

CURRENT AFFAIRS

1 to 11 November 2024



A Comprehensive Current Affairs for
UPSC - CSE, EPFO, CAPF, CDS | RRB | SSC | NDA
TNPSC - Group 1, Group 2, 2A Prelims & Mains

NATIONAL	02
STATE	07
ECONOMY	10
SUMMITS & REPORTS	13
INTERNATIONAL	16
DEFENSE	18
CELEBRATION	20
SCIENCE & TECH	21
SPORTS	24
AWARDS	26
APPOINTMENTS	27
IMPORTANT DYAS	28
PERSONALITIES	30
MISCELLANEOUS	31

NATIONAL

Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park to Receive IGBC Certification

- **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park** in **Himachal Pradesh** will be the **first zoo in India** to receive certification from the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)**.
- The **IGBC certification** recognizes the park's commitment to **sustainability** and **environmental standards**.

About Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)



- It is a part of the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)**, was established in **2001**.
- IGBC provides **green building rating programs, certification services, and training programs**.
- The **IGBC headquarters** is located in **Hyderabad**.

Ayodhya Sets Two Guinness World Records During Deepotsav 2024

- **Ayodhya** made history during **Deepotsav 2024** with two **Guinness World Records**..
- The event was organized by the **Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department** along with the **district administration**.

The World Records



1. **World's Largest Display of Oil Lamps:** More than **2.5 Lakh diyas** were lit along the banks of the **Saryu River**.
2. **Most People Performing Diya Rotation Simultaneously:** Thousands participated in this traditional ritual

India Hosts First Asian Buddhist Summit in New Delhi

- **India** is hosting the **first-ever Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS)** in **New Delhi**.
- The **2024 theme** is "**Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia**".
- The event is organized by the **Ministry of Culture** and the **International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)**.
- The summit aims to explore how **Buddha Dhamma** can promote **peace and spiritual development** across **Asia**.

About International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)



- **IBC** is the **largest religious Buddhist confederation** globally.
- In **November 2011**, New Delhi hosted the **Global Buddhist Congregation (GBC)**, leading to the establishment of the **International Buddhist Confederation**.
- The **IBC headquarters** is located in **Delhi, India**.

India Submits Bid to Host 2036 Summer Olympics

- **India** has formally submitted its bid to host the **2036 Summer Olympics** through a **Letter of Intent** from the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** to the **IOC**.
- The **IOC's Future Host Commission** will oversee the selection process.
- The **141st IOC Session** was held in **Mumbai**, where **Prime Minister Modi** emphasized India's commitment to organizing the Olympics in 2036.

About International Olympic Committee



- The **IOC** was founded by **Pierre de Coubertin** in **1894**, marking the revival of the ancient Olympic Games.
- The **IOC** is the supreme authority in overseeing the organization of both **Summer and Winter Olympics**.
- The **IOC headquarters** is in **Lausanne, Switzerland**
- It operates under the **Olympic Charter**, which governs the Olympic Movement.
- **Thomas Bach** has been the **IOC president** since **2013**.

About Olympic Games



- The **first Olympic Games** were held in **Athens** in **1896**, and the games have been held every **four years** since then.
- The **Olympic flag** was created in **1913** under the suggestion of **Baron Pierre de Coubertin**.
- During the **1928 Amsterdam Games**, the **Olympic flame** was ceremonially lit and burned in a giant torch.
- The Olympic motto is "**Citius Altius Fortius**" (**Faster, Higher, Stronger**).

Shilp Samagam Mela 2024 Promotes Artisans at Dilli Haat, New Delhi

- The **Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** organized the **Shilp Samagam Mela 2024** at **Dilli Haat, New Delhi**.
- The event aims to empower **marginalized artisans** by providing a marketplace for their crafts.

Key Initiatives Launched



- **TULIP (Traditional Artisans' Upliftment Livelihood Programme):** A digital e-marketing platform designed to empower **marginalized artisans**.
- **Rang Paridhan Program:** Showcases **artisan-made uniforms** for the Ministry's corporations.

PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme: Financial Support for Meritorious Students

- The **PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme** was approved by the **Union Cabinet**.
- It aims to provide **financial support** to meritorious students seeking **higher education**.

About PM-Vidyalaxmi



- The scheme offers **collateral-free** and **guarantor-free loans** for students enrolling in top **860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs)** across India.
- Students can avail loans up to **₹7.5 lakh**, with a **75% credit guarantee** for defaults.
- The scheme prioritizes **students from government institutions** pursuing **technical and professional courses**.
- A unified portal, '**PM-Vidyalaxmi**', will facilitate loan applications and interest subvention.

India Signs Host Country Agreement with Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)

- **India** has signed the **Host Country Agreement (HCA)** with the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**.
- The agreement enables **GBA** to establish its **Secretariat in India**.

About Global Biofuels Alliance



- The **Global Biofuels Alliance** promotes the use of **biofuels** as a **cleaner, climate-friendly** alternative to **fossil fuels**.
- **GBA** includes **27 member countries** and **12 international organizations** like the **World Bank**, **World Economic Forum**, and **International Energy Agency**.
- **GBA** was launched in **2023** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** along with leaders of **eight other countries** during **India's G20 Presidency**.
- **GBA** focuses on **second-generation (2G) ethanol** made from **agricultural waste**, **used cooking oil**, and **processed animal byproducts**.

