

CURRENT AFFAIRS

02 to 08 December 2024



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

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National

PM Modi to Launch Bima Sakhi Yojana for Women LIC Agents

Keywords: Bima Sakhi Yojana; Panipat; Haryana; women LIC agents; insurance services; LIC.

- **Scheme Launch:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the **Bima Sakhi Yojana** in **Panipat, Haryana**.
 - **Women Empowerment:** Women selected under the scheme will work as **LIC agents**, providing **insurance services** in their communities.
 - **Executing Authority:** The scheme will be implemented by the **Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)**.
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India's First Vertical Lift Sea Bridge, New Pamban Bridge, Opens

Keywords: New Pamban Bridge; India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge; Rameswaram; Tamil Nadu; vertical lift bridge; connectivity; movable bridge.

- **Project Overview:** The **New Pamban Bridge** is India's **first vertical lift railway sea bridge**.
 - **Connectivity:** It enhances **connectivity** between the **Indian mainland** and **Rameswaram** in **Tamil Nadu**.
 - **Bridge Mechanism:** A vertical lift bridge **raises a section vertically** to allow boats or **vessels to pass** underneath.
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Ratapani Tiger Reserve Declared India's 57th Tiger Reserve

Keywords: Ratapani Tiger Reserve; Madhya Pradesh; 57th Tiger Reserve; 8th in Madhya Pradesh; Tiger State of India; Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla; Chhattisgarh.

- **New Tiger Reserve:** **Ratapani Tiger Reserve** in **Madhya Pradesh** has been declared as **India's 57th Tiger Reserve**.
- **State's Contribution:** It is the **8th tiger reserve** in Madhya Pradesh, which is known as the **"Tiger State of India."**
- **Previous Addition:** **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve** in **Chhattisgarh** was recently notified as **India's 56th Tiger Reserve**.

About Tiger Reserve



- **Project Tiger:** Project Tiger was launched in **1973** with **nine tiger reserves** to conserve tigers.
- **Core-Buffer Strategy:** A **tiger reserve** is based on a **core-buffer strategy**, separating critical habitats and adjoining areas.
- **First Tiger Reserve:** The **Corbett Tiger Reserve** in **Uttarakhand**, established in **1973**, was one of the first under Project Tiger.
- **Largest Tiger Reserve:** The **Nagarjunasagar-Srisaileam Tiger Reserve** in **Andhra Pradesh** is the **largest** in India.
- **Smallest Tiger Reserve:** The **Bor Tiger Reserve** in **Maharashtra** is the **smallest** in the country.
- **Global Tiger Day:** The world observes **Global Tiger Day** on **July 29** every year.
- **National Animal:** The **tiger** became **India's national animal** in **1973**, replacing the lion.

SheSTEM 2024: Celebrating Women in STEM and Encouraging Innovation

Keywords: SheSTEM 2024; Atal Innovation Mission (AIM); Swedish Embassy; women in STEM; India-Nordic BEST project.

- **Event Details:** Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and the Swedish Embassy organized **SheSTEM 2024**.
- **Purpose:** This annual initiative celebrates the **contributions** of **women in STEM**.
- **Challenge Focus:** Under the **India-Nordic BEST project**, the **SheSTEM 2024 challenge** invited **school students** to submit innovative ideas on **Battery Technology and Energy Storage (BEST)**.
- **STEM Definition:** **STEM** stands for **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics** and focuses on fields essential for solving global challenges.

About Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)



- **Establishment:** The **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)** was set up by **NITI Aayog** in 2016.
- **Objective:** It aims to create and foster an environment of **innovation and entrepreneurship**.
- **Programs:** AIM supports its objectives through four key programs:
 - **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs):** Encourages innovation among students.
 - **Atal Incubation Centres (AICs):** Supports startups through mentorship and resources.
 - **Atal New India Challenges:** Focuses on technological solutions to national challenges.
 - **Atal Grand Challenges:** Drives ambitious innovations addressing large-scale issues.

Ministry of Consumer Affairs Launches National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap)

Keywords: Ministry of Consumer Affairs; National Legal Metrology Portal; eMaap; digital platform; measuring instruments.

- **Portal Introduction:** The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs** is launching the **National Legal Metrology Portal (eMaap)**.
- **Main Objective:** The portal aims to **promote fair trade practices** and enhance **consumer protection**.
- **Digital Platform:** eMaap will serve as a **digital one-stop platform**, providing easy access to **legal metrology services**.
- **What is Legal Metrology?:** **Legal metrology** refers to the system of **laws and regulations** that govern the use of **measuring instruments** and units of measurement.

India Declares Snakebite a Notifiable Disease to Combat Snakebite Deaths

Keywords: India; snakebite; notifiable disease; healthcare facilities; WHO target; global snakebite deaths; Karnataka; Tamil Nadu; Dahanu model; ICMR; snakebite mortality reduction.

- **National Declaration:** India has declared **snakebite** a **notifiable disease** at the national level.
- **Reporting Requirement:** All **healthcare facilities** must report **suspected or confirmed snakebite cases** and deaths.
- **WHO Alignment:** This decision aligns with the **WHO's target** to **halve global snakebite deaths** and injuries by **2030**.
- **Global Impact:** Dubbed the “**snakebite capital of the world**,” India accounts for nearly **50% of global snakebite deaths**.
- **State Initiatives:** **Karnataka** and **Tamil Nadu** had already declared **snakebites** as **notifiable diseases**.

About Dahanu Model



- **Dahanu Model:** The **Dahanu model** is a successful **snakebite management program** implemented in **Dahanu block, Maharashtra**.
- **Model Development:** The model was developed by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.
- **Methods:** The **Dahanu model's methods** include **community awareness, training healthcare workers, and ensuring anti-venom supply**.
- **Success Rate:** The **Dahanu model** achieved a **90% reduction in snakebite mortality**.

India Launches 'Anna Chakra' and SCAN Portals for Food Distribution Optimization

Keywords: Anna Chakra; SCAN portal; Public Distribution System; WFP; FITT IIT-Delhi; World Food Programme.

- **Anna Chakra Tool:** The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** launched Anna Chakra, a **PDS supply chain optimization tool**, developed with **WFP** and **FITT, IIT-Delhi**.
- **Technology Utilized:** It uses **advanced algorithms** to identify **optimal routes** and ensure smooth **food grain distribution** across supply chain nodes.
- **SCAN Portal:** The **SCAN (Subsidy Claim Application for NFSA)** portal allows **states** to submit **subsidy claims**, ensure claim scrutiny, and secure approvals via a **single window**.
- **World Food Programme (WFP):** WFP, a **United Nations branch**, focuses on **hunger eradication** and **global food security**.

