



## Current Affairs Supplement

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## National

### PM Narendra Modi inaugurates National Conference of District Judiciary in New Delhi; SCI Flag unveiled

The Prime Minister (PM) of India **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the two-day long ‘**National Conference of District Judiciary**’ at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Delhi. Organized by the Supreme Court of India (SCI), the event marked **75 years** of the SCI.

- The conference aimed to address key challenges faced by the judiciary and enhance judicial administration. The event was attended by over 800 district judiciary participants from across India.
- The PM Narendra Modi unveiled the **stamp** and **coin** commemorating 75 years of the establishment of the SCI.
- The President of India, Draupadi Murmu, delivered the valedictory address and unveiled the **new flag** and **insignia** of the SCI.

### SJVN, NHPC, RailTel and Solar Energy Corporation of India get ‘Navratna’ Status

Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, Government of India has granted “**Navratna status**” to **four** Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) viz. Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) Limited, National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN).



- With this, the number of Navratna CPSEs has increased to 25 from 21.

#### Key Points:

**i.** New Delhi, Delhi based **RCIL**, a ‘mini ratna’ PSU under the Ministry of Railways, has been upgraded as the **22nd Navratna CPSE**.

- For Financial Year 2024 (FY24), RCIL reported a turnover of Rs 2,622 crore and a net profit of Rs 246 crore.

**ii.** New Delhi based SECI Ltd, a miniratna Category-I CPSE under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been upgraded as the **23rd Navratna CPSE**.

- SECI achieved a turnover of Rs 13,035 crore and a net profit of Rs 436 crore for FY24.

**iii.** Faridabad, Haryana based NHPC, a mini ratna Category-I CPSE under the Ministry of Power has been upgraded as the **24th Navratna CPSE**.

- NHPC has recorded a turnover of Rs 8,405 crore and a net profit of Rs 3,744 crore in FY24.

iv. Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (HP) based SJVN, a mini ratna, Category-I and Schedule 'A' CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has been upgraded as the **25th Navratna CPSE**.

- SJVN is a joint venture between the Government of India (GOI) and the Government of Himachal Pradesh (GOHP).
- SJVN reported a turnover of Rs 2,833 crore and a net profit of Rs 908 crore for FY24.

#### **About Navratna scheme:**

The Navratna scheme was introduced in **1997**. CPSEs eligible for Navratna status must be Miniratna I,

#### **List of 25 Navratna CPSEs as of August 31, 2024**

1. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
2. Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR)
3. Engineers India Limited (EIL)
4. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
5. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)
6. National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)
7. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC)
8. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC)
9. NMDC Limited (NMDC)
10. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL)
11. Shipping Corporation of India Limited (SCI)
12. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL)
13. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)
14. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF)
15. IRCON International (IRCON)
16. RITES (Rail India Technical and Economic Service)
17. National Fertilizers Limited (NFL)
18. Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)
19. Housing & Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)
20. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)
21. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
22. RCIL
23. SECI
24. NHPC

25. SJVN

### President Droupadi Murmu sanctions 23rd Law Commission of India from 2024-2027

The President of India Droupadi Murmu has sanctioned the **23rd Law Commission of India**(LCI) for a three-year term, from **September 1, 2024**, to **August 31, 2027**. The Commission will focus on reviewing and recommending legal reforms and improvements to the legal system.

#### About 23rd LCI:

i.The 23rd Law Commission will have a **full-time Chairperson**, four full-time Members (including a Member-Secretary), a Secretary, the Department of Legal Affairs as an ex officio Member, the Secretary of the Legislative Department as an ex officio Member, and a maximum of five part-time Members.

- The chairperson and members of the commission could be serving judges of the Supreme Court(SC) or High Courts(HC) or other category of persons.

ii.It has been tasked to examine the impact of globalisation on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalised.

#### Terms of Reference:

i.Its mandate includes reviewing **obsolete laws for repeal**, simplifying legal language, and suggesting amendments to align laws with current economic and social needs.

ii.Focus areas include laws affecting the poor, improving judicial efficiency, gender equality, and revising significant Central Acts.

iii.The Commission will consult relevant ministries, submit reports to Parliament, and collaborate with law universities for research and internships.

#### About Law Commission of India(LCI):

i.The LCI is a non-statutory body that researches and recommends changes to the law in India.It is an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice (**MoL&J**) that carries out legal research and makes recommendations to the government.

ii.The first Law Commission of independent India was established in **1955** for a 3-year term. The then Attorney-General of India, **M. C. Setalvad** was the chairman of this commission.

iii. It has taken up various subjects on references made by Department of Legal Affairs(DLA) under MoL&J, SC and HC and submitted 277 reports.

iv.The 22nd LIC was constituted for a period of 3 year with effect from 21st February, 2020. The term of 22nd LIC has extended upto 31st August, 2024.

- The 22nd LIC, headed by **Justice (retd) Ritu Raj Awasthi** was working on reports on simultaneous elections and a Uniform Civil Code, but had not submitted them to the government before Awasthi left to become a member of the Lokpal in March 2024.

### President Delegates Powers to Delhi LG to Constitute any Authority or Statutory body

The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, has delegated the powers to **Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Delhi** to constitute and appoint members any authority, board, commission or statutory body under any law enacted by the Parliament applicable to the Government of National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.

**Official****Notification:**

**i.** The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a gazette notification outlining this delegation of powers.

**ii.** In pursuance of clause (1) of article 239 of the Constitution read with section 45D of the Government of NCT of Delhi Act, 1991 (1 of 1992), the President has directed Delhi LG shall, subject to the control of the President and until further orders, exercise the powers of the President under clause (a) of section 45D of the said Act for constitution of any body by whatever name or for appointment of any Government officer or ex officio member to such body.



- **Article 239** of the Constitution relates to the administration of the Union territories.
- Section 45D of the Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2023 relates to power to appoint authorities, boards, commissions or statutory bodies.

**About Delhi:**

**Chief Minister (CM)** – Arvind Kejriwal

**Lieutenant Governor (LG)** – Vinai Kumar Saxena

**Airport** – Indira Gandhi International Airport

**Festivals** – Bhai Dooj Festival, Chhat Festival

### India's UPI Processes Nearly 81 Lakh Crore Transactions In April-July; Surpasses World's Leading Digital Payment Platforms

According to the global payment hub Paysecure data, India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has processed nearly **81 lakh crore** rupees in transactions between April and July 2024, surpassing the top digital payment platforms in the world. This represents a **37% increase** Year-over-year (YOY).

**i.** India leads the world in digital transactions, with over 40% of payments being made digitally, and UPI being used for a majority of them.

**ii.** UPI processed 3,729.1 transactions per second, up 58% from 2,348 in 2022.

- UPI transactions reached 20.6 lakh crore rupees in **July 2024**, the highest- ever recorded in a month.

**iii.** The United Kingdom(UK) based **Skrill** became the second-most popular alternative payment method with 1,553.8 transactions per second and processed 49 billion transactions in 2023. Brazil based **Pix** is the 3rd-most popular alternative payment method with 1,331.8 transactions per second.

### Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh launches India's 1st Fashion Forecasting initiative 'VisioNxt'

On 5th September 2024, the Union Minister Giriraj Singh, Ministry of Textiles, launched ‘**VisioNxt**’ – **Trend Insight and Forecasting lab**, the India’s 1st Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emotional Intelligence (EI) enabled trend forecasting Initiative developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

- He also launched the bilingual (Hindi and English) web portal of ‘**VisioNxt**’ and the India’s first ever Fashion Trend Book ‘**Paridhi 24×25**’.

#### **About VisioNxt:**

- VisioNxt was established in response to the 2017 Global Textile Summit, where the need for India-specific fashion trend insights was highlighted.
- The initiative was established at NIFT Delhi (Creative Lab) and NIFT Chennai (Tamil Nadu) (Insights Lab) in 2018 with support from the Ministry of Textiles. This initiative focuses on forecasting fashion trends for the Indian market.
- It Aims to reduce reliance on global forecasting agencies by offering localized insights for India’s fashion industry.

#### **Features:**

- Key features include a unique AI model, “DeepVision,” capable of analyzing over 100 categories of Indian and Western wear.
- It has a vast dataset of over 70,000 primary apparel images to predict trends in style, color, and regional accents.
- This will be providing support to weavers, manufacturers, designers, and fashion brands.
- It empowers Indian businesses to design and launch consumer-focused collections, marking India’s entry into the global fashion forecasting space.

### **PM Narendra Modi launched ‘Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari’ initiatives in Gujarat**

On September 6, 2024, Prime Minister (PM) of India, **Narendra Modi** virtually launched the ‘**Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari**’ initiative with an outlay of Rs **27 crore** was in **Surat**, Gujarat. This program is a collaboration between the Ministry of Jal Shakti (**MoJS**) and the **Government of Gujarat**, focuses on water conservation and community participation.

- The initiative includes the construction of around **24,800** rainwater harvesting structures across Gujarat, with strong public involvement to improve water sustainability.

#### **Other Participants:**

Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) Bhupendra Patel, Union Minister Chandrakant Raghunath Patil, MoJS, among others.

#### **About Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari :**

- The ‘Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari’ aims to address water shortages by constructing rainwater harvesting structures in critical regions with community engagement.
- The initiative seeks to enhance groundwater levels and **boost water infiltration** by implementing rainwater harvesting measures in the districts of Surat, Tapi, Dang, Navsari, and Valsad, aligning with the objectives of the **National Water Mission (NWM)**.

- As part of this program, approximately 2,000 water recharge initiatives are in progress.

- Furthermore, 2,031 water conservation projects, valued at **Rs 10.43 crore**, have been launched across 587 villages in Surat district.
- iii. India, with only **4%** of the world's freshwater, faces severe water scarcity, worsened by climate change. The program aims to address this by combining traditional knowledge and modern techniques.
- iv. This initiative aligns with '**Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign**'.

- Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana were also highlighted as part of the larger goal to make water conservation a nationwide movement.
- v. The government is promoting water-efficient farming techniques such as drip irrigation and encouraging farmers to grow crops that require less water.
- vi. Industries in Gujarat, through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts, have supported water conservation by creating **10,000 borewell recharge** structures.

#### **About Jal Shakti Abhiyan:**

- i. **Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)** was launched in 2019 in 1592 blocks in 256 water stressed districts of the country to promote water conservation and water resource management.
- ii. It was renamed "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" in 2021 and expanded to all over India to promote water conservation awareness among the public.

#### **About Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS):**

Union Minister– C R Paatil (Constituency- Navsari, Gujarat)

Ministers of State (MoS)- V. Somanna (Constituency- Tumkur, Karnataka), Raj Bhushan Choudhary (Constituency- Muzaffarpur, Bihar)

### **ISRO to Launch 1st Base Module of Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2028**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to launch the **1st base module** of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), **India's 1st space station**, by **2028**. The BAS will have **5 modules**.

- The entire station with a mass of about 52 tonnes is expected to be fully assembled in space by **2035**.

#### **First**

#### **Module:**

- i. The first module with a mass of 9186 kilograms (kg) robotic module will lack human re-entry capabilities.
- ii. This will be the **smallest** of all the 5 modules, which can fit into Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM Mk-3 or LVM-3).

- LVM-3, is a 3-stage launch vehicle and the new heavy-lift launch vehicle of the ISRO.

iii. The station will host 3-4 astronauts for varying periods to conduct several experiments in space.

#### **New Generation Rocket:**

- i. ISRO is also in the process of building a new generation rocket – Soorya – to lift off the heavier modules.





ii. ISRO's Soorya rocket will have 2 times more capability than the current heaviest rocket, LVM Mk-3.

iii. LVM3 will be capable of placing a maximum of 4-tonne class satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbits (GTO), and 10 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

#### **About Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):**

**Chairman**– Dr. S. Somanath

**Headquarters**– Bengaluru, Karnataka

**Established**– 1969

#### **India Successfully Test Fires Agni-4 Ballistic Missile in Odisha's Chandipur**

India successfully launched an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM) called **Agni-4** from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in **Chandipur, Odisha**. The launch was conducted under the supervision of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and has validated all operational and technical parameters.

- Agni-4 is the **4th missile** in the Agni series. It was designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**).
- The Agni-4 is a long-range, surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 4,000 kilometers (km), capable of carrying nuclear warheads.
- It is equipped with an indigenous-built ring laser gyroscope with a Micro Inertial Navigation System (MINGS), achieving 100 meters (m) accuracy.



#### **About Odisha:**

**Chief Minister (CM)**- Mohan Charan Majhi.

**Governor**– Raghubar Das

**Capital**– Bhubaneswar

**Festivals**– Raja Parba, Rath Yatra, and Nuakhai

**Stadiums**– Barabati Stadium (Outdoor), Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, and East Coast Railway Stadium (Outdoor)

#### **MCA Notifies Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023 for M&As**

On September 10, 2024, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) notified certain provisions of the **Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023** to revamp the merger control regime with effect from September 10, 2024.

- The aim of these changes is to streamline the merger review process and introduce new standards to assess notifiability of transactions.
- The amendments include Deal Value Threshold (DVT); reduced review timelines for the Competition Commission of India (CCI); derogation for stock market transactions; codification of green channel rules; and new exemption criteria for minority

acquisitions, incremental acquisitions, demergers, and acquisitions by financial intermediaries, etc.