Generations of Biofuels



- **First Generation:** Made from **edible biomass** like **sugar, starch, vegetable oil, or animal fats**.
- **Second Generation:** Derived from **non-edible biomass** like **agricultural and forest residues** or dedicated biofuel crops.
- **Third Generation:** Produced from **aquatic biomass** like **algae**.
- **Fourth Generation:** Made from **engineered plants and microorganisms**.

MSDE Reconstitutes CAC to Enhance Apprenticeship Training

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has **reconstituted the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC)** to strengthen apprenticeship training.
- The **new CAC** includes **54 members**, up from **46** in the previous council.
- **MSDE Minister Jayant Chaudhary** will chair the reconstituted CAC.

About Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC)



- It was established under the **Apprenticeship Act, 1961**.
- The CAC acts as a **statutory advisory body** to guide the **central government** on apprenticeship policies.
- The reconstituted CAC, with a **three-year mandate**, aims to **expand apprenticeship opportunities** and support **workforce development**.

Government Launches Scheme to Strengthen Medical Device Industry in India

- The **Government of India** launched the **Scheme for Strengthening the Medical Device Industry**.
- The scheme aims to **boost the medical device sector** and promote **self-reliance in medical devices**.
- Focus areas include addressing **infrastructure gaps**, reducing **import dependency** & to **develop a skilled workforce**.

Draft 'Drug, Medical Devices, and Cosmetics Bill-2022'



- The **Union Health Ministry** released the draft bill in 2022.
- This Bill aims to **replace the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940** with an updated regulatory framework.
- It introduces **stricter regulatory guidelines & a regulatory body** specifically for **medical devices**.
- A **new definition for medical devices** has been proposed.
- It aims to **expand and strengthen regulation** over the **import of medical devices** into India.

Union Ministry Doubles Fines on Stubble Burning to Combat Air Pollution

- Under the **Environment Protection Act (EPA) of 1986**, the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** has **doubled the fines on stubble burning**.
- This measure aims to **reduce stubble burning** and address **poor air quality** in **Delhi** and surrounding regions.
- Penalties are implemented through the **Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act of 2021**.
- The **regulations apply to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, and NCR regions** in **Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Fines collected** go to **State Pollution Control Boards or Committees**.

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR Bill, 2021



- The Bill establishes a **Commission** to improve **co-ordination, research, and problem-solving** for **air quality issues** in the **National Capital Region (NCR)** and nearby areas.
- **Adjoining areas** include **Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- Violating the Bill's provisions may lead to **imprisonment of up to five years, a fine of up to one crore rupees, or both**.
- **Farmers are exempt** from criminal prosecution; the **CAQM** can instead **levy environmental compensation** on them.

STATE

Supreme Court Issues Guidelines to Eradicate Child Marriage in Rajasthan by 2030

- The **Supreme Court** issued guidelines to **eliminate child marriages** in **Rajasthan** by **2030**.
- The **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006** is to be enforced without any exceptions from **personal laws**.

About Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006



- The **PCMA** defines **child marriage** as one where the **girl is under 18 years** or the **boy is under 21 years**.
- The **PCMA** came into effect on **1st November 2007**, replacing the **Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) of 1929** or **Sharda Act**.

About Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929



- The act was also known as the **Sharda Act**, as it was sponsored by **Harbilas Sharda**.
- The original **Sharda Act** set the **marriage age at 14 for girls** and **18 for boys**.
- This was later **amended in 1978** to **18 years for girls** and **21 years for boys**.

Andhra Pradesh Launches Deepam 2.0 to Empower Women with Free Clean Cooking Energy

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has launched the **Deepam 2.0** scheme.
- The scheme aims to **empower women** by providing **free access to clean cooking energy**.
- Under **Deepam 2.0**, women will receive **three free gas cylinders per year**.

About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)



- It was introduced by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG)** in **May 2016**.
- **PMUY** aims to **replace traditional cooking fuels** with **cleaner LPG** in **rural and deprived households**.
- The flagship **PMUY** scheme targeted the **release of 8 Crore LPG connections** to **deprived households** by **March 2020**.

Madhya Pradesh Approves 35% Reservation for Women in State Government Jobs

- The **Madhya Pradesh cabinet** approved a **35% reservation for women** in all **state government recruitments**.

Recent Related News



- The **Karnataka government** has mandated **33% reservation for women** in **outsourced government services**.
- **Karnataka** is the **first state in India** to provide **1% reservation for the transgender community** in all **government services**.

Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan Form Joint Corridor Management Committee for Cheetahs

- A **joint corridor management committee** has been established between **Madhya Pradesh** and **Rajasthan**.
- This committee was formed in response to **cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh straying into Rajasthan**.
- The primary task of the committee is to **identify a 'Cheetah Conservancy Landscape'** in the corridor to ensure **safe movement of cheetahs** between the two states.