- **Public Distribution System (PDS):** The **PDS** provides essential food items at **subsidized rates** to the poor in India.
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State

Gujarat's Gharchola Saree Awarded Geographical Indication (GI) Tag

Keywords: Gharchola; Gujarat; Geographical Indication; Geographical Indications of Goods Act 1999; DIPIT; 10 years protection.

- **Awarded GI Tag:** Gharchola, a traditional saree from **Gujarat**, has been awarded the **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag by the **Union government**.
- **Traditional Use:** Gharchola is a traditional saree worn during **Hindu and Jain weddings**.

About Geographical Indication (GI) Tag



- **GI Tags:** GI tags are intellectual property rights used to identify a product's unique **geographical source**.
- **Legal Framework:** The registration and protection of GIs are governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999**.
- **GI Registry:** The **Geographical Indication Registry**, a division of **DIPIT**, is responsible for **issuing GI tags**.
- **Protection Duration:** The protection for GI tags lasts for an initial period of **10 years** and can be **renewed indefinitely**.
- **Application Process:** Any **trader's group, association**, or organization can apply for a **GI tag**.

Arunachal Pradesh Launches Mission Arun Himveer to Support Local Farmers

Keywords: Mission Arun Himveer; Arunachal Pradesh; ITBP; MoU.

- **Mission Launch:** The Government of **Arunachal Pradesh** has launched **Mission Arun Himveer**.
- **Objective:** The mission aims to **enhance market linkages** for local **agricultural and horticultural producers**.
- **Direct Purchases:** Under the agreement, the **ITBP** will purchase directly from **local farmers** through **Arunachal Pradesh Agriculture Marketing Board (APAMB)**.

About the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)



- **Establishment:** The ITBP was established in **1962** following the **Sino-Indian War**.
- **CAPF Membership:** ITBP is one of India's seven **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)**.
- **Role:** ITBP functions as a **border patrol force** along India's borders with the **Tibet Autonomous Region**.
- **Slogan:** The slogan of the ITBP is "**Shaurya-Dridhata-Karma Nishtha**", meaning "**Valour – Determination – Devotion to Duty**."
- **Raising Day:** The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** celebrates its **Raising Day** on **October 24** every year.

Telangana Joins India's Mineral Auction Regime with Limestone Block Auctions

Keywords: Telangana; limestone blocks; Sultanpur; Saidulnama; 13th state; mineral auction regime.

- **Limestone Block Auction:** Telangana auctioned two **limestone blocks** located at **Sultanpur** and **Saidulnama**.
- **Participation in Auction Regime:** Telangana became the **13th state** in India to participate in the **mineral auction regime**.
- **About the Auction Regime:** India's **mineral auction regime** ensures a **transparent process** for granting **mineral concessions** through **auctions**.

Uttar Pradesh Declares Maha Kumbh Mela District in Prayagraj

Keywords: Uttar Pradesh; Maha Kumbh Mela district; Prayagraj; preparations; logistics; law enforcement; Adi Shankara; 12 years; Brihaspati revolution; pilgrimage sites.

- **New District:** The **Uttar Pradesh government** has declared the **Maha Kumbh area** in **Prayagraj** as a new district, named the **Maha Kumbh Mela district**.
- **Purpose:** The new district aims to streamline **preparations**, manage **logistics**, and ensure efficient **law enforcement** for the Maha Kumbh.

About Maha Kumbh



- **Hindu Festival:** The **Maha Kumbh** is a major **Hindu pilgrimage** and **festival**, celebrated approximately every **12 years**.
- **Historical Credit:** The festival is traditionally credited to **Adi Shankara**, an **8th-century Hindu philosopher and saint**.
- **Astronomical Cycle:** The Maha Kumbh is linked to the completion of a **Brihaspati revolution**.
- **Pilgrimage Sites:** It is hosted at **four river-bank** pilgrimage sites:
 - **Prayagraj (Allahabad):** Confluence of **Ganges, Yamuna, and Sarasvati rivers**.
 - **Haridwar:** On the **Ganges**.
 - **Nashik:** On the **Godavari**.
 - **Ujjain:** On the **Shipra**.

Karnataka Mandates Scientific Study of Rare Handigodu Disease

Keywords: Karnataka government; Handigodu disease; scientific study; rare genetic disorder; nervous system; muscle weakness.

- **Government Action:** The **Karnataka government** has mandated a **scientific study** of **Handigodu disease**.
- **Disease Overview:** **Handigodu disease** is a **rare genetic disorder**.
- **Effects:** It impacts the **nervous system**, leading to **muscle weakness** and **skeletal issues**.

UNESCO Recognizes West Bengal as a Top Heritage Tourism Destination

Keywords: UNESCO; West Bengal; heritage tourism; Paris; 1945; Audrey Azoulay.

- **Heritage Recognition:** UNESCO has recognized **West Bengal** as a **top destination** for **heritage tourism**.
- **Tourism Progress:** West Bengal has made significant progress in **religious, heritage, and tea tourism**.

About UNESCO



- **Overview:** The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** is a **specialized agency** of the **United Nations**.
- **Objective:** UNESCO aims to build **peace through international cooperation** in education, sciences, and culture.
- **Headquarters:** UNESCO's headquarters are located in **Paris, France**.
- **Non-UN Members:** Three **UNESCO member states**—**Cook Islands, Niue, and Palestine**—are not UN members.
- **Establishment Year:** UNESCO was founded in the year **1945**.
- **India's Membership:** **India** has been a **UNESCO member country** since **1946**.

Assam Imposes Complete Ban on Public Consumption of Beef

Keywords: Assam; beef ban; public places; Article 48; Constitution of India.

- **Beef Ban in Assam:** The **Assam government** has imposed a **complete ban** on the serving and consumption of **beef in public places** across the state.
 - **Amended Legislation:** The ban is implemented by **amending** the **Assam Cattle Preservation Act of 2021**.
 - **Constitutional Provision:** **Article 48** of the **Constitution of India** directs states to **prohibit the slaughter** of **cows, calves, and other milch and draught cattle**.
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Economy

India Secures \$98 Million ADB Loan for Horticulture Development

Keywords: India; \$98 million; Asian Development Bank; horticulture; Clean Plant Programme; CPP; disease-free; NHB; ICAR; 9 Clean Plant Centers.

