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# National

## **Maharashtra Govt Renames Maharashtra State Skills University after Ratan Tata**

The Maharashtra government has announced that the Maharashtra State Skills University will be renamed as “**Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Skills University**” in honour of the late industrialist and philanthropist **Ratan Tata** for his dedication to social causes, education, and skill development across India.

i. This announcement follows a recent proposal by the Maharashtra Cabinet led by Chief Minister (CM) Eknath Shinde urging the central government to confer the Bharat Ratna, India’s highest civilian award, to Ratan Tata.

iii. The Maharashtra government also announced that the Udyog Bhavan in Mumbai will be renamed as “**Ratan Tata Udyog Bhavan**.”

iv. The Department of Industry, Maharashtra announced the renaming of the Udyog Ratna Award as the “**Ratan Tata Udyog Ratna Award**”. Ratan Tata was the first recipient of this award in 2023.

## **Adani’s Ambuja Cement Limited to Acquire 46.8% Stake in Orient Cement for Rs 8,100 Crore**

Ambuja Cements Limited (ACL), leading cement company in India and part of the Adani Group announced the signing of a binding agreement to acquire a **46.8%** stakes of Orient Cement Limited (OCL), owned by C.K. Birla Group, for an equity value of **Rs 8,100 crore**. The acquisition will be completely funded through internal accruals.

- This marks Ambuja Cement’s **4th** acquisition since its promoter change and the **3rd** acquisition of the ongoing Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25).

### **Key Points:**

i. ACL will make an open offer at **Rs 395.40 per share** to the public shareholders of OCL in accordance with the provisions of the Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers (SAST) regulations.

ii. The acquisition will be carried out in **2 phases** i.e. In 1st phase, ACL will acquire 37.9% from OCL’s promoters and an additional 8.9% stakes from certain public shareholders.

- ACL also plans to launch an open offer for 26% of OCL’s expanded share capital at the same price per share.



### **Adani’s Group Cement Acquisition:**

i. In May 2022, Adani Group acquired Ambuja Cements and ACC Limited from Switzerland-based Holcim for USD 10.5 billion.

ii. In August 2023, Ambuja Cements bought Sanghi Industries in Gujarat, with production capacity of 6.1 MTPA for Rs 5,000 crore.

iii. In June 2024, Ambuja Cements acquired Hyderabad (Telangana)-based **Penna Cement**, India’s 2nd largest cement manufacturing company at an enterprise value of Rs 10,422 crore.

### **About Ambuja Cements Limited (ACL):**

**Non-Executive Chairman-** Gautam Adani

**Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra**  
**Established- 1983**

### **Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of Germany, visited India from 24th to 26th October 2024: Participated in 7th IGC and APK 2024**

Olaf Scholz, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, paid an official visit to India, at the invitation of **Prime Minister (PM) NarendraModi**, from **24th to 26th October 2024** for the **7th Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC)**.

i.On 25 October 2024, PM Modi and Chancellor Scholz co-chaired the 7th Intergovernmental Consultations(**7th IGC**). Chancellor Scholz was accompanied by senior Ministers in his cabinet for the IGC consultations.

ii.PMModi and Chancellor Scholz addressed the **18th Asia Pacific Conference of German Business (APK 2024)** being held in New Delhi, Delhi.

iii.India and Germany signed several Memorandum of Understandings(MoUs) and agreements to boost bilateral relations in the presence of Prime Minister NarendraModi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in New Delhi.



#### **About Germany:**

**President – Frank-Walter Steinmeier**

**Capital – Berlin**

**Currency – Euro**

### **MoF Raised MUDRA Loan Limit under PMMY from Rs 10 Lakh to Rs 20 Lakh**

The **Department of Financial Services** (DFS) under the Ministry of Finance (MoF) raised the limit of **Mudra loan** amount under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (**PMMY**) from current Rs 10 lakh to **Rs 20 lakh** under new “**Tarun Plus**” category to promote entrepreneurship in the country. It will effect from **October 24, 2024**.



- Borrowers who have previously availed and successfully repaid loans under “Tarun” category will be able to access funding between Rs 10 lakh and Rs 20 lakh.
- Also, the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (**CGFMU**) will now offer guarantee coverage for these enhance loans, which reinforces the Government of India (GoI)’s commitment to promote a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem in India.

### **Maharashtra, Karnataka & Delhi among Top 3 states in Direct Tax Contributor in FY24 : SBI**

According to the **State Bank of India (SBI)** Research report titled ‘How Tax Simplification has given a necessary fillip to ITR Filing’, Maharashtra has the highest share in direct tax revenue in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24).

- Maharashtra retained the **top position** with a significant **38.9%** share, Karnataka contributed **11.9%** and Delhi fell to third place, contributing 10.4%, followed by Tamil Nadu (TN) at 6.5% and Gujarat at 4.8%.

- These 5 states collectively contribute over **70%** of India's total direct taxes.

**Note:** A Direct tax is imposed directly on the taxpayer and paid directly to the government by the persons (juristic or natural) on whom it is imposed.

#### **Key Highlights:**

- i. This marks the **first time** in seven years that Karnataka has outperformed Delhi in terms of direct tax contributions, as Delhi had held the second position from 2017-18 to 2022-23.
- ii. Income tax returns filing peaks in Maharashtra, followed by Uttar Pradesh (UP), Gujarat, Rajasthan, and TN.

The SBI report also highlighted that direct taxes now account for **56.7%** of total tax revenue in FY24, marking the highest contribution in 14 years.

#### **2024 Global Nature Conservation Index: India Ranked 176 out of 180 Countries, Labelled among Worst Performer**

According to the **2024 Global Nature Conservation Index (NCI)** released on 24th October 2024, India has ranked at 176th position among 180 countries across the world, with overall score of **45.5** out of 100. India's low ranking in the index is mainly attributed to inefficient land management and rising threats to biodiversity.



**2024 Global Nature Conservation Index: India ranked 176 out of 180 countries, labelled among worst performers**

- As per the Index, India is among the **5 worst performers** alongside **Kiribati (180th)**, **Turkey (179th)**, **Iraq (178th)**, and **Micronesia (177th)**.

i. **Luxembourg** has topped the index with overall score of 70.8, followed by **Estonia (70.5)** and **Denmark (69.4)** ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** position, respectively.

ii. This is the inaugural edition of the index, developed by Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change (GSC) at Ben-Gurion University (BGU) of the Negev and **BioDB.com**, a non-profit web portal dedicated to maintaining biodiversity data.

#### **About Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change (GSC):**

**Headquarters-** Israel

**Established-** 2022.

#### **USA, France, Armenia emerges as India's Top 3 Defence Export Customers**

The United States of America (**USA**), **France**, and **Armenia** emerged as the top three customers for Indian military equipment in the Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24).

- In FY24, India's Defence exports reached a record value of **Rs 21,083 crore** (approximately USD 2.6 billion), marking a **32.5%** increase from FY23's figure of Rs 15,920 crore.
- India is currently exporting military equipment to over 100 countries worldwide.
- Indian Defence exports have surged 31-fold in the past 10 years, compared to FY14.

## What Customers are Importing?

### USA:

It is primarily importing **sub-systems** and **components** from India, which are used by major Defence contractors such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin. These components include parts for aircraft and helicopters.

- Notable collaborations include the Tata Boeing Aerospace venture in **Hyderabad**, Telangana which manufactures fuselage and secondary structures for Apache attack helicopters

### France:

France's imports from India largely consist of software and electronic equipment for Defence applications.

### Armenia:

Armenia imported finished weapon systems from India, including 155mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (**ATAGS**), Akash air Defence missile systems, Pinaka multi-launch rocket systems, bullet-proof vests, and Swathi weapon locating radars and other important systems.

- Armenia biggest buyer of India's 'finished' weapon systems
- In 2022, Armenia placed order worth USD 720 million for 15 Akash-1S systems, establishing itself as **India's first international customer** for this missile system.

## New Book 'Mountain Mammals of the World' by Dr M.K. Ranjitsinh Launched in Delhi

Author Dr. MK Ranjitsinh, a member of the royal family of Wankanaer in Saurashtra (Gujarat), has published his 4th book titled "Mountain Mammals of the World". The book was published by Penguin Random House.

- The book, is a definitive guide of larger mammals found on the mountains of the world. It features 62 species and 78 subspecies, with spectacular photographs.

i. The book was launched by former politician-author and Padma Vibhushan awardee **Dr Karan Singh** at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in New Delhi, Delhi.

- JigmeJungney, a representative of spiritual leader Dalai Lama and Ravi Singh, Secretary General and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of WWF-India, were present during the event.

ii. Dr MK Ranjitsinh was an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer and he has also worked on India's Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972. He has also served as Chairman of the Wildlife Trust of India; Regional Co-ordinator of WWF Tiger Conservation Programme, among other posts— making him one of the foremost authorities to write about wildlife in India.

## Australia selected as the "Country of Focus" for the IFFI 2024

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MIB) announced **Australia** as the "**Country of Focus**" for the **55th edition** of the International Film Festival of India (**IFFI 2024**), scheduled to take place in Panaji, **Goa**, from 20th to 28th November 2024.

- The “Country of Focus” is one of the key features of IFFI, offering a dedicated showcase of the nation’s best contemporary films.

i. This recognition aims to celebrate the contributions of Australian cinema to the global film industry. This also highlights Australia’s rich storytelling traditions, vibrant film culture, and innovative cinematic techniques.

ii. 7 Australian films, offering a diverse blend of genres, from critically acclaimed dramas to powerful documentaries, visually stunning thrillers, and light-hearted comedies will be presented at the IFFI 2024.

**Note:** IFFI, founded in 1952, is one of Asia’s most significant film festivals, which offers a platform for filmmakers to present their works. It is annually held in Goa to celebrate the finest of World cinema.

### **7th Session of ISA Assembly held in New Delhi from November 3rd to 6th, 2024**

The 7th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conducted from 3rd to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi with ministers from 29 countries.

- Ministers, mission heads, and delegates from 120 Member and Signatory Countries (103 Member and 17 Signatory Countries), along with partner organizations and stakeholders, participated in the event.
- The aim of the event was to enhance solar energy deployment across its Member Countries, particularly in regions with limited energy access.

#### **About International Solar Alliance (ISA):**

**Director General**— Ashish Khanna

**Headquarters** – Gurugram, Haryana

**Signatories**— 120 countries

### **Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park: India’s First IGBC-Certified Zoo in Kangra, HP**

Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister (CM) of Himachal Pradesh (HP), announced that Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park, located in the Bankhandi area of Kangra’s Dehra constituency in HP, will become the **first zoo in India** to receive certification from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).



**Himachal Pradesh's Durgesh Aranya Zoological Park' set to become India's first Zoo with IGBC certification**

- This certification highlights the commitment to sustainable infrastructure and eco-friendly practices, setting a new benchmark for conservation and environmental responsibility across the country.
- This initiative aligns with the government’s vision to develop **Kangra** as a model for eco-tourism, reinforcing its reputation as the “Tourism Capital” of HP.

#### **Key Points:**

i. The zoo’s development is progressing in phases. The first phase, spanning 25 hectares, has a projected cost of Rs 230 crore and is set for completion by the third quarter of 2025.

- ii. The entire park, with a budget of **Rs 619 crore**, will boost tourism in Kangra and its neighboring areas, creating a thriving, eco-friendly attraction.
- iii. The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has approved 34 enclosures for this zoo.

### **Ashwin Fernandes presented his new book “Modialogue” on PM Modi’s Mann Ki Baat to Ram Nath Kovind’**

Dr. Ashwin Fernandes, Executive Director of the United Kingdom (UK)-based QS World ranking, presented his new book titled “Modialogue: Conversations for a Viksit Bharat” to Ram Nath Kovind, former President of India. The book was launched at the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The book highlights the widespread influence of Prime Minister(PM) Narendra Modi’s renowned radio show, “**Mann Ki Baat**”.
- The title “Modialogue”, a fusion of ‘**Modi**’ and ‘**dialogue**’ highlights the unique communication approach that has bridged the gap between citizens, offering them a platform to voice their aspirations, concerns, and dreams for a brighter future.
- The book also includes an analysis of a nationwide survey with responses from over 4,200 people, highlighting the overwhelmingly positive impact of Mann Ki Baat across diverse demographics.

### **India’s First “Writer’s village” Inaugurated in Dehradun**

India’s first “Writer’s Village” (Lekhak Gaon) was jointly inaugurated by former President Ram Nath Kovind, Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant (Lt) General Gurmit Singh (retired) and Chief Minister (CM) Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

- It is conceived by former CM **Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank**, a renowned writer in his own right.
- i. It aims to encourage creativity and offer a supportive space for writers from all over the nation, positioning Dehradun as an emerging cultural center for literary excellence.
  - ii. The village hosted its first event, the three-day International Literature, Culture, and Art Festival, “**Sparsh Himalaya Mahotsav**,” with writers from more than 40 countries participating in person, while those from around 25 nations joined virtually.