About Project Cheetah



- **Project Cheetah** is the world's first **inter-continental large wild carnivore translocation project**.
- The project aims to restore the **cheetah population** in India, where they were declared extinct in **1952**.
- The project is implemented by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** in collaboration with the **Madhya Pradesh Forest Department** and the **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**.
- **Phase 1** involves the translocation of **8 & 12 cheetahs** from **Namibia** and **South Africa** respectively to **Kuno National Park**.
- **Phase 2** is considering sourcing cheetahs from **Kenya** to **Kuno National Park** and **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary** in **Madhya Pradesh**.

Uttarakhand Foundation Day: Celebrating 24 Years of Statehood

- **Uttarakhand Foundation Day**, also known as **Uttarakhand Diwas**, is celebrated annually on **November 9**.
- **2024** marks the **24th anniversary** of Uttarakhand's formation.
- **Uttarakhand** was established as **India's 27th state** in **2000** after being carved out of northern **Uttar Pradesh**.

About Uttarakhand



- Originally called **Uttaranchal**, the state's name was changed to **Uttarakhand** in **2007**.
 - Uttarakhand shares **international boundaries** with **China (Tibet)** in the north and **Nepal** in the east.
 - Known as the “**Land of the Gods (Devbhumi)**”.
 - **Bhararisain** serves as the **summer capital**, while **Dehradun** is the **winter capital**.
 - **Pushkar Singh Dhami** is the current **Chief Minister**.
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ECONOMY

Coal India Limited (CIL) Celebrates 50th Foundation Day

- **Coal India Limited (CIL)** celebrated its **50th Foundation Day** on **1st November**, entering its golden jubilee year.

About Coal India



- Established in **1st November 1975**, CIL is a **state-owned coal mining corporation**.
- **CIL** is the **world's largest coal-producing company**.
- It holds the status of a **Maharatna company**.
- The **headquarters of CIL** is located in **Kolkata**.

NTPC and ONGC Form 50:50 Joint Venture for Advancing India's Renewable Energy Goals

- **NTPC** and **ONGC** have formed a **50:50 joint venture** through their subsidiaries **NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL)** and **ONGC Green Energy Ltd. (OGL)**.
- The collaboration aims to expand their presence in the **renewable energy sector**, covering technologies such as **solar, wind energy, green hydrogen, and sustainable aviation fuel**.

About National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)



- **NTPC Limited** is an **Indian statutory corporation** founded in **1975**, focused on **electricity generation** and allied activities.
- **NTPC** is **India's largest power utility** and a **Maharatna PSU**.
- It operates under the **Ministry of Power**.

About Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)



- **ONGC** is an **Indian multinational corporation** in the **crude oil and gas sector**.
- **ONGC** is **India's largest oil and gas company** and a **Maharatna PSU**.
- It operates under the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**.

India-Kazakhstan Collaboration to Produce Titanium Slag in Odisha

- **Indian Rare Earth Limited (IREL)**, a CPSU under the **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**, and **Kazakhstan's UKTMP** have formed a joint venture called **IREUK Titanium Limited** to

produce **titanium slag** in **Odisha**.

- The collaboration aims to convert **low-grade ilmenite** into **high-grade feedstock** for titanium production.
- **UKTMP JSC** will provide the technology to produce **titanium slag**, while **IREL** will supply **ilmenite** from its Odisha operations.

About Titanium



- **Titanium** is a **chemical element** with the symbol **Ti** and atomic number **22**.
- **Titanium** is as strong as steel but weighs about **half** as much.
- **Ilmenite** is the most important ore for **titanium production**.
- It is resistant to corrosion in **seawater**, **aqua regia**, and **chlorine**.
- It was discovered by **William Gregor** in **1791**.
- Titanium is also referred to as the **metal of hope**.

Royal Enfield Unveils New Electric Vehicle Brand “Flying Flea”

- **Royal Enfield** has introduced its electric vehicle (EV) brand named “**Flying Flea**”.
- The original **Flying Flea** was a compact, lightweight motorcycle created in the **1940s** for **military use** during **World War II**.

About Royal Enfield



- **Royal Enfield** is the **oldest motorcycle brand in continuous production globally**.
- **Eicher Motors** is the parent organization of Royal Enfield.
- The **headquarters** of Royal Enfield is located in **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**.

India Secures \$200 Million ADB Loan to Boost Uttarakhand's Urban Infrastructure

- The **Indian government** signed a **\$200 million loan agreement** with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.
- It aims to improve urban infrastructure and essential services in **Uttarakhand**.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)



- **ADB**, founded in **1966** and headquartered in **Manila, Philippines**.
- It provides financial assistance for development projects across its **69 member countries**.
- **Israel** joined ADB as its **69th member and 20th non-regional member in 2024**.
- **ADB's Strategy 2030** guides its mission towards a **prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific**.

IFC Partners with Bajaj Finance Ltd. to Strengthen India's Climate Finance Initiatives

- **International Finance Corporation (IFC)** has committed **\$400 million** in partnership with **Bajaj Finance Ltd. (BFL)** to bolster **India's climate finance** initiatives.
- The investment will expand **financing opportunities** for **electric vehicles (EVs)**, **energy-efficient consumer goods (EECG)**, and **women-owned micro-enterprises** in India.

