

CURRENT AFFAIRS

11 to 17 November 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

BIMSTEC Energy Centre to be Set Up at Bangaluru

Keywords: Ministry of External Affairs; BIMSTEC Energy Centre; Bengaluru; inter-grid connectivity; Bay of Bengal; energy security; sustainable development; Bangkok Declaration; 1997; Dhaka; regional growth.

- **New Energy Centre Location:** The **BIMSTEC Energy Centre** will be established in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**, as announced by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- **Objective of the Energy Centre:** The centre aims to **foster inter-grid connectivity** across the **Bay of Bengal region**, supporting **energy security** and **sustainable development**.

About BIMSTEC



- **Establishment of BIMSTEC:** **BIMSTEC** (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was **established in 1997** through the **Bangkok Declaration**.
- **Founding Members:** Initially formed with **four members** — **Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand**.
- **Current Members:** The organization has expanded to include **Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal, and Bhutan**.
- **Permanent Secretariat:** **BIMSTEC's Permanent Secretariat** is located in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
- **Primary Objective:** BIMSTEC focuses on **countering globalization impacts** by **accelerating regional growth** through **mutual cooperation** among member states.

25th Meeting of South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25) Held in New Delhi

Keywords: SATRC-25; South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council; New Delhi; Asia-Pacific Telecommunity; Telecom Regulatory Authority of India; TRAI;; Anil Kumar Lahoti.

- **Event Name:** The **25th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-25)** took place in **New Delhi**.
- **Organizers:** The meeting was organized by the **Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)** and hosted by the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)**.
- **Key Focus Areas:** Discussions at SATRC-25 centered on **digital inclusivity, sustainable infrastructure, consumer protection, and innovation in regulation**.

About TRAI



- **TRAI Full Form:** The full form of **TRAI** is the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**.
- **TRAI's Mission:** **TRAI's mission** is to create and nurture conditions for the growth of **telecommunications** in India.
- **Establishment:** TRAI was established in **1997** by an **Act of Parliament** to regulate telecom services and tariffs in India.
- **Current Chairman:** **Anil Kumar Lahoti** is the current **Chairman of TRAI**.

MHA Approves CISF's First All-Women Battalion to Enhance Gender Equality

Keywords: Ministry of Home Affairs; CISF; all-women battalion; gender equality; Central Armed Police Force; 1969; Rajwinder Singh Bhatti; Protection and Security; New Delhi.

- **Approval for Battalion:** The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has approved the creation of the **first-ever all-women battalion** in the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**.
- **Objective:** This battalion aims to **promote gender equality** within the **security sector**.
- **CISF Role:** CISF is part of the **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)**, focusing on **security for government institutions** and vital national installations.

About Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)



- **Establishment:** CISF was established in **1969** under an **Act of Parliament**.
- **Supervising Ministry:** CISF operates under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**.
- **Headquarters:** The CISF is headquartered in **New Delhi**.
- **Current Director General:** **Rajwinder Singh Bhatti** is the current **DG of CISF**.
- **Motto:** The motto of CISF is "**Protection and Security**".
- **Key Responsibilities:** CISF duties include guarding **sensitive government buildings**, the **Parliament complex**, **Delhi Metro**, and **airport security**.

71st All India Cooperative Week Celebrates Role of Cooperatives in "Viksit Bharat"

Keywords: All India Cooperative Week; 14th-20th November; 71st edition; Role of Cooperatives in Building Viksit Bharat; largest cooperative movement; NCUI; 97th Amendment Act; Article 19(1) (c); Article 43B; Part IX-B.

- **Event Name & Date:** **All India Cooperative Week** is celebrated annually from **14th to 20th November** to honor cooperative societies in India.
- **2024 Edition:** The year **2024** marks the **71st edition** of this celebration.
- **Theme for 2024:** The theme is "**Role of Cooperatives in Building Viksit Bharat**".
- **Largest Cooperative Movement:** India is recognized as having the **largest cooperative movement** globally.
- **Organizing Body:** The **National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI)**, the apex cooperative body, organizes the event.

Constitutional Provisions Regarding Cooperative Societies



- **97th Amendment Act:** The **97th Amendment Act of 2011** granted **constitutional status** to cooperative societies in India.
- **Fundamental Right:** The right to form cooperative societies was made a **fundamental right** under **Article 19(1)(c)**.
- **Directive Principle:** **Article 43B** was added to **Part IV** to promote cooperative societies and the cooperative movement.
- **Part IX-B Addition:** **Part IX-B**, titled “**The Cooperative Societies**,” was included in the Constitution, covering **Articles 243ZH to 243ZT**.

KYM App: Strengthening Anti-Doping Efforts in Sports

Keywords: KYM app; Know Your Medicine; Union Ministry for Youth Affairs & Sports; anti-doping; WADA-prohibited substances; World Anti-Doping Agency; 1999; Lausanne; Montreal; IOC.

- **App Launch:** The **KYM (Know Your Medicine)** app was launched by the **Union Ministry for Youth Affairs & Sports**.
- **Purpose:** The app aims to strengthen **anti-doping efforts** in sports and promote **fair play** and **integrity**.
- **Functionality:** The **KYM app** allows users to verify if medicines contain **WADA-prohibited substances**.
- **Mission:** The app is part of the **National Anti Doping Agency's** ongoing mission to educate the **sporting community** about **anti-doping measures**.

About World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)



- **WADA Background:** The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** was set up in **1999** in **Lausanne, Switzerland**, through the **Declaration of Lausanne** to monitor and fight against drugs in sports.
- **Headquarters:** The headquarters of **WADA** is located in **Montreal, Canada**.
- **Foundation:** **WADA** is a foundation created through a collective initiative led by the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**.

State

5th National EMRS Cultural & Literary Fest Honors Bhagwan Birsa Munda

Keywords: 5th National EMRSCultural & Literary Fest; Kala Utsav; Bhubaneswar; Odisha; NESTS; OMTES; Bhagwan Birsa Munda; 150th birth anniversary; Munda tribe; Munda Rebellion; Ulgulan; Ranchi Airport.