- During the event, Nishank unveiled his book “**Ram in the Himalayas**”

## **PM Modi commenced 150th Birth Anniversary Year of Birsa Munda on Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi visited **Jamui, Bihar** on **15th November 2024** on the occasion of '**Janjatiya Gaurav Divas**' and paid tribute to tribal leader **Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda**.

- **Janjatiya Gaurav Divas 2024** marks the commencement of **150th Birth Anniversary Year** celebration of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.

i. PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over **Rs 6,640 crore** in Jamui, Bihar

ii. Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Cooperation, unveiled a grand statue of Bhagwan Birsa Munda at **Baansera Park in New Delhi, Delhi** on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary year.

iii. He also renamed the Sarai Kale Khan Chowk outside Sarai Kale Khan inter-state bus terminus (ISBT) in south-east Delhi as **Birsa Munda Chowk**.

### **About Bihar:**

**Chief minister** – Nitish Kumar

**Governor** – Rajendra Arlekar

**Capital** – Patna

## **Govt reconstituted ISC with PM Modi as chairman; state CMs & 9 Union ministers as members**

The Government of India(GoI) has reconstituted the Inter-State Council (**ISC**), an important body for enhancing **Centre-State** and **interstate** coordination, with Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** as its chairman.

- The council aims to strengthen cooperative federalism by fostering dialogue and cooperation between the GoI and the states.
- The GoI also restructured the **Standing Committee** of the ISC and appointed Union Minister **Amit Shah** as its chairman.
- The committee is responsible for reviewing the implementation of ISC recommendations and addressing issues referred by the Chairman or the Council.

## **FTII's short film “Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know” Qualified for Oscar 2025**

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting(**MoI&B**) announced that Pune (Maharashtra) based Film and Television Institute of India(FTII) student film "**Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know**" has qualified for the **2025 Oscars** in the Live Action Short Film Category.

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- The Kannada short film was produced by FTII and directed by **Chidananda S Naik**.
  - i.The 16-minute short film is inspired by Indian folklore. The story chronicles a village where chaos unfolds after an elderly woman steals a rooster.
  - ii. It won the First Prize at the **Cannes Film Festival's La Cinef Selection 2024**, gaining worldwide recognition for the Kannada-language project inspired by Indian folk tales and traditions. It also won the Bengaluru International Short Film Festival.
- Note:** The 97th Academy Awards will be held on 2nd March 2025, in Los Angeles, the United States of America(USA).

### **SC permits LMV licence holders to drive transport vehicles upto 7500 kg**

The Supreme Court (SC) of India permits that a driver holding a licence for Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) class can drive transport vehicles weighing under 7,500 kilogram(kg) without need for additional authorisation under the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.

- i. A five-judge bench, led by former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, examined the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.
- ii. The bench clarified that additional requirements under the Motor Vehicles Act apply only to vehicles exceeding the 7,500 kg threshold, such as medium or heavy goods and passenger vehicles.

**Note:** Road safety is a critical public health concern worldwide, over 1.7 lakh people lost their lives in road accidents in India in 2023.

**Thomas Mathew released his new book “Ratan Tata: A Life”, a biography of Ratan Tata**  
A retired bureaucrat **Thomas Mathew** has authored a new book titled **“Ratan Tata : A Life”**, a biography of **Late Mr.Ratan Tata** has been published posthumously. The book was published by **HarperCollins India**.

- The book explores Ratan Tata's journey from his isolated childhood, his 1st position within the Tata Group, to his transformative tenure as chairman of Tata Sons.
- The book by Thomas Mathew has been prepared with insights from over 130 interviews, capturing stories from people touched by Tata's influence.

### **“Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla” notified as India's 56th Tiger Reserve**

On November 18 2024, Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav** notified the **Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla** protected area in Chhattisgarh as India's **56th tiger reserve**.

- The new reserve becomes India's **3rd largest** tiger reserve behind the Manas Tiger Reserve (MTR) in Assam and the Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) in Andhra Pradesh (AP).
- It is the 4th tiger reserve in Chhattisgarh after Achanakmar, Indravati, and UdantiSitanadi.

**Note:** Tiger Reserves are notified by State Governments as per provisions of Section 38V of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 on advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority(NTCA).

**Key points:**

- i.The Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is situated across the Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur districts of Chhattisgarh.
- ii.The reserve will spread with a total size of 2,829.38 square kilometers(sq km) and 2,049.2 sq km designated as core area. It is contiguous to Sanjay Dubri Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh(MP).
- iii.The reserve has a buffer zone of **780.15** sq km, which reduces human-animal conflicts and gives wildlife the space they need to thrive.

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# International

## Israel Joins Asian Development Bank as 69th Member Country

Israel has officially joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its 69th member and 20th non-regional member with effect from **27th September 2024**, after completing all membership requirements.

- Israeli Finance Minister **Bezalel Smotrich** will represent Israel at the ADB.

### Background:

i. Israel formally submitted its application for ADB membership in **January 2022**.

ii. The ADB Board of Governors approved Israel's membership on **14th April 2022** through Resolution no. 414: "Membership of Israel and Increase in Authorized Capital Stock".

iii. By joining the ADB, Israel aims to expand its influence in Asia and foster closer strategic ties and trade relationships.

### ADB Membership requirements:

i. To become a member of the ADB, the prospective country must be a member of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) or a **non-regional developed country**.

ii. Membership requires approval from existing member countries, typically through a vote by the Board of Governors, which consists of representatives from all member nations.

iii. The applicant must agree to adhere to ADB's operational policies, including commitments to economic development, poverty reduction, and sustainable growth.

### About Israel:

President– Isaac Herzog

Capital– Jerusalem

Currency– Israeli New Shekel



## PM Modi visit to Russia from 22nd to 23rd October to attend 16th BRICS summit in Kazan

Prime Minister (PM) **Narendra Modi** visited Russia from **22nd to 23rd October 2024** to attend the **16th BRICS**(Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) **Summit in Kazan**, Russia following an invitation from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

- The **BRICS Summit 2024** was held under the chairmanship of the Russian Federation in Kazan, Russia from October 22 to 24, 2024. The summit was chaired by Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation.
- The theme of the Summit was '**Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security**', which aimed to provide an important platform for leaders to discuss key global issues.
- The 16th BRICS Summit ended with the adoption of the **Kazan Declaration**, a comprehensive document outlining key areas of cooperation and the bloc's unified stance on global issues.

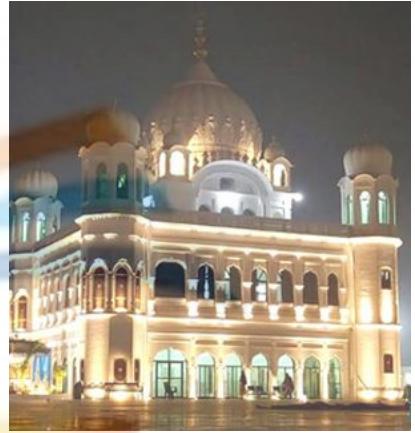
## India, Pakistan renew Kartarpur Corridor Agreement until 2029

India and Pakistan have renewed their agreement on the Kartarpur Corridor, extending its operation for further **5 years** i.e. until **2029**. This corridor facilitates **visa-free access** for Indian Sikh pilgrims to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur, Pakistan, which is a significant religious site for Sikhs as it marks the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev, the **founder of Sikhism**, and **first** of the 10th Sikh gurus.

- The original agreement was signed on October 24, 2019.
- The extension of the Kartarpur Corridor agreement was announced on October 22, 2024.

### Key Points:

i. Despite the renewal, India has reiterated its request for Pakistan to waive the **USD 20 (Rs 1682) service charge** imposed on each pilgrim. Pakistan maintains this fee is necessary to cover the costs associated with maintaining the corridor and facilities.



ii. The Kartarpur Corridor is approximately 4 kilometers long and connects the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in **Narowal**, Pakistan, with the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in **Gurdaspur** district, India.

- It is located on the east bank of the Ravi River in India, around 1 km from the Indo-Pakistan border.

iii. It was inaugurated in November 2019 as part of celebrations for Guru Nanak Dev's **550th birth anniversary**.

iv. The establishment of this corridor was seen as a **Confidence Building Measure (CBM)** aimed at improving relations between India and Pakistan amidst ongoing tensions.

## India Ranked 79 among 142 Countries in the WJP Rule of Law Index 2024; Denmark topped

On 23rd October 2024, Washington D.C. (the United States of America, USA)-based think tank World Justice Project (**WJP**) released the report titled "**WJP Rule of Law Index 2024**". India has been ranked at **79th** position among 142 countries in the index with an overall rule of law score of **0.50** increased by 0.8% compared to last year's score.

- According to the index, the rule of law has declined for the **7th** consecutive year in a majority of countries (57%) while 43% of countries surveyed have experienced improvement in the rule of law.

i. **Denmark** topped the index with an overall score of 0.90, followed by **Norway** (0.89) and **Finland** (0.87) ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** position, respectively.

ii. **Venezuela** ranked at **142nd** position in the index with lowest score of **0.26**, followed by Cambodia (0.31), Afghanistan (0.32) Haiti (0.33), and Myanmar (0.34) ranked at 141st, 140th, 139th and 138th position, respectively.

## 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting held in Apia, Samoa

The 27th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM 2024) or the Meeting of the Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Nations was held in **Apia, Samoa** from 24th to 26th October 2024. Samoa hosted the meeting with support from Australia. The theme of CHOGM 2024 is 'One Resilient Common Future: Transforming our Common Wealth'.

- 2024 marks the **75th** anniversary of the Commonwealth and this marks the first CHOGM held in a Pacific island country. This also marks His Majesty King Charles III's first CHOGM as Head of the Commonwealth.
- i. The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister **KirenRijiju**, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs(MoPA), Government of India(GoI) participated in the Executive Session of CHOGM 2024.
- ii. Commonwealth countries adopted their **1st ocean declaration** during the summit as calls from some of Britain's former colonies for reparatory justice for the trans-Atlantic slave trade grew louder.



## Brazil Becomes 2nd BRICS Country not to Join China's BRI

**Brazil** has officially decided not to join China's **Belt and Road Initiative** (BRI). With this, Brazil becomes the second **BRICS**(Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nation, **following India**, to reject participation in this infrastructure project.

- Brazilian President LuizInácio Lula da Silva, through his Special Adviser for International Affairs, **CelsoAmorim**, emphasized that Brazil seeks to elevate its relationship with China without entering into a formal treaty or accession contract to the BRI.



### Key Points:

- i. Brazil aims to leverage aspects of the BRI framework to create synergies between its own infrastructure projects and Chinese investment funds, without formally joining the initiative.
- ii. BRICS originally consisted of **Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa**. Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have been admitted as new members.
- iii. BRI, also known as the **One Belt One Road** or the **New Silk Road**, is a global development strategy launched by China in 2013. It aims to enhance connectivity and cooperation among countries primarily across Asia, Europe, and Africa.

- It is one of the largest infrastructures and investment projects in history, with estimates of total investments between **USD 4 trillion** to **USD 8 trillion**.

## Global City Index 2024: London Emerged as the World's Top City Brand

According to the Brand Finance's **Global City Index 2024**, London, the United Kingdom (UK), has again emerged as the world's top city brand for 2nd consecutive year, with overall score of **90.9** out of 100. It is followed by New York City, the United States of America (USA), Paris, France secured **2nd** and **3rd** position respectively.



- This is the **2nd** edition of the index, which provides the most comprehensive global survey of city perceptions, collecting opinions from more than 15,000 respondents across 20 countries worldwide.

i. **Tokyo**, Japan has improved its overall ranking in the index by 3 places, from 7th (in 2023) position to 4th (in 2024).

ii. **Dubai**, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has emerged as the highest-ranked city in the West Asia and Africa region for the 2nd consecutive year.

## CCPI 2025: India Ranks at 10th Position Drops from 7th in 2023

According to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) **2025**, India ranked at **10th** position with overall score of **67.99** on a list of over 60 countries assessed for efforts to fight climate change, dropping from **7th** position in 2023. As per the CCPI 2025, this latest ranking of India is mainly attributed to its low per capita emissions and rapid deployment of renewable energy.



**India drops two places but remains among top 10 climate performers: CCPI report**

- The CCPI 2025 was released at the **29th** Conference of Parties (COP29) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

i. The index has left the 1st three places empty as no country performed well enough across all index categories to achieve an overall “**very high**” rating.

- Thus, the index is topped by **Denmark** (score of 78.37) ranked at **4th** position, followed by **the Netherlands** (score of 69.60) and the United Kingdom (UK) with overall score of 69.29 ranked at **5th** and **6th** position, respectively.