International Finance Corporation (IFC)



- **IFC** is an international financial institution with **186 member countries**.
- It is part of the **World Bank Group**.
- Established in **1956**, IFC focuses on advancing economic development through **strictly for-profit, commercial projects**.
- The organization is headquartered in **Washington, D.C., USA**.

NTPC Ltd. Celebrates 50 Years of Powering India

- **National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Ltd.** celebrated its **50th Raising Day** on **November 7**.
- Founded by the **Government of India in 1975**, NTPC is India's **largest integrated power utility**.
- NTPC's **50 years logo** features an **infinity loop**, symbolizing **growth and excellence**.
- **Dr. DV Kapoor** was the **founding Chairman** of NTPC.

About National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)



- NTPC supplies **one-fourth** of **India's power needs**.
- It holds the status of a **Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU)**.
- **GEM (Girl Empowerment Mission)** is NTPC's **CSR program** focused on empowering **rural girls**.
- NTPC has introduced **hydrogen-powered buses** set to operate in **Leh** as part of its clean energy initiatives.
- NTPC's **CO2-to-methanol plant** at the **Vindhyachal plant** is a **first of its kind globally**.

SUMMIT & REPORTS

India Launches Updated National Biodiversity Strategy at UN Biodiversity Conference

- India unveiled its updated **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** during the **16th UN Biodiversity Conference** in **Cali, Colombia**.
- The NBSAP aims to **protect 30% of India's terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030**.
- India's target aligns with the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF)**, aiming to **halt biodiversity loss by 2030**.
- A **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan** outlines strategies to **conserve and use biodiversity sustainably**.

About Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



- CBD promotes biodiversity conservation
- It was adopted in **1992 at the UN Conference** in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**.
- India became a **CBD member in 1994**
- The **CBD Secretariat** is based in **Montreal, Canada**.

CWC Report Highlights 10.81% Increase in Himalayan Glacial Lakes

- A **Central Water Commission (CWC)** report reveals a **10.81% increase** in the area of **glacial lakes and water bodies** in the **Himalayan region** from **2011 to 2024**.
- **Climate change** is the primary factor driving this expansion, raising concerns over **glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)**.
- Significant expansions were noted in **Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh**.

About Glacial Lakes



- **Glacial lakes** form from **meltwater filling depressions** left behind by **receding glaciers**.
- Recently, a **GLOF event** from **South Lhonak Lake** in **northwestern Sikkim** caused extensive destruction.

IMF Releases AI Preparedness Index Assessing 174 Countries

- The **AI Preparedness Index (APII)** was released by the **IMF (International Monetary Fund)**.
- The index assesses the level of **AI preparedness** across **174 countries**.

- **Singapore** ranks **first** with a score of **0.80**, excelling in **AI capabilities** and **workforce adaptability**.
- **India** ranks **72** out of **174 countries**, with an **AI Preparedness Index** rating of **0.49**.

AIPI is based on 4 Factors



1. **Digital infrastructure**
2. **Human capital**
3. **Technological innovation**
4. **Legal frameworks**

Henley Passport Index 2024: Singapore Tops, India Ranks 83rd

- In the **2024 Henley Passport Index**, **Singapore** holds the top position as the world's most powerful passport, with **visa-free access to 195 countries**.
- **India** ranks **83rd**, allowing **visa-free access to 58 countries** for its citizens.
- The **Henley Passport Index** is published by **Henley & Partners**, a **United Kingdom-based immigration consultancy**.

About Henley Passport Index



- The index was created by **Dr. Christian H. Kaelin** and launched in **2006**.
- The rankings are based on exclusive data from the **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**, which has the **largest database of travel information**.
- The **Henley Passport Index** includes a total of **199 different passports**.
- The index ranks passports based on **visa-free access, diplomatic relations, and international agreements**.

Luxembourg Tops Nature Conservation Index 2024; India Ranks 176th

- In the **Nature Conservation Index (NCI) 2024**, **Luxembourg** ranks **first** with a score of **70.8** out of **100** for its **natural habitat and wildlife preservation**.
- **India** ranks **176th** with a score of **45.5** in conservation efforts.
- The **Nature Conservation Index** measures how well countries protect their **natural environments and wildlife**.

About Nature Conservation Index (NCI)



- The **NCI** is published by the **Goldman Sonnenfeldt School** and **BioDB.com**.
- Countries are assessed on **four pillars**, each with **25 performance indicators**:
 1. **Land management**
 2. **Threats to biodiversity**
 3. **Capacity and governance**
 4. **Future trends**
- The index uses data from the **World Bank** and the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.

Shiv Nadar Tops the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List

- The **EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List** tracks **philanthropic contributions** across **India**.
 - The list is compiled by **Hurun Research**.
 - **Education** remains the **top cause** supported by Indian philanthropists.
 - **Mumbai** has the **highest concentration of philanthropists** in India.
 - **Shiv Nadar**, founder of **HCL Technologies**, tops the list as **India's most generous philanthropist**.
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INTERNATIONAL

India and France Elected as Leaders of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- **India** and **France** have been elected as **President** and **Co-President** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** for the term **2024-2026**.
- The **Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly** is currently being held in **New Delhi**.