### Key Points:

- i. These regulations mandate regulatory clearance from CCI for deals exceeding **Rs 2,000 crore** if the target entity has “Substantial Business Operations(SBOs) in India.”
- ii. The review period for M&A transactions has been reduced from 210 days to **150 days**.
- iii. Transactions involving entities with assets below **Rs 450 crore** or turnover under Rs 1,250 crore are exempt from CCI approval.
- iv. Parties to open market transactions will now be exempt from the standstill obligation, which basically prevents an acquirer from taking any steps to consummate the transaction prior to receipt of the CCI’s approval.
- v. As per the rules, the transactions where the value of assets or turnover of the enterprise being acquired, controlled, merged, or amalgamated in India does not exceed Rs 450 crore and Rs 1250 crore, respectively, shall not be considered a combination under Section 5 of the Competition Act, 2022.
- vi. The rules also extend to digital firms based on global user base, Gross Merchandise Value (GMV), or annual revenue.
- vii. The Green Channel Rules codify the existing law relating to deemed approval, with a key change that will impact overlaps assessment. Now, the definition of affiliates is widened to include in its scope the right/ability to access commercially sensitive information (CSI) of an entity.
- viii. The fee for filing a merger form has been increased (i) from Rs 20 lakhs to Rs 30 lakhs, for a Form I filing; and (ii) from Rs 65 lakhs to Rs 90 lakhs, for a Form II filing.

### IN Commissioned Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility ‘Vinetra’ at Visakhapatnam

The Indian Navy (IN) has commissioned a state-of-the-art **Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility**, named ‘**Vinetra**,’ at **INS (Indian Naval Ship) Satavahana**, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (AP). It is designed to enhance the crew’s escape capabilities from distressed Kalvari-class submarines.

- It was inaugurated by **Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C), Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, AP.

### Significance:

- i. The facility “**Vinetra**” (**विनेत्र**), meaning “**Trainer**” represents a significant step forward in building confidence among submariner,
- ii. This training facility also reinforces the operational readiness, safety protocols and training infrastructure of the Indian Navy.

### Key Points:

- i. Vinetra, indigenously designed and developed on the lines of Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative, is built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd (**L&T**) Defence featuring a **five-meter escape tower** integrated with a diving basin.
- ii. It offers both basic and refresher training, ensuring crew preparedness in handling underwater emergencies.
- iii. The IN has similar facilities for Kilo-class and Shishumar-class submarines at INS Satavahana,



India's key submarine training center, operational since 1974.

#### **About Kalvari-class Submarines:**

i. Kalvari-class submarines are diesel-electric attack submarines built under Project 75 by Mumbai, Maharashtra based **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited** (MDL) in collaboration with French firm **Naval Group**.

ii. These submarines are crucial to India's underwater warfare, performing tasks like anti-ship warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, and area surveillance.

iii. **INS Kalvari**, commissioned in 2017, was the first of the class, followed by other submarines like **INS Khanderi**, **INS Karanj**, **INS Vela**, **INS Vagir**, and **INS Vagsheer**.

#### **About Indian Navy (IN):**

**Chief of Naval Staff (CNS)**– Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi

**Headquarters**– New Delhi, Delhi

**Founded**– January 26, 1950

### **Union Minister Amit Shah Announced Renaming of Port Blair as 'Sri Vijaya Puram'**

Union Minister **Amit Shah**, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has announced that **Port Blair**, the Capital city of the Union Territory (UT) of Andaman and Nicobar Islands will be renamed as '**Sri Vijaya Puram**'.

- Sri Vijaya Puram represents India's victory in the freedom struggle, and also the Andaman and Nicobar Islands' unique role in it.
- The decision to rename has been inspired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's vision to free the nation from colonial imprints.



#### **Significance:**

i. Andaman and Nicobar Islands have an **unparalleled place** in the freedom struggle and history of India.

ii. The place hosted the inaugural unveiling of **Tiranga** by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. It also houses the **cellular jail** where freedom fighters who fought for the independence of India were imprisoned.

#### **Additional info:**

i. Andamans are well known for its pristine natural beauty, abundant marine life, flora and fauna spread around 836 islands, islets and rocks.

ii. In January 2023, the Ross Island, an island of the Andaman Islands was renamed to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep.

iii. In 2018, the Neil Island and Havelock Island of Andaman were also renamed as Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep.

#### **About Andaman and Nicobar Islands:**

**Lieutenant Governor (LG)** – Devendra Kumar Joshi

**National Parks** – Campbell Bay National Park, Galathea Bay National Park

**Airport & Seaport** – Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair Port

**Madhya Pradesh SEC Conducted India's 1st Paperless Election**

**Madhya Pradesh** (MP) State Election Commission (SEC) conducted a **paperless voting process** for the **first time** in India. It was implemented as a pilot project during a **Panchayat by-election** in **Ratua Ratanpur** village, Berasia tehsil in **Bhopal**(MP) for the post of **Sarpanch** and recorded 84% turnout.

- The process aims to computerise the manual parts of the voting process that were previously done on paper.
- The new system uses thumb impressions and electronic signatures for voter identification, ensuring authenticity and eliminating proxy voting.
- Benefits include real-time data generation, increased accuracy, fewer human resources required, improved transparency, and smoother election processes.

**Note:** Voting percentage and ballot accounting were also done online and the voting percentage was received online every 2 hours on all platforms. After polling, ballot paper accounts are sent to candidates and polling agents via electronic mail(email).

## International

### Singapore Airlines Receives FDI Approval from GoI for Vistara-Air India Merger

Singapore Airlines Limited (SIA) has received **approval** from Government of India (GoI) for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as part of the proposed merger of **Vistara** with Air India Limited (AI). Once completed, this merger will create one of the world's largest airline groups.

- On **12 November 2024**, Vistara will officially merge with AI, transitioning its flight code from “UK” to “AI.”
- SIA also secured its approval to become part of the expanded AI entity as a result of the proposed merger.

**Note:** The merger follows AI's 2022 privatisation by Tata Group, consolidating 4 airlines into 2, a Full-Service Carrier (FSC) (AI) and a Low-Cost Airline (LCA) (Air India Express (AIE)).

#### Background:

- The merger was first announced in **November 2022**. The deal has received several key approvals, including anti-trust and merger control clearances.
- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the deal in September 2023, subject to certain conditions.
- Singapore's competition regulator, the Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (CCCS) gave conditional approval in March 2024 and the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger in June 2024.
- Both companies secured the Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) 145 approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to integrate their aircraft line maintenance operations in August 2024.

- The completion of the merger continues to be subject to compliance by the parties with applicable Indian laws.

#### Ownership Structure:

i. After the merger, SIA, which held a **49%** stake in Vistara, will acquire a **25.1%** stake in the merged entity (after a Rs 2,058.5 crore investment), comprising AI, AIE, and Vistara.

- Tata Group will have the remaining **74.9%** stake in AI
- AI, formerly the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) is currently, owned by Tata Group.
  - Vistara is a 51:49 Joint Venture (JV) of Tata Sons Private Limited and SIA and the company is registered as TATA SIA Airlines Limited.
  - With effect from 12th November 2024, flight bookings of Vistara AI will be moved to the AI's web portal.

## Algeria joins New member of BRICS New Development Bank

**Algeria** has been authorised to become the new member of the **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)**, a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) established by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (**BRICS**) countries. It was announced by **Dilma Rousseff**, President of the NDB, during the **9th Annual Meeting of the NDB**, held in Cape Town, **South Africa**, from August 29 to 31, 2024. With Algeria joining, the total number of NDB members stands at 10.



- The theme of the meeting is “**Investing in a Sustainable Future**,” underscored the Bank’s commitment to addressing global challenges through sustainable development.
- With this membership, Algeria became the **3rd Arab country** to be integrated with the NDB, after Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

**Note:** Algeria formally presented a request to join NDB, after the Algerian president, Abdelmadjid Tebboune’s visit to China in 2023.

### About NDB:

The NDB was established in 2015 collectively by the BRICS countries.

### Purpose:

- The NDB objective to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in Emerging Markets and Developing Countries (EMDCs).
- The NDB is an MDB created and majority-owned by EMDCs.
- NDB aims to contribute to global growth and development by helping address the needs and aspirations of EMDCs.

### Members :

- The NDB has expanded its membership to include **Bangladesh** and the **UAE** in **2021**, and **Egypt** in **2023**.
- In **2021**, the NDB also welcomed **Uruguay** as its **Prospective member** country, becoming the 1st Latin American country to join the Bank.

- Prospective members have been admitted by NDB’s Board of Governors and will officially become a member country once they deposit their instrument of accession.

**iii.**The membership will be open to members of the United Nations (UN), by the provisions of the Articles of Agreement of the NDB.

**Note:** 10th Annual Meeting will be held in Brazil in 2025.

### About the New Development Bank (NDB):

**President**– Dilma Rousseff

**Headquarters**– Shanghai, China

**Established**– 2015

### UNGA Declares July 6 as ‘World Rural Development Day’

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its 78th session, unanimously adopted a draft resolution (A/78/L.84/Rev.2) in September 2024, proclaiming **6th July** of every year as “**World Rural Development Day**” (WRDD).



- The **first-ever** United Nations (UN’s) World Rural Development Day will be observed on **6 July, 2025**.
- The establishment of WRDD is to call for global attention and response to accelerate actions on rural development to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030.
- The resolution was initiated by **Bangladesh** and supported by a core group of countries comprising India, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, etc.

#### About the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA):

**President**– Dennis Francis

**Headquarters**– New York, the United States of America (USA)

**Established**– 1945

### Nepal Becomes 101st full Member of International Solar Alliance

**Nepal** has become the **101st country** to join the International Solar Alliance(**ISA**) as a full member. The Instrument of Ratification for the same was exchanged between Nepal’s Charge d’ affairs **Dr. Surendra Thapa**, and **Abhishek Singh**, Joint Secretary Economic Diplomacy Multilateral Economic Relations (ED&MER), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India during a meeting in New Delhi, Delhi.

- In June 2024, **Paraguay** became the 100th full member of ISA.

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

- The ISA was established in **2015** as a joint effort by India and France to mobilize efforts against climate change through the deployment of solar energy solutions.
- It was conceptualized on the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (**COP21**) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) held in Paris in 2015.

#### **Key Points:**

- Its purpose is to endorse clean energy, a sustainable environment, public transport, climate, and deploying cost-effective and transformational solutions through solar energy, especially in the Least Developed Countries (**LDCs**) and the Small Island Developing States (**SIDS**).
- ISA’s ‘Towards 1000’ strategy targets mobilizing USD 1 trillion investments in solar energy by 2030, providing clean energy access to 1 billion people, and installing 1 terawatt (TW)/1000 Giga Watt (GW) of solar energy capacity.

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

**Director General**– Dr Ajay Mathur

**Headquarters**– Gurugram, Haryana

**India Slips by 3 places to 33rd Rank in U.S. News & World Report's Annual Best Countries Ranking 2024; Switzerland Tops**

According to the **9th** edition of **U.S. News & World Report's Annual Best Countries Ranking 2024**, India has slipped by 3 positions, from 30th spot (in 2023) to **33rd** spot (in 2024) with overall score of **46.4**.

- **Switzerland** has topped the Best countries rankings for 2024 with overall score of 100, for the 3rd consecutive year and for the 7th year since its inception.
- While, **Japan** has secured **2nd** position in the latest rankings, followed by the United States of America (**USA**) and **Canada** ranked at 3rd and 4th position respectively.

**About U.S. News & World Report:**

**Executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer** (CEO) – Eric J. Gertler

**Headquarters**- Washington DC, the United States of America(USA)

**SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Mission Crew led by Billionaire Entrepreneur Returned to Earth**

On 15th September 2024, SpaceX's **Polaris Dawn Mission** Crew, led by an American billionaire entrepreneur **Jared Isaacman**, a pilot and the founder of electronic payments company **Shift4**, returned to the Earth following the successful completion of world's 1st private spacewalk.

- The Dragon capsule of SpaceX which carried 4 crew members for the mission splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico near Dry Tortugas, Florida, the United States of America (USA).
- The mission achieved 1st ever private spacewalk while orbiting nearly 460 miles (i.e. 740 kilometers (kms)) above the Earth, lasted 1 hour and 46 minutes, and surpassing the International Space Station (ISS) and Hubble Space Telescope.



**Note:** The 1st-ever spacewalk was carried by the Soviet Union cosmonaut Alexei Leonov on 18th March, 1965.

**Crew Members of the Mission:**

The mission included 4 crew members: **Jared Isaacman** was the commander of the mission. While, **Scott Poteet**, a retired U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel served as the pilot of the mission, **Sarah Gillis** and **Anna Menon**, both senior engineers at SpaceX were the mission specialists.

**About Polaris Dawn Mission:**



i. It is the first of the three testing and development missions under the Polaris Program, collaboration between Jared Issacman and Elon Musk's SpaceX.

ii. The 5-day mission was launched aboard SpaceX's **Falcon9 rocket** on 10th September, 2024 from Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Centre of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Florida, the USA.

#### **Key Highlights:**

i. On 12th September 2024, Jared Issacman and Sarah Gillis became the 264th and 265th individual respectively to undertake a spacewalk and also became the world's 1st private spacewalk.

- The crew members of the mission walked into the space by wearing SpaceX designed new Extravehicular Activity (EVA) suits.

ii. The mission has also achieved another milestone as it reached an orbit of over 870 miles (1,400 km) from Earth, which is more than twice the distance between Earth and the ISS. Also, it is the farthest any humans will have ventured since the end of the U.S. Apollo moon program in 1972.

ii. The crew of the Polaris Dawn mission became the 1st crew who has successfully conducted the test of SpaceX's **Starlink** laser-based communications in space which will help in future space communications systems required for missions to the Moon, Mars and beyond.

- Other than that, 4 astronauts conducted about 40 experiments, most about how weightlessness and radiation affect the body.