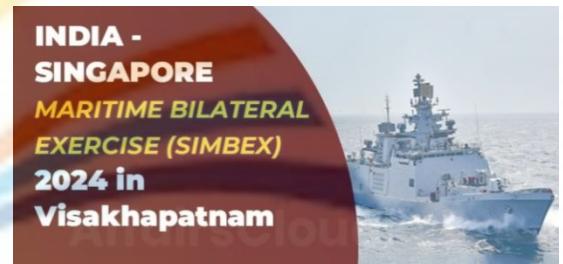
ii. The latest edition of CCPI has tracked the climate performance of **63 countries** and the European Union (EU), which together generated **over 90%** of global Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

iii. **The UK and India** are the only two Group-20 (G20) countries ranked among the high climate performers in the CCPI 2025.

# Defence

## SIMBEX 2024: India-Singapore Naval Exercise Begins Off Visakhapatnam, AP

On October 23-29, 2024, the 31st edition of joint Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) 2024 conducted off the coast of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. This annual event aimed at enhancing naval cooperation between the **Indian Navy (IN)** and the **Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)**.



- The opening ceremony was conducted onboard Indian Naval Ship (INS) **Shivalik**.
- The exercise is conducted in two phases – the **Harbour Phase** from 23 to 25 October at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and the **Sea Phase** from 28 to 29 October in the Bay of Bengal.

### Objective:

- i. Strengthening the strategic partnership between India and Singapore.
- ii. Enhancing interoperability and maritime domain awareness.
- iii. Fostering cooperation to address common maritime challenges.

### Participants:

**IN:** Shivalik-class frigate **INS Shivalik**, which had an MH-60R Seahawk on board, along with a Sindhughosh-class submarine, a P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, and two MiG-29K fighter jets.

**RSN:** Formidable-class frigate **RSS Tenacious**, equipped with an S-70B Seahawk naval helicopter.

### Phases of Exercise:

**i. Harbour Phase (October 23-25):** It is conducted at the **Eastern Naval Command** in Visakhapatnam. This phase focuses on fostering interpersonal relationships through cultural exchanges and sports activities among personnel from both navies. It includes subject matter expert exchanges and pre-sail briefings.

**ii. Sea Phase (October 28-29):** Held in the Bay of Bengal, this phase involved advanced naval drills, including live weapon firings, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) training, and tactical maneuvers. RSN has deployed its ship, **RSS Tenacious**, along with helicopters for these exercises.

### About SIMBEX:

SIMBEX began in 1994 as **Exercise Lion King** and has evolved into the longest continuous naval exercise conducted by the IN with any foreign navy. This reflects the strong and lasting naval partnership between India and Singapore.

## Ex Vajra Prahar 2024: 15th Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise Commenced at Idaho, USA

The Indian Army (IA) contingent participated in the **15th** edition of the **Exercise Vajra Prahar** with the United States (US) Army at the Orchard Combat Training Centre in Idaho, the United States of America (USA).



- This ongoing exercise, which began on **November 2 2024**, aims to strengthen military cooperation between India and the US and is scheduled to continue until **November 22, 2024**.

#### **Exercise Vajra Prahar 2024:**

i. Each country's **contingent** in the joint exercise will include 45 personnel.

- The IA is represented by its Special Forces units from the Parachute Regiment.
- The US Army is represented by its elite Green Berets.

ii. The exercise will focus on executing joint Special Forces operations in desert and semi-desert environments, engaging in rigorous physical training to boost endurance and combat readiness, and conducting collaborative mission planning along with synchronized tactical drills to strengthen teamwork and precision.

iii. It marks the second joint exercise between the two nations' armies, following Exercise YUDH ABHYAS, held in Rajasthan in September 2024.

#### **About Exercise Vajra Prahar:**

i. Exercise Vajra Prahar is an annual exercise between the armies of India and the USA to exchange best practices and experiences, particularly in areas like joint mission planning and operational tactics.

#### **9th India-Indonesia Joint Exercise 'GARUD SHAKTI' held in Jakarta, Indonesia**

A contingent of the Indian Army (IA) participated in the 9th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces Exercise, GARUD SHAKTI, from November 1 to November 12, 2024 in **Cijantung** in Jakarta, Indonesia.

- It provides an opportunity to share best practices, achieve common security goals, and strengthen bilateral relations.



**INDIAN ARMY SPECIAL FORCES contingent departs for 9th India-Indonesia joint exercise 'GARUD SHAKTI' 24 in Jakarta**

#### **Aim:**

To enhance mutual understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between both forces through joint tactical drills and discussions, strengthening bilateral military ties.

#### **About GARUD SHAKTI – 24:**

i. The exercise GARUD SHAKTI – 24 involves 25 Indian personnel from the **Parachute Regiment** (Special Forces) of the IA and 40 members of **Indonesia's Special forces Kopassus**.

ii. The exercise included planning and executing special operations, with an emphasis on advanced special forces skills.

iii. Participants exchanged knowledge on weapons, equipment, tactics, techniques, and procedures.

iv. Joint training focused on special forces operations in jungle terrain, including strikes on terrorist camps, and a validation exercise integrating both basic and advanced special forces skills.

#### **Exercise GARUD SHAKTI:**

- i. The exercise was initiated in 2012 as a **Joint Military Exercise** between India and Indonesia. This exercise is held alternately in India and Indonesia.
- ii. The 8th edition of GARUD SHAKTI exercise was held in Indonesia in 2022.

### **VINBAX-2024: 5th Joint Military Exercise between India & Vietnam held in Haryana**

The 5th edition of the Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise(**VINBAX-2024**) is being conducted at **Ambala**, Haryana and **Chandimandir** Military Station in Panchkula District of Haryana from November 4 to 23, 2024, marking a significant step in enhancing the defense ties between India and Vietnam.



- The aim of VINBAX-2024 is to strengthen the joint military readiness of both nations, particularly in areas crucial to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions.
- Troops will focus on engineering tasks and medical team deployment under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which involves Peacekeeping Operations.

#### **Representatives:**

- i. The Indian Army (**IA**) **contingent**, comprising 47 personnel, is represented by a Regiment of the Corps of Engineers, with additional support from other arms and services.
- ii. The Vietnamese **contingent** mirrors this strength, with personnel from the Vietnam People's Army.

#### **About VINBAX-2024:**

- i. VINBAX-2024 is designed as an intense field training exercise, focusing on technical coordination and shared best practices.
- ii. This year, VINBAX has expanded its scope, with participation from **both the Army and Air Force of India and Vietnam** for the first time, reflecting a deeper commitment to bilateral cooperation.
- iii. It includes a 48-hour Validation Exercise, featuring a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (**HADR**) demonstration and equipment exhibition.

The 4th edition of VINBAX, was conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam in December 2023.

### **AUSTRAHIND-2024: India-Australia Joint Military Exercise Held in Pune, Maharashtra**

The **3rd edition** of the India-Australia joint military exercise “**AUSTRAHIND-24**” is being conducted at Foreign Training Node in Pune(Maharashtra) from November 8 to November 21, 2024.



- The exercise aims to strengthen military cooperation between India and Australia by improving the ability of both forces to work together in joint unconventional

operations.

#### **Background:**

- i.This annual exercise AUSTRAHIND was started in 2022 in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (MFFR) in Mahajan, Rajasthan. Since then, it was conducted alternatively in India and Australia.
- ii.The last edition of this exercise was held in Perth, Australia in December 2023.

#### **About AUSTRAHIND-2024 :**

- i.This year's drill is set in a semi-urban, semi-desert environment, reflecting conditions under Chapter VII of the United Nations (UN) mandate on peacekeeping operations.
- ii.Key focus areas will include joint physical fitness, planning, and tactical coordination.
- iii.During the AUSTRAHIND -24 exercise, soldiers from both India and Australia engaged in social and cultural activities.

#### **Participants:**

- i.The Indian contingent includes 140 personnel, mainly from the DOGRA Regiment of the Indian Army (IA), along with 14 members of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ii.The Australian Contingent includes 120 personnel, represented by the 13th Light Horse Regiment from the 10th Brigade of the 2nd Division of the Australian Army.

#### **Phases :**

- i.**Combat Conditioning and Tactical Training:** Soldiers undergo conditioning and training for joint operations.
- ii.**Validation Phase:** Skills learned are applied in a realistic setting.

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## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### **Rashmika Mandanna Appointed as the National Ambassador to Promote Cyber Safety**

Indian actress **Rashmika Mandanna** has been appointed as the National Ambassador for Cyber Safety by the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

- Rashmika Mandanna will spread a nationwide campaign aimed at raising awareness about cyber threats, cyberbullying and Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated malicious content.
- Her personal experience with cybercrime adds credibility to her mission of promoting online safety across India.

**Note:** The I4C was established in 2018 by the MOHA in (New Delhi) Delhi to provide a coordinated and comprehensive framework for Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) to effectively address cybercrime, serving as the nodal point for combating such threats across India.

### **Donald Trump Elected as the 47th President of the United States of America**

On 6th November 2024, **Donald John Trump** of the Republican Party was elected as the **47th President of the United States of America (USA)** securing the popular vote and reaching the 295 electoral votes needed for victory.

- He defeated Democrat Kamala Harris (226 electoral votes) and became the first Republican to have won USA Elections by popular vote.
- He has previously served as the **45th President of USA from 2017 to 2021**.
- Donald John Trump will take over from Joe Biden, incumbent President of USA, in January 2025.

**Note:** Donald Trump is the 1st former president to return to power since **Grover Cleveland** regained the White House in the 1892 election.

#### **About Donald Trump:**

i. Donald Trump, an American politician, businessman, and media personality, was born on 14th June 1946 in the Queens borough of New York City, New York, USA.

ii. Donald Trump, a renowned entrepreneur, took over his father's company in 1971 and renamed it "The Trump Organization", in 1973.

iii. He relinquished management of The Trump Organization to his sons Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump in 2017 after he became the president of USA in 2017.

#### **Book:**

Trump has co-written more than 15 books. His noted works include *Trump: Surviving at the Top* (1990), *Trump: The Art of the Comeback* (1997), *Trump 101: The Way to Success* (2007), *Crippled America: How to Make America Great Again* (2015), and most recently *Letters to Trump* (2023).

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## Govt Appoints S. Gopalakrishnan as the Chairman of SSC

The Government of India (GoI) has appointed a 1991-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, **S. Gopalakrishnan** as the Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) with effect from 31st October 2024. The order was issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) under the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions (MoPP&P).

- Gopalakrishnan succeeded **Rakesh Ranjan** (1992-batch IAS officer) who took the voluntary retirement from service (VRS). He was set to remain in the post till May 15, 2029.

### Other appointments:

- i.V. Umashankar**, a 1993-batch officer, has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).
- ii. Vikram Dev Dutt**, who was the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has been appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Coal (MoC).
- iii. Tanmay Kumar**, the Special Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), has been appointed as the Secretary of MoEFCC and will take charge in December when the current Secretary, Leena Nandan, retires.
- iv. Subrata Gupta**, a 1990-batch officer, appointed as the Secretary of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) after the retirement of the current Secretary, Anita Parveen.

## Justice Sanjiv Khanna Sworn in as 51st Chief Justice of India

Justice Sanjiv Khanna was sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI) succeeding Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant (DY) Chandrachud who retired on November 10, 2024.

- Justice Sanjiv Khanna will hold the post till **May 13, 2025**.
- The oath of office was administered by **President Droupadi Murmu** during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, Delhi, attended by prominent dignitaries including Vice-President **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi and other cabinet members.



### About Justice Sanjiv Khanna:

- Justice Sanjiv Khanna enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983.
- He was elevated as an additional judge of the Delhi High Court in 2005 and was made a permanent judge in 2006 and later became a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on 18th January 2019.
- He held the post of Chairman, Supreme Court Legal Service Committee, from 17th June 2023 till 25th December 2023.
- He is presently the Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority and a member of the Governing Council of the National Judicial Academy, Bhopal.
- He has been part of several landmark judgments. Some significant cases include:

- **Revocation of Article 370:** Upholding the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status.
- **Electoral Bonds Scheme:** Declaring the scheme unconstitutional due to its violation of transparency principles.
- **Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs):** Upholding their use while ensuring that adequate safeguards are in place

**Points to Note:**

- Article 124 (1) of the Constitution of India states that there shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of the Chief Justice of India.
- Article 126 of the constitution deals with the appointment of an acting CJI.
- The CJI is appointed by the President of India under Clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India.

**MS Dhoni Appointed as Brand Ambassador for Jharkhand Assembly Election**

The former Indian cricket captain, **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** (MS Dhoni) has been appointed as the **brand ambassador** for the upcoming **Jharkhand** election by the Election Commission.

- Dhoni will help raise awareness about voting through the SWEEP (Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation) program, aiming to encourage more people to vote by using his popularity.

**Jharkhand Election:** The elections for 81 assembly seats will be held in two phases on November 13 and November 20 with 43 constituencies. The results to be announced on November 23.