Ashish Khanna Appointed as Next Director General of ISA

- **Ashish Khanna** has been selected as the next **Director General** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**.

3rd Edition of World Solar Report Series Launched at ISA 7th Assembly

- The **3rd edition** of the **World Solar Report** series was launched at the **7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance** in **New Delhi**
- This year's release includes **four reports**.
- The reports are:
 1. **World Solar Market Report**
 2. **World Investment Report**
 3. **World Technology Report** and
 4. **Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries**.

About International Solar Alliance (ISA)



- It is a **joint initiative** launched by **India and France** in **2015** at the **UN Climate Change Conference in Paris**.
- The ISA includes **over 120 signatory countries**, primarily those between the **Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn**.
- The main goal of the ISA is to **promote efficient solar energy use** to reduce **fossil fuel dependence**.
- The **ISA headquarters** is located in **Haryana, India**.

Duma Boko Elected President of Botswana

- **Duma Boko** has been elected as the **new president of Botswana**.

About Botswana



- **Botswana** is a **landlocked country** located in **southern Africa**.
- The **Kalahari Desert** covers **over 70%** of Botswana's land area.
- **Gaborone** is the **capital** of Botswana
- Its **currency** is the **Pula**.

Maia Sandu Re-elected as President of Moldova

- **Maia Sandu** has secured a **second term** as **President** of **Moldova**.

About Moldova



- **Moldova** is a **landlocked nation** situated in **Eastern Europe**.
- It shares borders with **Romania** to the **west** and **Ukraine** to the **north, east, and south**.
- The **capital city** of Moldova is **Chişinău**.
- The **official language** is **Romanian**, and its **currency** is the **Moldovan Leu**.

South Africa Introduces TTOS to Boost Tourism from India and China

- **South Africa's government** launched the **Trusted Tour Operator Scheme (TTOS)** to attract more visitors from **India and China**.
- The scheme aims to **simplify and expedite the visa application process** for tourists from these countries.

About South Africa



- **South Africa** is located at the **southern tip of the African continent**
- **Cape Town, Pretoria, and Bloemfontein** serve as South Africa's legislative, administrative, and judicial capitals, respectively.
- **Cyril Ramaphosa** is the **President of South Africa**.
- Its national currency is the **South African rand**.

Donald Trump Elected 47th President of the United States

- **Donald Trump** has been elected as the **47th President** of the **United States**.
- Trump made history as the **first president in 120 years** to return to power after being voted out post-first term.
- **JD Vance** will serve as the **Vice President**.
- Trump, representing the **Republican Party**, defeated **Democratic candidate Kamala Harris**.
- **U.S. federal elections** are held every **four years** on the **first Tuesday of November**, a tradition established in **1845**.

DEFENSE

15th Edition of India-US Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR to be Held in Idaho, USA

- The **15th edition** of the **India-US joint Special Forces Exercise, VAJRA PRAHAR**, will be conducted in **Idaho, USA**.
- The **previous edition** took place at **Umroi, Meghalaya** in **2023**.

About India-USA Joint Exercises



- **Yudh Abhyas** is a **joint military exercise**.
- **Vajra Prahar** focuses on **joint special forces training**.
- **Cope India** is a **joint air force exercise** involving both nations.
- **Tiger Triumph** is a **joint disaster relief and humanitarian exercise**.

India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise GARUD SHAKTI 24 Held in Jakarta

- **GARUD SHAKTI 24** is a **joint special forces exercise** between **India and Indonesia**.
- The **9th edition** is currently being held in **Jakarta, Indonesia**.
- The **Indian Army contingent** for this exercise includes **The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)**.

5th Edition of Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise VINBAX 2024 Begins

- The **5th edition** of the **Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise, VINBAX 2024**, has started.
- The exercise will take place at **Ambala and Chandimandir** in **Haryana**.
- The focus of the exercise is on the **deployment of engineer units and medical teams**.

About Vietnam



- **Vietnam** is a **Southeast Asian country**.
- The **capital of Vietnam** is **Hanoi**.
- The currency of Vietnam is the **Vietnamese Dong**.
- **Ho Chi Minh City** (formerly **Saigon**) is known for **French colonial landmarks** and **Vietnam War history museums**.

India Conducts Tri-Service Military Exercise 'Poorvi Prahaar' on Eastern Border

- **India** has launched a **tri-services military exercise** named **'Poorvi Prahaar'**.

- The exercise aims to **test the readiness of the Army, Navy, and Air Force** along India's eastern border.
- **Recent disengagement at friction points in eastern Ladakh** prompted the exercise, specifically areas like **Depsang** and **Demchok**.

About Indian Army



- The **Indian Army** was established in **1895**.
- There are **7 commands** currently employed within the **Indian Army**.
- The **Commander-in-Chief** of the **Indian Army** is **Smt. Droupadi Murmu**.
- **General Upendra Dwivedi** serves as the **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)**.
- **General Bipin Rawat** was the **first Chief of Defence Staff**.
- The **current Chief of Defence Staff** is **General Anil Chauhan**.
- **India** celebrates **Army Day** on **January 15** every year.