- **Loan Agreement:** India signed a **\$98 million loan** agreement with the **Asian Development Bank** to boost **horticulture productivity**.
- **Focus Area:** The funding aims to establish **disease-free planting material systems**.
- **CPP Alignment:** It supports the **Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Programme (CPP)**.

About Clean Plant Programme (CPP)



- **CPP Objective:** The programme ensures access to **virus-free, high-quality planting material** for farmers.
- **Implementation:** The programme is executed by the **National Horticulture Board (NHB)** and **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)**.
- **Infrastructure Setup:** **9** state-of-the-art **Clean Plant Centers (CPCs)** is being set up under the CPP.

Singapore Tops FDI Inflows to India in July-September 2024

Keywords: Singapore; FDI; India; 50% contribution; Tharman Shanmugaratnam; 1819; Sir Stamford Raffles; port of call; Temasek.

- **FDI Source:** **Singapore** was the **largest contributor** of FDI to India in the **July-September 2024**.
- **Percentage Contribution:** Singapore contributed **50%** of the **total FDI inflows** to India during this period.

About Singapore



- **Location:** Singapore is an **island country** in **Southeast Asia**.
- **Currency:** The currency of Singapore is the **Singapore dollar**.
- **President:** The current president of Singapore is **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**.
- **Founding:** Modern Singapore was founded in **1819** by **Sir Stamford Raffles**.
- **Strategic Importance:** Singapore is known as the **port of call** because it lies on the **main sea route**.
- **Historical Name:** **Temasek** is the old name of Singapore.

Uber Launches Asia's First Water Transport Service, Uber Shikara

Keywords: Uber Shikara; Asia's first water transport service; Dal Lake; Srinagar;

- **Service Overview:** Uber has launched **Asia's first water transport service**, called **Uber Shikara**, in **Dal Lake**, Srinagar.
- **Objective:** It aims to provide **easier, tech-enabled access** to the lake's **traditional shikara rides**.

About Dal Lake



- **Location:** Dal Lake is located in **Srinagar**, the **summer capital** of Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Geographical Setting:** Dal Lake lies between the **Great Himalayas** and the **Pir Panjal range**.
- **Freshwater Source:** It is an important **freshwater lake** in the region.
- **Title:** It is famously known as the **"Jewel in the Crown of Kashmir"**.
- **Houseboats:** Dal Lake is renowned for its **houseboats**, called **Shikaras**.
- **Floating Gardens:** The lake features **floating gardens**, known as **"Raad"** in Kashmiri.

RBI Increases UPI Lite Wallet and Transaction Limits

Keywords: RBI; UPI Lite; wallet limit Rs 5,000; per-transaction limit Rs 1,000

- **Increased Wallet Limit:** The **RBI** has raised the **UPI Lite wallet limit** to **Rs 5,000**.
- **Transaction Limit Increased:** The **per-transaction limit** for UPI Lite has been increased to **Rs 1,000**.
- **What is UPI Lite?:** **UPI Lite** is an **online wallet** within the **UPI app**, allowing transactions without using a **UPI PIN**.

About Unified Payments Interface (UPI)



- **What is UPI?:** The UPI is an **Indian instant payment system and protocol**.
- **Developer of UPI:** UPI was developed by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- **Connection to IMPS:** UPI is an **advanced version** of the **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)**, offering **round-the-clock** cashless payments..
- **First Foreign Adopter:** **Nepal** is the first foreign country to adopt **India's UPI system**.

RBI December 2024 MPC Meeting: Key Updates on Monetary Policy

Keywords: RBI; MPC meeting; CRR 4%; Repo Rate 6.5%; SDF 6.25%; MSF 6.75%; GDP growth 6.6%; SORR; MIBOR replacement.

- **CRR Adjustment:** The **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** was reduced by **50 basis points** to **4%**.
- **Repo Rate:** The **Repo Rate** remained unchanged at **6.5%**.
- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):** The **SDF rate** was retained at **6.25%**.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** The **MSF rate** remained steady at **6.75%**.
- **GDP Forecast Update:** The **GDP growth forecast** for **FY25** was revised downward to **6.6%** from the previous projection of **7.2%**.
- **New Interest Rate Benchmark:** The RBI proposed replacing **MIBOR** with the **Secured Overnight Rupee Rate (SORR)** to improve **market pricing mechanisms** and increase **monetary transparency**.

Key Monetary Terms Simplified



- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** The **percentage of a bank's deposits** required to be **kept as reserves with the central bank**, ensuring liquidity in the banking system.
- **Repo Rate:** The **interest rate** at which the **central bank lends money** to commercial banks, influencing the **cost of borrowing** in the economy.
- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):** A mechanism where **banks can deposit** their **surplus funds** with the central bank **without collateral**, aiding liquidity management.
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF):** An **emergency borrowing tool** for banks to obtain **overnight funds** from the central bank at a rate **higher than the repo rate**.
- **MIBOR (Mumbai Interbank Offered Rate):** A **benchmark interest rate** reflecting the cost of interbank borrowing in the **Indian short-term market**.

Summits & Reports

New Delhi to Host 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14)

Keywords: AOMSUC-14; New Delhi; IMD; Ministry of Earth Sciences; satellite meteorology; Beijing 2010; 1875; Ladakh.

- **Conference Venue:** The **14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14)** is scheduled to take place in **New Delhi, India**.
- **Organizing Body:** The event is hosted by the **IMD** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**.
- **About AOMSUC:** The conference serves as a **platform for knowledge-sharing** and collaboration in the field of **satellite meteorology**.
- **First Edition:** The inaugural **AOMSUC** was held in **Beijing, China**, in **2010**.

About India Meteorological Department (IMD)



- **IMD Establishment:** The **IMD** was established in **1875** and is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- **IMD's Functions:** It is the principal agency for **meteorological observations**, **weather forecasting**, and **seismology** in India.
- **Global Role:** The **IMD** is one of the **six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres** of the **World Meteorological Organization**.
- **Notable Initiative:** The IMD inaugurated **India's highest Meteorological Center** in **Ladakh**.

16th UNCCD COP Begins in Riyadh with Theme 'Our Land, Our Future'

Keywords: 16th COP; UNCCD; Riyadh; West Asia; land degradation neutrality; Changwon Initiative; Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam; Mission LiFE; Aravalli Green Wall Project; 1996; 1992 Rio Earth Summit.

- **Event Overview:** The **16th Conference of the Parties (COP)** of the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)** commenced in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
- **Regional Milestone:** This is the convention's **first-ever session** in **West Asia**.