#### **About**

#### **SpaceX:**

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)-** Elon Musk

**Headquarters-** Hawthorne, California, the USA

**Established-** 2002

#### **Elon Musk to Become World's 1st Trillionaire by 2027; Gautam Adani by 2028: 2024 Trillion Dollar Club**

According to an Informa Connect Academy report titled **"2024 Trillion Dollar Club"**, **Elon Musk**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tesla Motors and SpaceX, is most likely to become the world's 1st trillionaire by **2027**.

- As per the report, **Elon Musk** who is currently, the richest man in the world with total net worth of **USD 248 billion** (as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index on September 12, 2024) to become the world's 1st trillionaire requires his wealth to grow at an average annual growth rate of nearly 110%.
- The report estimated that **Gautam Adani (USD 111 billion)**, Chairman of Adani Group (India) will become the 2nd trillionaire by **2028**, if his ports-to-power conglomerate continues to grow at an average annual rate of approximately 123%.



- Among 3 women billionaire who are likely to become trillionaire by 2050, **Françoise Bettencourt Meyers**, grand-daughter of Eugène Schueller, founder of L’Oreal, who holds total net worth of USD 85.9 billion, is expected to become a trillionaire by 2040.

#### **About Informa Connect Academy:**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Andrew Mullins

Headquarters- London, the United Kingdom (UK)

#### **Russian Soyuz Capsule Successfully Brings Back 3 Crew Members from ISS**

On 23rd September 2024, Russian Spacecraft **Soyuz MS-25** has successfully brought back **3 crew members**, including Two Russian cosmonauts **Oleg Dmitriyevich Kononenko** and **Nikolay Aleksandrovich Chub** and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut **Tracy Caldwell Dyson**, from the International Space Station (ISS).

- The spacecraft was safely landed in a remote area near Zhezkazgan in **Kazakhstan**.

#### **Key Points:**

i. Russia’s **Oleg Kononenko** and **Nikolai Chub** returned on Earth after their record-breaking stay of 374 days in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at the ISS. They returned after a trip of 158.6 million miles, spanning 5,984 orbits.

- With this, **Kononenko** has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **1,111 days** in space over 5 missions. Thus, he set a new world record for the longest cumulative time any person has spent in space.

ii. NASA’s **Tracy Caldwell Dyson** has spent 6 months at ISS. Spanning 184 days in space, Dyson’s third spaceflight covered 2,944 orbits of the Earth and a journey of 78 million miles as an Expedition 70/71 flight engineer.

**Note:** The absolute record for the longest unbroken time any human has spent in space belongs to Russia’s Valeri Polyakov, who spent 438 days on the Mir space station in 1994-95.

#### **About International Space Station (ISS):**

ISS, the largest space station ever built, was placed in LEO. It is maintained by International space agencies of: **NASA** of the United States of America (USA); Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (**JAXA**) of Japan, **Roscosmos** of Russia, European Space Agency (**ESA**) of European Union (EU); and Canadian Space Agency (CSA), Canada.

**Director-** Robyn Gatens

**Launched-** 1998

#### **Indira Gandhi International Airport Ranked 24th Among Top ‘Megahub’ Airports globally, Mumbai Airport at 44th : OAG**

According to the ‘**2024 Megahubs report**’, released by the United Kingdom (UK)-based air consultancy firm Official Airline Guide (OAG), **Indira Gandhi International Airport** (IGIA) in New Delhi(Delhi), has been ranked at **24th** spot among the top 25 Megahub airports globally, up by one place from 25th spot in OAG’s 2023 report.

- Other than IGIA, Mumbai's (Maharashtra) **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA)** is also featured among the top 50 Megahubs airports globally. However, it saw a significant drop in its ranking from 34th position (in 2023) to **44th** position (in 2024).
- UK-based **London Heathrow Airport (LHR)** has once again secured the **1st** spot in the latest rankings, followed by Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL) in Malaysia and Tokyo-Haneda International Airport (HND) in Japan, secured **2nd** and **3rd** position respectively.

**About Official Airline Guide (OAG):**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Phil Callow

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

**Established-**

1929

## Defence

### IN's P-8I Aircraft Participates in the 22nd Indo-French Bilateral Naval Exercise VARUNA 2024

The Indian Navy's (IN) **P-8I aircraft** has arrived at Air Base 125 Istres-Le Tube in France, marking its first deployment in Europe, to participate in the **22nd** edition of **Exercise 'VARUNA' (2024)**, an **Indo-French Bilateral Naval Exercise**.

The Exercise was conducted in the Mediterranean Sea from **2nd to 4th September 2024**.

- This deployment follows 63 years after the IN's Alize aircraft operated from the erstwhile Indian Naval Ship (INS) Vikrant and last flew at Hyeres Airbase.
- The VARUNA 2024 will feature advanced tactical drills, highlighting the strengthened synergy and interoperability between the 2 navies.

#### Objectives of the Exercise:

- i. The VARUNA joint exercise aimed to prepare the crews of these 2 Indian Ocean nations to collaboratively tackle diverse challenges.
- ii. It utilizes anti-surface, anti-submarine, and anti-aircraft assets to ensure effective control of the air-sea environment and ship operations.
- iii. It will also enhance capabilities like replenishment at sea, cross-deck operations, increasingly complex air combat maneuvers, and firing drills to complete these realistic operational scenarios.

#### Other Participant:

- i. **INS Tabar**, which had earlier arrived in Toulon, France is also participating in the exercise.
- ii. **INS Tabar** is equipped with a versatile range of weapons and sensors and is among the earliest stealth frigates of the IN.

- The ship is part of the IN's Western Fleet, known as the 'Sword Arm' of the IN, based at Mumbai (Maharashtra) under the Western Naval Command (WNC).

#### About Exercise VARUNA:

- i. VARUNA, the bilateral exercise between the Indian and French navies was initiated in 1993.
- ii. The exercise was named 'VARUNA' in 2001, exemplifying the enduring strategic relationship between India and France.
- iii. This annual joint exercise is usually held either in the Indian Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea.
- iv. VARUNA serves as a principal driver for operational-level interactions, highlighting the shared commitment of India and France to ensuring security, safety, and freedom in the global maritime commons.

**Note:** The 21st edition of this bilateral exercise was conducted on the Western Seaboard from 16 to 20 January 2023.

## FWDA Announces Successful Maiden Flight of its Indigenous Unmanned Bomber Aircraft “FWD 200B”

Bengaluru (Karnataka)-based Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace (FWDA), a defence and aerospace company, announced the successful **maiden flight** of India’s first Indigenous unmanned bomber aircraft, the **FWD 200B**.



- The aircraft is classified as a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

**Note:** The FWD 200B is expected to provide India with long-range strike capabilities and the ability to operate in high-risk environments without endangering humans.

### Manufacturing and Design:

i. The aircraft’s aerodynamics design, airframe, propulsion systems, controls systems, electronics are all made in India.

- They are entirely designed and manufactured at FWDA’s state-of-the-art manufacturing facility of 12,000 square feet built on 1.5-acre land, located at Electronic City in Bengaluru.

ii. The aircraft is equipped with optical payloads for surveillance purposes and missile-like weapons for air strikes and bombing missions.

### Key Features:

i. FWD 200B features a wingspan of 5 meters (m) and a length of 3.5 m.

ii. It has a maximum take-off weight of 102 kilograms (kg) and a payload capacity of 30 kg.

iii. It can fly at a cruising speed of 152 km per hour, with a maximum speed of 250 km per hour.

iv. It requires just a short runway of only 300 m for operations, making it suitable for deployment from smaller airstrips.

v. The FWD 200B is designed for extended missions with a range of up to 800 km, and an endurance of seven hours.

- This feature allows it to cover substantial distances without requiring frequent refueling or landing.

### About the Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace (FWDA):

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Suhas Tejaskanda

Headquarters– Bengaluru, Karnataka

Incorporated in– 2022

## 20th India -US Joint Military Exercise ‘YUDH ABHYAS’ commences in Rajasthan

On September 9, 2024, the 20th edition of the India-United States of America (USA) Joint Military Exercise ‘YUDH ABHYAS’ began at the Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, **Rajasthan**. It will run until **September 22, 2024**.

- YUDH ABHYAS 2024 exercise marks a significant increase in both the scope and complexity of the exercise in terms of military power and equipment.

**Background:**

i. Exercise YUDH ABHYAS has been held annually since **2004**. This year's exercise involves increased troop strength and advanced equipment.

ii. The **19th** edition of YUDH ABHYAS was held in **Alaska, USA**.

**About YUDH ABHYAS 2024:**

i. Aim: To strengthen interoperability, camaraderie, and defence cooperation between the two nations

ii. The exercise focuses on enhancing joint counter-terrorism capabilities in a **semi-desert environment** under Chapter VII of the United Nations (UN) Charter.

iii. Indian and US troops will rehearse tactical drills, including joint responses to terrorist actions and combined field training.

iv. It marks a significant increase in complexity and scope, promoting shared best practices in joint military operations.

**Participants:**

i. The IA contingent comprising **600** personnel is being represented by a battalion of the RAJPUT Regiment along with personnel from other arms and services.

ii. The USA contingent comprising **600** personnel will be represented by the troops of 1-24 Battalion of the Alaska based 11th Airborne Division of the USA Army.

**About the United States of America (USA):**

**President**– Joe Biden

**Capital**– Washington, D.C.

**Currency**– United States Dollars(USD)

**Indian Navy's P8I Participates in Ex Kakadu 2024 Hosted by the Royal Australian Navy**

**Exercise Kakadu 2024**, the **16th** edition of the biennial exercise led by Royal Australian Navy(RAN) and supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) is being held in Darwin, Australia from September 7-20, 2024.

- The **Indian Navy(IN)'s P8I aircraft**, led by Captain Ajay Kanwar, has arrived in Darwin, Australia, to participate in Ex Kakadu 2024.
- Ex Kakadu 2024 is being held under the theme "**Regional Cooperation through Trusted and Proven Partnerships**".

**Note:** P8I is designed for long-range, anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) missions.

**About Exercise Kakadu 2024**

**Participation:** The exercise involves over 3,000 personnel from **32 nations** and features 13 warships, a submarine, over 10 aircraft including maritime patrol units and unmanned systems.

**Key Points:**

i. The exercise strengthens relationships and improves interoperability between nations' armed forces.

ii. The focus is on integrating international partners in all aspects of maritime operations.

iii. It features a multinational control element at Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) base and covers air, sea, and subsurface operations, including anti-submarine warfare and air defense

exercises.

### **About Exercise Kakadu:**

- i. Exercise Kakadu, incepted in **1993**, is a flagship regional international engagement activity of RAN.
- ii. The 15th edition of Exercise Kakadu was held in 2022 at Darwin and the Northern Australian Exercise Area (NAXA), Australia.

### **IAF Contingent Participates in Exercise Eastern Bridge VII in Oman**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent comprising – Mikoyan-Gurevich (MiG)-29s, Jaguars fighter planes, and C-17 Globemaster III transport planes – is participating in the **7th** edition of **Exercise Eastern Bridge** at Air Force base Masirah, **Oman**.

- The bilateral exercise began on September 11 2024 and will end on September 22 2024.

### **IA Participates in the 5th Al Najah Exercise**

The **5th** edition of the bilateral military exercise **Al NAJAH** between the Indian Army (IA) and the Royal Army of Oman began on September 13, 2024 at the Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman. It will end on 26th September, 2024.

### **About Oman:**

**Prime Minister (PM) and Sultan** – Haitham bin Tariq Al Said

**Capital** – Muscat

**Currency** – Omani Rial (OMR)

### **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates IDAX-24 Expo in Jodhpur alongside Exercise Tarang Shakti 24 (Phase II)**

**Union Minister Rajnath Singh**, Ministry of Defence (MoD) inaugurated the India Defence Aviation Exposition (Expo) (**IDAX-24**) in **Jodhpur**, Rajasthan, showcasing India's commitment to Indigenous defence manufacturing and aerospace innovation.

- The IDAX-24, run from 12 to 14 September 2024, highlighted the significant advancements and contributions of the Indian aviation industry.
- The event coincides with **Exercise Tarang Shakti-24 (Phase II)**, one of the largest and India's first multinational air exercises hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in Jodhpur from 29th August to 14th September 2024.

### **About the Ministry of Defence (MoD):**

**Union Minister**– Rajnath Singh (Constituency: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP))

**Minister of State (MoS)**- Sanjay Seth (Constituency: Ranchi, Jharkhand)

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### IPS officer Rajwinder Singh Bhatti Appointed as DG of CISF

On 28th August 2024, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Rajwinder Singh Bhatti**, 1990-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Bihar cadre, as the Director General (DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post.



- He will hold the post for a tenure up to the date of his superannuation on September 30, 2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- He will succeed **Anish Dayal Singh**, DG of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), who has been holding **additional charge as DG of CISF** since August 2024.

#### About Rajwinder Singh Bhatti:

- Rajwinder Singh Bhatti is currently serving as the Director General of Police (DGP) of Bihar since December 2022.
- He has served in various positions which includes DG of Bihar Special Armed Police (BSAP) (formerly known as BMP), Joint Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Additional DG (Eastern Command), Border Security Force (BSF).

### Daljit Singh Chaudhary Appointed as DG of BSF

ACC also approved the appointment of **Daljit Singh Chaudhary**, 1990 batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh (UP) cadre, as the **DG** of the Border Security Force (BSF) with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post.

- He will hold the post for a tenure up to the date of his superannuation on until 30th November 2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- He is currently serving as the DG of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) since January 2024.

**Points to note:** Daljit Singh Chaudhary has been serving as the **DG (additional charge) of BSF** since **3rd August 2024** succeeding **Nitin Agarwal**, DG of BSF, was repatriated to his parent cadre Kerala.

#### About Daljit Singh Chaudhary:

- Daljit Singh Chaudhary has previously served as the Inspector General (IG) and Additional Director General (ADG) of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- He has also served as the Additional DG and Special DG of CRPF.