**Brazil's Valdecy Urquiza elected as INTERPOL's New Secretary General**

Valdecy Urquiza, a Federal Police Commissioner from Brazil, has been elected as the new Secretary-General of the International Criminal Police Organisation **INTERPOL**, during its 92nd General Assembly held at **Glasgow (Scotland)** in the United Kingdom (UK). He officially assumed office on **November 7**, succeeding **Jürgen Stock** (Germany), who served the Organisation for a decade.

- He was the **first person** from a developing country **Brazil** to hold this position since INTERPOL's establishment in 1923.
- Prior to this, he served as the Director of International Cooperation (DIC) for the Brazilian Federal Police, Brazil.



### **About Valdecy Urquiza:**

- i. Valdecy Urquiza was a Brazilian Police Commissioner with extensive experience in senior law enforcement roles at both national and international level.
- ii. He was also responsible for its International Legal Cooperation Division (**ILCD**), International Relations Division (**IRD**), and Directorate of Information Technology (**DIT**).
- iii. He served as Vice-President for the Americas on INTERPOL's Executive Committee from 2021 to 2024.
- iv. From 2018 to 2021, he was the Assistant Director for Vulnerable Communities at the INTERPOL General Secretariat headquarters in Lyon, France, overseeing three key crime areas: **crimes against children, human trafficking and migrant smuggling**.

### **About 92nd General Assembly of INTERPOL Organisation:**

- i. The United Kingdom (**UK**) hosted the 92nd INTERPOL General Assembly, world's largest gathering of senior law enforcement officials, from 4th to 7th November 2024 at the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow. **Keir Starmer**, Prime Minister (**PM**) of the UK has opened the General Assembly meeting.
- ii. Attended by around **1,000** delegates from member countries. The General Assembly elected 9 members of the INTERPOL Executive committee.
- iii. From India, the annual event was attended by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director, **Praveen Sood** and **Vijayendra Bidari**, joint director in the federal anti-corruption agency.
- iv. **Taiwan** seeks to join as an **observer** in the 92nd INTERPOL General Assembly to strengthen international cooperation in combating global crimes.

### **About International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL):**

INTERPOL was founded in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission (**ICPC**) in Vienna, Austria. In 1956, the organization adopted the name INTERPOL, derived from "International Criminal Police Organization" (**ICPO**).

**Secretary General-** Valdecy Urquiza (Brazil)

**President-** Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi of the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

**Headquarters-** Lyon, France

**Member Countries-** 196

### **IAS Officer Vipin Kumar takes over as Chairman of AAI**

On 28th October 2024, **Vipin Kumar**, an Indian Administrative Service (**IAS**) officer of the 1996 batch from the Bihar cadre, took over as the **Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)** under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

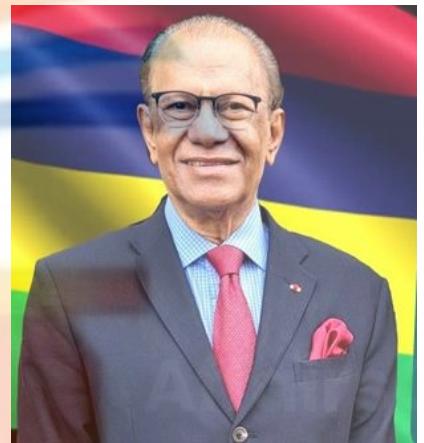
- He succeeded **M. Suresh**, who has been serving as the interim chairman after **Sanjeev Kumar**, the former chairman, was appointed as the Defence secretary in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in August 2024.

- Prior to the appointment, he served as Additional secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy (DSEL), Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India(GoI).

### **Navinchandra Ramgoolam appointed as Mauritius' New Prime Minister**

Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam (77), the leader of the Labour Party, was appointed as the Prime Minister(PM) of Mauritius for the **third time** by the President **Prithvirajsing Roopun**, after his coalition Alliance du Changement won the parliamentary election. He took the oath of office on November 13, 2024 for a 5 year term and replaced **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth**, who has served as PM since 2017.

- The opposition coalition secured a commanding victory with **62.6%** of the vote, winning **60 of the 62** contested seats, while the People's Alliance led by Jugnauth failed to win any seat.
- It was the 12th election of Mauritius since the country attained independence in 1968.



#### **About Navinchandra Ramgoolam:**

- i.Navinchandra Ramgoolam is the son of **Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam**, the **first PM of independent Mauritius**, often referred as the “Father of the Nation.”
- ii.Ramgoolam, former doctor and a lawyer, became the leader of the Mauritius Labor Party (MLP) in June 1991.
- iii.He was first selected as the PM in **1995** and served until 2000 and again he became the PM in 2005 and served until 2014.

- He also held the Offices of Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications.
- iv.He played a key role in strengthening Mauritius' position as a financial services hub and enhancing the tourism sector, which is a major contributor to the country's economy.
- v.**He was honoured** with the Honorary Doctor of Civil Law degree from Staffordshire University in recognition of his leadership in governance.

#### **About Mauritius:**

**Prime Minister (PM)-** Navinchandra Ramgoolam

**President-** Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

**Capital-** Port Louis

**Currency-** Mauritian Rupee (**MUR**)

### **Mohammad Tayyab Ikram Elected as New FIH President**

Mohammad Tayyab Ikram was elected as new 13th president of International Hockey Federation's (**FIH**) at the **49th FIH Statutory Congress** held in **Muscat, Oman**.The current tenure will be continued until 2032.

- Ikram assumed the FIH presidency on an interim basis in 2022 for a two-year term of 2022-2024, following Indian **Narinder Batra's** (India) mid-term resignation.

#### **About Mohammad Tayyab Ikram:**

i. He was born in Pakistan but he was also a former coach of Hong Kong and Macau Hockey teams. Mohammad Tayyab Ikram served as FIH Head of International Relations & Continental Development Officer.

ii. He was the Co-Chairman of FIH Development and Education Committee and the Chairman of FIH International and Olympic Relations.

iii. He has served as Chief Executive/Secretary General International Olympic Committee (IOC) and has been the key member of the Coordination and Evaluation Commission (CEC) for the Asian Games 2010 to 2022 and also Asian Winter Games Changchun 2009.

iv. He has been the Vice Chair of Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) Athletes Commission and also the member of OCA Disciplinary Commission.

v. He was awarded a Prestigious title of Dato' from Malaysia (2010), FIH President's Award (2002), Performance Medal by Governo de Macau (1998), Macau Medalha de Merito Sportivo Nacional – Macau National Medal of Merit in Sports (1999).

#### **About Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH-International Hockey Federation):**

President-Mohammad Tayyab Ikram

Headquarters-Lausanne, Switzerland

Established-1924

#### **Arvindar Singh Sahney Appointed as New Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the proposal of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), for the appointment of **Arvindar Singh Sahney** as the new Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for a 5-year tenure with effect from the date of assuming office or until superannuation.

- He replaced **Satish Kumar Vaduguri**, IOC's Director of Marketing (DOM), who was handling the additional charge of Chairman from September 2024 after **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya**'s tenure ended on August 31, 2024.
- Prior to the appointment, Sahney served as the Executive Director of Business Development (EDBD) in the Petrochemicals division at IOC.

#### **About Arvindar Singh Sahney:**

i. Sahney was a chemical engineer at Harcourt Butler Technical University (HBTU), Kanpur.

ii. He started his career at IOC in 1993 following a brief stint at Tata Chemicals and was appointed as Executive Director (ED) in February 2022, gaining over 3 decades of experience in the refinery and petrochemicals sectors in the IOC.

iii. He was the second member after **B Ashok**, Executive Director of Retail) in July 2014, to be elevated to the top position of the company without a board experience.

#### **About IOCL (Indian Oil Corporation Limited):**

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (**IOCL**) also known as Indian Oil Corporation (**IOC**) is one of the largest companies in India and is listed on the **Fortune 500**.

**Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)**- Arvindar Singh Sahney

**Headquarters**- New Delhi, India

**Establishment**- 1964

**About Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG):**

**Union Minister**- Hardeep Singh Puri, **constituency** – Uttar Pradesh

**Ministry of State (MoS)** – Suresh Gopi

### **Harini Amarasuriya appointed as 17th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka**

In November 2024, Sri Lanka's President Anura Kumara Dissanayake appointed **Harini Amarasuriya** as **17th Prime Minister (PM)** of Sri Lanka following the victory of the National People's Power (**NPP**) coalition in the general election.

- The **NPP** secured **159** seats in Sri Lanka's **225**-member parliament, granting the legislative power.
- The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Presidential Secretariat in **Colombo**, capital of Sri Lanka.

**Note:** She was the 3rd woman PM after Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Chandrika Kumaratunga.

#### **About Harini Amarasuriya:**

i.**Harini Amarasuriya** is a prominent Sri Lankan politician, academic, and social activist.

ii. She became the Member of Parliament (MP) for the 1st time in 2020, when she was nominated by the NPP, an alliance led by JVP.

iii. She was first appointed as the PM in September 2024 to serve in the interim government after Anura Kumara Dissanayake won the 2024 presidential election.

iv. In 2016, She served as a member of the Public Representations Committee on Constitutional Reforms in Sri Lanka (PRC).

v. She also served for several years on the Boards of Nest, Centre for Women's Research(CENWOR) and Law and Society Trust,

### **K Sanjay Murthy appointed as the 15th Comptroller Auditor General of India**

On November 19 2024, **K Sanjay Murthy**, a 1989-batch Himachal Pradesh(HP) cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, was sworn in as the 15th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India by President Droupadi Murmu at a function in the RashtrapatiBhavan in New Delhi(Delhi).

- He succeeded **Girish Chandra Murmu** (1st Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, J&K), who retired on November 20 2024. The tenure of Sanjay Murthy till 2029.
- Prior to the appointment, Sanjay Murthy served as the **Secretary** of the Department of Higher Education(DHE), Ministry of Education (**MoE**).

#### **About Sanjay Murthy:**

i.K Sanjay Murthy had a distinguished career of over **three decades** in the **IAS**. He has also held several important administrative positions in the State Government of HP.

ii.He has also served as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), and Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation(NICDC), and Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(MIB).

iii.He has also worked in important positions in the central government, where he gained exposure to national-level governance, public administration, and policy implementation.

#### **About Comptroller Auditor General (CAG):**

**Article 148** of the Constitution of India states that the CAG is appointed by the President of India. Articles 148, 149, 150 and 151 of the Indian Constitution describe the functions and powers of CAG.

- The CAG holds office for a term of **6 years** or until the age of **65**.

Comptroller Auditor General (CAG)- K Sanjay Murthy

**Headquarters-** New Delhi

**Establishment-** 1858

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## Honours/ Awards

### European Parliament Named MaríaCorina Machado and Edmundo González as Winners for 2024 Sakharov Prize

Roberta Metsola, President of European Parliament named **MaríaCorina Machado Parísca**, the leader of the democratic forces in Venezuela, and **Edmundo González Urrutia**, Venezuelan former presidential candidate, as the winners of ‘Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought 2024 (Sakharov Prize)’, the highest tribute paid by the European Union (EU) to human rights work.



- This award is given in recognition of their efforts to restore democracy and freedom in Venezuela.
- The official award ceremony for the Sakharov Prize 2024 will be held on 18th December, 2024 in Strasbourg, France, during the European Parliament's plenary session.

### Maria Sharapova, Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan are set to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame

Russian tennis player **Maria Sharapova** and American doubles tennis players **Bob Bryan** and **Mike Bryan** has been selected to be inducted into the **International Tennis Hall of Fame – Class of 2025**

- They will be officially inducted into the Hall of Fame during the Induction Celebration in Newport, Rhode Island, the United States of America (USA) from 21st to 23rd August 2025.
- Sharapova and the Bryans will join an elite group of 267 inductees from 28 countries.

#### About Maria Sharapova:

i.Maria Sharapova won five Grand Slam singles titles during her career and she is one of the 10 Women players who have achieved the “Career Grand Slam” in Singles.

- She won the Wimbledon in 2004, the United States (US) Open in 2006, the Australian Open in 2008 and the French Open in 2012 and 2014.

ii.She has also won the silver in women's singles at the 2012 London Olympics.

iii.She competed on the Women's Tennis Association (WTA)Tour from 2001 to 2020.

iv.She became the first Russian woman to achieve the world No. 1 ranking in 2005 and held the position for 21 weeks.

iv.She won **36** WTA Tour Singles titles in total and **three** WTA doubles titles in her career.

v.She held the title as Forbes' highest-paid female athlete in the world for 11 consecutive years(2004 to 2015).

vi.She retired from the sport at a professional level in February 2020.

#### About Bryan Brothers

i.Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan, the identical twin brothers popularly known as the Bryan Brothers, has won a record 119 titles together, including 16 Grand Slams, 39 Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Masters 1000s, 1,109 match wins and the ATP Finals title four times.

ii.The also held the title of **world's top-ranked team** for a record **438 weeks**.

iii. They have finished as the top ranked doubles team at the ATP year-end number for a record **10** times.

iv. The Bryan brothers won **Olympic gold in Men's doubles** at 2012 London Olympics and they were also a part of the **U.S. Davis Cup-winning** team in **2007**.