- **Theme:** The conference theme is “**Our Land. Our Future.**”
- **UNCCD History:** The UNCCD, one of the three agreements from the **1992 Rio Earth Summit**, came into effect in **1996**.
- **Frequency:** The conference is held **biennially**.
- **Objective:** The COP focuses on achieving **land degradation neutrality (LDN)** under the **Changwon Initiative**, launched in **2011**.

Indian Initiatives



- **Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam:** A **sapling** was planted at the **Indian Embassy in Riyadh**, promoting **eco-consciousness**.
- **Mission LiFE Engagement:** Indian students were encouraged to adopt **sustainable practices** under **Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)**.
- **Aravalli Green Wall Project:** This flagship initiative aims to restore **1.15 million hectares of degraded land** across **four states** in India.

Chennai to Host World Maritime Technology Conference 2024

Keywords: Chennai; World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC); 2024; maritime technology; Institute of Marine Engineers (India); Chennai Branch.

- **Event Name:** The **World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC)** will be hosted in **Chennai** in 2024.
- **Frequency:** The conference is held **every three years** to share knowledge on **innovation and advancements in maritime technology**.
- **Host Organization:** The **Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Chennai Branch** will host the event.

International

Australia Bans Social Media Use for Children Under 16

Keywords: Australia; social media law; under 16 ban; compliance; active volcano; constitutional monarchy; Canberra; Anthony Albanese; AUD.

- **New Law:** Australia enacted a **world-first law** banning children under **16 years** from using **social media platforms**.
- **Compliance Period:** Social media companies have **one year** to implement the changes.

About Australia



- **Geography:** Australia is the only continent **without an active volcano**.
- **Government Structure:** Australia has a **constitutional monarchy** with a **parliamentary system**, recognizing the **British monarch** as head of state.
- **Capital:** The capital city of Australia is **Canberra**.
- **Prime Minister:** The Prime Minister of Australia is **Anthony Albanese**.
- **Currency:** The official currency of Australia is the **Australian Dollar (AUD)**.

India-UK to Co-manufacture Electric Propulsion Systems for Warships

Keywords: India; UK; co-manufacture; electric propulsion systems; warships; thrust; electrical power.

- **Agreement:** **India** and the **United Kingdom** have finalized an agreement to **co-manufacture electric propulsion systems** for warships.
- **Technology:** **Electric propulsion systems** use **electrical power** to generate **thrust** for accelerating a propellant.

India Re-Elected to the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for 2025-2026

Keywords: India; United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC); 2025-2026 term; founding member; 6000 personnel; 2005; 31 Member States.

- **Re-Election:** India has been re-elected to the **United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)** for the **2025-2026 term**.
- **Founding Role:** India has been a **founding member** of the PBC and instrumental in shaping its **strategies** since its inception.
- **UN Peacekeeping Contribution:** India is among the **largest contributors** of uniformed personnel to **UN Peacekeeping** operations, with over **6000 personnel**.

About UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC)



- **Purpose:** The PBC is an **intergovernmental advisory body** created to support **peace initiatives** in **conflict-affected regions**.
- **Establishment:** The **PBC** was established in **2005**.
- **Composition:** The PBC is composed of **31 Member States**, elected from the **General Assembly, Security Council, and Economic and Social Council**.
- **Role:** The PBC acts as a **bridge** between the **UN General Assembly** and the **Security Council** to enhance **coordination** for peacebuilding efforts.

South Korea Reverses Martial Law Amidst Political Tensions

Keywords: South Korea; martial law; Yoon Suk Yeol; Seoul; Won; Yellow Sea; Sea of Japan; Morning Calm; Han Duck-soo; 38th parallel.

- **Declaration of Martial Law:** President Yoon Suk Yeol declared **martial law** in **South Korea** amidst **political tensions** in the **parliament**.
- **Reversal:** The declaration of **martial law** was **later reversed** by the **President**.
- **Reason for Martial Law:** The move came amidst **accusations** by opposition parties of **undermining the government**.

About South Korea



- **Geography:** South Korea is located in **East Asia**, forming the **southern half of the Korean Peninsula**.
- **Borders:** Its **western border** is formed by the **Yellow Sea**, and its **eastern border** is defined by the **Sea of Japan**.
- **Currency:** The official **currency** of South Korea is the **Won**.
- **Capital:** The **capital** of South Korea is **Seoul**.
- **Current President:** The **current president** of South Korea is **Yoon Suk Yeol**.
- **Current Prime Minister:** The **current prime minister** of South Korea is **Han Duck-soo**.
- **Nickname:** South Korea is known as the '**Morning Calm**'.
- **Boundary with North Korea:** The **38th parallel** marks the **boundary** between **North and South Korea**.

India and Kuwait Sign MoU to Establish Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC)

Keywords: India; Kuwait; MoU; Joint Commission for Cooperation; JCC; West Asia; Kuwait City; Persian Gulf; Emir; Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD).

- **Agreement Signed:** India and Kuwait signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish a **Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC)**.
- **Purpose of JCC:** The **JCC** will serve as an **umbrella mechanism** to comprehensively **monitor bilateral ties**.

About Kuwait



- **Location of Kuwait:** Kuwait is situated in **West Asia** at the **northern edge** of the **Arabian Peninsula**, near the **tip of the Persian Gulf**.
- **Capital of Kuwait:** The **capital** of Kuwait is **Kuwait City**.
- **Head of State:** The **head of state** of Kuwait is the **Emir, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**.
- **Currency of Kuwait:** The **official currency** of Kuwait is the **Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD)**.

Defense

India and Cambodia Conduct First-Ever Joint Tabletop Exercise CINBAX

Keywords: Indian Army; Cambodian Army; CINBAX; Pune; tabletop exercise; Southeast Asia; King Norodom Sihamoni; Phnom Penh; Angkor Wat; Suryavarman II; Lord Vishnu; Cambodian Riel.

- **Exercise Overview:** The **Indian Army** and the **Cambodian Army** have begun their first **Joint Tabletop Exercise** called **CINBAX**.
- **Location:** The exercise is being conducted at the **Foreign Training Node** in **Pune**.
- **About Tabletop Exercises:** A **tabletop exercise** is a **discussion-based session** where participants responses to a **simulated emergency** situation.

About Cambodia



- **Location:** Cambodia is in **Southeast Asia**, on the **Indochinese Peninsula**.
- **Leadership:** The current monarch is **King Norodom Sihamoni**.
- **Capital:** The capital city is **Phnom Penh**.
- **Landmark:** **Angkor Wat**, built by **King Suryavarman II**, is dedicated to **Lord Vishnu**.
- **Currency:** The currency of Cambodia is the **Cambodian Riel**.