#### About the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF):

The CISF is a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).



**Director General (DG) – Rajwinder Singh Bhatti**

**Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi**

**Established – 1969**

**About the Border Security Force (BSF):**

The BSF is the Border Service branch of the CAPF of India . It came into existence in 1965.

**Director General (DG) – Daljit Singh Chaudhary**

**Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi**

**Air Marshal Tejinder Singh Takes Over as DCAS of IAF**

On September 1 2024, **Air Marshal Tejinder Singh** took over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) at Vayu Bhawan, New Delhi, Delhi.

- He replaced **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit**, who was appointed as DCAS in May 2023.
- Prior to this appointment, he served as the Senior Air Staff Officer (SASO), the Headquarters (HQ) Eastern Air Command of the IAF at Shillong, Meghalaya.



**About Tejinder Singh:**

**i.** Tejinder Singh was commissioned in the fighter stream of the IAF on June 13 1987. He is a Category ‘A’ Qualified Flying Instructor with over 4500 hours of flying experience.

**iii.** He has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Radar Station, a renowned Fighter Base and was Air Officer Commanding, Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

**iv.** He has been awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (VM) in 2007 and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) in 2022 by the President of India, in recognition of his meritorious service.

**Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Takes Over as AOC-in-C Of Central Air Command**

On September 1 2024, **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** took over as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of Central Air Command (CAC) of the IAF.

- He replaced **Air Marshal Ravi Gopal Krishana Kapoor**, who was appointed as the AOC-in-C of CAC in February 2023.
- Prior to this appointment, he served as the DCAS of IAF.

**About Ashutosh Dixit:**

**i.** Ashutosh Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 6, 1986. He is an experimental test pilot and a qualified flying instructor with more than 3,300 hours of flying experience on fighter, trainer and transport aircraft.

**iii.** He has actively taken part in numerous operations, including Operation (Op) Safed Sagar and Op Rakshak.

**iv.** He has commanded a Fighter Squadron, a Radar Station, a premier Fighter Base and was Air Officer Commanding, J&K.

**v.** He has been awarded the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM), Vayu Sena Medal (VM), and

Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM), by the President of India.

**About the Indian Air Force (IAF):**

Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) – Vivek Ram Chaudhari

Headquarters – New Delhi, Delhi

Established – 1932

Motto – Touch the Sky with Glory

**IAS Officer Dharmendra Appointed as Chief Secretary Of Delhi**

The Ministry of Home Affairs(MHA) has appointed **Dharmendra**, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, as the new **Chief Secretary** (CS) of National Capital Territory (NCT) of **Delhi**.

- He succeeds **Naresh Kumar**, whose tenure as Delhi's CS was ended on August 31 2024 after being extended twice by the Centre.
- Prior to this, he was served as the CS of Arunachal Pradesh (AR) and take over the new charge with effect from **September 1, 2024** or from the date of his joining, whichever is later.

**IAS Officer Amrit Lal Meena Appointed as Chief Secretary of Bihar**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Amrit Lal Meena**, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1989-batch Bihar Cadre, as the new **Chief Secretary** of **Bihar, succeeding Brijesh Mehrotra**, who got retired on 31 August 2024.

- Before this, he was a Secretary of the Ministry of Coal (MoC), during his central deputation.
- He also held the charge of Special Secretary (Logistics) in the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoC&I).
- He served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), and the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). He also served as District Magistrate across 5 districts of Bihar for over 9 years.

**UTT 2024: Sharath Kamal Named 1st Indian Ambassador of ITTF Foundation**

Indian Table Tennis (TT) Player **Sharath Kamal Achanta** has been officially named as the **Foundation Ambassador** of the International Table Tennis Federation (**ITTF**) **Foundation**, a non-profit organization that promotes peace and development through table tennis. He becomes the **first Indian** to be named the ambassador of ITTF Foundation.

- The announcement was made during the celebration of ITTF Foundation's TT4Health Programme at the **5th season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT 2024)** being held in Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN) from 22nd August 2024 to 7th September 2024.

- Governing Board Members Princess Zeina Shaban of Jordan and Vita Dani, Chairperson of the UTT, presented Kamal with the Foundation Ambassador t-shirt.

### About Sharath Kamal:

i.5-time Olympian Sharath Kamal, hailing from Chennai, is a 10-time Men’s Singles winner at the Senior National TT Championships.

ii.He was the 1st Indian TT player to win gold medal in Commonwealth Games (CWG). He won Gold Medals in the Men’s Singles and Men’s Team event at the 2006 CWG in Melbourne, Australia.

iii.He has been honoured with the Arjuna Award (2004), Padma Shri for Sports (2019), and Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (2022).

iv.He serves as the Co-chair of the ITTF Athletes Commission and is captaining Chennai Lions in the ongoing iteration of the UTT.

**Note:** ITTF, founded in 1926, is the world governing body of the sport of TT. It is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

### Michel Barnier Appointed as New Prime Minister of France

On 5th September 2024, Emmanuel Macron, President of France, has appointed **Michel Barnier** (73 years old), Former Brexit negotiator, as the new **Prime Minister (PM) of France**. At 73, Barnier is the **oldest** of the 26 prime ministers that have served modern France’s **Fifth Republic**.

- He will take charge from the outgoing **PM Gabriel Attal**, who has been serving as the caretaker PM of France following the 2024 Election results.
- The appointment comes after more than 50 days of caretaker government. This is the longest government transition period ever in French history.



**Note:** **Gabriel Attal** has been serving as the PM of France since **January 2024**. At the age of 34, he became the youngest person and the first openly gay person to serve as French PM. In **July 2024**, he official resigned from the post and continued to serve in a caretaker capacity.

### About Michel Barnier:

i.Michel Barnier is a veteran conservative politician from the right winged Republicans party (LR).

ii.In 1978, he was elected to the National Assembly as the youngest Member of Parliament(MP).

iii.He has held several key roles in French governments, including:

- Minister of the Environment (1993–1995)
- Minister for European Affairs (1995–1997)
- Minister of Foreign Affairs (2004–2005)
- Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (2007–2009)

iv.At the European Union(EU) level, he was European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services (2010–2014).

v. He was named as EU's **Brexit** negotiator after the United Kingdom (UK)'s referendum on leaving EU. He served as EU's Chief Brexit Negotiator from 2016 to 2021.

#### **Awards & Honours:**

He has received numerous honors, including France's Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur and Commander of the Ordre du Mérite Maritime, and international awards like the Medal of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Grand Cross of the Order of Prince Henry (Portugal), and Order of the Star of Romania.

#### **About France:**

**President**– Emmanuel Macron

**Capital**– Paris

**Currency**– Euro

### **Raja Randhir Singh Becomes First Indian OCA President**

On 8th September 2024, **Raja Randhir Singh** (aged 77), a former Indian shooter and veteran sports administrator, has been elected as the **President** of the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)** for a tenure of four-year (from 2024 to 2028). He becomes the **first Indian** to serve as President of OCA.

- He had been serving as the **Acting President of OCA** since **2021**, following the 15-year ban of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah from Kuwait.

#### **Election:**

i. As the only eligible candidate for the position, He was unanimously elected during the 44th General Assembly held at the Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi, Delhi.

ii. He was officially declared President in the presence of Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (**MoYAS**) and leaders from all 45 Asian nations.

#### **About Raja Randhir Singh:**

##### **Sports career**

i. Raja Randhir Singh represented India in shooting at the Olympic Games (Tokyo 1964 (Reserve Shooter), Mexico 1968, Munich 1972, Montreal 1976, Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984).

ii. He has also participated in Asian Games (Bangkok 1978, New Delhi 1982, Seoul 1986 and Hiroshima 1994).

- He was the **first Indian shooter** to win gold in the Asian Games (1978). He also won a bronze in 1982 and a team silver in 1986.

#### **Sports administration:**

i. He served as the Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) (1987-2014); Member of the governing body of Sports Authority of India (SAI) (1987-2010); and Secretary General of OCA (1991-2015) and Member of the International Olympic Committee (**IOC**) from 2001 to 2014.

ii. He has also served as IOC Representative on the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Foundation Board (2003-2005); and Member of the WADA's Finance and Administration



Committee (2005).

**Awards:**

i. In 1979, Government of India honoured him with the Arjuna Award (shooting) and the Government of Punjab honoured him with the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award.

ii. He has also received the OCA Award of Merit (2005), and Olympic Order, Silver (2014).

**About Olympic Council of Asia (OCA):**

It governs sports in Asia and is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Association of National Olympic Committee (ANOC) and the 45 member Asian National Olympic Committee (NOCs). The OCA General Assembly, its highest decision-making body, includes heads of NOCs from Asia.

**President**– Raja Randhir Singh

**Headquarters**– Kuwait city, Kuwait

**Establishment**– 1982

**ACC Approves Appointment of IAS Officer Tuhin Kanta Pandey Named as Finance Secretary**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Tuhin Kanta Pandey**, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Odisha cadre as the **Finance Secretary**, Ministry of Finance (MoF).

- He replaced **T V Somanathan**, who was appointed as the new cabinet secretary on August 30 2024.
- He is currently serving in MoF as Secretary of the two departments, the Departments of Public Enterprises (DPE), and Departments of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- Prior to his central government roles, Pandey held important positions in the state government Odisha, where he served as Principal Secretary of the Finance Department.

**Home Minister Amit Shah Unanimously Re-elected as Chairperson of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language**

Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) was unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Committee of Parliament on Official Language.

- Union Minister Amit Shah has been holding the position of Chairperson of the Committee from 2019 to 2024.
- The committee was reconstituted during a meeting of held in New Delhi, Delhi.

**Points to Note:**

i. The Department of Official Language, MHA is developing software for automatic translation of languages in the 8th Schedule on a technical basis.

ii. 2024 marks the **75th year** since **Hindi** was accepted as the official language.

- A large conference is being organised at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi to mark the 75th year.



**About the Official Language:**

i. In India, **Hindi** has been adopted as the National Language, Official Language, and lingua-franca.  
 ii. The Constituent Assembly accepted **Hindi**, written in the Devnagari Script as the **Official Language** of the Union of India based on the Munshi-Ayyangar formula, on 14 September **1949**.

- The Munshi-Ayyangar Formula was proposed in 1950, which recommended Hindi in Devanagari Script to be the Official Language in India along with English for an interim period (15 years).

**Note:** The Committee of Parliament on Official Language aims to increase Hindi's acceptance without competing with other Indian languages.

**Committee of Parliament on Official Language:**

i. The Committee of Parliament on Official Language was established in **1976** under the provisions of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963.

ii. It is a high-powered committee responsible for reviewing the progress made in the use of Hindi in the official work of the Union.

iii. The committee consists of 30 Members of Parliament (MPs):

- 20 from the Lok Sabha (lower house of Parliament)
- 10 from the Rajya Sabha (upper house of Parliament)

iv. The committee is headed by a **chairperson**, typically a senior Cabinet Minister.

- Members are nominated by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha respectively.

**Functions:**

i. Review the progress of the use of Hindi in government offices and institutions.  
 ii. Suggest measures to promote the use of Hindi in official communications.  
 iii. Submit reports to the President of India on its findings and recommendations.

**Tayyab Ikram is set for 2nd Term as FIH President**

**Mohammad Tayyab Ikram** is set to become the **President** of Fédération Internationale de Hockey (FIH- **International Hockey Federation**) for the **second term**. He has been serving as the 13th President of FIH since 2022.

- Ikram, representing Hong Kong and Macau, is the sole candidate for the post of President,
- For the first time in the history of FIH, Ikram is set to be re-elected as the President of FIH unopposed.

**FIH Election:**

The election for the post of FIH President; FIH Ordinary Executive Board Member female and male will be elected during the **49th FIH Statutory Congress** in Muscat, **Oman** on 9th November 2024.

**About Mohammad Tayyab Ikram:**

i. Pakistan-born Mohammad Tayyab Ikram of Macau has coached 6 different national teams

including Pakistan and China.

ii. Prior to becoming President of FIH in 2022, He has served as the Chief Executive Officer of Asian Hockey Federation. He has been an member of FIH Executive Board since 2016.

iii. He has also served as the member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Olympic Solidarity Commission.

iv. He has also served as a key Member of the Coordination and Evaluation Commission for the Asian Games 2010 to 2022.

#### **Awards:**

He was awarded a prestigious title of Dato' from Malaysia (2010), FIH President's Award (2002) and Performance Medal by Governo de Macau (1998)

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

**President-** Mohammad Tayyab Ikram

**Headquarters** – Lausanne, Switzerland

**Founded** – 1924

### **ACC Approves the Appointment of Six Senior Advocates as ASG in Supreme Court**

On 9th September 2024, The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of **six senior advocates** as Additional Solicitor Generals (ASGs) in the Supreme Court (SC) of India.

- The newly appointed ASGs are S. Dwarakanath, Archana Pathak Dave, Satya Darshi, Sanjay Brijender Chahar, Raghavendra P. Shankar and Rajkumar Bhaskar Thakare (Raja Thakare).
- These appointments were made for a period of **3 years** with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the office, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



#### **Note:**

i. With these appointments, the strength of ASGs in the SC has increased to 11.

ii. S V Raju, Aishwarya Bhati, Vikramjeet Banerjee, N Venkataraman, and K M Nataraj are the other ASGs in SC of India.

#### **About Additional Solicitor Generals:**

i. Additional Solicitor General is a law officer of India who assists the Solicitor-General of India (SGI) and the Attorney-General of India.

ii. They are required to appear in the SC or in any High Court (HC) on behalf of the Government of India in cases (including suits, writ petitions, appeal and other proceedings) in which the Government of India is concerned as a party or is otherwise interested.

iii. The SGI and ASG are governed by the Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987.