### Yang and Liu named ISSF Athlete of the Year 2024

Olympic pistol champion **Yang Ji-in** from South Korea and Olympic gold medalist in rifle **Liu Yukun** from China were named the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athletes of the Year 2024** at the ISSF World Cup Final Opening Ceremony on 14th October 2024, held at Dr Karni Singh Range Tughlakabad in New Delhi, India.

- Yang Ji-in from South Korea has been named the **female ISSF Athlete of the year 2024**.
- Liu Yukun from China has been named the **male ISSF Athlete of the year 2024**.



#### About Yang Ji-in

i. Yang is a 21-year-old South Korean sport shooter who has won a **gold** medal in the women's 25m pistol at the **Paris 2024 Olympic Games**, held at France.

ii. Moreover, she has also won **gold** medals in 25 metre pistol at the **2024 Asian Rifle/Pistol Championships Jakarta** and in **2024 ISSF World Cup Baku**.

iii. She has made the final in **four** of the five World Cup events this season.

iv. She has also secured a bronze medalist in the **2022 Asian Games** in Hangzhou, China.

#### About Liu Yukun

i. Liu Yukun is a **Chinese** sport shooter and Olympic champion.

ii. He made an Olympic **record** with a score of **594** in qualification and won a **gold** medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final at **Paris Olympics 2024** with a score of 463.6

iii. He also won the **ISSF World Cup in Baku** in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions.

### Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Awarded Fiji's Highest Civilian Honour

The Republic of Fiji (South Pacific nation) has conferred its highest civilian award, the '**Honorary Officer of the Order of Fiji**', on **Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar**, the renowned spiritual leader, humanitarian and founder of The Art of Living Foundation.



**Republic of Fiji honours Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with its highest Civilian Award**

- The award was presented by Fiji's President, **Ratu Wiliame M. Karonivere**, in recognition of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's dedication to promoting peace and unity across the world.
- He is the sixth person to receive this prestigious award worldwide.

During his visit to Fiji, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar engaged with key Fijian leaders, including Deputy Prime Minister Viliame Gavoka and United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator Dirk Wagener.

#### About Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar:

i. He was Born on May 13, 1956, in Tamilnadu in India. The Art of Living Foundation, established by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in 1981, is a global non-governmental organization

(NGO) dedicated to improving the quality of life for people worldwide.

ii. He became a disciple of his guru, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, and developed his own meditation techniques, which form the core of his work today.

iii. Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's tireless humanitarian efforts have earned him top civilian honors from several countries, reflecting his global influence.

#### Other Notable Awards :-

- He received India's Second Highest Civilian Award in 2016.
- He was also the recipient of Colombia's highest civilian award, "Orden de la Democracia Simón Bolívar" and Highest civilian award "National Order of Mérito de Comuneros", Paraguay.

#### 68th Ballon D'Or: Spain's Rodri & Aitana Bonmatí won the men's & women's Ballon d'Or award

The 68th edition of the **Ballon D'Or (2024)** award ceremony took place on 28th October 2024 at the Théâtre du Châtelet, in Paris, France.

- Manchester City and Spain's midfielder **Rodrigo Hernández Cascante** (also known as Rodri) has won the 2024 Men's Ballon d'Or or Golden Ball Award.
- Barcelona FC and Spain midfielder **Aitana Bonmatí Conca** won the Women's Ballon d'Or or Ballon d'Or Féminin Award for the second year in a row. She previously won the award in 2023.



**Spain's Rodri and Bonmatí win Ballon d'Or award for best men's and women's players in world soccer**

#### 11th Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy list ; Shiv Nadar Tops

The **11th** edition of the **Hurun India Philanthropy list** has been released by the EdelGive Foundation in partnership with Hurun India on 7th November 2024 in which **Shiv Nadar** (79) and his family have retained the title of **India's Most Generous** for the **third** time in five years as he donated **Rs 2,153 crore** during the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24.



**Hurun India Philanthropy list 2024: Shiv Nadar Tops**

- The **2nd** spot on the list was occupied by Chairman and Managing director(CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited, **Mukesh Ambani** who donated **Rs 407 crore**. The **3rd** spot was secured by the **Bajaj family** with a donation of **Rs 352 crore**.
- **Rohini Nilekani** (69), co-founder and director of **EkStep**, has been named as the India's most generous woman with a personal donation of **Rs.154 crores** and led the list of Indian women philanthropists.

- Zerodha co-founder **Nikhil Kamath** has been listed as one of the youngest philanthropists in the EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 at **38** years.

### **FIH Star Awards 2024: Harmanpreet Singh Named as the Men's Player of the Year; PR Sreejesh Bagged Men's Goalkeeper of the Year Award**

On 8th November 2024, Indian men's hockey team captain **Harmanpreet Singh** and former Goalkeeper of Indian hockey team Parattu Raveendran (**PR**) **Sreejesh** have won the International Hockey Federation (**FIH**) Men's Player of the Year and Men's Goalkeeper of the Year award, respectively during the ceremony held at the **49th** FIH Statutory Congress held in Muscat, Oman.

- The winners were determined through a voting process involving an expert panel, national hockey associations, fans and media.

i. Harmanpreet Singh had previously won the FIH Men's Player of the Year award in 2020-21 and 2021-22.



- He won this title by securing **63.84%** of the votes. While, **Joop de Mol** (the Netherlands) finished at 2nd position with 16.10% of the total vote share.

ii. PR Sreejesh, popularly known as "**The Wall of India**" won his **3rd** FIH Men's Goalkeeper of the Year award. Earlier, he won this title for two consecutive years i.e. in 2021 and 2022.

- He won this title by securing over **62%** of the votes. While, the 2nd position was secured by Olympic Gold medallist **Pimrin Blaak** (the Netherlands), who received 22% of the votes.

#### **About International Hockey Federation (FIH):**

**President-** Tayyab Ikram

**Headquarters-** Lausanne, Switzerland

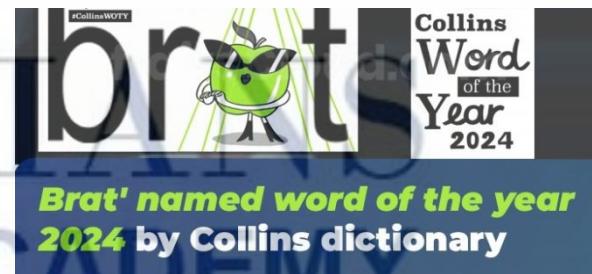
**Established-** 1924

### **Collins Dictionary Named 'Brat' as Word of the Year 2024**

Collins Dictionary, a printed and online dictionary published by HarperCollins in Glasgow (Scotland), has named "**Brat**", redefined by British singer Charli XCX, as the Collins Word of the Year for 2024.

- Originally known as a term for a misbehaving child, "brat" has transformed into a symbol of **confidence, independence, and hedonism**.

**Note—** Previous Collins' Word of the year includes "AI"—



Artificial Intelligence (2023); “Permacrisis” (2022); “NFT”- Non-Fungible Token (2021).

#### Key points:

- i.Collins Dictionary noted that “brat” has become more than a word. It’s a cultural phenomenon with an impact that resonates across music, politics, and social identity.
- ii.This transformation began with Charli XCX’s hit sixth album *Brat*, which became a global sensation and inspired the phrase “brat summer”, a style and lifestyle embraced by fans.
- iii.Charli XCX, whose real name is Charlotte Emma Aitchison, described the typical brat girl as someone “who is a little messy and likes to party and maybe says some dumb things sometimes, who feels herself, but then also maybe has a breakdown, but kind of parties through it.

### Thiruvananthapuram Corporation: 1st Indian City to win Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities

The Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, has become the **first Indian city** to win the Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities, also known as the Shanghai Award.

- The award ceremony was held on 2nd November 2024, in Alexandria, Egypt, coinciding with the observance of **World Cities Day 2024**.
- The award was received by Thiruvananthapuram’s Mayor, **Arya Rajendran**, along with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Ltd., **Rahul Sharma**.



**Thiruvananthapuram Corporation wins Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities**

**Note:** It should be noted that 5 global cities were selected for the award this year, with **Agadir** (Morocco), **Melbourne** (Australia), **Doha** (Qatar), and **Iztapalapa** (Mexico) also being recognized alongside Thiruvananthapuram.

#### About Award:

The Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities, launched by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (**UN Habitat**) and the Shanghai Municipality, recognizes cities advancing sustainable practices aligned with the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda, focusing on **Sustainable Development Goal 11** (SDG 11) to create inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities.

### British Author Samantha Harvey wins the 2024 Booker Prize for fiction

British author **Samantha Harvey** won the 2024 Booker Prize award for her fiction novel **“Orbital”** which has become the first book set in space to win the prize.

- The winner was announced by Chair of the 2024 judges, Edmund de Waal, at a ceremony held



at Old Billingsgate in London, the United Kingdom(UK).

- Harvey becomes the **1st woman** to win the award since 2019. Margaret Atwood and Bernardine Evaristo shared the award in 2019.
- Samantha Harvey was awarded with **50,000 pound ( USD 64,000)** and a trophy, which was presented to her by Paul Lynch, winner of the Booker Prize 2023.

#### **Points to note:**

- i.Orbital is the 2nd-shortest novel ever to win the Booker Prize.
- ii.This science fiction novel has been published by Jonathan Cape in the United Kingdom (UK) and by Grove Atlantic in the United States of America (USA).

#### **Key Points:**

- i.It is the **second-shortest** book with **136** pages to win the prize, and covers the briefest time frame of just 24 hours for any book on the shortlist.

- The shortest winning novel in the history of the prize was 1979's Offshore by **Penelope Fitzgerald**, at **132** pages.
- ii.This year's shortlist had **five** women out of **6** shortlists – the largest number of women represented in its **55**-year history.

#### **About Orbital:**

- i.Orbital, is Harvey's **fifth** novel and **sixth** book which takes readers on an extraordinary journey to the International Space Station, where a diverse crew of **six** astronauts and cosmonauts from around the world — America, Russia, Italy, the UK, and Japan are stationed.

#### **About Samantha Harvey:**

- i.Samantha Harvey was born in **1975** lives in Bath, UK, and is a Reader in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University.
- ii.She is the author of **five** novels, The Wilderness, All Is Song, Dear Thief, The Western Wind and Orbital. She is also the author of a memoir, The Shapeless Unease.
- iii.Her book Orbital is the winner of The InWords Literary Award 2024 and the 2024 Hawthornden Prize for Literature.

#### **About Booker Prize:**

- i.The Booker Prize was founded in **1969**.
- ii.Each year, the prize is awarded to the best sustained work of fiction written in English and published in the **UK** and **Ireland**.

#### **Elon Musk Topped Fortune's Inaugural 100 Most Powerful People in Business List; Reliance's Mukesh Ambani Ranked at 12th Spot**

On 14th November 2024, **Fortune**, an American global business magazine released the inaugural list of the “Fortune 100 Most Powerful People (MPP) in Business”. Elon Musk, Founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Tesla** and Space Exploration

Technologies Corporation commonly referred to as **SpaceX**, has secured the top position in the list.

- He is followed by **Jensen Huang**, CEO of Nvidia Corporation and **Satya Nadella**, CEO of Microsoft Corporation ranked at **2nd** and **3rd** positions, respectively, showcasing their transformative influence in technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

i. **Mukesh Ambani**, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Reliance Industries Limited (**RIL**) who ranked at **12th** spot is the only Indian to be featured on the list.  
ii. The list has featured **18** female CEOs and Business leaders including: **Julie Sweet**, Chair and CEO of Accenture (the USA) and **Emma Walmsley**, CEO of the United Kingdom (UK)-based pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), ranked at **23rd** and **25th** position respectively.

#### About Fortune Magazine:

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Anastasia Nyrkovskaya

Headquarters- New York City, the United States of America (USA)

Established- 1929

#### **Victoria Kjaer Theilvig from Denmark Crowned Miss Universe 2024**

Maria Victoria Kjær Theilvig (21) from Denmark has been crowned Miss Universe 2024 at the **73rd** edition of Miss Universe 2024 pageant held at the Arena in Mexico City, Mexico. This marks Denmark's **first-ever victory** in the global beauty pageant. The edition witnessed the participation of 125 contestants.

- She was crowned by Nicaragua's **Sheynnis Palacios, Miss Universe 2023**.
- Miss Nigeria, Chidimma Adetshina, secured the 2nd spot as 1st Runner-up, while Miss Mexico, Maria Fernanda Beltran, finished in 3rd place as 2nd Runner-up.
- India was represented by **Rhea Singha** from **Gujarat**, who made it to the top 30 finalists.

**Point to Note:** Theilvig's win makes her the **first blonde woman** to win Miss Universe since Jennifer Hawkins of Australia in 2004.