India-Malaysia Military Exercises HARIMAU SHAKTI Commenced in Malaysia

Keywords: HARIMAU SHAKTI; India-Malaysia exercises; Bentong Camp; counterinsurgency; jungle terrain; Udara Shakti; Malacca Strait; Kinta Valley; tin production; Ringgit; Kuala Lumpur; Putrajaya.

- **Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI:** The **4th edition** of the **India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI** commenced at **Bentong Camp, Malaysia**.
- **Objective:** The exercise focuses on **joint counterinsurgency** efforts in **jungle terrain**.
- **Exercise Udara Shakti:** **Udara Shakti** is a **bilateral air force exercise** between **India and Malaysia**.

About Malaysia



- **Geography:** Malaysia spans the **Malay Peninsula** and part of the island of **Borneo**.
- **Capitals:** **Kuala Lumpur** (Executive) and **Putrajaya** (Administrative).
- **Strait of Malacca:** Separates **Sumatra** from the **Malay Peninsula**.
- **Currency:** The currency is the **Malaysian Ringgit**.
- **Kinta Valley:** The region is famous for its **tin production**.

India's First Indigenous MALE Drone Drishti-10 Starliner Deployed

Keywords: Drishti-10 Starliner; MALE; ISR; Adani Defence; Indian Navy; Porbandar.

- **Drone Name and Type:** **Drishti-10 Starliner** is India's **first indigenous medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE)** drone.
 - **Operational Deployment:** The **Indian Navy** has recently initiated operations with the **second Drishti-10 Starliner drone** at **Porbandar, Gujarat**.
 - **Primary Use:** It serves as an **intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR)** platform.
 - **Manufacturer:** The drone is manufactured by **Adani Defence and Aerospace**.
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Celebrations

30th Kolkata International Film Festival Highlights France as Focus Country

Keywords: Kolkata International Film Festival; 30th edition; France; focus country; contemporary French women filmmakers.

- **Festival Details:** The **30th Kolkata International Film Festival** is set to kick off, celebrating world cinema.
 - **Focus Country:** **France** has been chosen as the **focus country** for this edition.
 - **Special Theme:** The festival highlights **contemporary French women filmmakers** with a special spotlight.
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Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav to Showcase Northeast India's Cultural and Economic Potential

Keywords: Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav; cultural festival; Bharat Mandapam; New Delhi; Northeast India; MDoNER; Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

- **Event Name and Location:** The **Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav**, a **cultural festival**, will be held at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
 - **Objective:** The Mahotsav aims to **showcase the cultural and economic potential** of **Northeast India**.
 - **Organized By:** The event is organized by the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)**.
 - **Mascot:** The mascot '**Purvi**' represents the **rich biodiversity** and natural beauty of **Northeast India**.
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Advocates' Day Honors Dr. Rajendra Prasad's Contributions to India

Keywords: December 3rd; Advocates' Day; Lawyers' of India Day; Dr. Rajendra Prasad; first President of India; 1950–1962; India Divided; Atmakatha.

- **Advocates' Day:** December 3rd is celebrated as **Advocates' Day** or **Lawyers' of India Day** to honor the birth anniversary of **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**.
- **First President:** Dr. Rajendra Prasad was **India's first President**, serving from **1950 to 1962**.

About Dr. Rajendra Prasad



- **Longest-serving President:** He holds the record as **India's longest-serving President**.
- **Constituent Assembly:** He served as the **President of the Constituent Assembly**.
- **Ministerial Role:** In 1946, he became the **first Minister of Food and Agriculture** in the Interim National Government.
- **Books Written:** He authored the book **India Divided** and his autobiography **Atmakatha**.
- **Memorial Award:** The **Dr. Rajendra Prasad Memorial Award** is associated with **public administration**.

Indian Navy Day 2024: Honoring Operation Trident and Naval Excellence

Keywords: Indian Navy Day; December 4; Operation Trident; 1971 Indo-Pak War; 2024 theme; innovation; indigenization; Dinesh Kumar Tripathi; Sham No Varunah; Marcos; Mumbai; Kochi; Visakhapatnam.

- **Observed Date:** **Indian Navy Day** is observed annually on **December 4**.
- **Historical Significance:** It commemorates the success of **Operation Trident** during the **1971 Indo-Pak War**.
- **2024 Theme:** The theme for 2024 is "**Strength and Capability through Innovation and Indigenization**."

About Indian Navy



- **Role in Armed Forces:** The **Indian Navy** is the **naval branch** of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Supreme Commander:** The **President of India** is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy.
- **Current Chief:** **Dinesh Kumar Tripathi** is the current Chief of Naval Staff.
- **Motto:** The Navy's motto is **Sham No Varunah**, meaning "**May the Lord of Water be auspicious unto us.**"
- **Headquarters:** The headquarters of the Indian Navy is located in **New Delhi**.
- **Special Forces:** The **Marine Commandos (Marcos)**, established in **1985**, are the Navy's special force.
- **Operational Commands:** The Navy operates three commands:
 - **Western Command** in **Mumbai**
 - **Southern Command** in **Kochi**
 - **Eastern Command** in **Visakhapatnam**

Mahaparinirvan Diwas 2024: Honoring Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on December 6

Keywords: Mahaparinirvan Diwas; December 6; Dr. B.R. Ambedkar; Nirvana after death.

- **Observance:** Mahaparinirvan Diwas, observed on **December 6**, marks the **death anniversary** of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.
- **Term Meaning:** The term **Mahaparinirvan**, derived from **Buddhist philosophy**, represents **nirvana after death**, symbolizing freedom from **karma, death, and rebirth**.
- **Dr. Ambedkar as a Guru:** Babasaheb's admiration for **Lord Buddha's teachings** established him as a **Buddhist guru** for his followers.

About Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

- **Birth Details:** Born on **April 14, 1891**, in **Mhow, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Modern Manu:** He is popularly known as the '**Modern Manu**' for his contribution to social justice.
- **Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha (1923):** Founded this organization to promote **education** and **economic welfare** among marginalized communities.
- **Mahad March (1927):** This movement demanded **Dalit access to public water sources**, challenging caste restrictions.
- **Temple Entry Movement (1930):** Advocated for Dalit entry into the **Kalaram Temple**, challenging religious hierarchies.
- **Round Table Conferences:** Participated in **all three Round Table Conferences** held in **London**.
- **Poona Pact (1932):** Negotiated the agreement that introduced **reserved legislative seats** for Dalits, replacing separate electorates.
- **Constitution Drafting Committee:** He served as **Chairman** of the **Drafting Committee** of the Constituent Assembly.
- **First Law Minister:** Served as **India's first Law Minister** from **1947 to 1951**.
- **Religious Conversion:** In **1956**, he embraced **Buddhism**, seeing it as a way to overcome caste oppression.
- **Highest Civilian Honor:** He was posthumously awarded the **Bharat Ratna** in **1990**.
- **Major Works:** Dr. Ambedkar authored **Annihilation of Caste, The Untouchables**, and **Buddha or Karl Marx**.
- **Periodicals Started:** He initiated five periodicals – **Mooknayak, Bahishkrit Bharat, Samta, Janata**, and **Prabuddha Bharat**.
- **Chaitya Bhoomi:** His cremation site is located at **Chaitya Bhoomi**, Mumbai.