#### **Additional info:**

i. **Tushar Mehta** has been serving as the Solicitor General of India since 2018 (re-appointed in 2023).

ii. **R Venkataramani** has been serving as the Attorney General of India since 2022.

#### **About Supreme Court (SC) of India:**

**Chief Justice of India (CJI) – Dhananjaya Yeshwant (DY) Chandrachud**

**Headquarters** – New Delhi, Delhi

**Established**– 26 January 1950

**Olympic Medal Winner Manu Bhaker Appointed as Brand Ambassador of MoPSW & Golden Bullet**

On September 17 2024, **Manu Bhaker**, a double Olympic medal winner has been appointed as the **Brand Ambassador** for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (**MoPSW**).

- The appointment was announced by Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal**, MoPSW at the **4th Harnessing of the Nari Shakti for the Development of the Nation** event held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu(TN).
- The event was organised by the Chennai Port Authority (CPA) in collaboration with Kamarajar Port Authority.

**About Manu Bhaker:**

**i.**Manu Bhaker became the **first Indian woman** to win an Olympic medal in shooting when she won the **bronze medals** in the women’s 10m air pistol event and in the 10m mixed double event in Paris in 2024.

**ii.**She became the **first athlete** from India to win two medals in the single edition of the Olympics.

**iii.**She has also won a Gold medal in the women’s 10m air pistol event at International Shooting Sport Federation (**ISSF**) **World Cup** held in Mexico in 2018.

**iv.**She became the first Indian shooter to win a gold medal at the Youth Olympics in 2018 when she won the gold medal in the 10m Air Pistol event.

**Golden Bullet Appointed Manu Bhaker as Brand Ambassador**

Bhiwandi(Maharashtra) based **Golden Bullet**, a tools company, has announced the appointment of **Manu Bhaker** as their Brand Ambassador.

- IOS Sports and Entertainment, Bhaker’s exclusive marketing agency, facilitated this partnership between Golden Bullet and Manu.

**About the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW).**

**Union Minister** – Sarbananda Sonowal (Constituency – Dibrugarh, Assam)

**Minister of State (MoS)** – Shantanu Thakur (Constituency – Bangaon, West Bengal, WB)

**About the IOS Sports and Entertainment:**

**Founder** and Managing Director (**MD**) – Neerav Tomar

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** – Monjit Sharma

**Headquarters** – New Delhi, Delhi

**Established** – 2005

**ECI Names Para Archers Sheetal Devi &Rakesh Kumar as National Icon for PwD**

Indian para-archers **Sheetal Devi** and **Rakesh Kumar** of the Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and



Kashmir (J&K), have been named the Election Commission of India's (ECI) **National Icons** for Persons with Disabilities (**PwDs**) for voter awareness, during an event organised by the ECI at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi, Delhi.

- During the event, Rajiv Kumar, the Chief Election Commissioner of India (CEC) along with Election Commissioners (ECs) Gyanesh Kumar and Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, felicitated Arjuna Awardee and ECI's national PwD icons are present at the event.

**i.**Sheetal Devi and Rakesh Kumar secured the **bronze** medal in Archery's Mixed Team Compound Open event at the 2024 Paralympics, held in Paris, France. They set a new Paralympic record with a combined score of 1399.

**ii.**Sheetal Devi was previously announced as an ECI National Icon before the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. She became India's youngest Paralympic medalist at 17.

- She won a silver medal at the World Archery Para Championships 2023 in Plzeň, Czech Republic in 2023, becoming the 1st female armless archer to win a medal at the Para World Championships.
- In 2024, she was honoured with **Arjuna Award** (2023) for her achievements in Para Archery.

**iii.**Rakesh Kumar won 3 gold medals in the Compound Men Open Team, Compound Open Mixed Team, and Compound Men Open events at the 2023 Para Asian Archery Championship in Bangkok, Thailand.

- He became India's first-ever gold medallist in the World Archery Para Championships when he claimed the world title in the Compound mixed team event alongside Sarita in Pilsen, Czech Republic in 2023.

### **Korean Ambassador Sang Wook Ham Elected as President of IAEA's 68th General Conference**

**Sang Wook Ham**, South Korea's ambassador to Austria, has been elected as the **President** of the **68th General Conference** of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an international organisation within the United Nations (UN).

- He held the office during the IAEA conference, held from **16 to 20 September 2024** at the Vienna International Centre (VIC) in Vienna, Austria.

**Note:** It is the **second time** that South Korea is holding the presidency of the General Conference, where the first was in 1989, during the 33rd session.

#### **Key Points:**

**i.**The General Conference elects a president at the beginning of each annual session, after consultations among member states prior to the event.

**ii.**They hold office for the duration of the conference.

iii. In 2023, the President of the Conference was Vilawan Mangklatanakul of Thailand.

#### **About Sang Wook Ham:**

i. Sang Wook Ham was appointed as the Republic of Korea's (ROK) Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna in 2022.

ii. He has served as a Chair of the Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016, and Chair of the International Trust Fund (ITF) for Enhancing Human Security for 2023-24.

iii. He served as the Chair of the IAEA Board of Governors in 2022.

iv. He was awarded the Presidential Citation in 2012 and an Order of Service Merit with Red Stripes in 2015.

**Note:** The 2024 Scientific Forum: Atoms4Food held on the sidelines of 68th IAEA General Conference with the theme 'Better Agriculture for Better Life' in Vienna, Austria.

#### **About International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**

IAEA is the international centre for cooperation in the nuclear field.

**Director General (DG)** – Rafael Mariano Grossi (Argentina)

**Headquarters** – Vienna, Austria

**Founded** – 1957

#### **Amrit Mohan Prasad Assumed Charge as DG of Sashastra Seema Bal**

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of **Amrit Mohan Prasad** as the Director General (DG) of the **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)** (Level -17 in the Pay Matrix), for a tenure up to the date of his superannuation on 31 August **2025** or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

- Amrit Mohan Prasad succeeded **Daljit Singh Chawdhary**, who handed over the customary baton to Amrit Mohan Prasad at the SSB Headquarters, in New Delhi, Delhi.

#### **About Amrit Mohan Prasad:**

i. Amrit Mohan Prasad, a 1989 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Odisha cadre, was appointed as SDG (Level-16 of the Pay Matrix) of the CRPF in August 2024.

ii. Before this, he served as DG of Prisons and Director of Correctional Services (DCS) of Odisha.

iii. He also served as the SDG of the Human Rights Protection Cell (HRPC) of Odisha Police.

#### **Key Points:**

i. The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) was raised as a Special Service Body in **1963**, in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression (in 1962).

ii. In **1966** it was renamed as **Special Service Bureau** and on 15 December **2003**, it was again renamed as **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**.

iii. Currently, the SSB is an Armed Force of the Union of India with about 73 Battalions, guarding 1751 kilometers (km) of Indo-Nepal and 699 km of Indo-Bhutan Border.

#### **About the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB):**

**Director General (DG)**- Amrit Mohan Prasad

**Headquarters**- New Delhi, Delhi

**Established**- 1963

**Motto**- Service, Security, and Brotherhood

#### **AAP Senior Leader Atishi Sworn-in as 8th CM of Delhi**

Atishi Marlena Singh, a senior leader of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) took oath as the **8th** Chief Minister (CM) of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of **Delhi**. She was appointed by the President Droupadi Murmu under the **Article 239**. Lieutenant-Governor (LG) **Vinai Kumar Saxena** administered the oath of office and secrecy to Atishi at a ceremony held at Raj Niwas in New Delhi(Delhi). 5 AAP ministers also took oath during the ceremony.

- She replaced **Arvind Kejriwal**, the 7th CM of Delhi since February 2015, who resigned from his role in September 2024.
- Atishi is expected to serve a 4-month term with Delhi's Assembly Elections scheduled for February 2025.

The new Council of Ministers announced by the AAP comprises: Gopal Rai, Saurabh Bharadwaj, Kailash Gahlot, Imran Hussain, and the first-time Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) Mukesh Ahlawat.

#### **Points to Note:**

**i.**Atishi is the **3rd woman CM of Delhi** after Sheila Dikshit (1998 to 2013) of the Indian National Congress (INC) and Sushma Swaraj (1998) of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

- She became the youngest of all 3 to hold the CM Office (CMO) in the Union Territory (UT) of Delhi at 43.

**ii.**With this, Atishi has also become the **17th woman CM in India**, joining the likes of Sushma Swaraj, Mamata Banerjee (West Bengal, WB), Jayaram Jayalalithaa (Tamil Nadu, TN), and others.

**iii.**She is only the 2nd woman CM in India at present, alongside WB's Mamata Banerjee.

#### **About Atishi Marlena Singh:**

**i.**Atishi joined AAP in 2013 and was the advisor to Former Education Minister Manish Sisodia from 2015 to 2018.

**ii.**She is the MLA from the Kalkaji Assembly constituency in South Delhi.

**iii.**She became a Minister in the Delhi cabinet in 2023 and holds significant responsibilities within the Delhi Government, serving as a Cabinet Minister overseeing 14 key portfolios including Education, Public Works Department (PWD), and Power.

**iv.**She is also a member of AAP's highest decision-making body, the Political Affairs Committee (PAC).

- She was also the Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee, a financial committee of Delhi in 2022–2023.

#### **About the Union Territory (UT) of Delhi:**

**Chief Minister (CM)-** Atishi

**Governor–** Vinai Kumar Saxena

**Capital–** New Delhi

**Festivals–** Mango Festival, and Qutub Festival

**Stadiums–** Thyagaraj Sports Complex (Indoor), and Talkatora Indoor Stadium

#### **Marxist Leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake Sworn-in as 9th President of Sri Lanka**

On 23rd September 2024, **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** (55 year old), Leader of Marxist-Leninist party – Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (**JVP**), sworn-in as **9th President of Sri Lanka** after winning the 2024 Presidential election.

- He was sworn in by Chief Justice of Sri Lanka, **Jayantha Jayasuriya** at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

#### **2024 Presidential Election of Sri Lanka:**

- This marks the 1st election of Sri Lanka since the 2022 economic collapse following which then President Gotabaya Rajapaksha was forced to flee the country.
- Anura Kumara Dissanayake won the election by defeating his rival Sajith Premadasa of Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB).
- Dissanayake won the presidency with 42.31% of the vote. Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa took 2nd place with 32.76%.

#### **About Anura Kumara Dissanayake:**

- Dissanayake joined JVP as a student leader during the 2nd insurrection (1980s) which resulted in mass killings and violence in Sri Lanka.
- He won his 1st parliamentary election in 2000. He has served as Minister of Agriculture during the President Chandrika Kumaratunga Bandaranaike's government between 2004 and 2005.
- In 2014, he became the leader of JVP, replacing Somawansa Amarasinghe.
- He contested his 1st Presidential election in 2019. He lost the election against Gotabaya Rajapaksha and finished at 3rd position by securing just 3% of valid votes.

#### **About Sri Lanka:**

**President-** Anura Kumara Dissanayake

**Capital-** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative capital), Colombo (judicial and executive capital)

**Currency-** Sri Lankan Rupee (SLR)

#### **Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh appointed as next Indian Air Force Chief**

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has appointed **Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh** as the next Chief of the Air Staff (**CAS**) in the Indian Air force (IAF), in the rank of Air Chief Marshal, with effect from September 30, 2024.

- He will succeed the incumbent **Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari**, who retires upon superannuation.
- Currently serving as Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS), Air Marshal Singh will be the fourth officer from the Sikh community to lead the IAF, after Marshal of the Air Force **Arjan Singh**, Air Chief Marshal **Dilbagh Singh** and Air Chief Marshal **Birender Singh Dhanoa** have been from Sikh Community.

#### **About Amar Preet Singh:**

- Commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the IAF on December 21, **1984**, he is a qualified flying instructor and Experimental Test Pilot (ETP) with over 5,000 hours of flying experience.
- He has previously served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of Central Air Command.
- He has commanded an operational fighter squadron, a frontline airbase, and served as Commander of Central Air Command (**CAC**).

iv. He led the MiG-29 Upgrade Project Management Team in Moscow, Russia, and was involved in the flight testing of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas.

vi. He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal (PVSM) and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM).

#### **About Indian Air Force (IAF):**

Chief of the Air Staff (CAS)– Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh (From September 30)

Headquarters– New Delhi, Delhi

Established– 1932

#### **Harini Amarasuriya Sworn-in as 16th PM of Sri Lanka**

On 24th September 2024, **Harini Amarasuriya** (54 years old), leader of National People's Power (NPP), officially sworn-in as **16th** Prime Minister (PM) of Sri Lanka. She has replaced **Dinesh Gunawardene** who resigned from PM office after the result of recently held Sri Lanka Presidential election.

- She took her oath of office administered by Anura Kumar Dissanayake, President of Sri Lanka at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- She became the 3rd woman PM after Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Chandrika Kumaratunga.



#### **About**

#### **Harini**

#### **Amarasuriya:**

i. She is an academic and right activist. She was the university lecturer in the Department of Social Studies, Open University of Sri Lanka.

ii. Before entering into the mainstream politics, she started her career as public activist in 2011, when she participated in protests during the Rajapaksha government demanding for free education.

iii. She campaigned for Anura Dissanayake of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) in 2019 Presidential election.

iv. 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.

#### **Appointment of New Cabinet Members:**

i. President Anura Kumar Dissanayake has also appointed his new cabinet comprising 4 members, including himself.

- Other 3 cabinet members are: NPP parliamentarians, Harini Amarasuriya, Vijitha Herath and Laxman Nipunarachchi.

ii. This new cabinet will serve as the caretaker government till the next parliamentary election, which would take place on 14th November, 2024.

