (SBI), HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank will continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).
- ★ The D-SIB designated banks have to maintain additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) in addition to the capital conservation buffer.
- ★ In order to be listed as a D-SIB, a bank needs to have assets that exceed 2% of the national GDP.
- ★ Banks are classified into five buckets under Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).
- ★ Banks are classified based on size, interconnectedness, substitutability, and complexity.
- ★ To be classified as a D-SIB, a bank's assets must exceed 2% of the national GDP.
- ★ The RBI monitors and updates the D-SIB list annually, using data collected from banks (e.g., March 31, 2024 data for the current list).

### **SBI Aims for \$1.25 Billion in India's Biggest Dollar-Denominated Loan of 2024**

- ★ State Bank of India (SBI) is reportedly planning to borrow \$1.25 billion, which would be the largest dollar-denominated loan by India's financial sector in 2024.
- ★ The five-year loan is being arranged by CTBC Bank, HSBC Holdings Plc, and Taipei Fubon Bank.
- ★ The interest margin is set at 92.5 basis points above the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR), a benchmark rate used in the US for short-term lending.
- ★ The loan is being secured for general corporate purposes through SBI's branch in the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- ★ SBI plans to syndicate the loan to other financiers to distribute risk.
- ★ SBI is among several Indian financial institutions turning to foreign currency debt due to stricter domestic financing regulations.
- ★ This planned loan follows SBI's \$750 million three-year loan in July 2023, part of its strategy to diversify its funding sources.

### **SBI Increases Marginal Cost of Fund-Based Lending Rate by 0.05%**

- ★ State Bank of India (SBI) has increased the Marginal Cost of Fund-Based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 0.05% for certain tenors.
- ★ The one-year MCLR, which is commonly linked to long-term loans like home loans, has been raised to 9%.
- ★ SBI has also raised the MCLR for the three-month and six-month tenors, while keeping the overnight, one-month, two-year, and three-year MCLRs unchanged.

- ★ This marks the second time SBI has raised the MCLR recently, as a response to higher deposit costs and market conditions, including the impact of inflation and global events like the war.
- ★ Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) is the minimum lending rate below which a bank is not permitted to lend.
- ★ MCLR replaced the earlier base rate system to determine the lending rates for commercial banks.

### **Karnataka Bank Unveils Two New Financial Products**

- ★ Karnataka Bank Limited has launched two financial products – ‘KBL Peak’, an education loan with financing of up to ₹2 crore and comprehensive coverage, and ‘KBL Genius’, a student savings account featuring free cyber insurance.
  - **KBL Peak:**
    - Purpose: Education loan designed to support students pursuing higher education in India and abroad.
    - Loan Limit: Up to ₹2 crore.
    - Coverage: Tuition fees, accommodation, travel, books, and laptops.
  - **KBL Genius:**
    - Purpose: A student savings account aimed at helping students manage their finances effectively.
    - Variants: Two variants – KBL Genius Signature and KBL Genius Advantage.

### **IDFC First Bank Enables Real-Time Tracking for International Money Transfers Through SWIFT**

- ★ IDFC First Bank has become the first Indian bank to offer real-time tracking for international money transfers via SWIFT, enhancing cross-border payment transparency.
- ★ The service is accessible through the bank’s mobile application and internet banking platforms, aligning with the increasing demand for real-time updates on digital financial transactions.
- ★ This service mirrors the real-time tracking features of domestic digital payments like UPI and IMPS, which are widely used in India, making international transfers more traceable.
- ★ The bank has addressed the gap in visibility for international transfers, offering end-to-end tracking of money sent abroad, similar to parcel or food delivery tracking systems.
- ★ The new feature is particularly beneficial for transactions under RBI’s LRS, which allows Indian residents to send up to USD 2, 50,000 per financial year for various purposes, including gifts, education, medical expenses, and investments.

### **Reserve Bank of India Extends Deadline for Banks and ATM Operators**

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given banks and ATM operators some wiggle room for implementing the cassette swap mechanism for cash replenishment in ATMs.
- ★ The banking regulator has exempted cash recycler machines (CRMs) from the cassette swap requirement for cash replenishment.
- ★ Additionally, this exemption applies when banks don’t engage outsourced agencies for cash replenishment in ATMs.

- ★ In 2018, the RBI had asked banks to implement the cassette swap mechanism in a phased manner, covering at least one-third of ATMs operated by them each year so that all ATMs would achieve cassette swap by March 31, 2021.
- ★ However, the implementation has been tardy.
- ★ Now, the RBI has asked banks to expeditiously implement the roadmap for cassette swap implementation by March 31, 2025.
- ★ Under the cassette swap mechanism, lockable cassettes filled with banknotes are used in ATMs that are swapped at the time of cash replenishment.
- ★ This move to exclude the cash recyclers from the cassette swap process is, in fact, a step back and needs further discussion and debate.
- ★ Each ATM typically requires three sets of five cassettes, with the cost of each cassette ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹20,000.

### **Galaxy Health Insurance Launches its First Insurance Product, 'Galaxy Promise'**

- ★ Galaxy Health Insurance Company Limited has launched its first health insurance product, 'Galaxy Promise'.
- ★ The product targets families seeking affordable health coverage.
- ★ The company is jointly promoted by Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor Company and Sundaram-Clayton Ltd, and V Jagannathan, founder of Star Health and Allied Insurance Company Ltd.
- ★ Galaxy Health Insurance received approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) earlier in 2024 to commence its operations.
- ★ 'Galaxy Promise' offers sum insured options ranging from ₹3 lakh to ₹1 crore.
- ★ The product is available in multiple plans: Signature, Elite, and Premier, offering flexibility to customers.

### **JPMorgan Establishes GIFT City Unit to Create Derivative Products**

- ★ JPMorgan Chase & Co. has set up a unit in India's Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), becoming the first global bank to establish such a unit aimed at developing derivative products.
- ★ The unit will focus on creating derivative products to be offered to clients across Asia-Pacific and Europe.
- ★ JPMorgan plans to hire five people in the next 12 months to lead the development of derivative products in GIFT City.
- ★ JPMorgan opened its international business unit in GIFT City in 2022, enabling the bank to provide services to its group entities outside the free trade zone, without adding liabilities to its balance sheet, as per exemptions granted by the regulator for economic zones.



## **World Bank Increases Lending Capacity by 50%, Pledges \$150 Billion for Green Projects**

- ★ The World Bank has increased its lending capacity by 50%, enabling it to offer a record \$150 billion over the next decade.
- ★ The World Bank's primary focus will be on supporting developing economies through this increased capacity.
- ★ A major portion of the funding will be directed towards green projects, supporting climate action and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ★ The World Bank currently lends \$5 billion annually, with the increased capacity significantly enhancing its ability to provide financial support for climate resilience and sustainable development.
- ★ India, one of the World Bank's largest clients, will receive a major share of this increased funding, especially for projects related to climate resilience, rural development, energy, healthcare, and digital education.

## **ADB Issues First Biodiversity and Nature-Themed Bond**

- ★ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has issued its first biodiversity and nature theme bond to finance a pool of eligible projects across Asia and the Pacific.
- ★ The bond, valued at A\$150 million (approximately US\$100 million), has a 10-year maturity and was purchased by Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company of Japan. It was arranged by Credit Agricole CIB.
- ★ The bond was issued under ADB's Theme Bonds for Sustainable Development program, in collaboration with its Environment group.
- ★ ADB's theme bonds for sustainable development act as a key vehicle to mobilize private capital in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- ★ Towards a Nature Positive Asia and the Pacific that will create a road map for its activities to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.

## **Canara Bank Designates RCom and Its Subsidiary As 'Fraud' Accounts**

- ★ Canara Bank has classified Reliance Communications (RCom) and its subsidiary, Reliance Telecom, as "fraud" accounts due to non-utilization of funds as per the sanctioned terms.
- ★ The bank alleges that the loan amount was routed through RCom to Reliance Telecom for settling liabilities to connected or related parties, violating the terms of the loan agreement.
- ★ The loans availed by RCom were invested in mutual funds and fixed assets, which were liquidated immediately to make payments to related and non-related parties.
- ★ Canara Bank had sanctioned a loan of ₹1,050 crore to Reliance Communications.
- ★ Reliance Communications was classified as a non-performing asset (NPA) in March 2017.
- ★ Ericsson India initiated insolvency proceedings against Reliance Communications, leading to the company's admission into the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in May 2018.

### **Reserve Bank of India to Launch Cloud Services in 2025**

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) plans to launch a pilot programme for cloud services in 2025 to offer local cloud data storage for financial firms at affordable rates.
- ★ The initiative will challenge global cloud giants like Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud, and IBM Cloud in India's growing cloud services market.
- ★ India's cloud services market was valued at \$8.3 billion in 2023 and is projected to grow to 24\$.2 billion by 2028.
- ★ Currently, the market is dominated by foreign firms.
- ★ The service aims to cater to smaller banking and financial services firms unable to afford existing cloud solutions.
- ★ The project is spearheaded by the RBI's research wing, Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS).
- ★ The project aligns with the RBI's push for localisation of financial data and payments infrastructure.
- ★ RBI will collaborate with local Indian IT firms experienced in building cloud solutions.
- ★ Only Indian-incorporated companies or consortia are eligible to bid for the project.
- ★ Data centres for the project will be established in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

### **State Bank of India to Open 300-400 Branches Annually in the Medium Term**

- ★ The State Bank of India (SBI) plans to open 300-400 branches annually in the medium term.
- ★ The bank aims to increase financial service penetration in India by setting up branches in residential colonies and underserved areas.
- ★ SBI conducted an extensive micro-market survey to identify areas lacking financial services, leading to the target of 500 new branches.
- ★ SBI may relocate branches that are not performing well to more strategic locations, ensuring access to financial services, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas.
- ★ As of September 2024, SBI has 22,640 branches, an increase from 15,870 branches in March 2014.

### **Matrimony.com Launches 'Weddingloans.com' Platform to Provide Wedding Loans**

- ★ Matchmaking service provider com has launched a new financial technology platform, Weddingloans.com, designed to provide financial assistance for marriages.
- ★ The platform has partnered with prominent financial institutions such as IDFC, Tata Capital, and Larsen and Toubro Finance to offer a comprehensive loan solution for wedding-related expenses.
- ★ The platform aims to offer more than just wedding loans; it will provide financial advice and guidance to help customers make the right decisions for their financial well-being.
- ★ It aims to simplify the process of wedding planning, budgeting, and execution.

- ★ Wedding loans offered through the platform are unsecured personal loans provided as a lump sum, with the option for couples to repay the loan in fixed instalments over time.
- ★ Weddingloans.com offers unbiased advice, clear loan breakdowns, and tools to help customers understand total loan costs, including interest.
- ★ Trained advisors will assist borrowers in choosing the right loan products, ensuring that consumers are not just sold loans, but receive personalized financial advice.

## **RBI Creates Booklets in Santali Language to Promote Financial Awareness Among Tribals**

- ★ To create financial literacy awareness among the tribal population, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Odisha office has prepared five specific booklets in Santali (Ol Chik) language.
- ★ Odisha's Chief Minister, Mohan Charan Majhi, unveiled the booklets at the Bali Jatra festival in Cuttack.
- ★ These booklets were created as part of the RBI's celebrations marking 90 years of its operations in India.
- ★ The RBI has prepared the booklets for school children, farmers, entrepreneurs, self-help groups and senior citizens with the aim to create awareness about financial products and services, good financial practices, digital and consumer protection.
- ★ In addition to Odisha, the booklets will be distributed in states like Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, and Tripura, where there is a significant Santali-speaking population.