- **Event Name:** The **5th National EMRS** (Eklavya Model Residential Schools) **Cultural & Literary Fest** and **Kala Utsav** is taking place in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
- **Organizer:** It is organized by the **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)**.
- **Host:** The event is hosted by the **Odisha Model Tribal Educational Society (OMTES)**.
- **Commemoration:** The event marks the **150th birth anniversary** of **Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.
- **Theme:** The theme is “A Tribute to **Bhagwan Birsa Munda & Tribal Freedom Fighters**,” emphasizing the strong connection between India’s tribal communities.

About Birsa Munda



- **Birth Details:** **Bhagwan Birsa Munda** was born in **1875** in **Ranchi**.
- **Tribal Affiliation:** He belonged to the **Munda tribe of Jharkhand**.
- **Munda Rebellion:** The **Munda Rebellion** is one of the prominent **19th-century** tribal rebellions in India, led by Birsa Munda.
- **Ulgulan:** The **Ulgulan**, meaning 'Great Tumult,' aimed to establish **Munda Raj** and independence.
- **Airport Naming:** **Ranchi Airport** is named after him as **Birsa Munda Airport**.

Uttar Pradesh Launches First Double-Decker Electric Bus in Lucknow

Keywords: Uttar Pradesh; double-decker electric bus; Lucknow; Aakanksha Haat; women entrepreneurs; self-help groups; Maharashtra; electric buses.

- **First Bus:** **Uttar Pradesh** recently introduced its first **double-decker electric bus** in **Lucknow**.
- **Inauguration:** The service was inaugurated as part of the **Aakanksha Haat program**.
- **Maharashtra's Role:** **Maharashtra** was among the first states to introduce **double-decker electric buses**.

About Akanksha Haat



- **Program Objective:** The **Aakanksha Haat** program aims to empower **women entrepreneurs** and **self-help groups (SHGs)** by providing a platform to showcase their products and talents.

Jharkhand Foundation Day and Birsa Munda Jayanti

Keywords: Jharkhand Foundation Day; November 15; 28th state; India; 2000; Bihar Reorganisation Act 2000; South Bihar; Birsa Munda; birth anniversary; tribal leader; freedom fighter.

- **Event Name:** Jharkhand Foundation Day is celebrated on **November 15th** each year.
- **State Formation:** This day marks the formation of **Jharkhand** as the **28th state of India** in **2000** via **Bihar Reorganisation Act 2000**
- **Before Statehood:** Before becoming a separate state, Jharkhand was part of **South Bihar**.
- **Significance of the Date:** November 15th is also the **birth anniversary** of **Birsa Munda**, a respected **tribal leader** and **freedom fighter**.

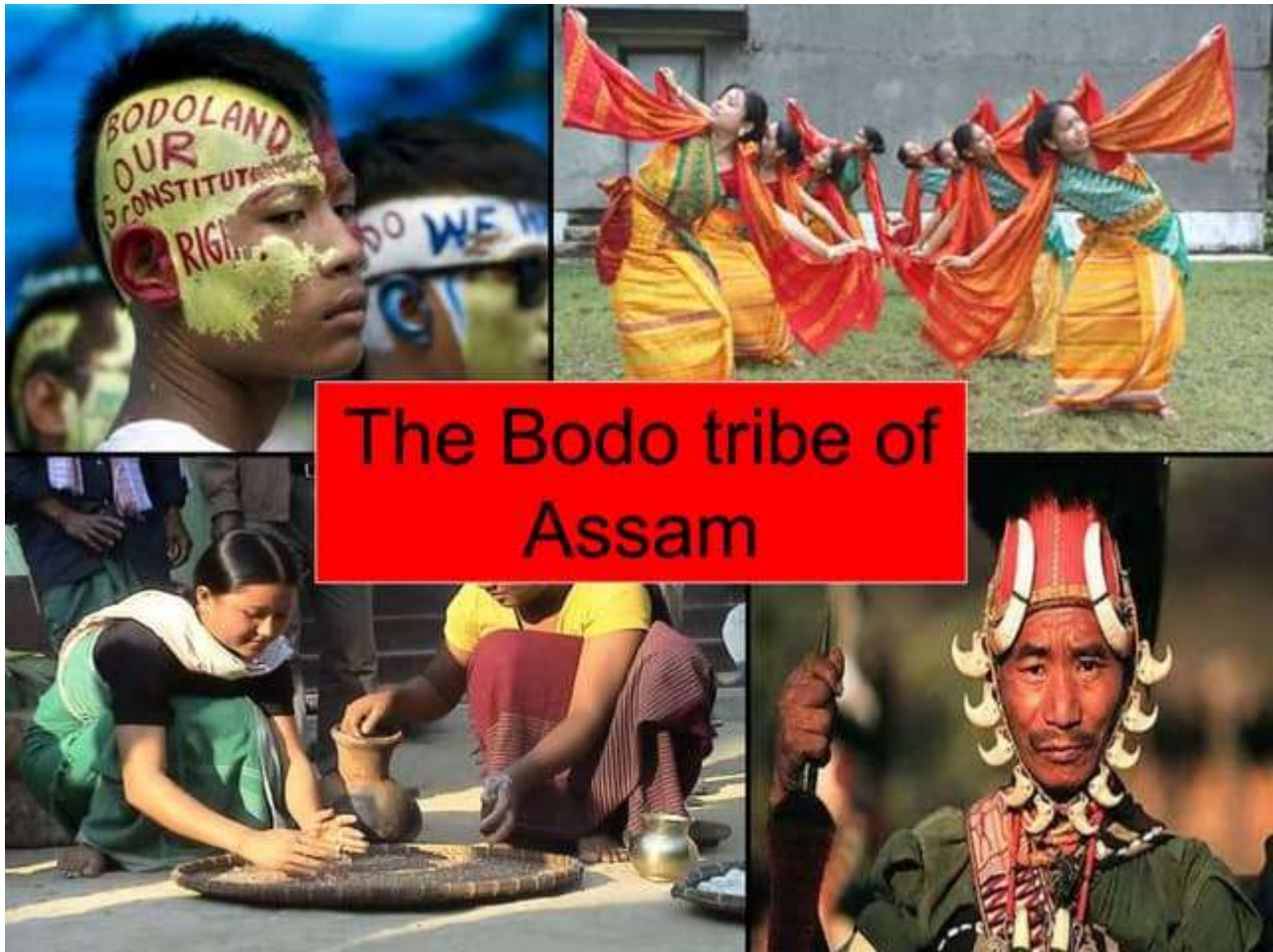
Bodoland Mohotsov: Celebrating Bodo Culture and Heritage

Keywords: Bodoland Mohotsov; New Delhi; Bodo tribes; Garo Hills; Assam; sixth schedule; Sino-Tibetan language family; polytheist Hindu.