#### **About Sri Lanka:**

**President-** Anura Kumara Dissanayake

**Prime Minister (PM)-** Harini Amarasuriya

**Capital-** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (legislative capital), Colombo (judicial and executive capital)

**Currency-** Sri Lankan Rupee (SLR)

## Honours/ Awards

### 66th Ramon Magsaysay Awards: Japanese Animator Hayao Miyazaki Among 5 Recipients of 2024

The **Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF)** has announced recipients of the **66th edition** of Ramon Magsaysay Awards (2024), the , premier prize of Asia and highest honor which recognises the greatness of spirit shown in selfless service to the peoples of Asia.

The 2024 recipients includes 4 Individuals and 1 Group:

- Hayao Miyazaki (Japan),
- Karma Phuntsho (Bhutan),
- Dr. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Phuong (Vietnam),
- Farwiza Farhan (Indonesia), and
- the Rural Doctors' Movement (Thailand).



Note: Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1958 in honor of **President Ramon Magsaysay**, the **seventh** president of the Philippines, Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's highest honor.

#### **About Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation (RMAF):**

**Chairperson**– Cecilia L. Lazaro

**President**– Susanna B. Afan

**Headquarters**– Manila, Philippines

**Establishment**– 1957

### IOC Awards Olympic Order in Gold to French President Emmanuel Macron; Laurent Nuñez & Nicolas Ferrand Awarded Olympic Order

**Emmanuel Macron**, **President** of **France**, was presented with the **Olympic Order in Gold**, for his unwavering support of the Olympic Games Paris 2024. He received this honour from Thomas Bach, President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), at an official ceremony held at the Elysée Palace in Paris, France.

- This distinction honours his dedication and visionary leadership, which made the Paris Games a symbol of unity and global cooperation.

**Note:** Elysée Palace is the official residence of the President of the French Republic.

#### **Other Honours:**

Thomas Bach also presented the **Olympic Order** to **Laurent Nuñez**, the **Paris Prefect of Police**, a special police authority in France, and **Nicolas Ferrand**, Executive Managing Director (EMD) of **SOLIDEO**, the company responsible for delivering the Olympic facilities, since 2017.

- They were awarded for their exceptional contribution to the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, France 2024.
- Laurent Nuñez was recognised for his crucial role in making the Games in Paris safe and secure.
- Nicolas Ferrand was honoured for overseeing the timely and budget-conscious delivery of Olympic infrastructure.

#### **About Emmanuel Macron:**

- i. Emmanuel Macron is the 8th President of the 5th Republic of France (1958) since 2017.
- ii. First, he won the presidential election in 2017 and he was again re-elected as President in 2022.
- iii. He served as the Minister for Economy, Industry, and Digital Affairs from August 2014 to August 2016.
- iv. He also served as Deputy Secretary-General at the Elysée Palace in Paris, from 2012 to 2014.
- v. Before becoming the President, Macron was an Investment Banker, from 2008 to 2011, and worked as a Managing Partner at Rothschild & Co Bank in Paris from 2011 to 2012.
- vi. He joined the Inspectorate General of Finance where he worked for four years from 2004 to 2008 before entering the banking sector.

#### **About Olympic Order:**

- i. The Olympic Order, established in 1975, is the highest honour granted by the IOC.
- ii. It recognises individuals who have made outstanding services to the Olympic movement through their contribution to the development of sport.

#### **FICCI Honoured Ayushmann Khurrana & Neeraj Chopra with the Youth Icon of India Award 2024**

On 29th August 2024, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organised the **1st edition** of the ‘**FICCI Young Leaders Awards (2024)**’ and recognised outstanding young achievers across 13 categories.

- Bollywood actor **Ayushmann Khurrana** with ‘**The Youth Icon Award 2024 (Entertainment)**’ and Indian Javelin thrower and Olympic medallist **Neeraj Chopra** with ‘**The Youth Icon Award 2024 (Sports)**’
  - FICCI also honoured Indian fashion designer **Rahul Mishra** with Youth Icon Award 2024 (**Art & Culture**); Amitabh Shah, Founder of Yuva Unstoppable, with Youth Icon Award 2024 (Public Service); and Journalist Palki Sharma with Youth Icon Award 2024 (Media).
- i. In 2019, Ayushmann Khurrana won the National Award for Best Actor for his performance in the movie *Andhadhun* (2018). He was appointed as the National Ambassador of United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) India in 2023. He is also a Celebrity Advocate of UNICEF India (since 2020).
  - ii. In 2021, Neeraj Chopra became the 1st Indian track and field athlete to win a gold medal in the men’s javelin throw at the 2020 Olympic Games held in Tokyo, Japan. He won the silver medal in the men’s javelin throw at the 2024 Paris Olympics (France).
- Note:** New Delhi (Delhi)-based FICCI, established in 1927, is the largest and oldest apex business organisation in India.

## Sundar Pichai, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Anil Kapoor among Indians on TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024 List

On 5th September 2024, **TIME**, the New York (the United States of America-USA)based Magazine, released “**TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024**”.

- **Sundar Pichai**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google and Alphabet, Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) and **Anil Kapoor**, Renowned Actor are among leaders **from India or of Indian descent** featured on the list.

### About TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024:

- This is the **2nd** edition of TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI, recognizing the 100 most influential people shaping the rapidly evolving field of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**.
- The list has categorized the influential people into **4** different categories namely, **Leaders, Innovators, Shapers** and **Thinkers**.

### About TIME Magazine:

CEO– Jessica Sibley

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

Created in- 1923

## MoR Awarded NSG-1 Status To Vijayawada Railway Station in AP

The Ministry of Railways (**MoR**) has awarded the Non-Suburban Group-1 (**NSG-1**) status to **Vijayawada Junction Railway Station (BZA)**, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh (AP).

- It was announced by Narendra Anandrao Patil, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Vijayawada, South Central Railway (SCR).
- Vijayawada railway station is the **second station** in SCR to achieve NSG-1 status after Secunderabad Junction Railway station .

**Note:** The NSG-1 status is given to stations where annual revenue is **more than Rs 500 crore** or the number of passengers per year is more than **20 lakh**.

### Key Points:

- The Vijayawada railway station had a revenue of **Rs 528 crore** and handled over 16.84 million passengers in 2023-24.
- It has also joined the list of the **top 28 elite stations** of the Indian Railways(IR).
- In addition to this status, Vijayawada railway station has been given the **Platinum rating** by the Indian Green Building Council (**IGBC**).
- It has also been awarded the **Best tourist-friendly station** by the AP state government.

### About the Ministry of Railways (MoR):

Union Minister – Ashwini Vaishnaw (Constituency – Rajya Sabha,Odisha)

Minister of State (**MoS**) – V. Somanna(Constituency – Tumkur, Karnataka) ;Ravneet Singh (Constituency – Ludhiana, Punjab)



**Prasanthi Ram Won Singapore Literature Prize 2024 for 'Nine Yard Sarees'**

Prasanthi Ram, Indian-origin lecturer at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore has won the Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) 2024 for the English fiction debut short story 'Nine Yard Sarees', which was published in 2023.

- The short story cycle is about the generations of a Tamil Brahmin family dispersed spread over Singapore, Sydney, New York, and Connecticut.
- A total of 17 writers, translators and comic artists were awarded the SLP for the year 2024.

**Note:** The SLP is a biennial award in Singapore that recognizes excellent published works by Singaporean authors in any of the 4 official languages: Chinese, English, Malay, or Tamil.

**i. Shubigi Rao**, an Indian-origin artist, won the award for best English creative nonfiction for her work 'Pulp III: An Intimate Inventory Of The Banished Book' (2022).

**ii.** The best English debut prize went to **Peter Ellinger**, National University of Singapore Professor Emeritus, who became the Singapore Literature Prize's oldest winner for 'Down Memory Lane: Peter Ellinger's Memoirs' (2023).

**iii.** The winners in the **Tamil section** are Mathikumar Thayumanavan for poetry: Yaamakkodangi (2023), Kanagalatha K for Fiction: Cheenalakshumi (2022), Azhagunila for Creative Non-fiction: Appan (2023), and Tamilselvi Rajarajan for Best Debut: Kaatralalyll (2023).

**TIME's World's Best Companies 2024: HCL Tech Tops the List among the Indian Firms**

Indian Information technology (IT) firm **HCLTech** has been recognized as the **No. 1 India-headquartered company** in **World's Best Companies 2024 list** published by the United States of America (USA) based **TIME Magazine** and German based **Statista**.

- HCLTech has secured **112th** position leading to topping amongst Indian companies.
- The Noida-headquartered firm has also secured a place in the global top **10** list within the **Professional Services** category.
- US-based tech giant **Apple** has topped the list globally, followed by Ireland-based tech major Accenture, Microsoft, BMW Group, and Amazon.

The World's Best Companies 2024 ranking is based on **employee-satisfaction** surveys, **revenue** growth, and environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) data.

**About TIME Magazine:**

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) – Jessica Sibley

**Headquarters** – New York, the United States of America (USA)

**Founded** – 1923

## Bollywood Producer Vinod Bachchan Honored with Global Prestige Award at the UK Parliament

Renowned Bollywood film producer **Vinod Bachchan** was honored with the prestigious **Global Prestige Award** at the House of Lords, United Kingdom (UK) Parliament for his outstanding contribution in Indian film industry, and in promoting Indian culture and strengthening cinematic ties between India and the global stage, particularly the UK.

- The award ceremony was held in the presence of **Lord Bellamy KC** and **Lord Rami Ranger CBE**, a distinguished Member of Parliament.
- Vinod Bachchan produced Bollywood hits such as *Tanu Weds Manu*, *Zila Ghaziabad*, *Ginny Weds Sunny*, and *Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana*, received the award for his influential role in bringing Indian cinema to global audiences

### About Global Prestige Award:

**i.**It honors individuals who have made significant contributions in their field. Presented at the UK Parliament, this award aims to celebrate diversity and excellence across various domains, including arts, culture, and business.

**ii.**The award highlights the importance of cultural exchange and the role of cinema in bridging gaps between different societies.

## FFI Announced Kiran Rao's Laapata Ladies as India's Official Entry to Oscars 2025

On 23rd September 2024, the Film Federation of India (FFI) has announced the name of Kiran Rao directed '**Laapata Ladies**' as India's official entry for the "**Best International Feature Film**" category at the prestigious **97th Academy Awards (Oscars 2025)**, which will held on 2nd March 2025 in Los Angeles, California, the United States of America (USA).

**Note:** In 2023, India submitted Malayalam film "**2018: Everyone is a Hero**" as its official entry at the 96th Academy Awards.

### Selection Process:

**i.**The film was unanimously selected by **13-member** jury of FFI headed by Assamese director **Jahnu Barua**.

**ii.**The film was selected among 29 films, including 12 hindi films, 6 Tamil and 4 Malayalam films.

**iii.**Laapata Ladies was selected over award winning films like:

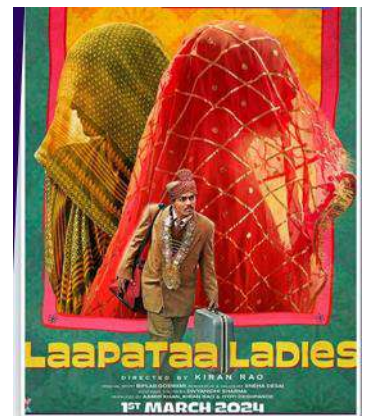
- Malayalam film '**Aattam**' (The Play) which won the 70th National Film Award for Best Feature Film in August 2024.
- Payal Kapadia's "**All We Imagine As Light**" which won Grand Prix, the 2nd highest award of Cannes Film Festival in May 2024.

### About

### Laapata

### Ladies:

**i.**It is a critically acclaimed hindi language film, which was released theatrically in March 2024 across India. Before its release in India, the film was screened at prestigious Toronto International



Film Festival (TIFF) in September, 2023.

ii. The film is produced by Actor-filmmaker Amir Khan and Jio Studios.

iii. The film is based on **Biplab Goswami's Two Brides**, one of the winning scripts at the Cinestaan India Storytellers Contest.

### Gujarat's Rhea Singha Crowned Miss Universe India 2024

On September 22 2024, **Rhea Singha**, (19-year-old) from **Gujarat** has been crowned **Miss Universe India 2024** at the pageant held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. She was crowned by Urvashi Rautela, Bollywood actress and Miss Universe India 2015.

- **Rhea** will now represent India at the **73rd Miss Universe 2024** pageant, which is scheduled to be held in Mexico in November 2024.



#### Runner Ups:

- 1st Runner-Up- Pranjal Priya (Maharashtra).
- 2nd Runner-Up- Chhavi Verg (New Jersey, the United States of America – USA).
- 3rd Runner-Up- Sushmita Roy (West Bengal – WB).
- 4th Runner-Up- Ruopfuzhano Whiso (Nagaland).

#### Judge Panel:

The judging panel featured Nikhil Anand, National Director of Miss Universe India, and President of Glamanand Entertainment Private Limited; Urvashi Rautela; Nguyen Quynh, a Vietnamese celebrity; Rian Fernandes, a fashion photographer; and Rajeev Shrivastava, an entrepreneur.

#### Points to Note:

i. The **Miss Universe India 2024 pageant** was the **1st** to be organised by the **Glamanand Supermodel India organization**, which will now select India's official representative to the Miss Universe.

- The previous franchise of Miss Universe India was managed by the Miss Diva organisation, which held the franchise since 2013.

ii. Rhea Singha also won the Miss Glamorous subtitle award during the 2024 Miss Universe India pageant and she is one of the youngest winners of this pageant title.

#### Miss Universe:

i. The Miss Universe pageant has been organised by the Miss Universe Organization (MUO), the USA-and Thailand-based global, inclusive organization.