## **IBBI Suggests Mandatory Monitoring Committees for Resolution Plans**

- ★ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has proposed the introduction of monitoring committees for implementing resolution plans under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- ★ The move aims to address challenges in the implementation of resolution plans and increase transparency and confidence in the insolvency resolution process.
- ★ This proposal follows a Supreme Court ruling on November 7, 2024, which emphasized the need for statutory recognition of monitoring committees for smooth plan implementation.
- ★ Constitution of Monitoring Committees: These committees are currently formed based on directions from adjudicating authorities.
- ★ The court recommended empowering the committee of creditors (CoC) to constitute these committees.
- ★ The monitoring committees will consist of representatives from the CoC, resolution applicants, and an insolvency professional serving as the chairperson.
- ★ Committee expenses will be borne by the resolution applicant, with a cap on the chairperson's fees.
- ★ The committees will oversee the implementation of the resolution plan, ensure compliance with statutory requirements, and monitor the distribution of resolution proceeds.
- ★ They will submit quarterly reports to adjudicating authorities and the IBBI.
- ★ IBBI has called for comments on the draft proposal by December 9.

### **\$434.25 Million Loan Sanctioned by ADB for Assam Solar Project**

- ★ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$434.25 million loan (around ₹3600 crore) to fund the Assam Solar Project. The loan will help Assam increase its renewable energy capacity and improve energy security.
- ★ The ADB has also sanctioned an additional grant of \$1 million to the state to raise awareness about green energy and capacity building.
- ★ According to the ADB, it will play an active role in attracting private sector investment in the solar photovoltaic project in Assam through public-private partnership (PPP).
- ★ The Assam Solar Project has been launched by the Government of Assam to develop solar energy capacity in the state.
- ★ The State Government has set a target to develop an installed solar energy capacity to achieve its target of 3,000 megawatts (MW) by 2030.
- ★ The ADB loan amount will be used for the construction of a 500 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic facility in Karbi Anglong district.
- ★ An additional 250 MW solar PV facility will be developed in the Karbi Anglong district under the public-private partnership mode.
- ★ The ADB loan will fund the establishment of a grid-connected battery energy storage system.

### **India Maldives to Settle Cross Border Transaction in Local Currency**

- ★ India and the Maldives have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to settle their cross-border transactions in their local currency.
- ★ These transactions were settled in US dollars, but now an effort will be made to settle them in Indian Rupees and the Maldivian Rufiyaa.
- ★ The MoU to settle cross-border transactions in local currency was signed between the Indian central bank, the Reserve Bank of India, and the Maldives Monetary Authority in Mumbai.
- ★ The local currency of both countries will be used to settle current account transactions, permissible capital account transactions and any other economic and financial transactions mentioned by the two governments.
- ★ The MoU will facilitate the invoicing and settlement of imports and exports between the two countries using their respective local currencies.

### **Reserve Bank of India Infuses ₹25,000 Crore Through VRR Auction**

- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) injected ₹25,000 crore into the banking system via a variable rate repo auction (VRR) to manage liquidity and prevent increased borrowing costs for banks.
- ★ The weighted average call rate rose by 23 basis points above the policy repo rate, reaching 6.73%.
- ★ This rise indicates increased short-term borrowing costs for banks.
- ★ Surplus liquidity in the banking system dropped to ₹84,154.75 crore due to monthly GST outflows, highlighting the need for RBI intervention to maintain balance.

- ★ The RBI conducted the VRR auction to ensure recent overseas outflows from local debt and equity markets did not drive up banks' cost of funds. It was the second such auction since the RBI shifted its policy stance to neutral from withdrawal of accommodation.
- ★ RBI aims to keep durable liquidity positive, targeting about 1% to 1.2% of Net Demand and Time Liabilities (NDTL) to maintain call rates near the repo rate and ensure smooth financial functioning.
- ★ In the auction, the RBI received ₹35,420 crore in bids, exceeding the notified amount of ₹25,000 crore, indicating high demand for funds from banks.

### **Axis Mutual Fund Introduces Momentum Fund**

- ★ Axis Mutual Fund has launched the Axis Momentum Fund, an open-ended equity scheme based on the momentum investment strategy.
- ★ The New Fund Offer (NFO) is open from November 22, 2024, to December 6, 2024.
- ★ The fund aims to generate long-term capital appreciation by investing in equity and equity-related securities with strong price momentum.
- ★ The fund follows a model-driven approach to identify high-momentum stocks across various sectors.
- ★ The securities are evaluated based on price momentum trends, integrating risk metrics to maintain a balanced portfolio.
- ★ The fund is benchmarked against the NIFTY 500 TRI.
- ★ The fund will be managed by Karthik Kumar and Mayank Hyanki.
- ★ The strategy focuses on capturing stocks with strong upward price trends and follows a disciplined approach to momentum investing.

### **Jammu Kashmir Bank Introduces Virtual ATM Service**

- ★ Jammu and Kashmir Bank (J&K Bank) has launched the Virtual ATM (vATM) facility, aimed at leveraging technology for financial empowerment, especially in rural areas lacking ATMs and other banking channels.
- ★ The vATM service is developed in collaboration with Paymart India Pvt Ltd. This initiative is designed to make banking more accessible to customers, particularly in ATM-deficient areas.
- ★ The virtual ATM platform was inaugurated by J&K Bank's Managing Director and CEO, Baldev Prakash, alongside Amit Narang, Director and CEO of Paymart India Private Limited.
- ★ The vATM is a cutting-edge technology platform that aims to provide easy access to banking services in rural regions.
- ★ It allows customers to withdraw cash at Paymart India-enrolled merchants through digital tokens generated via the bank's mobile app, mPay Delight+.
- ★ The bank emphasizes how the vATM facility will serve people in rural areas where physical ATMs are not present, improving access to banking services.
- ★ The virtual ATM service is described as convenient, secure, and hassle-free, making it a valuable service in India, the world's largest cash economy.



## **Punjab National Bank Joins Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials**

- ★ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has joined the globally recognized Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), signalling its commitment to sustainability and climate action.
- ★ By joining PCAF, PNB will use internationally recognized standards to measure and disclose greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions linked to its lending and investment activities.
- ★ In FY 2023-24, PNB disclosed its financed emissions in the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR) using the PCAF Standard, aligning with global GHG accounting practices.
- ★ PNB's decision aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) draft framework, which mandates banks to report climate-related financial risks and opportunities from FY 2025-26.
- ★ As a PCAF signatory, PNB gains access to technical support, industry-leading training, and country-specific emissions data, including insights relevant to India.
- ★ PNB will participate in global working groups, workshops, and webinars, benefiting from peer-to-peer knowledge sharing on GHG accounting.
- ★ This initiative reflects PNB's dedication to incorporating environmental responsibility into its core strategy, enhancing its role as a leader in sustainable banking.
- ★ PNB's partnership with PCAF highlights its ongoing efforts to contribute meaningfully to global climate action and to adopt practices that align with global sustainability efforts.

## **Yes Bank Collaborates with Vegapay**

- ★ Yes Bank has partnered with Vegapay, a banking software technology innovator, to launch a hyper-configurable platform called 'Credit Line on UPI'.
- ★ The platform enables Yes Bank to create customised credit programs tailored to customer needs.
- ★ The collaboration seeks to redefine credit access across India by empowering banking institutions to deliver modern credit experiences to customers.
- ★ Transactions are projected to grow at an annual rate of 57% through FY 2024.
- ★ UPI-linked credit products are expected to exceed \$50 billion by 2025.

## **ICICI Prudential Life Introduces 'Increasing Income' Option in Annuity Plan**

- ★ ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launched the industry's first "Increasing Income" feature in its regular pay annuity product, ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi.
- ★ The Increasing Income feature provides a 5% annual increase in the annuity pay-out, helping retirees combat inflation and maintain their standard of living.
- ★ This feature ensures that retirees receive a guaranteed income stream that increases annually, preserving their purchasing power over time.
- ★ The feature helps retirees counter the impact of inflation on fixed incomes, allowing them to maintain their standard of living despite rising costs.
- ★ The ICICI Pru Guaranteed Pension Plan Flexi with the Increasing Income feature provides retirees both financial security and flexibility, with affordable long-term contributions to build a retirement corpus.

- ★ ICICI Prudential Life views the current high-interest rate environment as a favourable opportunity for customers to lock in annuity rates and secure a guaranteed income for life.

### **Canara HSBC Life Insurance Unveils OmniGen AI**

- ★ Canara HSBC Life Insurance introduced OmniGen AI, a first-of-its-kind Generative AI-driven solution, leveraging Amazon Web Services (AWS) Bedrock platform.
- ★ The solution is designed to optimize risk evaluation and enhance the underwriting process.
- ★ It acts as a Generative AI Co-Pilot for underwriters, helping to assess bundled information such as Underwriting guidelines and manuals, Risk profile attributes and Risk model outputs.
- ★ It ensures precision, accuracy, and rationale in underwriting decisions while referencing underwriting manuals.
- ★ It reduces processing time, enhances scalability, and eliminates human biases or oversight.

### **NPCI Plans Rupay and Unified Payments Interface Expansion Across 10 Countries**

- ★ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is in discussions with 10 countries to expand the reach of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and RuPay.
- ★ Currently, UPI is operational in seven countries including France, UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and Nepal.
- ★ Commercial agreements for UPI implementation have already been signed with Namibia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Peru.
- ★ The implementation of UPI in these countries is expected in a few weeks.
- ★ UPI Growth and Transactions: UPI's daily transactions crossed 500 million in September 2024.
- ★ In total, UPI processed 15.04 billion transactions worth ₹20.64 lakh crore in September. The adoption of UPI is growing with over 400 million users.
- ★ Since UPI's launch in 2016, transaction failure rates have decreased from 8-10% to 0.7-0.8%, showcasing improvements in the system's reliability.
- ★ UPI Lite allows users to make low-value transactions without needing a UPI pin.

### **Public Sector Banks to Raise ₹25,000 Crore Through Equity Market**

- ★ Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have received approval from the finance ministry to raise ₹25,200 crore in FY25 from the equity markets.
- ★ The funds raised will help PSBs in their growth and to meet the regulatory requirement of 25% minimum public shareholding (MPS).
- ★ As of FY25, PSBs have already raised ₹8,500 crore through Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).
- ★ PNB has raised ₹5,000 crore by diluting 3.15% of the government stake.
- ★ Bank of Maharashtra (BoM): BoM has raised ₹3,500 crore in the current financial year.
- ★ No PSB has raised funds through the Offer for Sale (OFS) route in FY25 so far.

- ★ The total salary and wage expenses of listed companies rose to ₹3.96 trillion in Q2FY25, an increase from ₹3.68 trillion in Q2FY24 and ₹3.88 trillion in Q1FY25.

### **HDFC Bank Introduces Savings Account Targeting Rural and Semi-Urban Customers**

- ★ HDFC Bank introduced the Pragati Savings Account to cater to the banking needs of rural and semi-urban populations across India.
- ★ The account is aimed at farmers, including those involved in traditional farming, cattle breeding, fisheries, poultry, and dairy farming, as well as self-employed individuals, rural residents, self-help groups, and co-operatives.
- ★ HDFC Bank's network of over 4,600 branches in rural and semi-urban areas is used to provide access to this product, covering nearly two-thirds of India's population.
- ★ HDFC Bank partnered with BigHaat to empower over 17 million farmers with discounts on farming tools, seeds, and fertilizers, and offer competitive pricing and better-quality products.
- ★ It discounted asset financing for two-wheeler loans, tractor loans, gold loans, and Kisan Gold Card (KGC) products.
- ★ It also does Cattle insurance in collaboration with HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company.
- ★ High-net-worth individuals (HNIs) in rural and semi-urban regions will have access to Vishesh, a specialized offering designed to meet the needs of agriculturists.