- **Event:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the first-ever **Bodoland Mohotsov** in **New Delhi**.
- **Purpose:** The event will celebrate the rich **culture and heritage** of the **Bodoland region**, located in the **northern part of Assam**.

About Bodo Tribes

- **Bodo Tribes Location:** The **Bodo tribes** are inhabitants of the **Garo Hills** and the northern state of **Assam**.
- **Ethnolinguistic Identity:** They are **ethnolinguistic groups** whose language belongs to the **Sino-Tibetan family**.
- **Constitutional Recognition:** The Bodo tribes are recognized by the **Indian Constitution** and are included in the **Sixth Schedule**.
- **Religion:** The Bodo people are **polytheist Hindus**.



Economy

Union Bank of India Launches Nari Shakti Branches for Women Entrepreneurs

Keywords: Union Bank of India; Nari Shakti branches; women-led businesses; credit; Seth Sitaram Poddar; Mahatma Gandhi; Mumbai; Corporation Bank; Andhra Bank.

- **New Initiative:** Union Bank of India has introduced **Nari Shakti branches**.
- **Primary Objective:** These branches focus on providing **credit to women-led businesses** to **eliminate financial barriers** for women entrepreneurs.

About Union Bank of India



- **Founding Details:** Union Bank of India was founded in **1919** in **Bombay**.
- **Founder:** The bank was established by **Seth Sitaram Poddar**.
- **Significance:** **Mahatma Gandhi** inaugurated its corporate office.
- **Headquarters:** Union Bank of India's **headquarters** is located in **Mumbai**.
- **Mergers:** In **2020**, Union Bank merged with **Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank**.

Hindalco Industries: World's Most Sustainable Aluminium Company

Keywords: Hindalco Industries; world's most sustainable aluminium company; fifth consecutive year; 2024; S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment; International Copper Association; newest member.

- **Sustainability Ranking:** Hindalco Industries has been ranked as the **world's most sustainable aluminium company** for the **fifth consecutive year**.
- **Assessment Source:** This recognition is based on the **2024 S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA)** rankings.
- **New Membership:** Hindalco Industries Ltd. recently joined the **International Copper Association (ICA)** as its **newest member**.

RBI Retains SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank as Domestic Systemically

Important Banks (D-SIBs)

Keywords: RBI; SBI; HDFC Bank; ICICI Bank; Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs); financial stability; Too Big To Fail (TBTF).

- **Classification Confirmation:** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has confirmed that **SBI, HDFC Bank, and ICICI Bank** will continue as **Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs)**.
 - **Purpose of D-SIBs:** D-SIBs are designated as **crucial for maintaining financial stability** within the country.
 - **Too Big To Fail:** Banks classified as **D-SIBs** are perceived as '**Too Big To Fail (TBTF)**', indicating their significant role in the financial system.
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Summits & Reports

India Achieves 6th Rank in Global Patent Filings for 2023

Keywords: India; 6th rank; global patent filings; 2023; 64,480 patents; 15.7% growth; Asia; WIPO; Geneva; Daren Tang; intellectual property.

- **India's Global Rank:** India has achieved the **6th rank** in global **patent filings** for **2023**.
- **Total Patents Filed:** India filed **64,480 patents** in 2023, representing a **15.7% increase** from the previous year.
- **Asia's Dominance:** Asia continues to lead in the global patent landscape, making up nearly **69% of global filings**.

About WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation)



- **Establishment:** WIPO was established in **1967** as a **UN agency**.
- **Main Function:** WIPO promotes the protection of **intellectual property (IP) rights** globally to encourage **innovation and creativity**.
- **Headquarters:** It is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland**.
- **Members:** WIPO has **197 member countries**.
- **Director General:** The current **Director General** is **Daren Tang**.

International

Fifth Anniversary of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor Connecting India and Pakistan

Keywords: Kartarpur Sahib Corridor; fifth anniversary; India-Pakistan; 2019 inauguration; 550th Prakash Purb; Guru Nanak Dev Ji; Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib; Sikhism; Ravi River; Dera Baba Nanak.

- **Anniversary:** The **Kartarpur Sahib Corridor**, connecting **India and Pakistan**, marks its **fifth anniversary**.
- **Inauguration Date:** The corridor was inaugurated in **2019** to celebrate the **550th Prakash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji**.
- **Destination:** It leads to the **Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan**.

About Kartarpur Sahib



- **Historical Significance:** **Guru Nanak Dev Ji** spent the **last 18 years** of his life at **Kartarpur Sahib**.
- **Founding of Kartarpur:** **Kartarpur** was founded by **Guru Nanak** in **1504 CE** as the site of the first **Sikh commune** on the **right bank of the Ravi River**.
- **Dera Baba Nanak:** Located on the **left bank of the Ravi**, **Dera Baba Nanak** marks a nearby settlement that later emerged.

Dr. Navin Ramgoolam to Assume Role as Prime Minister of Mauritius for Third Time

Keywords: Dr. Navin Ramgoolam; prime minister; third term; Alliance of Change; Mauritius; Indian Ocean; Port Louis; English; Mauritian Rupee (MUR).

- **Prime Minister Appointment:** **Dr. Navin Ramgoolam** is set to become **prime minister of Mauritius** for the **third time**.
- **Political Alliance:** He leads the **Alliance of Change** coalition.

About Mauritius



- **Country Location:** Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, off the eastern coast of Africa.
- **Capital City:** The capital of Mauritius is Port Louis.
- **Official Language:** English is the official language of the country.
- **Currency:** The currency of Mauritius is the Mauritian Rupee (MUR).