AUSTRAHIND Military Exercise: India and Australia Collaborate on Semi-Urban Operations

- **AUSTRAHIND** is a **joint military exercise** conducted alternately in **India and Australia**.
- The **third edition** of AUSTRAHIND began in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- The exercise aims to **enhance interoperability** for operations in **semi-urban and semi-desert terrain**.

Other India-Australia Defense Exercises



- **AUSINDEX**: A **bilateral maritime exercise** between the **Indian Navy** and the **Royal Australian Navy**.
- **Exercise Pitch Black**: A **multinational air exercise** hosted by **Australia**, with participation from the **Indian Air Force**.
- **Exercise Malabar**: A **multilateral naval exercise** involving **India, Australia, Japan, and the United States**, focusing on **maritime security**.

CELEBRATION

India Observes National Unity Day on October 31 to Honor Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

- **National Unity Day** is celebrated on **October 31** to commemorate **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's** birth anniversary.

About Sardar Patel



- **Sardar Patel** was born on **October 31, 1875**, in **Nadiad, Gujarat**.
- He served as **India's first Home Minister** and **Deputy Prime Minister**.
- Known as the **real unifier of India**, Patel played a key role in integrating the nation.
- Women of **Bardoli** honored him with the title '**Sardar**'.
- Referred to as the '**Patron saint of India's civil servants**', he laid the foundation for the **modern all-India services system**.

Karnataka Celebrates Bali Padyami Festival

- **Bali Padyami**, also known as **Bali Pratipada**, is celebrated in Karnataka as part of the **Deepavali** festival.
- It falls on the **fourth day of Deepavali** and honors the return of **Asura King Bali Chakravarty** from **Pathala Loka (netherworld)** to **Bhuloka (Earth)**.
- This day symbolizes **prosperity** and **well-being**, commemorating the legend of King Bali's reign and return.

Ningol Chakkouba Festival

- **Ningol Chakkouba** is a major festival of the **Meitei community** in **Manipur**.
 - It is celebrated on the **second day** of the **lunar month of Hiyangei** in the **Meitei calendar**.
 - The festival symbolizes **family bonds** and **togetherness**, where married daughters are invited to their parental homes for a feast.
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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Typhoon Kong-rey Makes Landfall in Taiwan

- Typhoon Kong-rey made **landfall in Taiwan**.
- It is the **largest typhoon** to directly impact the region in nearly **30 years**.

About Typhoons



- Typhoons are **tropical cyclones** occurring in the **Northwestern Pacific Ocean**.
- These impact areas like **Japan, China, and the Philippines**.
- Typhoons are known for **strong winds, heavy rain, and destructive storm surges**.

ISRO Launches Analogue Space Mission in Leh to Simulate Extraterrestrial Conditions

- **ISRO** announced the launch of an **analogue space mission** in **Leh, Ladakh**.
- The mission will **simulate challenges** astronauts may face in **extreme conditions** to prepare for **future exploration missions**.
- **Ladakh's unique climate and geography** make it suitable for **replicating conditions** similar to those on **Mars and the Moon**.

Cairn Oil & Gas Joins UN Environment Programme's OGMP 2.0 to Reduce Methane Emissions

- **Cairn Oil & Gas**, a part of the **Vedanta Group**, has become the first oil and gas producer in India to join the **United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0**.
- By signing the agreement, **Cairn** has committed to **reducing methane emissions** effectively.

About Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0



- **OGMP 2.0** provides a robust framework with best practices for **methane emissions management**.
- The initiative aims to enhance the **accuracy** and **quality** of **emissions data**.
- **OGMP 2.0** currently covers over **40% of global oil and gas production**.

About United Nations Environment Programme



- The **UNEP** coordinates responses to environmental issues **within the United Nations** system.
- **UNEP** was founded in **1972** by Canadian philanthropist **Maurice Strong**.
- It was formed following the **United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Conference)**.

ISRO to Launch EU's Proba-3 Solar Mission

- **ISRO** will launch the **European Union's Proba-3 Solar Observation Mission** in **December** from **Sriharikota**.
- The **Proba-3 satellite** will study the **Sun's faint corona**, which is the **outermost part of the Sun's atmosphere**.

About Sun's Corona



- It is usually hidden by the bright light of the **Sun's surface**.
- It can be observed during a **total solar eclipse**.
- The **corona** is about **10 million times less dense** than the **Sun's surface**, making it much dimmer.

ISRO's Space Goals



- **India** aims to send the **first Indian to the Moon** by **2040**.
- India also plans to establish the **Bharatiya Antariksha Station (Indian Space Station)** by **2035**.

Zimbabwe Launches Second Satellite ZIMSAT-2 to Boost Space Programme

- **Zimbabwe** has launched its **second satellite, ZIMSAT-2**, from **Russia**.
- ZIMSAT-2 is equipped with a **high-resolution camera** which will support **agriculture, resource mapping, and disaster management** efforts in Zimbabwe.
- ZIMSAT-2 follows the successful launch of Zimbabwe's **first satellite, ZIMSAT-1**.