## **BUSINESS NEWS**

### **HDFC Bank and TOI Host Cyber Security Summit**

- ★ HDFC Bank and Times of India (TOI) organized the Cyber Security Summit in New Delhi to mark the fifth year of HDFC Bank's participation in International Fraud Awareness Week.
- ★ Cyber frauds or cyber crimes are increasingly grabbing headlines and the need for individuals and institutions to stay vigilant has never been more pressing.
- ★ HDFC Bank launched the 'Stay Safe, Stay Vigil' campaign, featuring 'Vigil Aunty', a social media influencer who educates people on recognizing and avoiding common and innovative cyber frauds.
- ★ The campaign is aimed at spreading awareness and informing the public about various types of cyber frauds to prevent financial losses.

## **DEFENCE**

### **India-Indonesia Military Ex Garud Shakti**

- ★ The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise Garud Shakti commenced at Cijantung, Jakarta, Indonesia.

- ★ The bilateral military exercise will be held from 1 to 12 November 2024. The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Garud Shakti exercise was also held in Indonesia in November 2022.
- ★ The 25-member Indian contingent is represented by the elite Parachute Regiment (Special Force) of the Indian Army, and the Indonesia side is represented by the 40-member Indonesian Special Forces Kopassus.
- ★ During the exercise, the countries' Special Forces will try to understand each other's standard operating procedures to enhance mutual understanding, co-operation, and interoperability.
- ★ Both forces will conduct joint counter-insurgency operations in urban and rural settings.

### **India-Vietnam Exercise 'Vinbax 2024'**

- ★ The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Vietnam bilateral military exercise 'Vinbax 2024' commenced at Ambala, Haryana.
- ★ The focus of the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the Vinbax 2024 military exercise is to enhance the military capability of both sides in the deployment of the Engineer Company to undertake engineering tasks as part of United Nations Contingent in Peacekeeping Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- ★ The Vinbax exercise is a Command Post and Field Training Exercise which aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas and the joint rehearsal of tactics, techniques, and procedures related to combat engineering and combat medical tasks.
- ★ A 48 hours Validation Exercise will mark the end of the military exercise which will showcase the standards attained by the participating India and Vietnamese troops.

### **Third Edition of MAHASAGAR Virtually Hosted by the Indian Navy**

- ★ The Indian Navy conducted its third bi-annual interaction, 'MAHASAGAR', with the head of foreign Navies.
- ★ MAHASAGAR stands for Maritime Heads for Active Security and Growth for All in the Region.
- ★ It is the Indian Navy's initiative to interact and promote friendly ties with the Navies/maritime agencies of the Indian Ocean Region littoral countries. The Indian Navy started the initiative in November 2023.
- ★ The initiative is part of the Indian Government's SAGAR 'Security and Growth for All in the Region' initiative.
- ★ The 3<sup>rd</sup> MAHASAGAR theme was "Training Co-operation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in IOR (Indian Ocean Region)".

### **Indian Military Heritage Festival**

- ★ The Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, inaugurated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Indian Military Heritage Festival 2024 in New Delhi.
- ★ The Indian Military Heritage Festival is organised by the United Service Institution of India (USI).
- ★ The Festival focuses on Indian Military Heritage and traditions, Security and Self-Reliance, and Atmanirbhar Bharat in the defence and military domains.

- ★ The festival brings together Indian and foreign defence companies, think tanks, associations, and high-net-worth individuals committed to national security.
- ★ The general public, including students, academicians, and research scholars, also participates in the festival.
- ★ The festival highlights the dynamics of Indian national security, especially its strategic culture, military heritage, education, modernisation of security forces and Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> AUSTRAHIND Military Exercise Commences in Maharashtra**

- ★ The 3<sup>rd</sup> India-Australia joint military exercise, code-named AUSTRAHIND, commenced at the Foreign Training Node, Pune, Maharashtra, on 8 November 2024.
- ★ The 3<sup>rd</sup> AUSTRAHIND, hosted by the Indian Army, will be held from 8-21 November 2024.
- ★ A nation conducts military exercises with other countries as part of its diplomacy to strengthen its defence ties with them.
- ★ The AUSTRAHIND exercise also seeks to build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices, and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking multi-domain operations.
- ★ At the 3<sup>rd</sup> AUSTRAHIND exercise, both countries' contingents will undertake joint sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environments in semi-desert terrain under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter and conduct joint counter-terrorism operations.
- ★ The joint exercise will also strengthen ties between India and Australia at the tactical and operational levels.

### **Theatre Command Level EX Poorvi Prahar**

- ★ The Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Navy will jointly commence a command-level tri-service theatre exercise code-named 'Poorvi Prahar' along the India-China border.
- ★ The Poorvi Prahar exercise will be held from 10-18 November 2024.
- ★ The exercise assumes significance in the Indian Government's effort to set up an integrated theatre command in India.
- ★ Theatre in the military refers to a specific geographical area, whether in the sea, air, or land. These areas could potentially become areas of conflict or war in the future.
- ★ The main aim of the Poorvi Prahar exercise is to familiarise and train the three wings of the Indian military — the Army, Navy, and Air Force — in executing integrated joint operations in mountainous terrain.
- ★ It will also test the operational readiness and inter-service co-ordination of the three forces.
- ★ Another objective of the exercise is to address the problems experienced by the three services regarding interoperability.



### **First Space Exercise ‘Antariksha Abhyas – 2024’**

- ★ India’s first military exercise to combat space-based threats and protect the country’s space assets, Antariksha Abhyas 2024, began on 11 November 2024 and will be held from 11 to 13 November 2024.
- ★ The Indian Space assets mainly consist of over 100 satellites for communication, weather forecasting, earth observation, navigation, scientific research, defence, and the rockets through which these satellites are launched.
- ★ The Antariksha Abhyas 2024 was organised by the Defence Space Agency of the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.
- ★ The exercise aims to simulate threats to Indian space assets, such as satellites, from hostile forces and the defences to be mounted by the Indian forces to protect them.
- ★ It will test Indian military capabilities to operate in case Indian space-based assets are destroyed.
- ★ It will also test India’s ability to mount counter-defence measures and destroy enemies’ space-based assets.
- ★ The Antariksha Abhyas 2024 was inaugurated by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.

### **India-Vietnam Joint Military Exercise VINBAX 2024**

- ★ The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of Vietnam Indian Bilateral Army Exercise “VINBAX 2024” commenced at Ambala, Haryana.
- ★ The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 04 to 23 November 2024 at Ambala and Chandimandir.
- ★ This edition marks a significant increase in the scope with Bi Service level participation for the first time by personnel of Army and Air Force from both the countries.
- ★ The Indian Army contingent comprising 47 personnel is being represented by a Regiment of the Corps of Engineers along with personnel from other arms and services.
- ★ The Vietnamese contingent of similar strength will be represented by the troops of the Vietnam People’s Army.
- ★ The aim of VINBAX-2024 is to enhance joint military capability of both sides in employment and deployment of Engineer Company and Medical Teams to undertake engineering tasks as part of United Nation Contingent in Peacekeeping Operations under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

### **India Ships First Batch of Akash Weapon System to Armenia**

- ★ In a significant milestone for the indigenous Indian defence sector, the first batch of the indigenously developed surface-to-air missile system Akash, was shipped to Armenia.
- ★ The indigenously developed and manufactured Akash system is part of a deal under which India is to supply 15 Akash systems to Armenia.
- ★ This is the second missile system to be exported from India after India sold the supersonic Brahmos cruise missile to the Philippines.

- ★ The United States of America has emerged as the largest buyer of the Indian weapon system, followed by France.
- ★ The Akash is a surface-to-air missile system developed by the premier Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- ★ Each Akash Missile system consists of four launchers. Each launcher carries three missiles.
- ★ Each Akash system is equipped with an indigenously developed single Rajendra 3D passive electronically scanned array radar.
- ★ The missile has a range of 25 km and can engage hostile aircraft, drones, missiles and other aerial assets.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Sea Vigil Exercise 2024**

- ★ The Indian Navy is all set to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Sea Vigil exercises on 20 and 21 November 2024.
- ★ The biennial Sea Vigil is a national-level coastal defence exercise that involves various other stakeholders responsible for India's coastal and maritime security.
- ★ The third edition of the Sea Vigil was held in November 2022 and conducted under the overall leadership of the Indian Navy.
- ★ The Indian Navy will lead the 4<sup>th</sup> Sea Vigil exercise, which will include 6 Central Government ministries and 21 Organisations/Agencies related to coastal security, such as Customs, State marine police, Indian Coast Guard, etc.
- ★ The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force are also participating in the exercise.
- ★ The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Sea Vigil exercise will be conducted across the country's 11,098-kilometer coastline and 2.4 million square kilometres of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

#### **Union Government Approves First-Ever All-Women Battalion In CISF**

- ★ The Union Government has approved the first all-women battalion within the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), comprising 1,025 personnel.
- ★ This decision aims to bolster the force's capabilities in VIP security, airport security, and other essential installations.
- ★ The battalion, termed a "reserve battalion", will be led by a senior commandant and includes over 1,000 women personnel.
- ★ The creation of this unit will be achieved within the current sanctioned CISF manpower of approximately 2 lakh personnel.
- ★ This elite battalion is being specially trained to fulfill versatile roles, including VIP protection, airport and metro security, as well as duties at heritage sites like the Taj Mahal and Red Fort.
- ★ Reserve units like this provide readiness and reinforcement for the CISF, useful in both temporary assignments (e.g., election duties) and permanent roles (e.g., guarding Parliament House, now under CISF cover).

### **India and Japan Sign MoI on UNICORN Tech for Indian Navy**

- ★ India and Japan have signed a memorandum of Implementation (MoI) for the co-production of the Japanese-developed Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) system to be installed on Indian naval ships.
- ★ The agreement was signed in Tokyo, Japan, on 15 November 2024.
- ★ This is the first India-Japan joint production venture in defence equipment since the bilateral agreement on the transfer of defence equipment and technology in 2016.
- ★ The Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN), also known as NORA-50, is an integrated antenna system developed by Japan's NEC Corporation.
- ★ It is currently installed on the mast of the Mogami-class frigates of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (Japanese Navy).
- ★ The UNICORN system is an antenna mast with sensors and transponders for communications, electronic warfare, and navigation. It increases naval ships' stealth capability.
- ★ The UNICORN to be used in Indian naval ships will be produced by the Bengaluru-based Defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) with the assistance of Japan's NEC Corporation.

### **Indian Coast Guard Conducts Regional Pollution Response Exercise (Re-PREX-24)**

- ★ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) (Odisha), under the aegis of Coast Guard Region (North East), conducted a Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise (Re-PREX-24) at Paradip from November 12 to 14, 2024.
- ★ The exercise was aimed to enhance preparedness and co-ordination among various stakeholders in responding to oil spills and other marine pollution incidents.
- ★ The event included professional presentations, discussions, and a mock drill onboard an ICG ship off the coast of Paradip, simulating real-life pollution response scenarios.
- ★ Key participants included regional organizations such as Paradip Port Authority, Dharma Port, Gopalpur Port, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, and the Odisha State Pollution Control Board.
- ★ The exercise emphasized the need for effective response strategies to address oil spills along sensitive coastlines and highlighted ICG's role in safeguarding marine environments.

### **Indian Army's Annual HADR Exercise Sanyukt Vimochan 2024 Concludes**

- ★ The Indian Army has successfully concluded its annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, Sanyukt Vimochan 2024, with friendly foreign countries.
- ★ The two-day exercise, held on 18 and 19 November 2024, was focussed on Gujarat and was held at Ahmedabad and the Chowpatty beach of Porbandar.
- ★ The Indian Army's Southern Command's Konark Corps organised the 2024 Sanyukt Vimochan exercise.
- ★ The 2024 Sanyukt Vimochan Exercise theme was "Cyclone in the Coastal Region of Gujarat".