Alix Didier Fils-Aime Sworn in as Haiti's New Prime Minister

Keywords: Alix Didier Fils-Aime; Haiti; Prime Minister; Caribbean Sea; Western hemisphere; Gourde; Port-au-Prince.

- **New Prime Minister:** Alix Didier Fils-Aime has been sworn in as the Prime Minister of Haiti.

About Haiti



- **Country Location:** Haiti is located on an island in the Caribbean Sea.
- **Economic Status:** Haiti is considered the poorest country in the Western hemisphere.
- **Currency:** The official currency of Haiti is the Gourde.
- **Capital:** The capital of Haiti is Port-au-Prince.

Dominica to Confer Highest National Honour on Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Keywords: Commonwealth of Dominica; Dominica Award of Honour; Prime Minister Narendra Modi; COVID-19; Nature Island; Sisserou parrot; Caribbean; Roseau; East Caribbean Dollar; Roosevelt Skerrit.

- **Award Announcement:** The Commonwealth of Dominica has announced it will bestow its highest national honour, the Dominica Award of Honour, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **Reason for Award:** This recognition is for Modi's significant contributions to Dominica, particularly in support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

About Dominica



- **Location:** Dominica is an **island country in the Caribbean**.
- **Nickname:** Dominica is often called the "**Nature Island of the Caribbean**" due to its rich natural environment.
- **Unique Wildlife:** The **Sisserou parrot**, or **Imperial amazon**, is a **critically endangered species** found only in Dominica.
- **Capital City:** The capital of Dominica is **Roseau**.
- **Currency:** Dominica uses the **East Caribbean Dollar (XCD)** as its currency.
- **Prime Minister:** The current **Prime Minister of Dominica** is **Roosevelt Skerrit**.

Australia Appoints Chris Evans as First Anti-Slavery Commissioner to Combat Modern Slavery

Keywords: Australia; Chris Evans; Anti-Slavery Commissioner; modern slavery; human trafficking; forced labour; PALM scheme; Charter Act of 1833; Indian Slavery Act of 1843; Lord Ellenborough.

- **Commissioner Appointment:** **Australia** has appointed **Chris Evans** as its **first Anti-Slavery Commissioner**.
- **Commissioner's Role:** The commissioner will work to **combat modern slavery** issues, including **human trafficking and forced labour**.
- **PALM Scheme:** The **Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM)** scheme, which brings **Pacific Island workers** to Australia for temporary work, has faced **concerns over modern slavery practices**.

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.

Defense

India-Russia Collaboration to Jointly Manufacture Pantsir Air Defence System

Keywords: Pantsir; air defence missile-gun system; India-Russia agreement; Bharat Dynamics Ltd; joint manufacturing; missile launcher; radar truck; command post.

- **System Overview:** Pantsir is an **air defence missile-gun system**.
- **India-Russia Agreement:** **India and Russia** have reached a major agreement to **jointly manufacture** the Pantsir system.
- **Indian Manufacturer:** **Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)** will represent **India** in this joint manufacturing venture.
- **Key Components:** The Pantsir system includes a **missile launcher**, **radar truck**, and **command post**.

India Conducts First-of-Its-Kind Space Exercise 'Antariksha Abhyas – 2024'

Keywords: Defence Space Agency; Antariksha Abhyas 2024; space exercise; space-based assets; tri-services agency; space-warfare; Satellite Intelligence; Bengaluru; IndSpaceEx; Indian Armed Forces.

- **Exercise Name:** **Antariksha Abhyas – 2024** is a space exercise conducted by the **Defence Space Agency** in **New Delhi**.
- **Exercise Purpose:** The exercise aims to simulate and address the growing threats to **space-based assets**.

About ISRO

About Defense Space Agency



- **Defence Space Agency:** The **Defence Space Agency (DSA)** is an integrated tri-services agency of the **Indian Armed Forces**.
- **DSA Role:** The DSA is tasked with operating **space-warfare** and **Satellite Intelligence**.
- **Headquarters:** The DSA is headquartered in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **Personnel:** The agency draws personnel from all three branches of the **Armed Forces**.
- **Previous Exercise:** **India** conducted its first simulated space warfare exercise in **2019**, called **IndSpaceEx**.

Akashteer: India's Advanced Air Defence Control & Reporting System

Keywords: Akashteer; Indian Air Defence; Bharat Electronics Limited; Ministry of Defence; surveillance; radar; situational awareness.

- **System Name:** Akashteer is an Indian Air Defence Control & Reporting System.
- **Developer:** It was developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Functionality:** Akashteer integrates surveillance assets, radar systems, communication nodes, and other command and control units into one network.

DRDO Successfully Tests Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)

Keywords: DRDO; Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile; LRLACM; Integrated Test Range; Chandipur; Odisha; Aeronautical Development Establishment; Ministry of Defence; Dr. Samir V. Kamat.

- **Missile Test:** The DRDO successfully conducted the first flight-test of the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM).
- **Range:** The LRLACM has a range of 1,000 km.
- **Test Location:** The test took place at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
- **Developer:** The missile was developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a DRDO unit in Bengaluru.

DRDO Completes Flight Tests for Guided Pinaka Weapon System

Keywords: DRDO; Guided Pinaka Weapon System; flight tests; multi-barrel rocket launcher; 12 rockets; 44 seconds.

- **Successful Flight Tests:** DRDO has successfully completed a series of flight tests for the Guided Pinaka Weapon System.
- **Weapon Details:** The Pinaka is a powerful multi-barrel rocket launcher.
- **Launch Capability:** It can launch a rapid series of 12 rockets in just 44 seconds

About Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)



- **DRDO Overview:** DRDO is the **military research and development wing** of the **Ministry of Defence**.
- **Headquarters:** DRDO is headquartered in **New Delhi, India**.
- **Establishment:** DRDO was founded in **1958**.
- **Current Chairman:** **Dr. Samir V. Kamat** is the current **Chairman of DRDO**.

Indian Army's South Western Command Establishes Gyan Shakti Think Tank

Keywords: Indian Army; South Western Command; Gyan Shakti; Jaipur; defence transformation; veterans; Indian Army commands.