Science & Tech

Nano Bubble Technology Trial to Improve Water Quality at Delhi Zoo

Keywords: Nano Bubble Technology; MOFECC; National Zoological Park; Delhi; algae removal.

- **Trial Initiative:** Ministry of Environment (**MoEF&CC**) has initiated a **15-day trial** of **Nano Bubble Technology** at the **National Zoological Park** in Delhi.
 - **Technology Purpose:** **Nano Bubble Technology** purifies water by using microscopic bubbles to remove **algae** and **organic growth**.
 - **Objective:** The initiative aims to improve the **water quality** in the zoo's **ponds** to benefit **aquatic animals**.
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Emergence of Marburg Virus as a Health Threat in Africa

Keywords: Marburg virus;MVD; hemorrhagic fever; Africa; fruit bats; body fluids; no vaccines.

- **Health Threat in Africa:** The **Marburg virus** has recently emerged as a significant **health threat** in Africa.
 - **Disease Caused:** The virus causes **Marburg virus disease (MVD)**, formerly known as **Marburg hemorrhagic fever**.
 - **Transmission by Fruit Bats:** The **Marburg virus** is primarily transmitted by **fruit bats**.
 - **Mode of Spread:** It spreads through **direct and indirect contact** with **body fluids** of infected people and animals.
 - **Lack of Treatments:** There are **no vaccines** or **specific antiviral treatments** available for **Marburg virus disease**.
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ISRO Launched ESA's Proba-3 Mission for Sun's Corona Study

Keywords: ISRO; ESA; Proba-3 mission; PSLV-C59 rocket; Satish Dhawan Space Centre; artificial solar eclipse; Sun's corona; precision formation flying; Coronagraph; Occulter.

- **Mission Launch:** The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully launched the **European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 mission**.

- **Rocket and Launch Site:** The mission used the **PSLV-C59 rocket**, launched from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre**, Sriharikota.

About Proba-3 Mission



- **Study Objective:** The mission aims to study the **Sun's corona**, the **outermost and hottest layer** of the Sun's atmosphere.
- **Artificial Eclipse:** An **artificial solar eclipse** will be created by **two satellites** flying in **precise formation**.
- **Satellites Involved:** The mission includes the **Coronagraph** and the **Occulter spacecraft**, which will work in tandem.
- **Formation Flying:** The two spacecraft will fly in a **precisely controlled formation** to enable **detailed observations** of the **Sun's corona**.
- **ESA's First Precision Flying Mission:** This is the **European Space Agency's first mission** dedicated to **precision formation flying**.

Sports

Indian Badminton Shines at Syed Modi International 2024

Keywords: Syed Modi International; Lucknow; PV Sindhu; Lakshya Sen; Treesa Jolly; Gayatri Gopichand; Indian badminton; Super 300 tournament.

- **Tournament Venue:** The **Syed Modi India International Super 300** tournament was held in **Lucknow**.
 - **PV Sindhu's Achievement:** **PV Sindhu** claimed her **3rd title** at the Syed Modi tournament.
 - **Lakshya Sen's Triumph:** **Lakshya Sen** secured his **maiden title** at this event.
 - **Historic Women's Doubles Win:** **Treesa Jolly** and **Gayatri Gopichand** became the **first Indian women's pair** to win the Syed Modi title.
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Pavan Kampelli Secures Bronze in eFootball at Asian Esports Games 2024

Keywords: Pavan Kampelli; bronze medal; eFootball; Asian Esports Games 2024; Bangkok.

- **Medalist:** **Pavan Kampelli** from **India** won a **bronze medal** in **eFootball**.
 - **Significance:** This is **India's first-ever medal** in **eFootball** at the **Asian Esports Games**.
 - **Event Location:** The **Asian Esports Games 2024** was held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.
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Arjun Erigaisi Secures Global 4th Rank in FIDE with 2801 ELO

Keywords: Arjun Erigaisi; 2801 ELO; 4th globally; FIDE rankings; Viswanathan Anand; classical chess; ELO rating system.

- **ELO Achievement:** **Arjun Erigaisi** reached a **2801 ELO rating**, securing the **4th spot globally** in FIDE rankings.
- **Historic Feat:** He is the **2nd Indian** after **Viswanathan Anand** to breach the **2800 ELO rating** in classical chess.
- **ELO System:** The **ELO rating system** is used to measure and compare the skill levels of chess players.

About FIDE



- **Full Form:** The **International Chess Federation** is commonly known by its **French acronym FIDE**.
- **Role:** **FIDE** governs **international chess competitions** worldwide.
- **Headquarters:** The **FIDE headquarters** is located in **Lausanne, Switzerland**.

India Wins Third Consecutive Junior Asia Cup Hockey Title

Keywords: India; Junior Asia Cup; third consecutive title; fifth total title; Muscat; Oman.

- **Victory Against Pakistan:** The **Indian men's junior hockey team** defeated **Pakistan** to win the **2024 Junior Asia Cup**.
 - **Title Count:** This victory marks India's **third consecutive title** and **fifth overall win** in the tournament.
 - **Tournament Overview:** The Junior Asia Cup is an **under-21 international field hockey championship** organized by the **Asian Hockey Federation**.
 - **2024 Edition Location:** The **2024 Junior Asia Cup** was held in **Muscat, Oman**.
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Awards

Highlights from the 5th Filmfare OTT Awards 2024

Keywords: 5th Filmfare OTT Awards 2024; The Railway Men; Amar Singh Chamkila; Sameer Saxena; Amit Golani; Kaala Paani; Imtiaz Ali.