- ★ The aim of the exercise is to improve synergy between all stakeholders responsible for Disaster Management in the event of a cyclone disaster in the region.
- ★ It also identifies the gaps in interagency integration and co-operation and finds a solution.
- ★ Nine friendly foreign countries -the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam attended the 2024 Sanyukt Vimochan exercise.

### **Rajnath Singh Attends 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting**

- ★ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Forum meeting in the Lao People's Democratic Republic's capital, Vientiane, on 21 November 2024.
- ★ During his visit to Vientiane, Rajnath Singh also held a bilateral meeting with the Defence Minister of Lao PDR, General Chansamone Chanyalath, Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun and Malaysian Defence Minister Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin, on the sidelines of the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting.
- ★ India has a close partnership with ASEAN. India was made a sectoral partner in 1992 and the relationship between the two was raised to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 21<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-India and the 19<sup>th</sup> East Asia Summit meetings, which were held in Vientiane in October 2024.
- ★ The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Forum is an extended group of ASEAN and resident powers of the region that are also known as dialogue partners.
- ★ They are Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.
- ★ It aims to strengthen security and defence co-operation amongst the countries of Asia Pacific to promote peace, stability, and development in the region.

### **2025 Indian Army Day to be Held in Pune, Maharashtra**

- ★ Pune, Maharashtra, will host the Indian Army's ceremonial annual 2025 Army Day on 15 January 2025.
- ★ This was announced during the launch of the parade's promotional video, which features Bollywood stars R. Madhavan and Rakul Preet Singh, at the ongoing International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa.
- ★ Army Day marks an important transition in the Indian Army, where the command was formally vested in an Indian.
- ★ The Government has decided to rotate the annual Army Day parade among the Indian Army's six operational commands.
- ★ First time in 2023, the Army Day Parade was held outside New Delhi, Bengaluru, and Karnataka.
- ★ In 2024, it was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

### **Indian Coast Guard Commences 2-day SAREX-24 Exercise**

- ★ The Indian Coast Guard, responsible for executing/co-ordinating Search and Rescue (SAR) missions in the Indian Maritime Search and Rescue Region, commenced its two-day National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise and Workshop (SAREX-24) in Kochi, Kerala.
- ★ The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of SAREX, which will be held on 27 and 28 November 2024, will test the efficiency of the various stakeholders in conducting Mass Rescue Operations in the sea in case of emergency.
- ★ The 22<sup>nd</sup> National Maritime Search and Rescue Board meeting is also being held alongside the SAREX-24 in Kochi.
- ★ The SAREX-24 exercise was inaugurated by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.
- ★ The Indian Coast Guard comes under the Union Ministry for Defence.
- ★ The SAREX exercise is being held under the aegis of the National Maritime Search and Rescue Board.
- ★ The theme of the SAREX-24 is “Enhancing Search and Rescue capabilities through Regional Collaboration”.

### **Indian Navy Successfully Test Fires K-4 Missile from INS Arighaat**

- ★ In a significant development for India’s second-strike nuclear capability, the Indian Navy has successfully tested a nuclear-capable K-4 missile from its nuclear-powered submarine INS Arighaat.
- ★ The successful user trial test will strengthen the country’s nuclear triad.
- ★ The INS Arighaat submarine can carry four K-4 missiles.
- ★ The Indian Navy commissioned its second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighat, on 29 August 2024. The first nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arihant, was inducted in November 2017.
- ★ INS Arihant can carry only one K-4 missiles.
- ★ K-4 is a nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ★ SLBM are crucial for India’s second strike capability and nuclear triad.
- ★ The nuclear triad refers to the ability of the country to launch nuclear weapons from Land (Army), Air (Air Force) or Sea (Navy).
- ★ The second strike refers to the ability of a country to launch a nuclear weapon on an enemy’s strategic assets after being first hit by the enemy’s nuclear weapon.

### **Indian Army Launches Online Learning Platform Eklavya**

- ★ To modernise and upskill its Officers and prepare them for future battles, the Indian Army has launched an online learning platform named ‘Eklavya’.



- ★ The platform is expected to decongest the existing physical courses, impart flexibility in the content of the training with constant updates, and prepare officers for the changing character of warfare.
- ★ The Eklavya platform was developed by the Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics” (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar, Gujarat, for the Indian Army.
- ★ The Headquarters Army Training Command and Army War College are sponsor agencies for the Eklavya platform.
- ★ The platform has been hosted on the Army Data Network of the Headquarters Army Training Command.
- ★ In the physical training, the participant’s Army officers must be physically present at the location where the training is being provided.
- ★ Constant change and updation in the physical courses at short notice is not possible.
- ★ In the online mode, the Officers can participate in the training from any corner of India where they are posted.
- ★ It will be easy to constantly update the content of the course and devise a new course module online.

## **RANKS, INDICES & REPORTS**

### **IMF Predicts India to Become The 4<sup>th</sup> Largest Economy in FY 2025**

- ★ According to the recently published International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, India is expected to overtake Japan to become the world’s fourth-largest economy in the financial year 2025.
- ★ Currently, India is the world’s 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in terms of its gross domestic product (GDP) at market price in US dollar terms.
- ★ Currently, the United States is the world’s largest economy, followed by China, Germany, Japan and India.
- ★ The IMF predicts India will overtake Japan as the world’s fourth-largest economy in 2025. India’s expected nominal GDP in 2025 is estimated at \$4,340 billion.
- ★ The IMF expects the Indian GDP to grow by 7% in 2024 and 6.5% in 2025.

### **Henley Passport Index 2024**

- ★ Singapore maintains its position as the world’s most powerful passport in the Henley Passport Index 2024, offering its citizens visa-free access to 195 countries.
- ★ India ranks 83<sup>rd</sup>, providing its citizens with visa-free access to 58 countries, highlighting challenges in global mobility.
- ★ France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain are tied for second place, each granting visa-free access to 192 countries.

- ★ The United States is in 8<sup>th</sup> place with visa-free access to 186 countries, showing a slight decline in its global standing.
- ★ The Henley Passport Index is based on several factors:
  - Visa-Free Access: The number of countries a passport holder can enter without needing a visa.
  - Diplomatic Relations: Stronger international agreements and treaties tend to result in higher rankings.
  - International Agreements: The nature of bilateral and multilateral agreements significantly impacts visa policies and, consequently, passport power.

### WIPO Global Patent Filings in 2023

- ★ India has, for the first time, has been ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in the world for global patent filings in 2023.
- ★ According to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) annual World Intellectual Property Indicators Report 2024, released on 7 November 2024, global patent filing increased by 15.7% in 2023, primarily due to a strong increase in patent filing in India.
- ★ According to the WIPO report, the number of patents filed in India in 2023 was 64,480.
- ★ The country's growth rate in patent filing was 15.7% compared to 2022.
- ★ The patent filing in India has shown the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of a double-digit growth rate.
- ★ For the first time, India was included in the top 10 countries of the world for three main intellectual property (IP) rights: patents, Industrial design applications, and trademark applications.
- ★ According to the WIPO report, the number of patents filed in India in 2023 was 64,480.
- ★ The country's growth rate in patent filing was 15.7% compared to 2022.
- ★ The patent filing in India has shown the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of a double-digit growth rate.
- ★ For the first time, India was included in the top 10 countries of the world for three main intellectual property (IP) rights: patents, Industrial design applications, and trademark applications.

### QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025

- ★ The Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has been ranked as the top Indian educational institution in the latest QS World University Rankings: Asia (2025).
- ★ IIT-Delhi has been ranked 44<sup>th</sup> best educational institution, while China's Peking University retained the top spot amongst the list of educational institutions in Asia as per the QS World University Rankings: Asia (2025).
- ★ The QS World University Rankings: Asia (2025) ranks 984 educational institutions among 25 South Asian, Central Asian, Eastern Asian and South-East Asian countries.
- ★ These educational institutions are ranked based on the comparison and preference of the institutions and students.
- ★ After IIT-D, IIT-Bombay was second highest, with a rank of 48, and IIT-Madras was third, with a rank of 56.

- ★ IIT Kharagpur was in fourth place with a rank of 60, followed by the Indian Institute of Science (62), IIT Kanpur (67), and the University of Delhi (81).

### **Fortune 100 Most Powerful Person in Business List**

- ★ The influential American Fortune magazine has released its first 100 Most Powerful People in Business list.
- ★ Elon Musk, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and founder of Tesla and SpaceX tops the list, with Mukesh Ambani of India ranked 12<sup>th</sup>.
- ★ The list includes six Indian-born Americans- Microsoft CEO and Chairman Satya Nadella (3<sup>rd</sup> rank), Alphabet (Google) CEO Sundar Pichai (10<sup>th</sup> rank), Adobe CEO and chair Shantanu Narayen (52), YouTube CEO Neal Mohan (69 rank), Khosla Ventures managing partner and founder Vinod Khosla (74 rank), and Tarang Amin CEO and founder of e.l.f. Beauty at 94<sup>th</sup> place.
- ★ Mary Barry, CEO and Chairman of American Auto giant General Motors, ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the list, is the highest-ranked women's business leader.
- ★ Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) Mukesh Ambani, with an estimated \$100 billion of wealth, is the only Indian businessman on the list.
- ★ He has been ranked the 12<sup>th</sup> most powerful business leader in the world.

### **2024 Network Readiness Index**

- ★ India was ranked 49<sup>th</sup> in the Network Readiness Index 2024, published by the Portulans Institute and the Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford.
- ★ The United States of America led the Network Readiness Index for the third consecutive year, followed by Singapore.
- ★ The Network Readiness Index ranks 133 economies (countries) based on their citizens' access to and use of information and communications technology (ICT).
- ★ The Network Readiness Index is considered one of the leading global indices of ICT application and impact in economies worldwide.
- ★ The Network Readiness Index 2024 ranks India at 49<sup>th</sup> place amongst 133 economies of the world, with a score of 53.63.
- ★ India has been ranked second among the low-middle-income countries after Vietnam.
  - India secured the first rank in 'Artificial Intelligence (AI) scientific publications', 'AI talent concentration' and 'ICT services exports',
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> rank in 'FTTH (Fiber to the Home)/Building Internet subscriptions', 'Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country' and 'International Internet bandwidth',
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> rank in 'Domestic market scale' and
  - 4<sup>th</sup> rank in 'annual investment in telecommunication services'.

## AWARDS & PRIZES

### Francis Ford Coppola to Receive AFI Life Achievement Award

- ★ Legendary filmmaker Francis Ford Coppola will be honoured with the AFI Life Achievement Award in its 50<sup>th</sup> year at a ceremony on April 26, 2025, at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre.
- ★ At 86, Coppola receives this award shortly after the release of his latest film, Megalopolis, underscoring his lifetime of groundbreaking work in cinema.
- ★ The tribute will be broadcast on TNT, with encore presentations on Turner Classic Movies (TCM).
- ★ The AFI Life Achievement Award is the institute's most prestigious honor, recognizing individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the art of film.
- ★ Kathleen Kennedy, chair of the AFI board, praised Coppola as a "peerless artist" whose legacy includes a profound influence on American cinema and a unique spirit of creative independence.

### Wagh Bakri Tea Group Honored with Generational Legacy Award

- ★ The Wagh Bakri Tea Group has been awarded the prestigious "Generational Legacy Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Indian Economy" by Hurun India.
- ★ This recognition was presented during the inaugural Hurun India Family Business Awards, highlighting the group's significant impact on the Indian economy and celebrating its enduring legacy in the tea industry.
- ★ It was presented by Hurun India during the inaugural Hurun India Family Business Awards
- ★ The award acknowledges the Wagh Bakri Tea Group's significant contributions to the Indian economy.
- ★ It celebrates the group's enduring legacy in the tea industry.

### Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Receives YouTube's 'Golden Button' Award

- ★ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari received YouTube's Golden Button Award, which acknowledges the popularity of his content on the platform.
- ★ The award was presented by Ajay Vidyasagar, Regional Director of YouTube at Google Asia Pacific.
- ★ Gadkari's channel features videos of inaugural ceremonies, updates on new roadways and expressways, and speeches delivered at various organizations.
- ★ In 2021, he shared a personal video titled "Things to know about Nitin Gadkari", describing himself as a "visionary leader with an impressive track record". This video remains pinned on his channel.

### Rohini Nayyar Award

- ★ Anil Pradhan, an engineer and educationist from Odisha, has been honoured with the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for his outstanding contributions to rural development through STEM education.

- ★ Pradhan co-founded the Young Tinker Foundation, a non-profit organization focused on hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education in underserved areas, winning a cash prize of ₹10 lakh along with a citation and trophy.
- ★ Rohini Nayyar Prize was established in 2022 by the Nayyar Foundation for Social and Economic Purpose, in memory of Dr. Rohini Nayyar, an esteemed economist and IAS Officer.
- ★ The prize is awarded to individuals under 40 years of age who have significantly contributed to rural development.
- ★ Pradhan's organization runs 'Tinker Spaces', interactive learning labs for students to engage in STEM innovation through access to tools and materials that foster creativity.

### **Booker Prize 2024**

- ★ Orbital, a story set in space, won the prestigious literary prize, Booker prize 2024, for the British author Samantha Harvey.
- ★ It is the first Booker prize for Samantha Harvey and first since 2019 to be won by a female author.
- ★ The winner of the Booker Prize 2024 was announced at a ceremony in London, England, on 12 November 2024.
- ★ At the function, Samantha Harvey was awarded the Booker Prize trophy and £ 50,000 in prize money.
- ★ The novel Orbital was written by Samantha Harvey during the lockdown imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ★ The story describes a single day in the life of the six astronauts on board a space station orbiting the Earth. During the 24 hours, they observe 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets across the globe.
- ★ The 136-page story is the second shortest book to win the Booker Prize. The shortest novel to win the prize was Penelope Fitzgerald's 132 pages Offshore, published in 1979.
- ★ The Booker Prize, established in 1968, is considered to be one of the most prestigious literary prizes in English literature.

### **Dominica's Highest National Award**

- ★ The Commonwealth of Dominica is set to honor Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi with its highest national accolade, the Dominica Award of Honour, for his significant contributions to the Caribbean nation during the Covid-19 pandemic and his efforts to strengthen bilateral ties.
- ★ The award will be presented by Dominican President Sylvanie Burton during the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit in Georgetown, Guyana, from November 19 to 21, 2024.
- ★ PM Modi supplied 70,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccines to Dominica in February 2021, assisting the nation during the critical phase of the pandemic.
- ★ Acknowledgment of PM Modi's efforts in strengthening ties between India and Dominica in areas such as healthcare, education, and information technology.
- ★ The award is Dominica's highest national recognition, bestowed on individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the nation or its people.

### **Airport Excellence Awards 2024**

- ★ GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has achieved global recognition at the 2024 Airport Excellence Awards at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center (RICEC).
- ★ The awards celebrated GHIAL's cutting-edge contributions to aviation technology, particularly in Digital Twin and Smart Shopping Trolley innovations, marking a milestone in modernizing airport management and passenger services.
- ★ It creates a virtual replica of the airport, integrating data from sensors, CCTV, and IoT devices.
- ★ It enhances real-time resource management, terminal functionality, and passenger flow efficiency.
- ★ It also helps monitor airport operations comprehensively for optimal decision-making.

### **Victoria Kjær Theilvig of Denmark Crowned Miss Universe 2024**

- ★ Victoria Kjær Theilvig from Denmark has been crowned Miss Universe 2024, marking the first time a Danish contestant has won the prestigious title.
- ★ Kjaer, an animal protection advocate and diamond industry professional, emerged victorious after competing against Miss Nigeria, who was the runner-up, while Miss Mexico placed third.
- ★ The 73<sup>rd</sup> edition of Miss Universe was held in the Mexico City Arena, with a capacity of 20,000 people, creating a vibrant atmosphere with supporters waving flags from around the world.
- ★ The event began with a performance from 131 mariachi musicians and a special appearance by Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, who performed "Mexicana", a song created by Emilio Estefan for the contest.
- ★ The gala was hosted by Mario López, Olivia Culpo (Miss Universe 2012), Zuri Hall, and Catriona Gray (Miss Universe 2018).

### **Chhattisgarh's Dhudmaras Village Chosen by United Nations World Tourism Organisation**

- ★ Dhudmaras, a village in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, was selected for the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme, emphasizing sustainable tourism development.
- ★ Out of the UNWTO initiative, 55 villages worldwide were recognized as Best Tourism Villages in 2024.
- ★ An additional 20 villages, including Dhudmaras, were chosen for the Upgrade Programme.
- ★ Villages in the Upgrade Programme will receive support to Enhance tourism infrastructure, Promote cultural heritage and Improve the quality of life for residents.

### **PM Modi Honoured with Guyana and Dominica's Highest National Honour**

- ★ During his visit to Guyana Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the highest national award of Guyana and the Dominican Republic.



- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the fourth foreign dignitary to receive Guyana's highest national award, "The Order of Excellence".
- ★ President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana conferred the award on Narendra Modi in a ceremony at Georgetown on November 19, 2024.
- ★ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with Dominica's highest national award, the Dominica Award of Honour, by Dominican Republic President Sylvanie Burton.
- ★ After Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom (1969), Prime Minister Modi was the second foreign leader to receive the award.
- ★ The Prime Minister's visit to Guyana was bilateral, and he also attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-CARICOM summit meeting.

### **Best Marine State award at World Fisheries Day 2024**

- ★ Kerala was honoured with the Best Marine State award for its contribution to the country's fisheries and aquaculture sector growth.
- ★ On the occasion of World Fisheries Day 2024, the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying honoured many states, districts, and individuals for their contribution in a ceremony organised in New Delhi
- ★ World Fisheries Day is observed to raise awareness about the variety of threats faced by the world fishing industry, such as overexploitation, habitat destruction, and destructive fishing practices.
- ★ The Department of Fisheries has chosen India's Blue Transformation: Strengthening Small-Scale and Sustainable Fisheries as the 2024 World Fisheries Day theme.
  - Best Marine State – Kerala
  - Best Inland State – Telangana
  - Best Himalayan and Northeastern State – Uttarakhand
  - Best Union Territory – Jammu and Kashmir
  - Best Marine District – Kollam, Kerala
  - Best Inland District – Kanker, Chhattisgarh
  - Best Himalayan and Northeastern District – Darrang, Assam
  - Best Union Territory – Kulgam, Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Indian Chemical Council Conferred with 2024 OPCW The Hague Award**

- ★ The Indian Chemical Council, an apex body representing the Indian chemical Industry, was conferred with the 2024 OPCW The Hague Award in a ceremony in the Hague, Netherlands.
- ★ The Director General of the Indian Chemical Council, D. Sothi Selvam, received the award.
- ★ The award was conferred on the Indian Chemical Council during the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).
- ★ The 29<sup>th</sup> session of the CSP is being held from 25-29 November 2024 at the Hague, Netherlands.

- ★ The Conference of the States Parties (CSP) meets annually at the Hague to oversee the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, promote the Convention's objectives, and review compliance with the treaty.
- ★ The CSP includes all 193 countries that are members of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

### **Golden Peacock Award for Best Film**

- ★ The 55<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) awarded the Lithuanian film "Toxic" the Golden Peacock for Best Film.
- ★ The 55<sup>th</sup> IFFI was held in Goa from 20 - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2024, in which India and foreign films were screened.
- ★ The Director of the 55<sup>th</sup> IFFI was noted filmmaker Shekhar Kapur.
- ★ The 55<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India was organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Entertainment Society of Goa, Government of Goa.
- ★ The theme of the 55<sup>th</sup> IFFI was 'Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now'.

## **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

### **President of International Brain Research Organisation**

- ★ Professor Shubha Tole, neuroscientist and dean of graduate studies, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, is President-elect of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO).
- ★ She is the first scientist from a developing country to be elected to the highest position in IBRO.
- ★ Tole, currently serves as the dean of graduate studies at Mumbai's premier scientific research institute – Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- ★ Tole has held significant roles, including President of the International Society for Developmental Neuroscience (ISDN) and has contributed to the IBRO Asia-Pacific Regional Committee and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN).
- ★ She has chaired the Women in Science Committee of the Indian Academy of Sciences and is actively involved with the ALBA Network, promoting diversity in neuroscience.

### **State Bank of India names Debasish Mishra as Chief General Manager for New Delhi Circle**

- ★ State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed Debasish Mishra as the Chief General Manager of its New Delhi Circle, effective November 1, 2024.
- ★ He replaces Kalpesh K Avasia, who has recently retired from the position.

- ★ Mishra brings extensive experience in various sectors, including Credit, Operations, Forex, IT, HR, and MSME, both domestically and internationally.
- ★ The New Delhi Circle, which includes over 1,700 branches, aims to strengthen SBI's market position in line with the country's growth objectives.
- ★ SBI has 17 local head offices led by Chief General Managers, managing a network of approximately 22,600 branches across India.

### **Additional Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training**

- ★ Senior IAS Officer Tuhin Kanta Pandey has received additional charge as Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- ★ Tuhin Kanta Pandey is a senior IAS Officer from the Orissa cadre 1987 batch.
- ★ He is currently serving as the Secretary of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management in the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- ★ He will hold the additional charge of Secretary DoPT till the appointment of a regular incumbent or until further orders.
- ★ Earlier, senior IAS Officer Vivek Joshi was holding the post of Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- ★ Vivek Joshi has been sent back to his cadre state Haryana. He is a 1989 batch IAS Officer.
- ★ The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) is a department of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions

### **Justice Sanjiv Khanna was Sworn in as 51<sup>th</sup> CJI**

- ★ The senior most Supreme Court Judge, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, was sworn in as the 51<sup>st</sup> Chief Justice of India by President Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on 11 November 2024.
- ★ Justice Sanjiv Khanna succeeded Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, who demitted office on 10 November 2024.
- ★ The Constitution of India doesn't mention the term of the Chief Justice of India or the other judges of the Supreme Court. Article 124(2) of the constitution says that they will hold office until they attain the age of 65.
- ★ Thus, Justice Sanjiv Khanna will retire on 13 May 2025, when he will be 65 years old.
- ★ Article 124(2) mentions the procedure for appointing Supreme Court judges.

### **President of FICCI**

- ★ Harsha Vardhan Agarwal has been announced as the President-Elect of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) at the FICCI National Executive Committee Meeting held in New Delhi.
- ★ Agarwal will succeed Anish Shah as President following the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting on November 21.

- ★ Agarwal is presently the Senior Vice President of FICCI and has been actively involved in shaping policy initiatives and representing industry interests.
- ★ Agarwal serves as Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Emami Limited, primarily focusing on the FMCG sector.
- ★ He is part of the company's strategic think-tank, where he plays a significant role in the growth and development of the Emami Group.

### **Prime Minister of Mauritius for 4<sup>th</sup> time**

- ★ The President of Mauritius, Prithvirajsing Roopun, appointed Navin Ramgoolam as the new Prime Minister. This will be the fourth term for the 77-year-old Naveen Ramgoolam.
- ★ Naveen Rangoolam succeeds Pravind Jugnauth, who has been in power since 2017.
- ★ Mauritius went to the polls on 10 November 2024 to elect a new parliament. The Parliament of Mauritius, known as the National Assembly, has 70 members.
- ★ Of these, 62 are directly elected by the people, and 8 are nominated by the country's Electoral Supervisory Commission.
- ★ The opposition alliance, Alliance du Changement, led by Navin Ramgoolam, trounced the ruling Lepep alliance, led by Pravind Jugnauth's Militant Socialist Movement Party.
- ★ According to the Office of the Electoral Commissioner, the Alliance du Changement secured 62.6% of votes and 60 out of the 62 seats.