World's First Wooden Satellite: LignoSat

- **LignoSat** is the world's first **wooden satellite** launched by **Japanese scientists**.
- It was developed by **Kyoto University** in collaboration with **Sumitomo Forestry**.
- The satellite uses **honoki wood** and is designed to test the **resilience of wood** in the extreme conditions of **space**.

Other Satellite Related GK



- **Aryabhata**: India's first satellite, launched in **1975** from **Kapustin Yar**, Russia.
- **Rohini RS-1**: India's first **indigenous satellite**, launched in **1980**.
- **APPLE**: India's first **communication satellite**, launched in **1981**.
- **Sputnik 1**: The world's first artificial satellite, launched by the **Soviet Union** in **1957**.

Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki Erupts on Indonesia's Flores Island

- **Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki** on **Flores Island**, Indonesia, recently erupted.
- **Indonesia** is highly susceptible to volcanic eruptions due to its location on the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.

About the Pacific Ring of Fire



- The **Ring of Fire** is a chain of **underwater volcanoes** and **earthquake-prone areas** along the **Pacific Ocean's edges**.
- It is also known as the **Circum-Pacific belt**.
- Much of the volcanic activity here occurs along **subduction zones**, where **tectonic plates converge**.

SPORTS

India Wins 3 Gold Medals at Inaugural U19 World Boxing Championships

- The inaugural **U19 World Championships** was organized by **World Boxing** in **Colorado, USA**.
- **Parthavi Grewal** won **gold** in the **women's 65kg** category.
- **Vanshika Goswami** clinched **gold** in the **women's 80kg** category.
- **Hemant Sangwan** secured the **sole gold medal** in the **men's category**.
- **Indian boxers** achieved a total of **17 medals** in the tournament.

About World Boxing



- **World Boxing** is an **international sports organization** regulating **amateur boxing**.
- The organization's **headquarters** is located in **Renes**.
- **World Boxing** was formed in **2023**.
- Its formation followed a breakdown in relations between the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** and the **Russian-led International Boxing Association (IBA)**.

Wriddhiman Saha Announces Retirement from All Formats of Cricket

- **Wriddhiman Saha** is an **Indian wicketkeeper-batter**.
- He has officially announced his **retirement from all formats of cricket**.

Mandeep Jangra Becomes First Indian World Champion in Pro-Boxing

- Indian boxer **Mandeep Jangra** claimed the **World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title**.
- The event was held in the **Cayman Islands**.
- Mandeep is the **first Indian boxer** to become a **world champion in any pro-boxing event category**.

4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament Held in Drass, Ladakh

- The **4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024** tournament took place at the **newly constructed Polo Stadium** in **Goshan, Drass**.
- The event was organized by the **Department of Youth Services and Sports** of **Union Territory Ladakh**.

Max Verstappen Wins Brazil Grand Prix

- **Max Verstappen** won the **Brazil Grand Prix**.
- This brings him closer to a **fourth consecutive world title**.

About Brazilian Grand Prix



- The **Brazilian Grand Prix** is currently known as the **São Paulo Grand Prix**.
- It is a key **Formula One** championship race, held at the **Interlagos Circuit** in **São Paulo**.

Three-Year-Old Anish Sarkar Becomes World's Youngest-Rated Chess Player

- **Anish Sarkar**, a **three-year-old** from **Kolkata**, has become the **world's youngest-rated player**.
- He achieved an impressive initial **FIDE** rating of **1555**.

About FIDE



- The **International Chess Federation** is known by its **French acronym FIDE**.
- **FIDE** is an **international organization** that governs **international chess competitions**.
- The organization connects **national chess federations** worldwide.
- **FIDE headquarters** is located in **Lausanne, Switzerland**.

Alexander Zverev Wins Second Masters 1000 Title of 2024 at Rolex Paris Masters

- **Alexander Zverev**, the **German tennis star** from **Hamburg**, claimed his **second Masters 1000 title** of **2024**.
 - The **2024 Rolex Paris Masters** is a **professional men's tennis tournament** held on **indoor hard courts**.
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AWARDS

Anil Pradhan Receives Rohini Nayar Prize 2024 for Rural Development Contributions

- **Anil Pradhan** has been awarded the **Rohini Nayar Prize** for **2024**.
- The **Rohini Nayar Prize** honors **young leaders under 40** who contribute significantly to **rural development in India**.
- The prize was established in memory of **Rohini Nayar**, an **economist** and former **IAS officer** who served with the **Planning Commission of India**.

About Anil Pradhan



- **Anil Pradhan** is the **co-founder of the Young Tinker Foundation**.
 - He received the award for his efforts in promoting **STEM education for underserved communities**.
-

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes to Become Secretary General of World Agriculture Forum (WAF)

- **Dr. Jacqueline d'Arros Hughes** will assume the role of **Secretary General** of the **World Agriculture Forum (WAF)**.