#### About Victoria Kjaer Theilvig:

i. Victoria Kjaer Theilvig was born on 13th November 2003 in Herlev, a suburb of Copenhagen, Denmark.

ii. She has worked as a professional dancer and dance teacher but now operates in the diamond-selling industry. At the age of 16, she founded her own eyelash extension business. She is a passionate animal protection advocate.

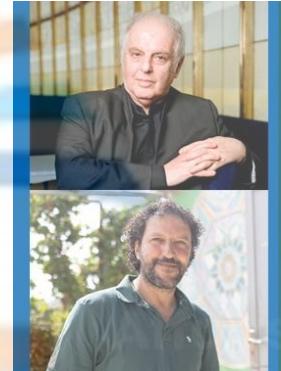
iii. Victoria Kjær Theilvig has previously finished as 2nd runner-up at Miss Denmark 2021, went on to win Miss Denmark 2024 in September 2024, and also competed in the Miss Grand International 2022 pageant, finishing in the top 20. She was also crowned Miss Grand Denmark 2022.

#### **Event Highlights:**

i. The event was hosted by **Mario Lopez**, Miss Universe 2012 Olivia Culpo, Zuri Hall, and Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray.

## **Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad Honored with Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Award 2023**

Daniel Barenboim, a world-famous pianist and conductor and **Ali Abu Awwad**, a Palestinian peace activist were honored with the most prestigious “**Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development 2023**” award on Indira Gandhi’s 106th birth anniversary for their contribution towards peace and non-violence in Israel-Palestine conflict.



- The awardees were selected by a jury headed by former Chief Justice of India (**CJI**) T S Thakur.
- The award was presented virtually on **Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary (19th November)** and was attended by Chairperson of Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust **Sonia Gandhi**, former Vice President of India **M Hamid Ansari**, current head of the jury and former National Security Agency (NSA) Shivshankar Menon, Justice **T S Thakur**, **Mariam C.**

### **About Daniel Barenboim:**

i. Daniel Barenboim (82) was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina known as an **Israeli pianist** and conductor who was noted for his musical talent and his bold efforts to promote peace through music in the Middle East.

ii. He received many awards and prizes, including six Grammy awards, an honorary Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire, and the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### **About Ali Abu Awwad:**

i. Ali Abu Awwad (52) was a prominent Palestinian peace activist who has worked in peace-building in Israel and Palestine for many years.

ii. He created the Palestinian non-violence movement **Taghyeer**, which envisions a democratic, independent Palestinian society based on freedom, dignity, and security.

### **About Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development Award:**

The award was established in 1985 and it has been conferred every year since **1986** by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust. It consists of a monetary award of **25 Lakh** along with a citation and was presented under **3 categories**.

- **Peace**- Promoting global peace and conflict resolution.
- **Disarmament**- Reducing arms and nuclear disarmament.
- **Development**- Promoting social and economic development.

### **Note:**

In 2022, the award was jointly presented to the Indian Medical Association (**IMA**) and the

Trained Nurses Association of India (**TNAI**) as representatives of the COVID-19 warriors in the country.

### **LDP Leader Shigeru Ishiba Re-elected as Japan's PM**

The Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), **Shigeru Ishiba** was re-elected as the **Prime Minister** (PM) of Japan after receiving the highest number of votes in both houses of the Japanese Parliament (known as Japanese Diet).

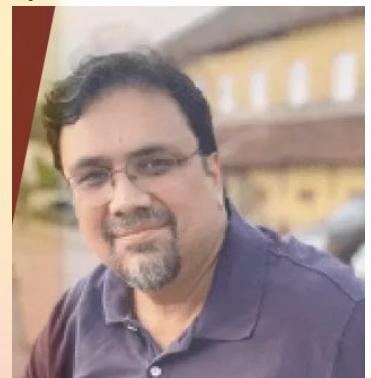
i. Shigeru Ishiba won in a runoff for PM against opposition leader **Yoshihiko Noda**, the leader of the major opposition Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP), in the Lower House of the Japanese Diet.

- He received 221 votes surpassing Noda who received 151 votes, despite reaching the required majority of 233 votes, and became Japan's **103rd PM**.

ii. Ishiba was first sworn in as Japan's PM in September 2024 after his predecessor, Fumio Kishida, resigned following a string of scandals.

### **Ashoka University's Professor Projit Bihari Mukharji Awarded 2024 Pfizer**

Award Professor Projit Bihari Mukharji of Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana has received the 2024 Pfizer Award for his book "*Brown Skins, White Coats: Race Science in India, 1920–66*" published in 2023 by University of Chicago Press.



- The award, presented by the History of Science Society (**HSS**), recognizes his significant work exploring the intersection of race, science, colonialism, and nationalism in India.

#### **About Professor Projit Bihari Mukharji:**

i. Professor Projit Bihari Mukharji book sheds light on the entanglement of scientific practices with racial ideologies during the colonial era.

ii. His research focuses on the history of science and medicine in modern South Asia.

iii. He is also the author of other notable works, including *Nationalizing the Body* (2009) and *Doctoring Traditions* (2016).

#### **About the Pfizer Award:**

i. Pfizer Award, established in **1958** by Pfizer, Inc., recognizes exceptional books on the history of science.

ii. The award consists of a medal and **USD 2,500**.

iii. The award recognises the book published in English during a period of three calendar years immediately preceding the year of competition.

#### **Coal India Limited receives Green World Awards 2024**

Coal India Limited (CIL), 'Maharatna' enterprise under the Ministry of Coal, Government of India, has been honored with the prestigious **Green World Environment Award 2024** in the **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)** category and named Green World Ambassador.

- The award recognizes CIL's significant contributions through the **Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna**, which provides permanent curative treatment for **over 600 Thalassemia patients** via stem cell (Bone Marrow) transplants/BMT.
- The award was received by Director (Personnel/IR), CIL, **VinayRanjan** at The Orangery, Kensington Palace, London, United Kingdom (UK).



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# Sports

## Wrestling, Cricket, Hockey and Other Major Sports Dropped from Commonwealth Games 2026

On 22nd October 2024, the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) announced that **wrestling, badminton, hockey, cricket and shooting**, among other major sports, have been dropped from the Commonwealth Games 2026 (CWG 2026). The 23rd edition of CWG is scheduled to take place in Glasgow, Scotland from 23rd July, 2026 to 2nd August, 2026.

- The excluded sports for CWG 2026 are hockey, cricket, badminton, wrestling, table tennis (TT), diving, rugby sevens, beach volleyball, mountain biking, squash and rhythmic gymnastics.

i. With this, total number of sport events has reduced to **10** compared to 19 sports events at the 2022 Birmingham CWG.

ii. CWG 2026 will now feature **10** sports including: Athletics and Para Athletics (Track & Field), Swimming and Para Swimming, Artistic Gymnastics, Track Cycling and Para Track Cycling, Netball, Weightlifting and Para Powerlifting, Boxing, Judo, Bowls, and Para Bowls, and 3x3 Basketball and 3x3 Wheelchair Basketball.

### About Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF):

**President-** Dame Louise Martin

**Headquarters-** London, the United Kingdom (UK)

**Established-** 1932

## KKFI unveils Logo and Tagline for first-ever Kho Kho World Cup

The KhoKho Federation of India (KKFI) unveiled the **logo and tagline** – **#TheWorldGoesKho**, for the inaugural **Kho Kho World Cup** set to take place in 2025, during a grand event held at Thyagraj Stadium in New Delhi, Delhi.

- The tournament is scheduled to take place from **13th to 19th January 2025 in New Delhi, Delhi**. The event will witness the participation from 24 countries in both men's and women's competitions.



### **Key Points:**

i. The tournament will feature 16 teams each in the men's and women's divisions, making it a truly global competition.

ii. The tournament will introduce new rules, including a concept called "wazir," designed to make the game more spectator-friendly and engaging.

## DeepikaKumari Wins Silver Medal in Archery World Cup Final 2024

Deepika Kumari, Indian Female archer has secured a silver medal in the **women's recurve** event at the **Tlaxcala 2024 Hyundai Archery World Cup Final** held in Tlaxcala, Mexico on October 19-20, 2024. This achievement marks her 6th medal at the World Cup Finals. This was her 9th appearance in the finals.

- The gold medal was clinched by China's **Li Jiaman**



- 18th Edition of Archery World Cup hosted by World Archery

#### Key Points:

- Deepika Kumari defeated Yang Xiaolei of China 6-0 in the quarter-finals and Mexico's Alejandra Valencia 6-4 in the semi-finals.
- Her previous accolades include four silver (in 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2015) and one bronze medal (2018) at World Cup Finals.

- It should be noted that **Dola Banerjee** is only Indian to have won a gold in the World Cup Final in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2007.

#### Rani Rampal, Padma Shri Awardee & former Indian Women's Hockey Team Captain announced Retirement

Former India women's Hockey team captain and Padma Shri Awardee Rani Rampal (29 years old) announced her retirement from hockey.

**Note:** Hockey India honoured Rani Rampal's remarkable contributions by retiring her iconic No.28 jersey.

#### About Rani Rampal:

i.RaniRampal, hailing from Haryana, made her international debut in 2008. She scored 205 goals in her 254 outings for India.

ii.She was a part of the Indian women's hockey team that achieved the milestone of qualifying for back-to-back Olympic Games for the first time in history.

iii.Rani was named the "Best Young Player of the Tournament" at the 2010 Women's Hockey World Cup and the "Player of the Tournament" at the 2013 Junior World Cup, where India won its first-ever bronze medal in the event.



- She also part of Asia Cup 2009 – Silver, 2017 Asia Cup – Gold

iv.She captained the Indian women's hockey team during the 2018 Asian Games and won a silver medal.

v.She also led the Team India to the historic fourth-place finish at Tokyo Olympics 2020.

#### Awards:

i.Government of India honoured her with the **Padma Shri** Award for sports in 2020 and Rajiv Gandhi KhelRatna Award (now Major Dhyan Chand KhelRatna Award) in 2020.

ii.She also received the Arjuna Award in 2016 and World Games Athlete of the Year in 2019.

#### Red Bull's Max Verstappen wins Brazilian Grand Prix despite starting in 17th spot

Dutch- Belgian Red Bull driver **Max Verstappen** won the Formula 1(F1) Brazilian Grand Prix (GP) 2024 despite starting 17th in the tournament being held on 3rd November 2024 at the **Interlagos Circuit** in São Paulo, Brazil.

- This win is Max Verstappen's **fourth** straight F1 title. This also marks his 8th win of the 2024



season.

- **Esteban Ocon** (France) of Alpine Renault finished **2nd** followed by **Pierre Gasly** (France) (Alpine Renault) finished **3rd** spot.

#### About Max Verstappen:

i.Max Emilian Verstappen is a Dutch and Belgian racing driver, currently competing under the Dutch flag in Formula One for Red Bull Racing.

ii.Verstappen has won **three Formula One** World Drivers' Championship titles, which he won consecutively from **2021** to **2023** with Red Bull, and has won 62 Grands Prix in 10 seasons.

iii.As of the 2024 São Paulo Grand Prix, Verstappen has secured **62** race wins, **40** pole positions, **33** fastest laps and **111** podiums in Formula One.

iv.Besides being the **youngest** Grand Prix winner, he holds several Formula One records, including the most wins in a season (**19**), the most podium finishes in a season (**21**), the most consecutive wins (**10**), and the most consecutive pole positions (**8**, shared with Ayrton Senna).

#### About Brazilian Grand Prix:

i.The Brazilian Grand Prix is currently held under the name **São Paulo Grand Prix**.

ii.It was held in **1972** for the first time as a non-championship event, with all races from the **1973** Brazilian Grand Prix onwards held as a championship event.

#### New Zealand tour of India 2024 – New Zealand whitewash India in 3-Test series

The New Zealand tour of India 2024 was a 3-test series that was held from 16th October – 5th November 2024 under the captaincy of Rohit Sharma (India) and Tom Latham (New Zealand).

- The **first** test was held from 16th October to 20th October at Mangalam Chinnaswamy Stadium in **Bengaluru**.
- The **second** test match was held from 24th October to 30th October at Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in **Pune**.
- The **third** test was held from 1st November to 5th November at Wankhede Stadium in **Mumbai**.
- The Test series was a part of the **2023–2025 International Cricket Council (ICC) World Test Championship**.



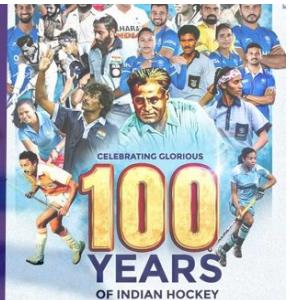
India scored a new low mark after being bowled out for **46**, their lowest Test score ever at home. Virat Kohli joined an elite group of cricketers by scoring his **9,000th run** in Test matches during day three of the Test against New Zealand.

Rishabh Pant scored the **fastest** half-century against New Zealand (50-run mark in just **36** balls) during the third and final Test of the three-match series at the Wankhede Stadium.