- **Think Tank Creation:** The **Indian Army's South Western Command** in **Jaipur** has established a **think tank** named **Gyan Shakti**.
- **Purpose of Gyan Shakti:** Gyan Shakti aims to **utilize the expertise of veterans** to support **India's defence transformation** efforts.

7 Commands of Indian Army



- **Northern Command:** Headquarters located in **Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Western Command:** Headquarters in **Chandimandir, Haryana**.
- **Eastern Command:** Headquarters in **Kolkata, West Bengal**.
- **Southern Command:** Headquarters in **Pune, Maharashtra**.
- **Central Command:** Headquarters in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh**.
- **South-Western Command:** Headquarters in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- **Training Command:** Headquarters situated in **Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**.

Indian Navy to Conduct Sea Vigil-24 Coastal Defence Exercise

Keywords: Indian Navy; Sea Vigil-24; nationwide coastal defence exercise; coastline; Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ); maritime threats; coastal infrastructure protection.

- **Exercise Name:** The **Indian Navy** will conduct **Sea Vigil-24**, a nationwide coastal defence exercise.
 - **Edition:** This marks the **fourth edition** of the **Sea Vigil** exercise.
 - **Coverage Area:** The exercise will span **India's entire coastline** and its **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**.
 - **Objective:** Sea Vigil-24 aims to **ensure readiness** to **protect critical coastal infrastructure**.
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Celebrations

All About 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

Keywords: 55th IFFI; Panaji; Goa; 1952; Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; FIAPF accreditation; National Film Development Corporation; 2024 theme; Young Filmmakers; Australia; Phillip Noyce; Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award; Better Man; Swatantrya Veer Savarkar; Ghar Jaisa Kuch.

- **Festival Start:** The **55th edition** of the **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** will commence in **Panaji, Goa**.
- **Founding Year:** IFFI was founded in **1952** and is one of **Asia's prestigious film festivals**.
- **Permanent Venue:** **Goa** has been the festival's permanent venue since **2004**.
- **Organizers:** The festival is organized by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** in collaboration with the **Entertainment Society of Goa**.
- **Accreditation:** IFFI is accredited by the **International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF)**.
- **Management:** The **National Film Development Corporation** now manages the festival, promoting cultural ties.
- **2024 Theme:** The theme for **IFFI 2024** is "**Young Filmmakers – The Future is Now**".
- **New Award Category:** IFFI 2024 introduces a new award for **Best Debut Director of Indian Feature Film**.
- **Tribute to Cinema Legends:** IFFI 2024 honors four Indian cinema icons: **Raj Kapoor, Tapan Sinha, Akkineni Nageswara Rao (ANR), and Mohammed Rafi**.
- **Country of Focus:** In **2024, Australia** is the **country of focus**.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Australian filmmaker **Phillip Noyce** will receive the **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award**.
- **Phillip Noyce's Works:** He is known for films like **Clear and Present Danger, Salt, and Rabbit-Proof Fence**.
- **Opening Film (Feature):** **Better Man** by **Michael Gracey** will have its **Asia premiere** as the festival's opening film.
- **Opening Film (Indian Panorama):** The **Indian Panorama** section opens with **Swatantrya Veer Savarkar** (Hindi), directed by **Randeep Hooda**.
- **Opening Film (Non-Feature):** The **opening non-feature film** is **Ghar Jaisa Kuch** (Ladakhi).

Uttarakhand Celebrates Unique Festival Igas Bagwal

Keywords: Uttarakhand; Igas Bagwal; Budhi Diwali; Harbodhni Ekadashi; Lord Vishnu; Bhailo; torch play; Goddess Lakshmi; Andhaya.

- **Festival Name:** **Igas Bagwal** is a unique festival observed in **Uttarakhand**.
- **Alternative Names:** The festival is also called **Budhi Diwali** or **Harbodhni Ekadashi**.
- **Timing of Festival:** It is celebrated precisely **11 days after Diwali**.
- **Significance:** The day marks the end of **Lord Vishnu's four-month rest period**, which is considered highly auspicious.

About Bhailo



- **Torch Tradition:** A unique custom of Igas Bagwal is **Bhailo**, or torch play.
- **Torch Ritual:** These torches are lit and **swung overhead in circles**, believed to invoke the blessings of **Goddess Lakshmi**.
- **Symbolism:** Known locally as **Andhaya**, the torch ritual symbolizes **banishing darkness** and inviting **light, joy, and positivity**.

India Celebrates Children's Day on November 14, Honoring Jawaharlal Nehru

Keywords: Children's Day, November 14, Bal Diwas, Jawaharlal Nehru, Chacha Nehru, first Prime Minister, Preamble architect, Federal Constitution Committee, Planning Commission, Bharat Ratna, Panchayati Raj.

- **Event & Date:** **Children's Day** is celebrated on **November 14** each year in India to honor the nation's children.
- **Significance:** This date marks the **birth anniversary** of **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, India's **first Prime Minister**, known for his affection for children, who called him "**Chacha Nehru**."
- **Universal Children's Day:** The **UN's Universal Children's Day** is observed on **November 20**, but India shifted its celebration to **November 14** post-1964 to honor Nehru's legacy.

Some Key Facts About Pandit Jawharlal Nehru



- **First Prime Minister:** Jawaharlal Nehru served as **India's first Prime Minister** after independence.
- **Longest Term:** He held the office for the **longest continuous term** in Indian history, from **1947 until his death in 1964**.
- **Died in Office:** Nehru was the **first Prime Minister to die while still in office**, a rare instance marking the end of his leadership on **May 27, 1964**.
- **Architect of the Constitution's Preamble:** Nehru is remembered as the **architect of the Preamble** of India's Constitution.
- **Constituent Assembly Roles:** He served as the **President of the Federal Constitution Committee** and **Union Power Committee**.
- **Planning Commission:** Nehru was **India's first Planning Commission Chairman**.
- **Bharat Ratna Honor:** In **1955**, Nehru was awarded the **Bharat Ratna**.
- **Introduction of Panchayati Raj:** The term **Panchayati Raj** was popularized by Nehru.
- **National Herald Founder:** Nehru started the **National Herald** newspaper.
- **Final Resting Place:** **Shantivan** is Nehru's cremation ground.
- **Autobiography:** Nehru authored '**An Autobiography: Toward Freedom**' detailing his life and ideals.