- MUO is the official entity responsible for hosting the annual Miss Universe competition globally.
- The inaugural Miss Universe pageant was held in 1952.

ii. The most recent Miss Universe from **India** is **Harnaaz Kaur Sandhu** (Punjab). She is **3rd** on the **Miss Universe from India** list to win the contest and was crowned Miss Universe **2021**.

- **Sushmita Sen** became the **first** Miss Universe from India crowned in **1994**; Lara Dutta was the 2nd Miss Universe from India crowned in 2000.

iv. **Sheyannis Palacios** of Nicaragua won the **Miss Universe 2023** crown during the 72nd Miss Universe pageant held in El Salvador.

### Indian Actress Anushka Sen Honoured by South Korea Government for Strengthening India-Korea Relations

Indian Actress, **Anushka Sen** has been honoured with the prestigious award by the South Korea Government for her exceptional contribution in strengthening relations between India and Korea.

- She received the award from **Hyun Woo Kim**, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Seoul Business Agency (SBA), during a ceremony held in South Korea.
- As **Honorary Ambassador of Korean Tourism**, she has played a pivotal role in bridging the cultural gap between India and South Korea.

**Note:** SBA, run by Seoul Metropolitan Government, is a business support institution for SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises).



## Sports

### Durand Cup 2024: NorthEast United FC won their first Durand cup defeating Mohun Bagan SG

NorthEast United Football Club (NEUFC) won their first ever **Durand Cup title** by defeating defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) **4-3** in a penalty shootout at the **133rd Indian Oil Durand Cup (2024)**, which was held at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata, West Bengal(WB).

- The winning team NEUFC was awarded the cash prize of Rs 60 lakhs while the runners-up MBSG was awarded the cash prize of Rs 30 lakhs.
- Kerala Blasters FC forward **Noah Sadaoui** won the **Golden Boot** Award as the tournament's top scorer with 6 goals. He received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.
- NEUFC Goal Keeper, **Gurmeet Singh** won the **Golden Glove** Award, with 3 clean sheets in 4 matches and 2 crucial penalty saves in the final. He received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.
- NEUFC's **Jithin MS** won the **Golden Ball** Award for scoring 4 goals and providing 3 assists. He received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh.

**Note:** The Durand Cup, established in 1888, is Asia's oldest football tournament and the 5th oldest national football competition in the world.

### Ferrari's Charles Leclerc won the F1 Italian GP 2024

Ferrari's **Charles Leclerc**, a Monacan racing driver, won the **Formula One (F1) Italian Grand Prix (GP) 2024** (officially known as the **F1 Pirelli Gran Premio D'Italia 2024**) held at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza in Monza, Italy. This victory marks Leclerc's **2nd Italian GP title**. He previously won the Italian GP title in 2019.

- With this, Leclerc has achieved 7 GP titles, 25 pole positions, 9 fastest laps and 38 podiums in F1.
- McLaren's Oscar Piastri** (Australia) finished **2nd** followed by **McLaren's Lando Norris** (the United Kingdom - UK) in the **3rd** position.

#### Italian GP 2024:

The 94th edition of the Italian GP (2024) was the **16th round** of the 2024 F1 World Championship.

- The **17th round** will be the **2024 Azerbaijan GP**, which will held from 13 to 15 September 2024 at the Baku City Circuit in Baku, Azerbaijan.

#### Top 3 Drivers of the 2024 Italian GP:



Position	Driver	Team	Points
1	Charles Leclerc	Ferrari	25
2	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	18
3	Lando Norris	McLaren	15

### Key Highlights:

i. This also marks Leclerc's 3rd consecutive podium finish in the 2024 season. He finished 3rd in the 2024 Belgium GP and 2024 Netherlands GP.

ii. For the 2nd race in a row there were 2 McLaren drivers on the podium, as Oscar Piastri and Lando Norris came in 2nd and 3rd place.

- They finished one-two at the 2024 Hungarian GP.

### About the Italian GP:

i. The Italian GP is the 5th oldest national GP (after the French GP, the United States GP, the Spanish GP, and the Russian GP), having been held since 1922.

ii. The track itself was built in 1922 and it is the 3rd oldest purpose-built circuit in the world, after UK's Brooklands and Indianapolis in the United States of America (USA) and the 1st in continental Europe.

### Monza circuit:

- Circuit length: 5.793 kilometers (km)
- Number of laps: 53
- Race distance: 306.720 km

### Tennis: Italy's Jannik Sinner won Men's Singles Title at US Open 2024; Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka won Women's Singles Title

The United States (US) Open Tennis Championships 2024, commonly called the **US Open 2024**, was held from 19th August 2024 to 8th September 2024 on outdoor **hard courts** at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, New York, the United States of America (USA).

i. **Jannik Sinner** of Italy (World No. 1) won the **Men's Singles title** of the **US Open 2024** by defeating **Taylor Fritz** of the United States of America (USA) (World no. 12) in the finals held at Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York, USA.

ii. Belarusian tennis player **Aryna Sabalenka** won the **Women's Singles title** by defeating USA's **Jessica Pegula** in the finals.

### England Cricketer Moeen Ali Retires from International Cricket

England's Cricketer **Moeen Ali** has **retired** from international cricket. He last played for the England team in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Twenty20 (T20) World Cup 2024, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America (USA) in June 2024.

- He made his international debut in **2014** against West Indies and he has played 138 One Day Internationals (ODIs), 92 T20 Internationals (T20Is), and 68 Tests.
- He scored 6678 international runs (including 8 centuries, and 28 fifties), and picked 366 wickets for England across the three formats.
- His 204 Test wickets made him the **third-best** England spinner in the format, after Derek Underwood (297) and Graeme Swann (255).
- He was a part of the England team that won the **2019 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup**, held in England and Wales (the United Kingdom), and the **2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup**, held in Australia.

### Highlights of the Paris Paralympics 2024- India wins 29 medals & Secured 18th position

**India** concluded the **2024 Summer Paralympics**, also known as the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games – the **17th edition** of the Summer Paralympic Games, with a record **29 medals** (7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze). India is **ranked 18th** among the 170 participating nations.

- This marks India's most successful performance in Paralympic history surpassing the 19-medal haul at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.
- China topped the Medal tally with 220 medals (94 gold; 76 Silver and 50 Bronze) followed by Great Britain at 2nd place with 124 medals (49 golds, 44 Silver and 31 Bronze) and the United States of America (USA) at the 3rd place with 105 medals (36 Gold; 42 Silver and 27 Bronze).



#### 2024 Paralympics:

- i. 2024 Summer Paralympics held from 28th August 2024 to 8th September 2024 in Paris, France.
- ii. This was the 1st time France hosted the Summer Paralympics and only the 2nd time the country hosted the Paralympics overall.

### Hockey: Asian Champions Trophy 2024- India won the Title for the 5th Time

The **8th edition** of the **Hero Asian Champions Trophy** was held from 8th to 17th September 2024 at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir, Inner Mongolia, China. The **Indian men's hockey team** won the **Asian Champion Trophy 2024** by defeating China with a 1-0 score in the finals.

- This marks India's **5th Asian Championship title**. **China** finished as runners-up, while **Pakistan** came third.

**Note:**

- i. India previously won the title in **2011, 2016, 2018** (joint winners with Pakistan), and **2023**.
- ii. China had reached the final of the tournament for the first time. They had previously finished at the 4th spot in 2012 and 2013.

**Awards and honours:**

- i. Winner – India
- ii. Runner up – China
- iii. Top Goal Scorer of the Tournament – Yang Jihun (9 Goals) – South Korea
- iv. Rising Star of the Tournament – Hanan Shahid – Pakistan
- v. Player of the Tournament – Harmanpreet Singh (Captain) – India

**Prize Money:**

- i. The total prize pot for the competition was set at USD 14.8 million, with the winners in line to net USD 5 million. The runners-up received USD 3 million, and the 2 losing semi-finalists received USD 1 million each.
- ii. Every player of the Indian Hockey team will get a reward of **Rs 3 lakh** while Rs 1.5 lakh will be awarded to every support staff member.

**About Asian Champions Trophy:**

- i. The Asian Champions Trophy is the annual men's hockey tournament organised by the Asian Hockey Federation since 2011.

- **Participants 2024:** India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, China, and Malaysia.
- ii. India emerged as the inaugural winners of the Asian Hockey Champions Trophy defeating Pakistan in 2011. India is the most successful team in the tournament(5) followed by **Pakistan** at **2nd** spot with 3 titles.

**Neeraj Chopra Finished 2nd in Diamond League Final; Anderson Peters won the Title**

Indian Javelin Thrower & Olympic Medalist **Neeraj Chopra** finished **second** with a throw of **87.86** meters (m) at the **2024 Wanda Diamond League Finals** held from 13th to 14th September 2024 in King Baudouin Stadium in Brussels, **Belgium**.

- Paris 2024 Olympics bronze medalist **Anderson Peters** of Grenada won his **first** Diamond League title with a throw of 87.87 m and the 2023 European Games champion **Julian Weber** of Germany finished **3rd** with a throw of 85.97 m.



**Results: Javelin Throw Men**

Rank	Athlete	Result
1	Anderson Peters (Grenada)	87.87 m
2	Neeraj Chopra (India)	87.86 m
3	Julian Weber (Germany)	85.97 m

**Key Point:**

i. This was Neeraj Chopra's 5th appearance in the Diamond League final. He has previously won the title in 2022 with an 88.44m throw and became the 1st Indian to win the Diamond League Trophy

- In 2023, he finished 2nd behind Jakub Vadlejch (Czechia) with an effort of 83.80 m.

ii. Neeraj has gained **14** points across two Diamond League meets in 2024 to qualify for the final.

**About Neeraj Chopra:**

i. Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, becoming the 1st Asian javelin throw athlete to do so and he recently won the **silver** in the 2024 Paris Olympics with a throw of 89.45 m.

ii. Neeraj Chopra had set a national record of **89.94m** at the **Stockholm** event of the Diamond League in 2022 and gave his career's second-best of **89.49 m** at the **Lausanne** meet in August 2024.

iii. He also won a **gold** at the **Federation Cup** 2024 (Jodhpur, Rajasthan) held in May 2024 with best throw of 82.27m.

**About Diamond League:**

i. The Diamond League is an annual series of track and field athletic competitions including **fifteen** of the best invitational athletics meetings.

ii. It was first held in **2010** and is one of the top-level meets conducted under the World Athletics umbrella.

iii. The full sponsorship name is the **Wanda Diamond League**, after an agreement with Wanda Group (China) in December 2019.

**F1: McLaren's Lando Norris won the Singapore GP 2024**

McLaren's **Lando Norris**, a British racing driver, won the title of the Formula 1 (F1) Singapore Airlines **Singapore Grand Prix (GP) 2024** held at the Marina Bay Street Circuit in Singapore. This marks Lando Norris' **3rd career win** after Heineken Dutch GP 2024 and Miami GP 2024.

- **Red Bull's Max Verstappen**, a Dutch-Belgian racing driver (competing under the Dutch flag) **finished 2nd** followed by **McLaren's Oscar Piastri**, an Australian racing driver in the **3rd**.

#### Winners of Singapore GP 2024:

Position	Driver	Team	Points
1	Lando Norris	McLaren	25
2	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	18
3	Oscar Piastri	McLaren	15

#### About Singapore GP 2024:

- Singapore GP 2024 is the **15th edition** of the F1 Singapore GP. The inaugural F1 Singapore GP was held in **2008**.
- The 2024 Singapore GP was the first-ever Safety Car-free Singapore GP and the 1st without a yellow flag.
- Singapore GP 2024 is the Round 18 of the 2024 Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) F1 World Championship Race calendar.

- The 19th round will be the F1 Pirelli United States GP 2024 scheduled to be held from 18 – 20 October 2024 at the Circuit of The Americas in Austin, Texas, USA.

#### Key Points:

- Verstappen now leads Norris by just 52 points in the drivers' championship with 6 GPs and 3 sprint races remaining.
- McLaren with an increased 41-point, moved further ahead of Red Bull in the constructors' standings.

#### About Marina Bay Street Circuit:

- Number of Laps- 62
- Circuit Length- 4.94 kilometers (km)
- Race Distance- 306.143 km

#### 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad Budapest 2024: Team India won Gold in both Open and Women's Event

**Team India** won the **Gold medal** in both the **Open and Women's** section of the **45th** International Chess Federation (**FIDE- Fédération Internationale des Échecs**) **Chess Olympiad** held in Hungary, Budapest.

- In Open section, Team India received the gold medals and the Hamilton-Russell Cup, and In Women's section, Team India won the gold medals and the Vera Menchik Cup.
- For the **first time**, India won gold in both the Open and women's section of the Chess Olympiad.
- India became the 3rd country to achieve the feat after China (2018) and the Soviet Union (Between 1980 and 1986, the Soviet Union had a streak of double golds).

### **About International Chess Federation (FIDE – Fédération Internationale des Échecs):**

**President**– Arkady Dvorkovich

**Headquarters**– Lausanne, Switzerland

**Founded**– 1924

### **Team Europe won the Laver Cup 2024 by Defeating Team World**

**Team Europe** captained by Swedish tennis player **Björn Borg** won the **Laver Cup 2024** by defeating **Team World** captained by American tennis player **John McEnroe**. This marks the **5th win** of Team Europe which has previously won the title in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2021.

- Laver Cup 2024, the **7th edition** of the annual men's tennis tournament between Teams from Europe and the rest of the world, was held at the Uber Arena in Berlin, Germany from 20th to 22nd September 2024.