### **Chief Executive Officer for India of DBS Bank**

- ★ Rajat Verma, the current Head of Institutional Banking at DBS Bank India, has been nominated to become the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of DBS India, succeeding Surojit Shome.
- ★ Surojit Shome, the current CEO of DBS Bank India, will retire after leading the bank since 2015.
- ★ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) must approve all CEO appointments for banks in India, including the nomination of Rajat Verma.
- ★ Prior to joining DBS, Rajat Verma had over 26 years of experience at HSBC, where he served as the Head of Commercial Banking in India.
- ★ DBS Bank has been operating in India for over 30 years, with more than 530 branches across 19 states in the country.

### **Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand**

- ★ Sonu Sood, the renowned actor, philanthropist, and humanitarian, has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand.
- ★ As Honorary Tourism Advisor, Sonu Sood will play a key role in shaping Thailand's marketing strategies and public relations efforts to attract Indian tourists.
- ★ His responsibilities include promoting Thailand as a prime tourism destination and enhancing tourism relations between India and Thailand.
- ★ The official appointment was confirmed through a certificate issued by Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports, designating him as Honorary Tourism Advisor.

- ★ This role highlights Sonu Sood's growing global influence and expanding international presence, reflecting his popularity beyond the film industry.
- ★ The appointment is an important step in promoting Thailand's tourism in the Indian market.

### **New Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation**

- ★ Arvindar Singh Sahney, currently Executive Director at Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), has been appointed as the new Chairman of IOC.
- ★ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas issued the official order for his appointment.
- ★ Sahney was initially selected in August to become Director of Business Development but has now been elevated to Chairman.
- ★ His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) for a five-year term or until his superannuation, whichever occurs earlier.
- ★ The Chairman position became vacant following Shrikant Madhav Vaidya's tenure ending on August 31, 2024.
- ★ Satish Kumar Vaduguri, Director of Marketing at IOC, was temporarily holding the additional charge of Chairman.
- ★ Sahney will be the second person without board experience to be appointed directly as IOC Chairman, following B Ashok in 2014, who was also elevated from the position of Executive Director.

### **Chief Executive Officer of Multi Commodity Exchange of India**

- ★ Praveena Rai has taken office as the CEO and Managing Director of the Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) for a five-year term.
- ★ She succeeds P.S. Reddy, who completed his five-year tenure in May 2024.
- ★ Rai was the Chief Operating Officer at the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), where she managed marketing, business development, product management, and operations.
- ★ She previously served as Regional Head of Payments for Asia Pacific at HSBC.
- ★ She managed the cash management portfolio at Kotak Mahindra Bank, which is MCX's largest shareholder.
- ★ With over 20 years in banking, Rai has expertise in payments, cards, retail banking, and transaction banking.

### **K. Sanjay Murthy Appointed as the Next GAG of India**

- ★ The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, has appointed K Sanjay Murthy as India's next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- ★ He will succeed the incumbent, Girish Chandra Murmu
- ★ The Comptroller General of India is the head of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which controls the country's entire financial system. It is also called the Guardian of Public Funds.
- ★ The newly appointed CAG of India, K. Sanjay Murthy, is a 1989 batch IAS Officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre.

- ★ He is currently Secretary of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education and was due to retire on 31 December 2024.
- ★ The Comptroller and Auditor General is a constitutional body under Article 148 of the Indian constitution.
- ★ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the custodian of public finances and the controller of the entire financial system of the country.

### **President of FICCI**

- ★ Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Emami Group, Harsha Vardhan Agarwal, assumed the office of the President of the business lobby group, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for 2024-25.
- ★ Harsha Vardhan Agarwal succeeded Anish Shah.
- ★ The new set of office bearers of FICCI for the 2024-25 also took over their offices along with the new President Harsha Vardhan Agarwal.
- ★ Senior Vice President of FICCI – Anant Goenka who is the Vice Chairman of the RPG Group, which has diversified business interest in the infrastructure, tyre, information technology (IT), pharma, and speciality sectors.
- ★ Vice -President of FICCI – Vijay Sankar who is the Chairman of the Sanmar Group, headquartered in Chennai. The diversified Sanmar has business interest in India and abroad with presence in engineering technologies, chemicals, and shipping.
- ★ Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) is one of the major business lobby groups in India which represents the interest of the business groups.

### **President of Uruguay**

- ★ A teacher of history, folk dancer and former mayor, the 57-year-old Yamandu Orsi has been elected as the new President of Uruguay. In the Presidential run-off election held on 24 November 2024, Yamandu Orsi secured 49.8 per cent of the votes, compared to Alvaro Delgado of the centre-right National Party, who secured 45.9 per cent votes.
- ★ Yamandu Orsi will succeed the current President, Luis Lacalle Pou, in March 2025.
- ★ The Uruguayan President is elected for a term of five years and is not eligible for immediate re-election.
- ★ An Election was held on 27 October 2024 to elect a new President of Uruguay. Yamandu Orsi, the candidate for the left-wing Broad Front coalition, secured 44 percent of the votes, while Alvaro Delgado of the ruling National Party secured 27 percent of the votes.
- ★ Since none of the candidates was able to secure 50 per cent of the votes, a run-off election was held on 24 November 2024.
- ★ The top two candidates, Yamandu Orsi and Alvaro Delgado, were eligible to participate in the run-off poll.
- ★ In the run-off election, Yamandu Orsi was declared elected as the winner as he secured more votes than his rival, Alvaro Delgado.



## **Google Appoints Ex-Apple Executive Mitul Shah to Head Pixel Business in India**

- ★ Google has appointed Mitul Shah, a former Apple India Executive, as the Managing Director for its Devices and Services business in India.
- ★ In his new role, Mitul Shah will be responsible for leading the sales and expansion strategies for Google's Pixel smartphones across India.
- ★ Before joining Google, Shah served as the Head of Consumer Sales for Apple in India.
- ★ Earlier in 2023, Google started shipping Pixel smartphones produced locally from India-based manufacturing lines.
- ★ In October 2023, Rick Osterloh, Google's Senior Vice President, announced collaboration with both international and domestic partners to assemble Pixel devices in India.

## **SPORTS**

### **Anish Sarkar Becomes Youngest-Rated FIDE Chess Player**

- ★ Anish Sarkar of Kolkata, West Bengal, has become the youngest-rated FIDE chess player in the world. At the age of three years, eight months, and 19 days, Anish secured a FIDE rating of 1555.
- ★ The International Chess Federation, known by its French acronym FIDE, is the world's governing body for chess.
- ★ It assigns ratings or points based on players' performance in FIDE-approved chess tournaments.
- ★ According to the FIDE rule, a player is given rating points if the player plays against at least five FIDE-rated players. Thus, after participating in the West Bengal State Under 13 Open chess tournament, Anish Sarkar was given an initial FIDE rating of 1555.

### **WTT Feeder Caracas 2024**

- ★ Harmeet Desai of India had a fabulous run at the 2024 WTT Feeder Caracas tournament, winning both the men's singles and mixed doubles titles.
- ★ The World Table Tennis (WTT) Feeder Series was held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 31 October to 3 November 2024.
- ★ Harmeet Desai, ranked 90<sup>th</sup> in the world, defeated world no. 149 Joe Seyfried of France 11-7, 11-8, 11-6 in straight sets to win the singles title.
- ★ Harmeet Desai partnered with Krittwika Roy to win the mixed doubles title of the WTT Caracas 2024.
- ★ The Indian duo defeated Cuba's Jorge Campos and Daniela Fonseca Carrazana 3-2 (8-11, 11-9, 11-8, 9-11, 11-5) in a closely-fought final to bag the mixed doubles title.

### **Squash's Costa North Coast Open 2024**

- ★ Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh won the Costa North Coast Open 2024 women's singles title by defeating the Japanese Akari Midorikawa in the final.

- ★ The Costa North Coast Open 2024 was held at Coffs Harbour, Australia, from 30 October to 3 November 2024.
- ★ Anahat Singh, seeded third in the tournament, defeated the sixth-seeded Kari Midorikawa 3-0 (11-6, 11-6, 11-7) in the final.
- ★ The victory at the Costa North Coast Open 2024 was the sixth PSA (Professional Squash Association) Challenger title of the year for Anahat Singh.

### **Mandeep Jangra Wins WBF Super Featherweight World Title**

- ★ Haryana's professional boxer Mandeep Jangra won the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title by beating the British boxer Conor McIntosh.
- ★ The World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title match was held in the Cayman Islands.
- ★ The 31-year-old Indian boxer who trains under legendary American boxer Roy Jones Junior turned professional in 2021.
- ★ Before turning professional, Mandeep Jangra won a silver medal in the 2013 Asian Championship and a silver medal at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.
- ★ In 2015, the Government of India awarded Mandeep the Arjuna Award.

### **India Officially Bids to Host 2036 Olympics**

- ★ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) formally submitted a Letter of Intent on October 1, 2023 to host the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games.
- ★ This marks a major step in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of bringing the Olympics to India for the first time.
- ★ India's bid includes plans to bolster sports infrastructure and collaborate with global experts to ensure readiness.
- ★ Partnerships, such as with France, are expected to aid India in knowledge and expertise exchange for hosting a successful Olympic event.
- ★ If selected, the Olympics would likely bring infrastructure upgrades, increased tourism, and youth engagement in sports across India.
- ★ The Government is already investing in state-of-the-art sports facilities and encouraging youth participation to support this objective.

### **FIH Hockey Star Award 2024**

- ★ Indian men's hockey team captain Harmapreet Singh and former Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh won the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024.
- ★ The world governing body of Hockey, FIH, announced the winner of its annual Hockey Star award for the year 2024 in a glittering ceremony held in the Omani capital city of Muscat on 8 November 2024.
- ★ Male and Female hockey players were selected for the FIH Hockey Star Award 2024 for their performance in 2024.

- Player of the Year:
  - Male: Harampreet Singh of India
  - Women: Yibbi Jansen of Netherlands
- Goalkeeper of the Year:
  - Male: PR Sreejesh of India
  - Women: Ye Jiao of China
- Rising Star of the Year Award:
  - Male: Sufyan Khan of Pakistan
  - Women: Zoe Diaz of Argentina
- Coach of the Year Award:
  - Men: Jeroen Delmee of Netherlands
  - Women: Alyson Annan of China
- Umpire of the Year:
  - Male: Steve Rogers of Australia
  - Women: Sarah Wilson of Scotland

## **Arjun Erigaisi Jumps to World No. 2 in Chess Rankings**

- ★ Arjun Erigaisi, the 21-year-old Indian Grandmaster from Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, has surged to world No. 2 in the live chess rankings, following an impressive win over Russian Grandmaster Alexey Sarana at the ongoing Chennai Grand Masters.
- ★ Erigaisi now has an Elo rating of 2805.8, making him only the second Indian player to cross the 2800 Elo barrier, a feat previously achieved by Viswanathan Anand.
- ★ His victory in Chennai has propelled him to the No. 2 spot, just behind Magnus Carlsen, the five-time World Chess Champion.
- ★ If Erigaisi wins the Chennai Grand Masters, he stands to gain 24.5 rating points, which would further boost his chances of qualifying for the FIDE Candidates Tournament and potentially competing for the World Chess Championship.