- **Event Overview:** The **5th Filmfare OTT Awards 2024** celebrated the best in **digital entertainment**.
 - **Best Series:** The award was won by **The Railway Men**.
 - **Best Film, Web Original:** The film **Amar Singh Chamkila** won the award.
 - **Best Director, Series:** **Sameer Saxena** and **Amit Golani** received the award for **Kaala Paani**.
 - **Best Director, Web Original Film:** **Imtiaz Ali** won the award for **Amar Singh Chamkila**.
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Maria Victoria Juan Receives Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024

Keywords: Maria Victoria Juan; Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024; nursing profession; aeromedical evacuation system; Philippines.

- **Award Recipient:** **Maria Victoria Juan** has been honored with the **Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024**.
 - **Key Contribution:** She established the **first aeromedical evacuation system** in the **Philippines**.
 - **Award Significance:** The award recognizes **exceptional contributions to the nursing profession** globally.
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India Wins ISSA Good Practice Award 2024 for Social Security Innovations

Keywords: India; ISSA Good Practice Award 2024; Asia and Pacific; EPFO; Digital Life Certificate; Jeevan Pramaan Patra; ESIC; AAA+; Riyadh; ISSA; ILO; Geneva.

- **Award Recognition:** **India** has been honored with the **ISSA Good Practice Award 2024** for the **Asia and Pacific region**.
- **EPFO Achievements:** The **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** received **five Certificates of Merit** for its innovative practices in **social security delivery**.
- **Special Mention for Jeevan Pramaan Patra:** EPFO was recognized for the **Jeevan Pramaan Patra**, a biometric **Aadhaar-based Digital Life Certificate** for pensioners.

- **ESIC Recognition:** The **Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)** earned a **Certificate of Merit with Special Mention** for its **mobile application (Ask An Appointment - AAA+)**.
- **Forum Location:** The awards were presented at the **Regional Social Security Forum** held in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.

About International Social Security Association (ISSA)



- **About ISSA:** The **ISSA** is a global body that promotes excellence in **social security administration**.
- **Founding Year:** The **ISSA** was founded in **1927** under the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**.
- **Headquarters Location:** The **ISSA** is headquartered at the **International Labour Office** in **Geneva**.

Jasleen Kaur Wins Turner Prize 2024 for Solo Exhibition 'Alter Altar'

Keywords: Jasleen Kaur; Turner Prize 2024; British visual artist; JMW Turner; Alter Altar.

- **Award Recipient:** **Scottish Sikh artist Jasleen Kaur** has been awarded the **Turner Prize 2024**.
 - **Prize Overview:** The **Turner Prize**, named after 19th-century painter **JMW Turner**, honors outstanding **British visual artists**.
 - **Reason for Award:** Kaur received the prize for her **solo exhibition**, titled **Alter Altar**.
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Appointments

Jay Shah Appointed Youngest Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)

Keywords: Jay Shah; ICC Chairman; youngest; 36 years; founded 1909; 104 members; Dubai; Cricket for Good.

- **New Role:** Jay Shah, former **BCCI Secretary**, has officially started his tenure as the **Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)**.
- **Youngest Chairman:** At **36 years old**, Shah is the **youngest person** to hold this prestigious position.

About International Cricket Council (ICC)



- **Governing Body:** ICC is the **governing body for international cricket**.
- **Establishment:** The ICC was **founded in 1909**.
- **Membership:** The ICC has **104 member nations**.
- **Headquarters:** The ICC is headquartered in **Dubai, UAE**.
- **Motto:** The ICC's motto is "**Cricket for Good**."

Donald Trump Appoints Kash Patel as Next FBI Director

Keywords: Donald Trump; Kash Patel; FBI Director; 1935; J. Edgar Hoover; Department of Justice; Washington.

- **Appointment:** US President-elect **Donald Trump** has announced **Indian-origin Kash Patel** as the next **Director** of the **FBI**.

About Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)



- **Function:** The **FBI** serves as the **domestic intelligence** and **security service** of the **United States**.
- **Establishment:** The FBI was established in **1935**, with **J. Edgar Hoover** playing a key role.
- **Administration:** The FBI operates under the **Department of Justice**.
- **Headquarters:** The **FBI headquarters** is located in **Washington, D.C.**.

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Becomes Namibia's First Female President

Keywords: Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah; NNN; Namibia; first female president; Windhoek; Namibian dollar (NAD); Benguela Current; Bushmen tribe.

- **Historic Achievement:** **Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah**, nicknamed "**NNN**", became Namibia's **first female president**.
- **Advocacy for Women:** Previously she played a key role in **legal reforms** to protect women from **domestic abuse**.

About Namibia



- **Location of Namibia:** **Namibia** is located in **Southern Africa**, with its **western border** along the **Atlantic Ocean**.
- **Driest Region:** It is the **driest country** in **sub-Saharan Africa**.
- **Capital of Namibia:** The **capital** of Namibia is **Windhoek**.
- **Currency:** The official **currency** of Namibia is the **Namibian dollar (NAD)**.
- **Project Cheetah:** **Cheetahs** brought from Namibia have been relocated to **Kuno National Park** in **Madhya Pradesh** under **Project Cheetah**.
- **Benguela Current:** The **cold water current** flowing along the **Namibian coast** is known as the **Benguela Current**.
- **Indigenous Tribe:** The **Bushmen tribe** is native to **Namibia**.

Important Days

Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare Observed on November 30

Keywords: Day of Remembrance; November 30; Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC); 1993; 1997; OPCW; The Hague.

- **Observance Date:** The **Day of Remembrance for All Victims of Chemical Warfare** is observed annually on **November 30**.
- **Establishment:** It was established during the **20th Session** of the **Chemical Weapons Convention**.
- **Purpose:** The day aims to **honour victims of chemical warfare** and **promote global disarmament**.

About Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)



- **Objective of CWC:** The CWC is a **landmark treaty** aimed at the complete **elimination of chemical weapons**.
- **Adoption:** The CWC was **adopted in 1993** and came into **force in 1997**.
- **Implementation Body:** The **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** oversees the implementation of the CWC.
- **OPCW Headquarters:** The OPCW is headquartered in **The Hague, Netherlands**.
- **Nobel Peace Prize:** **OPCW** was awarded the **2013 Nobel Peace Prize** "for its extensive efforts to **eliminate chemical weapons**."

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery Observed on December 2

Keywords: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery; December 2; United Nations General Assembly; 1949; Convention on Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Prostitution.

- **Observation Date:** The **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery** is observed annually on **December 2**.
- **Objective:** The day aims to combat **modern slavery** and promote **human rights** globally.
- **Establishment:** It was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** in **1949**.

- **Significance:** The day marks the adoption of the **Convention on the Suppression of Human Trafficking and Exploitation of Prostitution**.