**Note:** Team World captained by John McEnroe won the Laver Cup title for the two consecutive time in 2022 and 2023.

#### **Laver Cup 2024:**

**i.Prize Money:** The Laver Cup 2024 has a total prize money pool of USD 2.25 million shared between the 12 main players representing the two teams.

- Each member of the winning team of the Laver Cup 2024 received a prize money of USD 250,000. The member of the losing side received USD 125,000 each.

**ii.Team Europe** included Alexander Zverev (Germany), Carlos Alcaraz (Spain), Daniil Medvedev (Russia), Casper Ruud (Norway), Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria) and Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece).

**iii.Team World** included Taylor Fritz (United States of America-USA), Frances Tiafoe (USA), Ben Shelton (USA), Alejandro Tabilo (Chile), Francisco Cerúndolo (Argentina) and Thanasi Kokkinakis (Australia).

#### **Highlights:**

**i.** Carlos Alcaraz secured the 13-11 victory by defeating Taylor Fritz in straight sets in the singles match on day 3. Stefanos Tsitsipas also won the singles title for Team Europe by defeating Thanasi Kokkinakis.

**ii.** Carlos Alcaraz alongside Casper Ruud also won the doubles title by defeating Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe.

#### **About Laver Cup:**

**i.** The Laver Cup is an annual men's tennis team tournament, named after Australian legend **Rod**



**Laver**, who won 11 Grand Slams between 1960-1969, including four Wimbledon Championships.  
**ii.**It was launched in **2017** and features two teams: Team Europe and Team World in a similar manner to the Ryder Cup in golf.

**iii.**The competition spans three days and the first team to reach 13 points out of a total 24 points available wins the Laver Cup.

**Additional info:**

**i.**The Laver Cup 2025 will be hosted by **San Francisco**, USA in September 2025 at the Chase Center.

**ii.**From 2025, **Yannick Noah** and **Andre Agassi** will take the lead as Captains of Team Europe and Team World respectively.

## Obituary

### Renowned Lawyer AG Noorani Passed Away

**Abdul Ghafoor Majeed Noorani**, (popularly known as A. G. Noorani) a renowned Constitutional expert, a distinguished lawyer, and author passed away at the age of 94 in **Mumbai**, Maharashtra. He was born on 16th September 1930 in Bombay (now Mumbai), British India.

- He began his career in 1953 as an advocate and practiced for over 4 decades in the Bombay High Court (BHC) and the Supreme Court of India (SCI).
- He started writing in the 1960s and authored several books, including “The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS): A Menace to India” (2019); “The Kashmir Dispute 1947-2012” (2014); “Article 370: A Constitutional History of Jammu and Kashmir” (2011), among others.
- He has also authored the biographies of Badruddin Tyabji, the 1st Indian barrister Judge of the BHC, and Dr Zakir Husain Khan, the 3rd President of India (1967-1969).
- He was a regular columnist for various national and regional newspapers including, Hindustan Times, The Hindu, Frontline, etc.

### Kiingi Tuheitia, New Zealand’s Maori King Passed Away

**Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero VII**, the **King of the Maori tribe** in **New Zealand**, has passed away at the age of 69 after an 18-year reign. He was born in 1955 in Huntly, New Zealand.

- i. He was crowned as the King of the Maori on 21st August 2006 succeeding his mother Queen Dame Te Atairangikaahu.
- ii. He was the **7th monarch** in the Kīngitanga, the Maori King movement, founded in 1858 with the aim of uniting New Zealand’s Indigenous Maori under a single sovereign.

### Renowned Film scholar Aruna Vasudev, ‘Mother of Asian Cinema’ Passed Away

**Aruna Vasudev**, a renowned Indian film scholar, critic, festival curator and painter, has **passed away** at the age of 88 in New Delhi(Delhi). She was born in 1936 in British India.

- She was called by the nickname ‘**Mother of Asian Cinema**’, renowned for raising interest and knowledge on Asian film cultures around the world.
- i. In 1988, Aruna Vasudev launched ‘Cinemaya: The Asian Film Quarterly’, a pioneering film magazine specialised to Asian cinema published in Delhi.
  - ii. In 1991, she established the independent non-profit organisation Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (**NETPAC**), which is committed to the propagation of films from across the continent.
  - iii. She had also directed around 20 documentaries, and edited several books, including a translation from French into English of Jean-Claude Carriere’s “In Search of the Mahabharata: Notes of Travels in India with Peter Brook”.
  - iv. She has won numerous awards which includes the France’s highest cultural awards Officier de

l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters) in 2019 and the first Satyajit Ray Memorial Award by Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique-International Federation of Film Critics (FIPRESCI) India.

### **CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury Passed Away**

**Sitaram Yechury**, the **General Secretary** (GS) of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) or **CPI(M)** passed away at the age of 72 in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on 12 August 1952 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- He has served as the **Member of Parliament(MP), Rajya Sabha** from West Bengal, from 2005 to 2017.
- He played a significant role as a CPI(M) interlocutor in the United Front (UF) and United Progressive Alliance (UPA) governments.
- He was also a Head of the International Department of the Central Committee, and Editor of the CPI(M) Central Weekly, Peoples' Democracy.

## Important Days with theme

### National Teachers' Day 2024 – September 5

**National Teachers' Day** is annually observed across India on **5 September** to commemorate the **birth anniversary** of **Bharat Ratna Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan**, a great philosopher and scholar, who served as the 1st Vice-President and the 2nd President of Independent India.

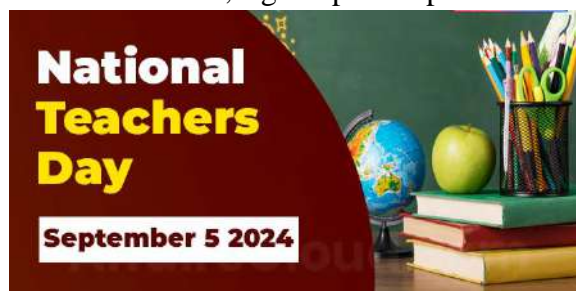
- The day honours and recognises the dedication, hard work, and exceptional contributions of teachers to education and our society.

**i.** The 1st National Teachers' Day was observed on **5 September 1962**, the 77th birth anniversary of Dr.

Sarvepalli

Radhakrishnan.

**ii.** On the occasion of National Teachers' Day 2024, **President Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **National Teachers' Award 2024 (NTA 2024)** to **82 recipients**, at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi, Delhi.



### About the Ministry of Education (MoE):

**Union Minister**– Dharmendra Pradhan (Constituency: Sambalpur, Odisha)

**Ministers of State (MoS)**- Jayant Chaudhary (Rajya Sabha, Uttar Pradesh (UP);

Sukanta Majumdar (Constituency: Balurghat, West Bengal, WB)

### International Day of Charity 2024 – September 5

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day of Charity** is annually observed across the globe on **5th September** to raise awareness about the importance of charity in alleviating humanitarian crises and human suffering and promoting social responsibility.

- The Day also aims to sensitise and mobilise people, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and stakeholders worldwide to help others through volunteer and philanthropic activities.
- The day also commemorate the **death anniversary** of Nobel Peace Prize winner **Mother Teresa**.

### Background:

**i.** On 17 December **2012**, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/67/105 and proclaimed the **5th September** of every year as the **International Day of Charity**.

**ii.** The **first-ever** International Day of Charity was observed on **5 September 2013**.

## International Literacy Day 2024 – September 8

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO's) **International Literacy Day (ILD)** is annually observed across the globe on **8 September** to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies.

- The **2024** theme of ILD is, **“Promoting Multilingual Education: Literacy for Mutual Understanding and Peace”**.



During the ILD 2024 events, the **2024 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes (ILP)** were awarded to 6 exceptional literacy programs from Austria, Egypt, Ghana, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Panama.

### ILD 2024 in India:

- On 7 September 2024, Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GoI) chaired an international conference titled “Spectrum of Literacy” as a prelude to ILD 2024.
- On 8 September 2024, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presided as Chief Guest at the ILD 2024 celebrations at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Delhi.

### Background:

- The concept of celebrating ILD was first proposed during the inaugural **“World Congress of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy,”** held in Tehran, Iran from 8–19 September 1965.
- In **1966**, UNESCO adopted a resolution at its 14th session, proclaiming the **8 September** of every year as **International Literacy Day**.
- The **first-ever** International Literacy Day was observed on **8 September 1967**.

## 15th Himalaya Diwas – 9 September 2024

**Himalaya Diwas**, also known as **Himalaya Day**, is annually observed across India, especially in the state of **Uttarakhand** on **9 September** to raise awareness about the importance of the Himalayan mountain range and its ecosystem.

- 9 September 2024** marks the **15th** edition of Himalaya Diwas.

### Background:

- Himalaya Diwas was **first** observed in Uttarakhand in **2010** as an initiative of a group of environmentalists including Sunderlal Bahuguna, Anil Prakash Joshi, and



Radha Behen.



ii. In 2014, **Harish Rawat**, the then Chief Minister (CM) of **Uttarakhand** officially declared **September 9** as '**Himalaya Diwas**', to promote conservation of the Himalayan ecosystems across the state.

iii. In 2015, the **Uttarakhand** government began celebrating Himalaya Diwas officially, with the **1st** State government-recognized observance held on **9 September 2015**.

### India's 1st Silicon Carbide Manufacturing Unit To Be Set Up in Odisha

Mohan Charan Majhi, the Chief Minister (CM) of **Odisha** has presided over the ground breaking ceremony of **India's first silicon carbide** manufacturing facility to be built at the EMC Park in Infovalley in Bhubaneswar (Odisha) with an investment of **Rs 620 crore**.

i. The project was developed by Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **RIR Power Electronics Limited** (formerly Ruttonsha International Rectifier Limited).

ii. It is expected to create over 500 jobs in manufacturing, research, and development, will boost Odisha's industrial growth and establish it as a key player in the global power electronics industry.

iii. The products manufactured at the facility will be exported to foreign markets such as North America, Europe, and Asia, and used in industries such as defence, transportation, aerospace, and sustainable energy.

### Hindi Diwas 2024 – September 14

**Hindi Diwas** (also known as Hindi Day) is annually observed on **September 14** to commemorate the adoption of **Hindi** written in Devanagari script as one of the 22 official languages of India. by the Constituent Assembly on September 14, 1949.

- The day aims to raise awareness and promote the use of Hindi language.
- The year 2024 marks the **75th anniversary** of Hindi becoming the official language.

### Union Minister Amit Shah Addresses Diamond Jubilee Celebrations Of Hindi & 4th Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan in New Delhi

Union Minister Amit Shah, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Ministry of Cooperation has addressed the Official Language **Diamond Jubilee (75 years)** Celebrations and the **4th Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, Delhi.

### About the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA):

**Union Minister** – Amit Shah (Constituency – Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat)

**Minister of State (MoS)** – Bandi Sanjay Kumar (Constituency – Karimnagar, Telangana); Nityanand Rai (Constituency- Ujarpur, Bihar)



## International Day of Democracy 2024 – September 15

The United Nations (UN's) **International Day of Democracy (IDD)** is annually observed across the globe on **15 September** to promote and uphold the principles of democracy worldwide and raise awareness among the people about democratic values and rights.

- The **2024 theme** of IDD is, 'Ensuring Effective Governance of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at all Levels.'

### Background:

- On 8 November **2007**, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/62/7, proclaiming the **15 September** of each year as the **International Day of Democracy**.
- The **1st International Day of Democracy** was observed on **15 September 2008**.



- IDD was established at the request of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the global organization of national parliaments.

### About the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU):

**President and Head of Executive Committee**– Dr. Tulia Ackson

**Secretary General (SG)**- Martin Chungong

**Headquarters**– Geneva, Switzerland

**Founded**– 1889

**Slogan**– For democracy. For everyone.

## National Engineer's Day 2024 – September 15

National Engineer's Day is annually observed across India on **September 15** to commemorate the **birth anniversary** of **Bharat Ratna Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvarayaan**, who is known as the first engineer of India for his vital contribution to the field of engineering and education.

- This day recognises the achievements and invaluable contributions of engineers across India.

### Background:

- The Government of India (GoI) declared the birth anniversary of Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya as National Engineers' Day in **1968**.
- The **first-ever** National Engineers' Day was celebrated on **15th September 1968**.

### About the Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI):

IEI was established in 1920 and incorporated under the Royal Charter on September 9 1935 by King George V.



### International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2024 – 16 /September

The United Nations (UN)'s **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer** or **World Ozone Day** (WOD) is annually observed across the globe on **16 September** to spread awareness about the importance of the ozone layer and its depletion that leads to global warming and climate change worldwide.

- The **theme** of International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer 2024 is “**Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions**”.

#### **Background:**

i. On 19 December **1994**, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/49/114, proclaiming the **16 September** of every year as **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer**.

ii. The **1st** International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was observed on **16th September 1995**.

### International Day of Peace 2024 – September 21

The United Nations (UN's) **International Day of Peace** (IDP) is annually observed across the globe on **21 September** to commemorate and strengthen the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

- The 2024 theme of IDP is, “**Cultivating a Culture of Peace.**”
- 2024 marks the **25th anniversary** of the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

#### **Background:**

i. In **1981**, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the resolution A/RES/36/67, declaring the **3rd Tuesday of September**, coinciding with the opening day of the regular sessions of the UNGA as the **International Day of Peace**.

### World Rhino Day 2024 – September 22

**World Rhino Day** is annually observed across the globe on **22 September** to raise awareness about the **Rhinoceros** or Rhino (Rhinocerotidae), one of the oldest groups of mammals, and the urgent need for their conservation.

- The day is observed to spread awareness for all **5 species of rhinos** namely, the Black rhino, and White rhinos in Africa, and the greater one-horned, Sumatran, and Javan rhinos in Asia.