Guru Nanak Jayanti 2024: Celebrating the 555th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji

Keywords: Guru Nanak Jayanti; GURPURAB; Guru Nanak Prakash Utsav; Kartik Purnima; November 15, 2024; 555th birth anniversary; Talwandi; Nankana Sahib; Gurdwara Janam Asthan; first Sikh Guru; Adi Granth; Guru Arjan; Sultanpur; Enlightenment; Guru Angad; successor.

- **Festival Name:** Guru Nanak Jayanti is also known as **Gurpurab** or **Guru Nanak Prakash Utsav**.
- **Day of Celebration:** It is celebrated on the **Full Moon Day (Purnima)** of the **Lunar Month of Kartik**.
- **Date:** In **2024**, it will be celebrated on **November 15**, marking **Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 555th birth anniversary**.
- **Birth Year and Place:** Guru Nanak Dev Ji was born in **1469** in **Talwandi**, now called **Nankana Sahib**, located in **Pakistan**.
- **Commemoration Site:** His birthplace is marked by **Gurdwara Janam Asthan**.

About Guru Nanak



- **Role in Sikhism:** Guru Nanak is regarded as the **first of the ten Sikh Gurus**.
- **Compositions:** His written works were included in the **Adi Granth**, compiled by **Guru Arjan**, the **fifth Sikh Guru**.
- **Enlightenment:** Guru Nanak attained **Enlightenment** at the age of **thirty-six** during his stay in **Sultanpur**.
- **Successor:** Before his death, Guru Nanak appointed **Guru Angad** as his **successor**.

Birsa Munda Jayanti: Honoring the Tribal Leader and Freedom Fighter

Keywords: Birsa Munda Jayanti; Janjatiya Gaurav Divas; Tribal Pride Day; November 15; birth anniversary; tribal leader; freedom fighter; Birsait; ulgulan; Munda Raj; independence; Ranchi; 1899-1900.

- **Event Name:** Birsa Munda Jayanti is also known as **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas** or **Tribal Pride Day**.
- **Date:** It is celebrated on **November 15th** every year.
- **Significance:** This day marks the **birth anniversary** of **Birsa Munda**, a **brave tribal leader** and **freedom fighter**.

About Birsa Munda



- **Religious Movement:** Birsa Munda started a religious movement called "**Birsait**", promoting **simple and moral living**.
- **Ulgulan Movement:** The **Ulgulan**, meaning '**Great Tumult**', aimed to establish **Munda Raj** and achieve **independence**.
- **Movement Region:** Birsa Munda led the Ulgulan in the region **south of Ranchi** during **1899-1900**.

Science & Tech

IIT Madras and ISRO Collaborate to Establish Centre of Excellence for Fluid and Thermal Sciences

Keywords: IIT Madras; ISRO; Centre of Excellence; Fluid and Thermal Sciences; research; spacecraft; launch vehicle; thermal management.

- **Collaboration:** IIT Madras is collaborating with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** to establish a **Centre of Excellence**.
- **Research Focus:** The Centre will focus on **Fluid and Thermal Sciences** research.
- **Application Area:** This research will address **thermal management challenges** in **spacecraft and launch vehicles**.

About ISRO



- **Formation Date and Origin:** **ISRO** was initially established as **INCOSPAR** on **15th August 1969** with the efforts of **Vikram Sarabhai**.
- **Headquarters:** ISRO's headquarters are located in **Bengaluru**.
- **Administrative Department:** ISRO operates under the **Department of Space**, part of the **Government of India**.
- **Current Chairman:** **S. Somnath** is the current chairman of ISRO.

Dicliptera polymorpha: India's Newly Discovered Fire-Resilient Dual Blooming Plant

Keywords: Dicliptera polymorpha; new species; fire-resilient; Northern Western Ghats; India; pyrophytic; biannual blooming; spicate inflorescences; Africa; grassland fires.

- **New Species Discovery:** **Dicliptera polymorpha** is a **new fire-resilient flowering plant** discovered in the **Northern Western Ghats** of **India**.
- **Biannual Blooming:** Unlike most plants, **Dicliptera polymorpha** blooms **twice a year**—first **after the monsoon** and then **after grassland fires**.
- **Adaptation to Fires:** This plant is a **pyrophytic species**, meaning it thrives in **fire-prone grassland slopes**.
- **Unique Inflorescence:** **Dicliptera polymorpha** is the only **Indian plant** known to have **spicate inflorescences**, where flowers grow in a **spike-like formation**.
- **Close Relatives in Africa:** The plant's **closest botanical relatives** are located in **Africa**.

Scarecrow Incorporated Secures Patent for Pinfenon, a Cardiac Treatment for Dogs

Keywords: Pinfenon; cardiac disorders; dogs; patent; Scarecrow Incorporated; Tokyo; atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP); blood pressure; salt-water balance.

- **Patent Acquisition:** Scarecrow Incorporated in Tokyo, Japan has successfully acquired the world's first patent for Pinfenon.
- **Purpose of Pinfenon:** Pinfenon is designed to treat and prevent cardiac disorders specifically in dogs.
- **Mechanism:** The drug functions by lowering the levels of atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP).
- **Role of ANP:** Atrial natriuretic peptide (ANP) is a hormone that aids in regulating blood pressure and maintaining salt-water balance in the body.

Clean Ganga Mission: Dolphin Ambulance and Other Initiatives

Keywords: Clean Ganga Mission; Dolphin Ambulance; Ganga Dolphin; Rag-Rag Mein Ganga; Namami Gange; flagship programme; 2014; NMCG; 100% Centre-funded.

- **Dolphin Ambulance Initiative:** A Dolphin Ambulance has been introduced under the Clean Ganga Mission to aid in the rescue of injured Ganga Dolphins.
- **Focus:** The initiative emphasizes the preservation of the Ganga Dolphin.
- **Travelog Series:** NMCG has approved the third season of the travelog series, "Rag-Rag Mein Ganga – Ek Jeevan Dhara".