## Hockey India begins celebration of 100 years of Indian Hockey

Hockey India(HI) announced a year-long celebration to mark the 100th year of Indian hockey. 2025, the **centenary year** of Hockey India, is a tribute to a century of unparalleled excellence and vision for the future of Hockey in India.

- Hockey India was formed as India's first national body for Hockey on **7th November 1925** in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh(MP).



i. As a part of the celebration, Hockey India relaunched the Men's Hockey India League (HIL) after a 7-year pause and also announced the launch of the Women's HIL.

ii. Over these 100 years, the Indian Men's hockey team has won 8 gold medals, one silver and 4 bronze medals in the Olympics. They have also won the 1975 Hockey World Cup trophy.

### About Hockey India:

Hockey India (HI) is the apex body of India which has the sole mandate to govern and conduct all activities for both men and women hockey in India.

**President**— Dr. Dilip Kumar Tirkey

## India Tour of South Africa T20 Series 2024: India won the 4-match series 3-1

The Indian men's cricket team captained by Suryakumar Yadav won the Twenty 20 Internationals (T20Is) series 3-1 by defeating South African Men's cricket team captained by Aiden Markram.

- The Indian team toured the 8th to 15th November 2024 and played 4 T20I matches.

i. Sanju Samson made the 3rd century of his career (109 not out off 56 balls) in the fourth T20I between India and South Africa.

ii. Arshdeep Singh became India's **second**-highest wicket-taker in men's T20Is after India's win against South Africa.

## Tata Steel Chess Tournament 2024: Magnus Carlsen won the both Rapid & Blitz title

Five-time world champion Grandmaster (GM) Magnus Carlsen (Norway) won both the rapid and blitz titles at the 6th edition of the Tata Steel Chess India Rapid and Blitz 2024 tournament, held from 13th to 17th November 2024, at the Dhondhanyo Auditorium in Alipore, Kolkata, West Bengal.

- Carlsen won the blitz title by defeating Vidit Gujrathi(India) in the final round to record three straight wins and end with 13 points.

- He won the Rapid title by defeating Daniil Dubov (Russia) in the Open Category with 7.5 points.

#### **Women's Category:**

- i. Russian GM Aleksandra Goryachkina secured the Rapid Title by securing a total of 7.5 points.
- ii. Russian Kateryna Lagno won the blitz title by securing 11.5 points.

#### **Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024: India beats China in the final**

The Indian women's hockey team won the Women's Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) 2024 by defeating the People's Republic of China (PRC) 1-0 in the final held at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar. This marks India's **3rd** Womens ACT title.

- The **8th** edition of Women's Asian Champions Trophy (2024) was held from **11th to 20th November 2024** in Bihar.
- China secured the 2nd spot while Japan beat Malaysia 4-1 to finish 3rd in the Women's ACT 2024.

#### **Prize Money:**

i. The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) announced a reward for podium finishers for the first time in the competition's history.

- India received the prize amount of **USD 10,000**, while China and Japan were awarded **USD 7,000** and **USD 5,000** respectively.

#### **Key Points:**

i. **Deepika Kumari** scored the winning goal for the Indian women's hockey team that too on home soil and finished as the tournament's top goal scorer with a tally of **11**.

ii. With this title win, India has now **equaled** with **South Korea** for the most Women's Asian Champion's Trophy titles, with **3** titles each.

#### **About Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024:**

i. The 2024 Women's Asian Champions Trophy was the **eighth** edition of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy, a **biennial** field hockey tournament organized by the AHF.

ii. The event features **six** best Asian women's national teams.

iii. This the 2nd consecutive time India hosted the Women's Asian Champions Trophy.

#### **Spain's Rafael Nadal retires from tennis after Davis Cup**

Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal (38 years old) retires from professional tennis after Spain lost to the Netherlands in the Davis Cup quarterfinals. He has ended his 23-year long career with winning 22 Grand Slam titles.



- He is second in terms of the greatest number of Grand Slam titles only behind Novak Djokovic (Serbia), currently with **24** the most major titles. Roger Federer (Switzerland) has **20** Grand Slam titles to his name.

#### About Rafael Nadal:

- i.Rafael Nadal started his professional career in **2001** at just 15 years of age.
- ii.In 2004, he claimed his **first** ATP Tour title and led Spain to win the Davis Cup over the USA.
- iii.He also won Olympic singles **gold** at the **2008 Beijing Olympics**.

- He defeated Djokovic in the **2010 US Open** final and became the youngest man in the Open Era to achieve the **Career Grand Slam** at **24**, and the first man to win majors on three different surfaces in the same year.
- iv.Nadal surpassed his joint-record with Djokovic and Federer for the greatest number of Grand Slam men's singles titles at the **2022 Australian Open**, and became one of four men in history to complete the double Career Grand Slam in singles.
- vi.He is known as the **King of Clay** as he dominated the French Open tournament with the greatest number of wins with **14** titles being the most won by any player at a single major tournament and winning **112** of his 116 major matches at Roland Garros.

- He is the only one player to have won as many Grand Slam singles titles at the same tournament.

#### Awards:

- ITF World Champion – 2008, 2010, 2017, 2019, 2022
- ATP Player of the Year – 2008, 2010, 2013, 2017, 2019
- Laureus World Sports Award for Breakthrough of the Year in 2006
- Laureus World Sports Award for Sportsman of the Year – 2011, 2021
- Laureus World Sports Award for Comeback of the Year in 2014
- BBC Sports Personality World Sport Star of the Year in 2010
- Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award – 2010, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

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# Obituary

## EAC-PM Chairman & Padma Shri Awardee Bibek Debroy Passes Away

On 1st November 2024, **Bibek Debroy**, Chairman of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) passed away at the age of 69 due to prolonged illness in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on 25th January, 1955 in Shillong, Meghalaya.

### About Bibek Debroy:

- i. Renowned economist Bibek Debroy had earlier worked at Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics (GIPE) in Pune, Maharashtra (1983-87) and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Delhi from 1987 to 1993.
- ii. He had also served as member of National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) since its inception in 2015 until **5th June, 2019**.
- iii. He held various positions at some of the prestigious institutes in India such as the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) (1995-96), the Rajiv Gandhi Institute for Contemporary Studies (1997-2005), PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (2005-06) and the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) (2007-15).
- iv. He was appointed Chairman of the newly formed EAC-PM on 25th September, 2017.

### Awards:

- i. He was honoured with **Padma Shri**, India's **4th** highest civilian honour in **2015** in recognition of his exceptional work in Literature and education.
- ii. He was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the US-India Business Summit in 2016.
- iii. He was also bestowed with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Australia-India Chamber of Commerce (AICC) in 2022.

**EAC-PM chairman  
& Padma Shri  
awardee Bibek  
Debroy passed  
away**



## 'Right to Privacy' Petitioner Justice KS Puttaswamy Passes Away

Justice KS Puttaswamy, former Judge of Karnataka high Court and the key petitioner in the "Right to Privacy" Matter, passed away at the age of 98. He was born in February 1926 in Kolar, Karnataka.

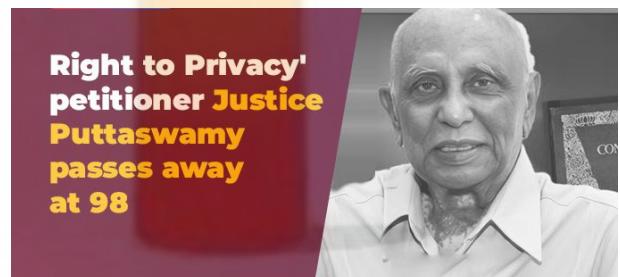
### About Justice KS Puttaswamy:

- i. He became an advocate in 1952 and became a judge in the Karnataka high court in 1977 and served there till his retirement in 1986.
- ii. He was later appointed as the first vice chairperson of the Central Administrative Tribunal, Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- iii. He also helmed the Backward Classes Commission of Andhra Pradesh (AP).

### Petition of Right To Privacy:

- i. In 2012, Justice Puttaswamy moved the Supreme Court (SC) against the Aadhaar scheme of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government.
- ii. In 2015, the SC, as a part of his petition against Aadhaar, decided to consider the larger issue of whether citizens have a fundamental right to privacy under the Constitution of India.
- iii. On 24th August 2017, a 9-judge Constitution bench led by then Chief Justice JS Khehar,

**Right to Privacy'  
petitioner Justice  
Puttaswamy  
passes away  
at 98**



upheld the Aadhaar scheme and unanimously recognised privacy as a fundamental right.

#### **Rights to Privacy:**

i.The right to privacy is a fundamental right in India, protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. The Supreme Court ruled in 2017 that privacy is an essential aspect of personal liberty and dignity. The right to privacy includes:

ii.Personal information, Communication, Decisions, Movements, Personal choices, Partners, and Eating habits.

#### **Fundamental Rights:**

Article 12 to 35 contained in Part III of the Constitution deal with Fundamental Rights.

- These are: Right to equality, including equality before law, prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth, and equality of opportunity in matters of employment.

#### **BPL Group founder TP Gopalan Nambiar passed away at 94**

TP Gopalan Nambiar(also known as TPG), the founder of British Physical Laboratories(BPL) group, passed away at the age of 94 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was born on 25 November, 1929 in Kannur, Kerala.

#### **About T P Gopalan Nambiar:**

i.T P Gopalan Nambiar was a prominent Indian entrepreneur and business leader, best known for establishing **BPL**, one of India's leading consumer electronics companies.

ii.He actively supported the evolution of the Indian electronics industry between the years 1960 and 1990 and had established itself as a leader in the Indian consumer electronics market.

iii.He was honored with the **Electronics Man of the Year Award** (1992), **National Citizen's Award** (2000) and **Lifetime Achievement Award** (2007).

- He was also recognized by the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** (2008) for his leadership in building a strong Indian brand in the global electronics market.

**Note:** BPL was founded in 1963. Its first manufacturing facility was set up in Palakkad, Kerala.

#### **Renowned Folk Singer & Padma Bhushan Awardee Sharda Sinha Passes Away at 72**

Renowned folk singer **Sharda Sinha**, who is popularly known as '**Bihar Kokila**' (Nightingale of Bihar), passed away at the age of 72 due to complications of blood cancer in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on 1st October 1952 in Bihar.

#### **About Sharda Sinha:**

i.Sharda Sinha was a Nritya Visharad (Manipuri) and also held a master's degree in Indian classical music-vocal and a Ph.D.

ii.Sharda Sinha is known for her songs in **Bhojpuri, Maithili, Magahi, and Hindi** and is famous for her songs during Chhath Puja, a popular festival celebrated in Bihar, Jharkhand, and

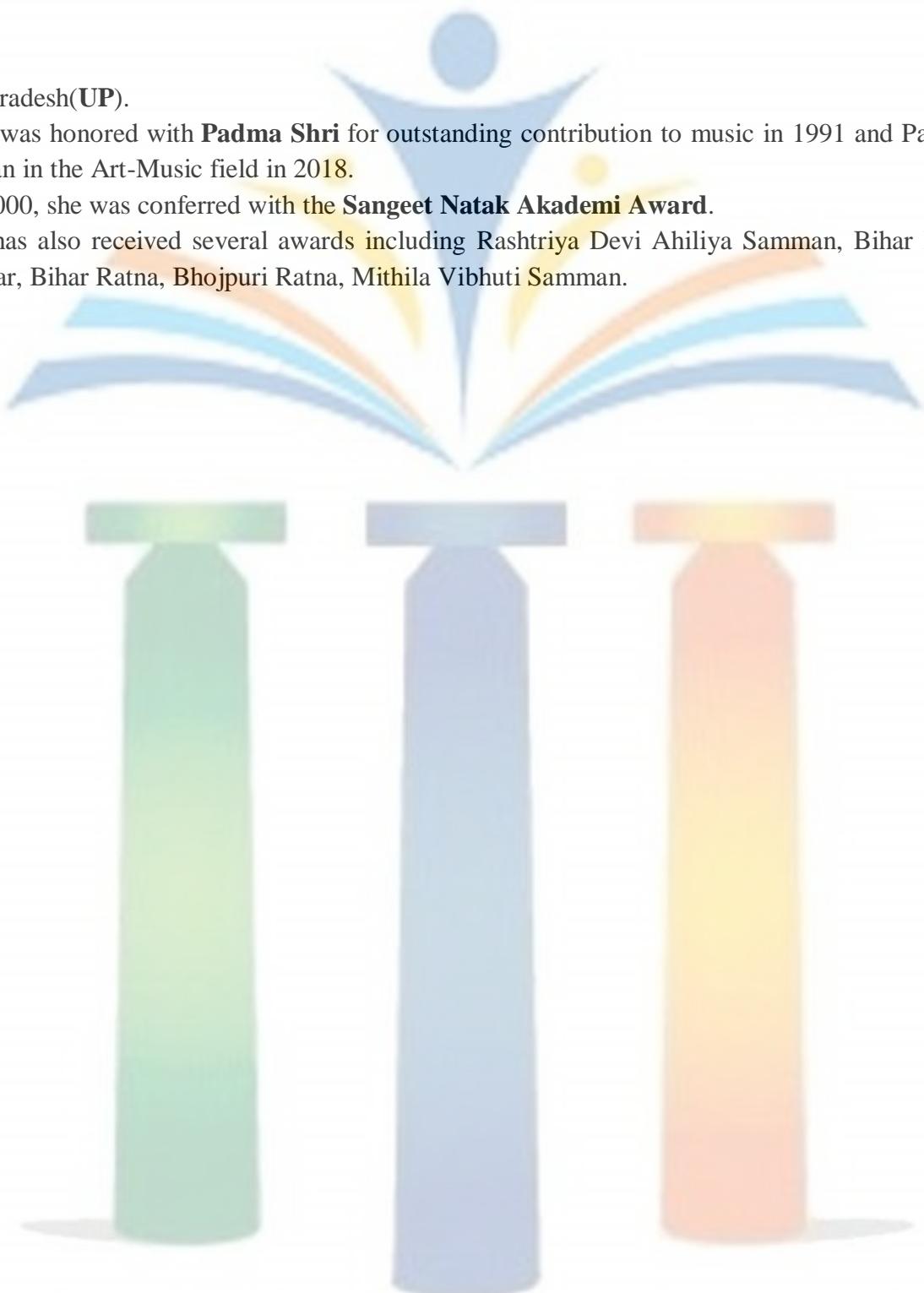


Uttar Pradesh(**UP**).