## **2024 WTA Finals**

- ★ World No. 3 Coco Gauff of the United States won her first WTA (Women Tennis Association) Finals by beating world number 7 Zheng Qinwen of China 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(2) in a 3-hour and 4-minute final.
- ★ The doubles title was won by the pair of Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe, defeating the Katerina Siniakova and Taylor Townsend duo to lift the WTA Doubles title.
- ★ Saudi Arabia's Capital city of Riyadh hosted the 2024 WTA Finals from 2-9 November 2024.
- ★ The 2023 US Open Singles winner Coco Gauff won her first Billie Jean King Trophy by defeating the 2024 Paris Olympic gold medal winner Zheng Qinwen. The winner of the WTA Finals is given the Billie Jean King Trophy.
- ★ The pair of Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand) defeated the duo of Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic) and Taylor Townsend (United States) in the finals 7-5, 6-3 to win the doubles crown of the 2024 WTA Finals.

### **PSA Challenger Title**

- ★ The Indian Squash sensation Anahat Singh won her seventh PSA (Professional Squash Association) Challenger Title by winning the singles title of the 2024 NSW Open Squash Tournament.
- ★ In the final of the 2024 NSW Open Squash tournament, she defeated Helen Tang of Hong Kong China 3-1 (8-11, 11-6, 11-3, 11-4).
- ★ The 2024 NSW Open Squash Tournament was held in Sydney, Australia, from 6-10 November 2024.

### **Neeraj Chopra Appoints Jan Zelezny as Coach**

- ★ Tokyo Olympic gold medalist and the 2024 Paris Olympic silver medalist, Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, has appointed the legendary Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic as his coach.
- ★ Jan Zelezny considered the greatest javelin thrower of the modern era, won gold medals at the 1992 Barcelona, 1996 Atlanta, and 2000 Sydney Summer Olympics.
- ★ Jan Zelezny will join Neeraj Chopra in South Africa where he is attending a training camp.

### **IBSF World Billiards Championship**

- ★ Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani claimed his 28<sup>th</sup> world title and seventh consecutive IBSF World Billiards Championship crown by defeating England's Robert Hall 4-2 in Doha.
- ★ Hall took an early lead in the opening frame, but Advani quickly responded with a 147 break in the second frame.
- ★ The third frame was a close contest, showcasing both players' strategic brilliance.
- ★ Though Hall rallied with a 151 break in the fourth frame and a 154 break in the fifth to equalize, Advani held his nerve to clinch victory with a decisive century break in the final frame.

### **Tamil Nadu to Likely Host 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup**

- ★ Tamil Nadu is expected to host the 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in November-December 2025.
- ★ According to a high-ranking Government source, Tamil Nadu has submitted a letter of intent to the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF), which has approved the proposal.
- ★ Discussions with Hockey India are ongoing to finalize the arrangements, including two proposed venues in Chennai and potentially Madurai.
- ★ The tournament will feature 24 teams playing a total of 72 matches, requiring two hosting venues to accommodate all games.
- ★ Successfully hosting the World Cup would strengthen the role of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT) and the Government of Tamil Nadu in promoting sports.

### **V Pranav Triumphs in Chennai Grandmasters Tournament's Challenger Section**

- ★ V Pranav achieved a notable victory in the Chennai Grandmasters Tournament's Challenger section, adding to Tamil Nadu's chess accolades.

- ★ Pranav, rated Elo 2602, displayed consistent and strategic gameplay.
- ★ He started strong, winning his first four games and drawing the last three, totaling 5.5 points in seven rounds.
- ★ His final match, a draw against Leon Mendonca, secured his title, as Mendonca needed a win to claim the top spot.
- ★ This win grants him a spot in next year's Masters Section, a chance to gain invaluable experience in high-level competitive chess.

### **FISU World University Championship Shooting 2024**

- ★ The Indian shooters finished their campaign at the 2024 FISU World University Championship Shooting with a rich haul of 24 medals, including 9 gold, 9 silver, and 6 bronze.
- ★ The FISU World University Championship Shooting 2024 was held at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in Tughlakabad, New Delhi, from 9-13 November 2024.
- ★ It was organised by the International University Sports Federation, known by its French acronym FISU and hosted by India.
- ★ The mascot of the game was Trunky, an elephant.
- ★ The International University Sports Federation (FISU) was established in 1949 to promote University sports worldwide.
- ★ The FISU organises world-class sports and educational events for the university students.
- ★ Olympian Aishwary Paratap Singh Tomar and Asian Games champion Palak Gulia led the medal rush for India with four medals apiece.
- ★ Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar won an individual silver medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event while he was part of three events which won the gold medal.
- ★ Palak Gulia won an individual silver medal in the women's 10m air pistol event. She was part of three team events which bagged the gold medal.
- ★ The only gold for India in the individual event was bagged by Bhavtegh Singh Gill in the men's skeet event.

### **Dubai Sports Council Brand Ambassador**

- ★ The Dubai Sports Council has appointed ex-Indian cricket player Harbhajan Singh and women's Tennis player Sania Mirza as the Sports Ambassador.
- ★ They join Russian Khabib Nurmagomedov and French football player Patrice Evra as the four sporting icons appointed by the Dubai Sports Council.
- ★ The Dubai Sports Council announced the names of the four sports ambassadors in the presence of Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- ★ Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai Sports Council.
- ★ As sports ambassadors, these four former players will play a vital role in enhancing Dubai's status as a premier global sports destination.

- ★ They will help strengthen Dubai's sports ecosystem by attracting prestigious international events, nurturing local talent, and promoting sports tourism.

### **ATP Finals Singles Title**

- ★ World No.1 men's tennis player Jannik Sinner of Italy won his first ATP Finals title in Turin, Italy, by defeating American Taylor Fritz in straight sets in the final
- ★ The German pair of Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz won the season-ending ATP Finals doubles title.
- ★ The season's ending ATP Finals which is the last tournament of the year in the men's professional tennis was held in the Italian city of Turin from 10-17 November 2024.
- ★ Jannik Sinner defeated American Taylor Fritz 6-4 6-4 in the final of the 2024 ATP Finals played at the Inalpi Arena, Turin.
- ★ Jannik Sinner, winner of the 2024 singles title of the US Open and Australian Open, won the ATP Finals without losing a single set in the tournament.
- ★ In 1986, Czech-American Ivan Lendl won the ATP finals without losing a single set.
- ★ After Roger Federer (Switzerland) and Novak Djokovic (Serbia), Italian Jannik Sinner is the only men's tennis player to win the Australian Open, US Open and the ATP Finals in the year.

### **Magnus Carlsen Clinches Tata Steel Chess India Blitz Title**

- ★ Magnus Carlsen triumphed in the sixth edition of Tata Steel Chess India Blitz after a dramatic turn of events.
- ★ Arjun Erigaisi, who had been leading the tournament with three rounds left, faltered dramatically, ending off the podium.
- ★ Carlsen finished 1.5 points ahead of second-placed Wesley So, clinching his second title in five days and his 10<sup>th</sup> major title of the year.
- ★ Arjun Erigaisi's over-ambitious strategy led to losses in his final three games, including a critical defeat to Carlsen in the penultimate round.
- ★ Wesley So capitalized on Arjun's collapse, securing second place with an outstanding 8.0/9 score on the final day.

### **Jorge Martin Clinches First MotoGP World Championship**

- ★ Jorge Martin of Prima Pramac Ducati has won his first MotoGP World Championship in the 2024 season.
- ★ Martin only needed a 9<sup>th</sup> place finish or higher in the Solidarity Grand Prix of Barcelona to secure the title, with a 19-point lead over Pecco Bagnaia.
- ★ Throughout the 24-lap race, Martin maintained a measured pace, while Pecco Bagnaia led the race, with Marc Marquez pursuing him on the Gresini Ducati.
- ★ Aleix Espargaro, riding for Factory Aprilia, helped Martin by keeping pressure off him, staying ahead of Alex Marquez and acting as a defensive buffer.



- ★ Jorge Martin crossed the finish line, realizing his long-held dream and securing the championship, finishing with 10 points more than Pecco.
- ★ Marc Marquez completed the season in third place, a notable achievement riding a year-old Ducati for a satellite team.

### **Women's Asian Champions Trophy**

- ★ The defending champion Indian women's hockey team defeated the 2024 Paris Olympic silver medalist China to win the 8<sup>th</sup> Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024.
- ★ With this win, India has equalled South Korea's record of winning the Trophy three times. India has previously won the title in 2016 and 2023.
- ★ The final of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was played at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar on November 20, 2024.
- ★ The 8<sup>th</sup> Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was organised by the Asian Hockey Federation and hosted by Hockey India and the Bihar Government from 11-20 November 2024.
- ★ The only goal in the final match was scored by the Indian player Deepika, which turned out to be the match-winning goal.
- ★ The Women's Asian Champions Trophy is played using the same format as the Men's Asian Champions Trophy. The top six ranked Asian women's hockey teams participate in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament.
- ★ This year, teams from India, Japan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, and South Korea participated in the tournament.

### **Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition**

- ★ For the first time, India is hosting the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition from 19-22 November 2024 at the Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi.
- ★ The event is open to athletes from the Asia-Pacific with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This is the first time a competitive bowling event has been held in India.
- ★ Eighty-one athletes from 12 countries of the Asia-Pacific region are participating in the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition
- ★ The Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition were inaugurated by the Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, on 19 November 2024.
- ★ The Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition is organised by Special Olympics Bharat and supported by the Jindal Steel Company.

### **2024 Davis Cup Title**

- ★ The Italian men's tennis team, led by world No.1 Jannik Sinner, successfully defended their 2024 Davis Cup title by defeating the Netherlands 2-0 in the finals.
- ★ The Italian team won their third Davis Cup after victory in 1976 and 2023.
- ★ For the first time in its Davis Cup history, the Netherlands team was appearing in the final for the first time.

- ★ The Davis Cup Finals were played on a Hard Court from 19-24 November 2024 in Malaga, Spain.
- ★ In the current format of the Davis Cup, eight teams qualify for the Finals, which are played in a knockout format.
- ★ Italy, the Netherlands, Australia, Spain, Canada, Germany, Argentina, and the United States participated in the Finals 2024.
- ★ In the final world No.1, Jannik Sinner defeated Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (2), 6-2 to take an unassailable lead in the best-of-three match against the Netherlands.

### **Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup Title**

- ★ Indian men's junior hockey team coached by legendary former Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will defend its title at the 11<sup>th</sup> Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup at Muscat Oman.
- ★ India are the defending champions having won the 2023 edition played at Salalah, Oman, by defeating Pakistan 2-1 in the final.
- ★ The 11<sup>th</sup> Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup organised by Asian Hockey Federation and hosted by Oman Hockey Association at Muscat from 27 November – 4 December 2024.
- ★ Players below 21 years are eligible to participate in the tournament.
- ★ Defender Amir Ali will captain the 20-member Indian hockey team with Rohit as Vice-captain.
- ★ Amir Ali was part of the Indian Men's Hockey team which won the 8<sup>th</sup> Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 played in China.
- ★ The 11<sup>th</sup> Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup is also a qualifying event for the 2025 FIH World Men's Hockey Junior World Cup to be held in India.
- ★ The top six teams will automatically qualify for the FIH World Men's Hockey Junior World Cup.