About Namami Gange



- **Namami Gange Project:** The Namami Gange project aims to clean the river Ganga and was launched by the Government of India.
- **Flagship Status:** The project was approved as a Flagship Programme by the Union Government in 2014.
- **Implementation:** It is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and its State Program Management Groups.
- **Funding:** The Centre funds 100% of the Namami Gange project.

Tropical Storm Sara Hits Northern Honduras

Keywords: Tropical Storm Sara; northern Honduras; Central America; Mexico; Maya; Spanish colonization; Tegucigalpa; Honduran Lempira; Xiomara Castro; first woman President.

- **Storm Impact:** Tropical Storm Sara made landfall in **northern Honduras**.
- **Weather Conditions:** It brought **heavy rain** and **flooding risks** to **Central America** and **Mexico**.

About Honduras



- **Honduras Location:** Honduras is a **country in Central America**.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Honduras was home to several important **Mesoamerican cultures**.
- **Maya Civilization:** Among these cultures, the most notable was the **Maya**.
- **Colonization History:** Honduras experienced **Spanish colonization** in the **sixteenth century**.
- **Capital City:** The capital of Honduras is **Tegucigalpa**.
- **Currency:** The currency of Honduras is the **Honduran Lempira**.
- **First Woman President:** **Xiomara Castro** was sworn in as the **first woman President** of Honduras.

Sports

GM Aravindh Chithambaram Wins Chennai Grand Masters 2024 Chess Title

Keywords: Chennai Grand Masters 2024; GM Aravindh Chithambaram; GM V Pranav; Chennai; Masters category; Challengers category; chess.

- **Event Name:** The chess event is titled **Chennai Grand Masters 2024**.
 - **Location:** The tournament was held in **Chennai**.
 - **Event Categories:** The competition featured two categories: **Masters** and **Challengers**.
 - **Masters Category Winner:** **GM Aravindh Chithambaram** secured the **Masters title**.
 - **Challengers Category Winner:** **GM V Pranav** won the **Challengers title**.
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Awards

Indian Hockey Triumphs at FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024

Keywords: Harmanpreet Singh; Men's Player of the Year; PR Sreejesh; Goalkeeper of the Year; FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024; Muscat, Oman; Tayyab Ikram; Lausanne, Switzerland.

- **Award Winners:** Harmanpreet Singh, captain of the Indian hockey team, was awarded Men's Player of the Year at the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024.
- **Goalkeeper Recognition:** PR Sreejesh, known as the "Great Wall of India", won the Goalkeeper of the Year award.
- **Event Details:** The FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024 were held in Muscat, Oman, to honor top international hockey performers.

About FIH



- **FIH Overview:** The International Hockey Federation (FIH), established in 1924, is the global governing body for field hockey.
- **Leadership:** The current FIH President is Mr. Tayyab Ikram.
- **Headquarters:** The FIH headquarters is based in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Samantha Harvey Wins Booker Prize for Novel "Orbital"

Keywords: Samantha Harvey; Booker Prize; Orbital; International Space Station; Paul Lynch; Prophet Song; Booker Prize Foundation; UK; Ireland; Salman Rushdie; Arundhati Roy; Kiran Desai; Aravind Adiga; VS Naipaul.

- **Award Winner:** Samantha Harvey, a British author, has won the Booker Prize.
- **Winning Novel:** She received the award in Fiction for her novel "Orbital", set on the International Space Station (ISS).
- **Previous Winner:** Last year, Paul Lynch, an Irish writer, won the 2023 Booker Prize for his novel "Prophet Song".

About Booker Prize



- **Awarding Body:** The **Booker Prize** is awarded by the **Booker Prize Foundation**, a UK-based organization.
- **Eligibility:** The prize is open to **English-language novels** published in the **UK or Ireland** and is open to writers of any nationality.
- **First Indian-Origin Winner:** **V.S. Naipaul** was the first person of Indian origin to win the Booker Prize with **In a Free State** (1971).

Notable Indian Winners & Their Books



- **Salman Rushdie** for **Midnight's Children** (1981)
- **Arundhati Roy** for **The God of Small Things** (1997)
- **Kiran Desai** for **The Inheritance of Loss** (2006)
- **Aravind Adiga** for **The White Tiger** (2008)

Appointments

Justice Sanjiv Khanna Appointed as 51st Chief Justice of India

Keywords: Justice Sanjiv Khanna; Chief Justice of India; Article 124; Second Judges Case; senior-most judge.

- **Appointment:** Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed as the **51st Chief Justice of India (CJI)**, taking over from **Justice D.Y. Chandrachud**.
 - **Constitutional Provision:** The **CJI** is appointed by the **President of India** under **Article 124(2)** of the **Indian Constitution**.
 - **Successor Recommendation:** Traditionally, the **outgoing CJI recommends** their successor, maintaining continuity in leadership.
 - **Judicial Precedent:** According to the **Second Judges Case (1993)**, the **senior-most judge** of the **Supreme Court** is appointed as the **CJI**.
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Important Days

11 November National Education Day: Honoring Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Keywords: National Education Day; Maulana Abul Kalam Azad; birth anniversary; first Education Minister; IIT; IISc; School of Planning and Architecture; University Grants Commission; Youngest Congress President; Al-Hilal; Al-Balagh; India Wins Freedom; partition.

- **National Education Day:** India observes National Education Day every year on **November 11**.
- **Commemoration:** The day honors the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, the first **Education Minister** of independent India.
- **Key Contributions:** During Azad's tenure, the first **IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture**, and the **University Grants Commission** were established.
- **Government Declaration:** The Government of India declared National Education Day in **2008**.

About Maulana Abul Kalam Azad



- **Youngest Congress President:** Azad was the **youngest person** (35 years old) to become the **Congress President** in the **1923 Delhi Session**.
- **Journalist:** He wrote weekly journals **Al-Hilal** and **Al-Balagh**.
- **Famous Nickname:** Azad was famously called the "**Congress Showboy**."
- **Author of India Wins Freedom:** **India Wins Freedom** is Maulana Azad's account of the **partition** from his perspective.