**iii.**She was honored with **Padma Shri** for outstanding contribution to music in 1991 and Padma Bhushan in the Art-Music field in 2018.

**iv.**In 2000, she was conferred with the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award**.

**v.**She has also received several awards including Rashtriya Devi Ahiliya Samman, Bihar Kala Puraskar, Bihar Ratna, Bhojpuri Ratna, Mithila Vibhuti Samman.



**GEORGIANS**  
**DEFENCE ACADEMY**

## Important Days with theme

### United Nations Day 2024 – October 24

The United Nations (UN) Day is annually observed across the globe on **24th October** to mark the anniversary of the day on which the UN Charter entered into force in 1945.

- **24th October 2024** marks the **79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the foundation of the UN.

#### Background:

On October 31, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/168(II) and proclaimed the 24th of October of every year as the United Nations Day.



- The name '**United Nations**' was suggested by **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**, 32nd President of the USA.

### 63rd Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day – 24th October 2024

**Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Raising Day** is annually celebrated on 24th October to mark the establishment of the ITBP, a Central Armed Police Force functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), in 1962.

- The day also acknowledges the ITBP's dedication to securing India's borders, fostering a sense of safety and reassurance among the communities residing in remote border regions.
- **24th October 2024** marks the observance of the **63rd ITBP Raising Day**.

### 9th National Ayurveda Day 2024 – October 29

National Ayurveda Day is annually observed across India to create awareness about the role of Ayurveda in the prevention and treatment of a wide range of health issues.



- The day is observed on **Dhanwantri Jayanthi** or Dhanteras, the festival celebrating Dhanvantari, the Hindu god of Ayurveda. The festival usually falls on the **13th day of Krishna Paksha** in the month of **Ashwin** of the Hindu calendar.
- The National Ayurveda Day 2024 falls on **29th October 2024**. This marks the observance of the **9th National Ayurveda Day**.
- The National Ayurveda Day 2024 theme is “**Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health.**”

### World Cities Day 2024 – October 31

United Nations (UN)'s World Cities Day (WCD) is annually observed across the globe on **October 31** to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in addressing challenges of urbanization, and contribute to sustainable urban development worldwide.

- **31st October 2024** marks the **11th World Cities Day**.
- The theme of WCD 2024 is “**Youth leading climate and local action for cities**”

#### Background:

- i.The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution [A/RES/68/239](#) on 27th December 2013 and proclaimed October 31 of every year as World Cities Day.
- ii.The 1st WCD was observed on **31st October 2014**, in Shanghai, the People's Republic of China.

### World Vegan Day 2024 – November 01

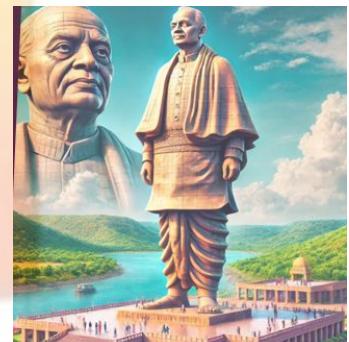
**World Vegan Day** is annually observed across the globe on **November 1** to spread awareness among people about the benefits of a vegan diet on health and well-being.

#### Background:

- i.In 1994, World Vegan Day was established by Louise Wallis, a vegan and animal rights activist and the then-chair of The Vegan Society in the United Kingdom (UK).
- ii.World Vegan Day celebration originated as a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Vegan Society, held on 1 November 1994.
- iii.The 1st World Vegan Day was observed on 1 November 1994.

### National Unity Day (RashtriyaEktaDiwas) 2024 – October 31

National Unity Day, or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, is celebrated every year across India on October 31 to honor the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known as the “**Iron Man of India**”, who earned the title “Sardar” for his exceptional leadership.



- He was the first Deputy Prime Minister(PM) and the Home Minister of Independent India from 1947 to 1950.
- **31 October 2024** marks the **149th birth anniversary** of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

#### 2024 Event:

##### Run for unity

- i.The ‘Run for Unity 2024’ was held this year on October 29, marking an early celebration of **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas** due to coinciding with the **festival of Deepawali**.
- ii.It is a national expression of commitment toward unity, fitness, and development, building on the legacy Patel laid for a united India.

### World Urbanism Day 2024 – November 8

World Urbanism Day (WUD), also known as World Town Planning Day (WTPD), is annually observed across the globe on **8th November** to recognise and promote the role of planners and planning in developing healthy, sustainable communities.

- The day is promoted by the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP).
- The theme for World Town Planning Day 2024 is "**Homes Start with Planning**"



#### Background:

i. WTPD was initially proposed in **1949** by Late Professor Carlos Maria della Paolera of the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina).

ii. In India, World Town Planning Day is organized by New Delhi (Delhi) based Institute of Town Planners India, which was established in 1951.

### National Legal Service Day 2024 – November 9

National Legal Service Day (NLSD) is annually observed across India on 9th November to promote legal awareness and ensure equitable access to justice, particularly for marginalized communities.

- **9th November 2024** marks **30th** observance of NLSD.



#### Background:

i. Legal Services Authorities Act was passed in October 1987 under Article **39A** of the Indian Constitution.

ii. Following the initiative of Dr. Justice A.S. Anand at the first Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities which took place on 12th September 1998 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, 9th November is celebrated every year by Legal Service Authorities "Legal Service Day"

iii. The first ever NLSD was celebrated on **09th November 1995**.

#### About National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

**Patron-in-Chief** – Justice Sanjiv Khanna (Chief Justice of India, CJI)

**Headquarters** – New Delhi, Delhi

**Established** – 1995

### National Education Day 2024 – November 11

National Education Day (NED) is annually observed across India on **11 November** to mark the birth anniversary of **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, the first education minister of independent India.



- The day highlights the importance of providing quality education and skill development opportunities.

**Note:** 11th November 2024 marks the **136th** birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, who was born on 11th November 1888.

**Background:**

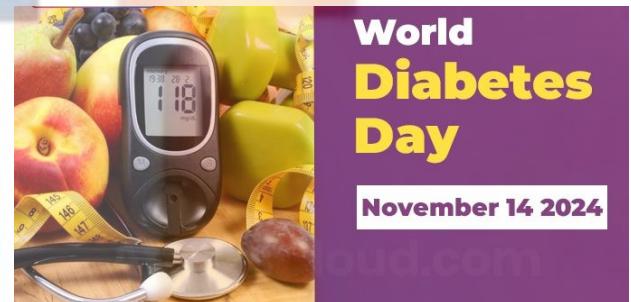
i.In 2008, the Ministry of Human Resource Development(MHRD), now known as the Ministry of Education (**MoE**), designated 11 November, the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, as National Education Day.

ii.The **first-ever** NED was observed on **11 November 2008**.

**World Diabetes Day 2024 – November 14**

The United Nations (UN)'s **World Diabetes Day** (WDD) is annually observed across the globe on **14 November** to raise awareness about the impacts of diabetes, need for prevention, early diagnosis, proper treatment and equal access to care.

- WDD is the world's largest diabetes awareness campaign reaching a global audience of over 1 billion people in over 160 countries



**Theme:**

i.Each year, WDD highlights a specific theme that continues for one or more years.

- The UN theme for **WDD 2024-26** is "**Diabetes and well-being**".

ii.The WHO theme for **WDD 2024** is "**Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps**".

**Background:**

i.WDD was created in 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (**IDF**) and the World Health Organization (**WHO**) to address the growing concerns about the health threat posed by diabetes.

ii.The first-ever UN-recognised WDD was observed on 14 November **2007**.

**About International Diabetes Federation (IDF):**

**President**– Prof. Peter Schwarz (Germany)

**Headquarters** – Brussels, Belgium

**Founded** – 1950

**Children's Day/Bal Diwas 2024– November 14**

Children's Day or Bal Diwas is annually observed across India on November 14 to honor the birth anniversary of India's 1st Prime Minister (**PM**), **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, who is remembered for his affection for children.



- **14th November 2024** marks the **135th** birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

**Background:**

i.Before 1964, India celebrated Children's Day on November 20 which is the day the United Nations (UN) celebrated World Children's Day.

ii.However, after the death of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1964, India celebrated Children's Day on November 14, in honor of his birthday.

**National Press Day 2024 – November 16**

National Press Day (NPD) is annually observed across India on **16th November** to commemorate the day on which the **Press Council of India (PCI)** started its function as the **moral watchdog** to ensure that the press maintains high standards and is not fettered by any form of influence or threats.

- The theme for National Press Day 2024 is “**Changing Nature of the Press**”.
- According to Reporters Without Borders (Reporters sans frontières – RSF)’s 22nd World Press Freedom Index (WPFI 2024), India ranked 159th position out of 180 countries with a score of **31.28**.

**Background:**

i.The 1st Press Commission held in 1954 concluded that a statutory authority body with people connected with the industry should be created to maintain professional ethics in journalism.

ii.Following this, the Press Council of India(PCI) was established on 4th July 1966 under the Press Council Act of 1965 and started its functions on **16th November 1966**.

**World Toilet Day 2024 – November 19**

The United Nations (UN’s) **World Toilet Day(WTD)** is annually observed across the globe on **19 November** to draw attention to the public health, environmental, and dignity challenges posed by inadequate sanitation. The day also highlights the need to provide safe and secure toilets for all.

- The theme of WTD 2024 is “**Toilets – A Place for Peace**”.

**Background:**

i.In **2001**, the World Toilet Organisation(**WTO**), a global non profit organisation which was established to improve toilet and sanitation conditions across the globe, declared **19<sup>th</sup> November** as the World Toilet Day(WTD).

ii.The first ever UN recognised WTD was observed on **19th November 2013**.

## National Integration Day 2024 – November 19

National Integration Day (or) Quami Ekta Diwas is observed annually across India on November 19 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Indira Gandhi, India's First Female Prime Minister (PM).

- The day aims to promote unity, peace, and love across India's diverse communities.
- **November 19 2024** marks the **107th birth anniversary** of Indira Gandhi.
- The day marks the beginning of National Integration Week (**Qaumi Ekta Week**), which is observed annually from **November 19 to 25**.

## World Children's Day 2024 – November 20

The United Nations (UN)'s **World Children's Day** is annually observed across the globe on **20th November** to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

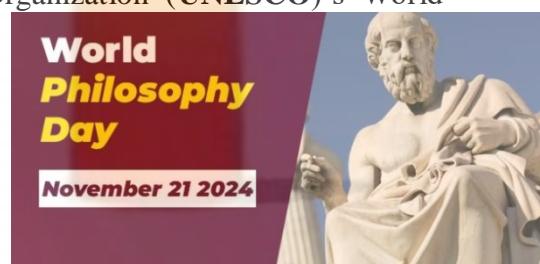
- This is an annual day of action for children by children led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- The theme of World Children's Day 2024 is "**Listen to the Future!**".

### Background:

- World Children's Day was initially established as the Universal Children's Day.
- On 14th December **1954**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/836(IX) and recommended all the nations to institute a Universal Children's Day with effect from 1956.

## World Philosophy Day – November 21 2024

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s World Philosophy Day is annually observed across the globe on 3rd Thursday of November to highlight the importance of enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.



### Background:

- Philosophy Day at UNESCO has been celebrated every year since 2002, on the third Thursday of November, under the UNESCO's regular programme.
- In **2005**, The 33rd session of the General Conference of UNESCO adopted the resolution 33C/Resolution 37 and proclaimed the 3rd Thursday of every year as World Philosophy Day.

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