About World Agriculture Forum



- The **WAF** is a global platform that **promote sustainable agricultural development**.
 - Based in **St. Louis, Missouri**, WAF is a **not-for-profit public benefit corporation**.
-

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Tsunami Awareness Day Observed on November 5

- **World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD)** is observed every year on **November 5** to promote **tsunami awareness** and **preparedness worldwide**.
- The theme for **World Tsunami Awareness Day 2024** is “**Building Resilient Communities.**”

About Inamura-no-hi



- **November 5** was chosen to commemorate the story of “**Inamura-no-hi**” (**The Burning of the Rice Sheaves**).
- In this story, a **Japanese villager** set **fire to his rice stacks** as a **warning** to his neighbors, saving their lives from an impending tsunami.

About Tsunamis



- **Tsunamis** are **long, high sea waves** generated primarily by **underwater earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, or landslides**.
- Unlike typical ocean waves, tsunamis have **long wavelengths**, making them particularly **dangerous**.

National Cancer Awareness Day Observed on November 7

- **National Cancer Awareness Day** is observed annually on **November 7**.
- The date aligns with the **birth anniversary of Marie Curie**.
- **India's fight against cancer** began in **1975** with the **National Cancer Control Programme**.

About Marie Curie



- **Marie Curie** was the **first woman to win a Nobel Prize**.
- She was also the **first person to win two Nobel Prizes**.
- Curie remains the **only woman to win in two different fields** and the **only person to win in multiple sciences**.
- She won her **first Nobel Prize in Physics** in **1903** with **Pierre Curie** and **Henri Becquerel** for discovering **radioactivity**.
- In **1911**, she won the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** for discovering the elements **radium** and **polonium**.

World Radiology Day Celebrated on November 8 to Honor X-ray Discoverer Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen

- **World Radiology Day** is celebrated annually on **November 8**.
- The day honors **Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen**, the **German physicist** who discovered **X-rays** in **1895**.
- The theme for **2024** is “**Radiographers: Seeing the Unseen**”.

About Radiology



- **Radiology** is a **medical imaging technique** that uses **X-rays** to capture images of **bones, tissues, blood vessels, and organs**.
- **X-rays** are a type of **electromagnetic radiation** with **higher energy levels** than visible light.
- Due to their **penetrating power**, X-rays are widely used in **medical imaging**.

World Science Day for Peace and Development Celebrated on November 10

- **World Science Day for Peace and Development** is celebrated annually on **November 10**.
- It has been organized by **UNESCO** since **2001** to **connect science with society**.
- The **2024 theme** is “**Youth at the Forefront**.”
- This theme aligns with the **UN General Assembly’s** recent declaration of the **International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024-2033)**.

International Week of Science and Peace



- **International Week of Science and Peace (IWOSP)** is observed every year from **November 9 to 15**.
- The week promotes the role of **science and technology in advancing global peace and cooperation**.
- IWOSP was first celebrated in **1986** during the **International Year of Peace**.

PERSONALITIES

Renowned Indian Designer Rohit Bal Passes Away

- **Rohit Bal** was an **iconic Indian fashion designer**.
 - He recently **passed away**, leaving a significant legacy in Indian fashion.
-

Economist Bibek Debroy, Chairman of EAC-PM, Passes Away

- **Bibek Debroy**, a **prominent economist** and **chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM)**, has passed away.

About EAC-PM



- The **EAC-PM** is an **independent advisory body** established to provide **economic advice to the government**, especially to the **prime minister**.
-

Legendary Folk Singer Sharda Sinha, “Bihar Kokila,” Passes Away

- **Sharda Sinha**, also known as the “**Bihar Kokila**” or “**Nightingale of Bihar**”, has passed away.
 - She was lovingly called the “**Voice of Bihar**”.
 - Sharda Sinha was known for her beautiful songs in **Maithili**, **Bhojpuri**, and **Magadhi**.
-

MISCELLANEOUS

Australia to Ban Social Media Access for Children Under 16

- **Australia** will implement a **ban on social media access for children under 16**, starting in **November**.
- The responsibility will be on **social media platforms** to show they are taking **reasonable steps to prevent access** by underage users.
- This move aims to **hold tech companies accountable** for creating a **safer online environment** for children.

About Australia



- **Australia** is the **only continent** in the world **without an active volcano**.
- It has a **constitutional monarchy** with a **parliamentary system**, recognizing the **British monarch as head of state**.
- **Canberra** is the **capital city** of Australia.
- **Anthony Albanese** is the **Prime Minister** of Australia.
- The **Australian dollar (AUD)** is the **official currency** of Australia.

IIT Delhi Ranks 44th in QS World University Rankings

- The **QS World University Rankings** is a portfolio of **college and university rankings** by **Quacquarelli Symonds**, a higher education analytics firm.
- A total of **161 Indian universities** are included among the **984 institutions ranked** across **Asia**.
- **6 Indian institutions** are in the **top 100** in Asia.
- **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD)** leads among Indian universities, securing the **44th place** in Asia.
- **Peking University** in **China** has topped the list for the **second consecutive year**.

Bengaluru Launches First Digital Population Clock at ISEC

- **Bengaluru** inaugurated its **first digital population clock** at the **Institute for Social and Economic Change (ISEC)**.
 - The clock will show **real-time population estimates** for **Karnataka and India**.
 - This project is a **collaboration between ISEC and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)**.
 - It is part of a **MoHFW initiative** to install population clocks at **18 Population Research Centres (PRCs)** across India.
-