Abolition of Slavery in India



- **British Abolition of Slavery:** The **Charter Act of 1833** led to the **abolition of slavery** in the **British Indian empire**.
- **Indian Slavery Act:** The **Indian Slavery Act of 1843** declared **slavery illegal** throughout India.
- **Governor-General:** At the time of the **Indian Slavery Act of 1843**, **Lord Ellenborough** served as Governor-General.

World AIDS Day Observed on December 1

Keywords: World AIDS Day; December 1; rights-based approach; 1988; James W. Bunn; Thomas Netter.

- **Observation Date:** **World AIDS Day** is observed annually on **December 1**.
- **Objective:** It aims to **raise awareness** about **HIV/AIDS** and reduce **stigma** associated with the disease.
- **Theme:** The theme for 2024 is **“Take the rights path: My health, my right!”**, emphasizing a **rights-based approach** to health.
- **Origin:** World AIDS Day was first conceptualized in **1988** by **James W. Bunn** and **Thomas Netter**.

About AIDS (Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome)



- **Disease:** **AIDS** is a **fatal illness** caused by the **Human Immuno Virus (HIV)**.
- **Virus Type:** **HIV** is a **retrovirus** that carries **single-stranded RNA**.
- **Effect on Body:** **AIDS** breaks down the body's **immune system**, making it vulnerable to infections.
- **First Case in India:** The first case of **AIDS** in India was reported in **1986** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Transmission:** **AIDS** is spread through **sexual transmission**, through **blood** & via **perinatal transmission**.
- **Diagnosis:** The **ELISA test** is used to diagnose **HIV** infection.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024 Observed On December 3rd

Keywords: International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD); December 3rd; 2024 theme; leadership of persons with disabilities; 1981; International Year of Disabled Persons.

- **Observed Date:** The **International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD)** is observed annually on **December 3rd**.
- **2024 Theme:** The **2024 theme** is "**Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future**."
- **Inception Year:** The day was first observed in **1992** by UN to advocate for the **dignity and rights** of persons with disabilities.

International Day of Banks 2024: Empowering Sustainable Development Through Finance

Keywords: International Day of Banks; December 4; 2024 theme; sustainable development; finance.

- **Observed Date:** The **International Day of Banks** is celebrated annually on **December 4**.
- **2024 Theme:** The theme for 2024 is "**Empowering Sustainable Development Through Finance**."
- **Significance:** This day highlights the **crucial role of banks** in driving **sustainable growth** and **stabilizing economies**.

World Soil Day 2024 Celebrated on 5th December

Keywords: World Soil Day; 5th December; Bhumibol Adulyadej; Thailand; Caring for Soils.

- **Date of Observance:** **World Soil Day** is celebrated annually on **5th December**.
- **Significance of Date:** The date honors the **birth anniversary** of **Bhumibol Adulyadej**, the late **King of Thailand**, who strongly supported soil preservation efforts.
- **10th Celebration Host:** The **10th celebration** of World Soil Day in **2024** is hosted by the **Kingdom of Thailand**.
- **2024 Theme:** The theme for **World Soil Day 2024** is "**Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage**".

International Volunteer Day 2024: Recognizing Global Contributions

Keywords: International Volunteer Day; 5th December; IVD; United Nations; Sustainable Development Goals.

- **Date of Celebration:** International Volunteer Day (IVD) is celebrated annually on **5th December**.
 - **Purpose:** The day was introduced by the **United Nations** to recognize the invaluable contributions of volunteers to **economic and social development** globally.
 - **2024 Theme:** The theme for **International Volunteer Day 2024** is “**Recognize Volunteers' Contributions to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**”.
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Personalities

Siddarth Kaul Announces Retirement from Indian Cricket

Keywords: Siddarth Kaul; retirement; fast bowler; Vijay Hazare Trophy; Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy; highest wicket-taker.

- **Retirement Announcement:** Siddarth Kaul, a **fast bowler**, has announced his **retirement** from Indian cricket.
 - **Highest Wicket-Taker:** He became the **all-time highest** wicket-taker in both the **Vijay Hazare Trophy** and **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy**.
-

Brigadier Raj Manchanda, Legendary Squash Player, Passes Away

Keywords: Brigadier Raj Manchanda; Old Fox; squash; racket sport; 2028 Summer Olympics; Los Angeles.

- **Player's Passing:** Brigadier Raj Manchanda, a legendary **squash player**, has passed away.
 - **National Champion:** He was a **six-time National Champion** and was famously known as the '**Old Fox**.'
 - **Sport Description:** **Squash** is a **racket sport** played in a **four-walled court** with a small, hollow, rubber ball.
 - **Olympic Debut:** Squash will be included in the **2028 Summer Olympics** in **Los Angeles**.
-

Neale Fraser, Legendary Australian Tennis Player, Passes Away

Keywords: Neale Fraser; Australian tennis player; Philippe Chatrier Award; ITF.

- **Passing of Neale Fraser:** Neale Fraser, a celebrated **tennis player** from **Australia**, has passed away.
 - **Notable Honor:** He was awarded the **Philippe Chatrier Award** by the **International Tennis Federation (ITF)** for his contributions to the sport.
-

Miscellaneous

'Brain Rot' Declared Oxford Word of the Year 2024

Keywords: Oxford Word of the Year 2024; brain rot; Oxford University Press; Henry David Thoreau; Walden.

- **Word of the Year:** Oxford University Press has announced 'brain rot' as the **Oxford Word of the Year 2024**.
 - **Meaning:** 'Brain rot' refers to **low-quality digital content** and its **cognitive and emotional toll** on consumers.
 - **Historical Reference:** The term was first recorded in **1854** by **Henry David Thoreau** in his book 'Walden'.
-

Amazon Introduces Nova: A New Generation of Foundation Models

Keywords: Amazon; Nova; foundation models (FMs); generative AI; human language instructions.

- **New Model Launch:** Amazon has developed **Nova**, a new generation of **foundation models (FMs)**.
 - **What is a Foundation Model?:** A **foundation model** is a type of **generative AI** that can produce output based on **human language instructions**.
-

Pooja Sharma Honored in BBC's 100 Women List 2024

Keywords: Pooja Sharma; BBC 100 Women 2024; unclaimed bodies; last rites; Bright The Soul Foundation.

- **Global Recognition:** Pooja Sharma has been named in the **BBC's list of 100 inspiring and influential women** worldwide for **2024**.
- **Humanitarian Work:** She is recognized for conducting **last rites for unclaimed bodies**, ensuring **dignity in death** for all.
- **Bright The Soul Foundation:** In response to societal needs, she established the **Bright The Soul Foundation**.