World Immunization Day Celebrated on November 10

Keywords: World Immunization Day; November 10; vaccines; public health; WHO; Expanded Program on Immunization; 1974; 2024 theme; Vaccines for All; health equity; Geneva; United Nations; Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

- **Date of Observance:** **World Immunization Day** is observed annually on **November 10th**.
- **Significance:** The day emphasizes the critical role of **vaccines** in safeguarding **public health** worldwide.

- **Historical Background:** November 10 also marks the anniversary of the **WHO's Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI)**, launched in **1974**.
- **2024 Theme:** The theme for 2024 is "**Vaccines for All: Protecting Communities and Building Health Equity**."

About World Health Organization



- **WHO Overview:** The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is a specialized **United Nations** agency responsible for **international public health**.
- **Headquarters and Regional Offices:** WHO is headquartered in **Geneva, Switzerland** and operates six regional offices.
- **Establishment:** The WHO was established in **1948**.
- **Current Leadership:** The current **Director General** of WHO is **Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**.

World Diabetes Day (WDD) Observed on 14 November to Raise Diabetes Awareness

Keywords: World Diabetes Day; 14 November; International Diabetes Federation; World Health Organization; Sir Frederick Banting; Charles Best; insulin; Blue Circle Logo; diabetes; insulin production; Beta-cells; pancreas.

- **Date of Observation:** **World Diabetes Day** is observed every year on **14 November** to raise awareness about diabetes.
- **Organizers:** WDD is organized by the **International Diabetes Federation (IDF)** in collaboration with the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.
- **Significance of Date:** **14 November** commemorates the birthday of **Sir Frederick Banting**, who co-discovered **insulin** with **Charles Best** in **1922**.
- **Global Symbol:** The **Blue Circle Logo**, introduced in **2007**, is the global symbol for **diabetes awareness**.

About Diabetes



- **Cause of Diabetes:** **Diabetes** is caused by insufficient **insulin production** or the inability of body cells to utilize **insulin**.
- **Nature of Diabetes:** It is a **chronic, metabolic disorder** where the **pancreas** produces no or inadequate **insulin**, or body cells fail to use it effectively.
- **Role of Insulin:** The main function of **insulin** is to regulate the **sugar level** in the body.
- **Source of Insulin:** **Insulin** is produced by **Beta-cells** in the **pancreas**.
- **Insulin Function:** As a **hormone**, insulin enables body cells to absorb **glucose**, which is then used to produce **energy**.

Personalities

Renowned Sarangi Maestro Pandit Ram Narayan Passes Away

Keywords: Pandit Ram Narayan; Sarangi; Indian classical music; solo performance instrument; Hindustani music; Ustad Binda Khan.

- **Legacy:** Pandit Ram Narayan, a celebrated Sarangi player, recently passed away.
- **Sranagi as solo instrument:** He significantly elevated the Sarangi from an accompaniment role to a respected solo instrument in Indian classical music.

About Sarangi



- **Instrument Overview:** The Sarangi is a bowed string instrument known for its skin-covered resonator.
- **Unique Ability:** Sarangi is the only instrument to accurately mimic all the nuances of vocal music in Hindustani music.
- **Sarangi Legend:** Ustad Binda Khan was a renowned maestro of the Sarangi.

Harinder Singh Sodhi 'Billy' - Renowned Indian Polo Player Passes Away

Keywords: Harinder Singh Sodhi; Billy; Indian polo; equestrian; 1980 Moscow Olympics.

- **Legacy:** Harinder Singh Sodhi, affectionately called 'Billy', was a celebrated figure in Indian polo.
- **Olympic Role:** He managed the Indian equestrian team at the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Passing of Freedom Fighter Madan Mohan Somtiya

Keywords: Madan Mohan Somtiya; freedom fighter; Mewar Praja Mandal; Queen Victoria statue; Udaipur; protest.

- **Name:** Madan Mohan Somtiya, a dedicated freedom fighter, has passed away.
- **Prominent Role:** He was a prominent member of the Mewar Praja Mandal.

- **Protest Action:** He actively participated in a protest by **blackening Queen Victoria's statue** in **Udaipur**.
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Legendary Mridangam Artist Varadarao Kamalakara Rao Passes Away

Keywords: Varadarao Kamalakara Rao; Mridangam; Carnatic music; United Nations Hall; Ramnad V Raghavan; P Mani Iyer; Anantha R Krishnan; Bharatanatyam.

- **Artist and Scholar:** **Varadarao Kamalakara Rao** was a legendary artist and scholar in **Mridangam**.
- **Contributions to Music:** He is **renowned for his contributions to Carnatic music**.
- **International Performance:** Rao had the rare honor of performing at the **United Nations Hall in New York**.

About Mridangam



- **Instrument Description:** **Mridangam** is a two-faced drum used in **South Indian music**.
 - **Carnatic Music:** It is the main percussion instrument in the **Carnatic form of music**.
 - **Dance Accompaniment:** **Mridangam** is also used as an accompaniment for **Bharatanatyam** and other forms of **Indian dance**.
 - **Notable Players:** Noted Mridangam players include **Ramnad V Raghavan, P Mani Iyer, and Anantha R Krishnan**.
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Miscellaneous

Sonu Sood Appointed Brand Ambassador for Thailand Tourism

Keywords: Sonu Sood; Brand Ambassador; Honorary Tourism Advisor; Thailand; Southeast Asia; Bangkok; Baht; white elephants; India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway; Look East policy.

- **New Role:** **Sonu Sood**, the celebrated actor and philanthropist, has been appointed as the **Brand Ambassador** and **Honorary Tourism Advisor** for **Thailand**.

About Thailand



- **Country Overview:** Thailand is a kingdom in Southeast Asia, formerly known as Siam.
- **Capital:** The capital of Thailand is Bangkok.
- **Currency:** The official currency of Thailand is the Baht.
- **Nickname:** Thailand is known as the country of white elephants.
- **Trilateral Highway:** The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway is under construction and will connect Moreh, India to Mae Sot, Thailand via Myanmar as part of India's Look East policy.