### **Under-8 World Cadets Chess Champion 2024**

- ★ Eight-year-old Divith Reddy of Hyderabad, Telangana, has won the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship in Montesilvano, Italy.
- ★ Divith secured 9 out of the possible 11 points in the Under-8 World Cadets Chess Championship and was tied with fellow Indian Sattwik Swain and the Chinese Ziming Guo.
- ★ However, due to a better tie-break score, Divith Reddy was awarded the gold medal, Sattwik Swain the silver medal, and the Chinese Ziming Guo got the bronze medal.
- ★ Divith, with a FIDE rating of 1784, started the Championships brilliantly by winning the first four of his matches. However, he lost his next two matches but bounced back to win his last five matches and the title.
- ★ The world chess governing body FIDE organised the FIDE World Cadet Championships 2024 at Montesilvano, Italy.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Vegan Day

- ★ World Vegan Day 2024 is observed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ World Vegan Day 2024 is celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> November as it falls between Halloween Day and Saint's Day.
- ★ For this reason, World Vegan Day is more special.
- ★ The World Vegan Society was formed in 1944 by Louise Wallis.
- ★ But the Name "Vegan" was first coined by Donald Watson and his wife Dorothy Morgan in the year 1944.
- ★ The vegan society aims not only to keep the Vegan Society alive but also to promote Vegan diets all over the world.
- ★ World Vegan Day 2024 is celebrated for the anniversary of the Vegan Society in 1944 and it attained its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1994.

### World Tsunami Awareness Day

- ★ World Tsunami Awareness Day 2024 is observed on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ On November 5<sup>th</sup>, 1854, Hiromura a little village which is located in the western part of Japan started celebrating their Traditional Practice, the Burning of Rice Sheaves.
- ★ A farmer who lived in the village anticipated that a big Tsunami would come when he noticed the lowering of the Tide and the natural decrease in the level of Well Water which is a natural sign for a Tsunami warning.
- ★ Later the Villagers guided the entire village to the hilltop by burning rice sheaves to indicate the signs of danger. Later from the hilltop, they witnessed the tsunami destroy their village.
- ★ They understood that the Fire saved them from the Tsunami.
- ★ Japan proposed this day as World Tsunami Awareness Day because of the intent to protect the precious lives of people.

### International Day for Preventing Exploitation of Environment in War and Armed Conflict

- ★ International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict is observed on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024.
- ★ The United Nations General Assembly declared this day in 2001.
- ★ The day recognizes that the environment is often a victim of war and that destroying natural resources can lead to a lack of durable peace.
- ★ Some ways the environment is exploited in war include: Polluting water wells, Torching crops, Cutting down forests, Poisoning soils, and Killing animals to gain military advantage.

- ★ The UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted a resolution in 2016 that recognized the role of healthy ecosystems in reducing the risk of armed conflict.
- ★ International humanitarian law (IHL) also aims to protect the natural environment during armed conflict.

## **National Cancer Awareness Day**

- ★ National Cancer Awareness Day 2024 is observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ This year's theme is "Fight cancer with hope and heart!"
- ★ In September 2014, National Cancer Awareness Day was first initiated by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare in India.
- ★ In September 2014, a committee was formed and decided that National Cancer Awareness Day would be observed on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November every year in India with the aim of spreading awareness about the severity of various cancers, their symptoms, and treatment.
- ★ National Cancer Awareness Day is celebrated every year to create awareness about the early detection of cancer and prevention methods.

## **World Radiography Day**

- ★ World Radiography Day 2024 is observed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ X-Ray was discovered in 1895 by Wilhelm Roentgen.
- ★ In his laboratory, he accidentally discovered a new Electromagnetic wave that is transparent through flesh but won't transfer through metals and bones. It is a great invention that is used in the medical field.
- ★ He named it X-Ray which is capable of passing through flesh and creating shadows of solid objects like bones.
- ★ Since the discovery of X-rays happened on November 8<sup>th</sup>, this day is celebrated as World Radiography Day every year.

## **World Freedom Day**

- ★ World Freedom Day is celebrated on November 9 every year to honour the freedom fighters worldwide, democracy, and those who have fought for liberty, freedom, and basic human rights.
- ★ Along with this, it also marks the day of the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.
- ★ This day is celebrated to recognise the struggles and sacrifices of the ones who fought and are fighting for independence and human rights.
- ★ The purpose of celebrating this day includes creating awareness about those still struggling for freedom in the various regions of the world and shedding light on the importance of an independent society.

## **National Education Day**

- ★ National Education Day 2024 is observed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.

- ★ National Education Day was first observed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development on November 11, 2008.
- ★ It is observed every year after the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who was the first Educational Minister of Independent India. He served Educational Minister for over a period of Ten Years.
- ★ The Day is celebrated to honor the First Educational Minister of India and his incomparable contribution to the Education system of India.
- ★ The First National Education Day was celebrated on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, and was first inaugurated by then President Pratibha Patil.

### **World Science Day for Peace and Development**

- ★ World Science Day for Peace and Development 2024 is observed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ The first World Conference on Science was held in 1999 and was co-ordinated by UNESCO and the International Council for Science.
- ★ In order to advance scientific literacy, conference attendees created an action plan. The Science Agenda - Framework for Action was the name of this strategy.
- ★ The Executive Body of UNESCO endorsed Science Day for Peace and Development a year later.
- ★ It is to establish a strong relationship between science and society, actions were initiated in 2001.
- ★ People were regularly informed of the most recent advances in science and technology.

### **World Kindness Day**

- ★ World Kindness Day 2024 is observed on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ 27 countries around the world celebrate World Kindness Day.
- ★ Some of the countries which celebrate World Kindness Day are India, Brazil, Australia, Canada, Japan, Italy, etc.
- ★ World Kindness Day was first celebrated in 1998 at the Tokyo Conference.
- ★ World Kindness Day Movement has been started which helped to bring small Organizations together for the World Kindness Day Celebration.
- ★ Now it helped to conduct a mega event to promote Kindness globally.

### **World Diabetes Day**

- ★ World Diabetes Day 2024 is observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ The theme for World Diabetes Day 2024 is “Bridging Barriers and Bridging Gaps”.
- ★ World Diabetes Day became an official UN day in 2006.
- ★ World Diabetes Day was established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation with support from WHO for the growing concerns about the health and economic threat posed by diabetes.

- ★ Diabetes occurs due to insufficient secretion of Insulin by the Pancreas. In order to meet Insulin secretion for the body research took place and finally Insulin booster Injection was discovered by Sir Frederick G Banting (pictured), Charles H Best, and JJR Macleod at the University of Toronto in 1921
- ★ Till now Insulin injections have been given as a medicine for patients who have high glucose levels in the blood.

## Children's Day in India

- ★ Children's Day in India is observed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ Jawaharlal Nehru was born to a Kashmiri Brahmins Royal family on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1889.
- ★ Later he moved to Delhi and completed his Scholarship.
- ★ His father's name was Motilal Nehru. Jawaharlal was the eldest of four children, two of whom were girls.
- ★ A sister, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, later became the first Woman President of the United Nations General Assembly.
- ★ Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was called Chacha Nehru by the children.
- ★ Jawaharlal Nehru believed that Children are the real strength of the nation and the foundation of society.
- ★ After the death of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, a resolution was passed in the parliament unanimously to honour him, declaring his birth anniversary as the official date of Children's Day.

## International Day for Tolerance

- ★ International Day for Tolerance 2024 is observed on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ In 1993, at the initiative of UNESCO, the United Nations proclaimed 1995 as "The Year for Tolerance".
- ★ UNESCO's 1995 Declaration of Principles on Tolerance was that tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression, and our ways of being human.
- ★ The United Nations General Assembly decided to celebrate International Day for Tolerance every year.
- ★ One year later in 1996, the UN General Assembly decided 16<sup>th</sup> of November was the International Day for Tolerance and it would be celebrated every year.

## National Epilepsy Day

- ★ National Epilepsy Day 2024 is observed on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ National Epilepsy Day was first observed by the Epilepsy Foundation of India to reduce Epilepsy conditions in India.
- ★ Epilepsy Foundation in India is a non-profitable charity Organisation.
- ★ Epilepsy Foundation of India was formed by Dr. Nirmal Surya located in Mumbai.



- ★ The Charity helps a lot of people who are suffering from Epilepsy and they are conducting awareness programs to reduce the fear of Epilepsy among people.

## **Universal Children's Day**

- ★ Universal Children's Day 2024 is observed on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ Children's Day was first officially declared a national holiday by the Republic of Turkey in 1920 on April 2.
- ★ Children's Day has been celebrated nationally since 1920 by the Turkish Government and is declared as the day for children.
- ★ However, it was decided that an official confirmation was needed to clarify and justify this celebration, and the official declaration was made nationally in 1929 by the founder and the President of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.
- ★ Though Universal Children's Day was established by the United Nations in 1954, it wasn't until November 20, 1959, that the UN General Assembly adopted an extended form of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.
- ★ Originally acquired in 1924 by the League of Nations, the UN adopted this document as its own statement of children's rights.

## **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

- ★ International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women 2024 is observed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ On November 25, 1960, the Mirabal sisters of the Dominican Republic were assassinated by dictator Rafael Trujillo.
- ★ The sisters, who had been active in movements against the Trujillo regime, were beaten and strangled to death, then placed in a Jeep that was driven off a mountainous road in order to make their deaths appear accidental.
- ★ According to a report by the United Nations, 19 per cent of women between the ages of 15 and 49 years of age have experienced physical or sexual violence "by an intimate partner".
- ★ In some cases, this violence ends in the woman's death.
- ★ In December 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated November 25 as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

## **Constitution Day**

- ★ Constitution Day 2024 is observed on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 2024.
- ★ On November 26, 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Constitution of India.
- ★ It came into force on January 26, 1950.
- ★ Constitution Day aims to bring awareness about the importance of the Constitution and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

- ★ Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, Chairman of the drafting committee, is considered to be the Chief Architect of the Constitution of India.
- ★ He is also called the Father of the Indian Constitution.
- ★ The Constitution of India was drafted by the members of the Constituent Assembly.

## **OBITUTARY NEWS**

### **Eminent Economist and Chairman EAC PM Dr Bibek Debroy**

- ★ Eminent Economist and Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC PM), Dr Bibek Debroy, passed away
- ★ Dr Bibek Debroy has been the Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister since its constitution in 2017.
- ★ He was also a prolific writer, having translated the Puranas, the four Vedas, 11 major Upanishads, and the Valmiki Ramayana and the Mahabharata from Sanskrit to English.
- ★ He was appointed a full-time member of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog from 2015 to 2019.
- ★ In 2015, Dr Bibek Debroy was honoured with India's fourth highest civilian award, Padam Shri.

### **Bihar Kokila Sharda Sinha**

- ★ Popular folk singer and 'Bihar Kokila', Smt. Sharda Sinha passed away.
- ★ Her songs, sung in Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Magadhi dialects, based on the great festival of Chhath, Vivah Geet, and other rituals specific to Bihar, caught the public imagination, earning her the sobriquet of Bihar Kokila.
- ★ Sharda Sinha also sang about the life of the Girmitiya labourers, which became very popular in Mauritius, Seychelles, Fiji, and other places.
- ★ Sharda Sinha was known for her melodious depictions of deities, gods, and goddesses in Vivah Geet.
- ★ Sharda Sinha was awarded India's third highest civilian award Padma Bhushan in 2018, fourth highest civilian award Padma Shri in 1991 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

### **Renowned Padma Bhushan Awardee and Folk Singer Sharda Sinha**

- ★ Popular folk singer Sharda Sinha, who was undergoing treatment at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-Delhi, passed away at the age of 72.
- ★ She trained in classical music under Pandit Raghu Jha, Pandit Sitaram Hari Dandekar, and Panna Devi, contemporaries of Malika-e-Ghazal Begum Akhtar.
- ★ Her debut song, "Dularua Bhaiya" in Maithili, released in 1971, became highly popular.
- ★ Her tribute to poet Vidyapati in 1983 earned her fame internationally in Russia, China, the UK, and the US.

- ★ She was a “top grade” artist with All India Radio (AIR) and performed widely at AIR concerts and cultural festivals.
- ★ She Served the Department of Music, Women’s College, Samastipur (LNMU Darbhanga), Bihar for over four decades.

