



MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 01-31, 2024

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TNPSC EXAMS
24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

A graphic showing a brown footprint with several smaller, colorful circles (red, green, blue, orange) to its left.

Foot Prints

(Compilation of Current Events)

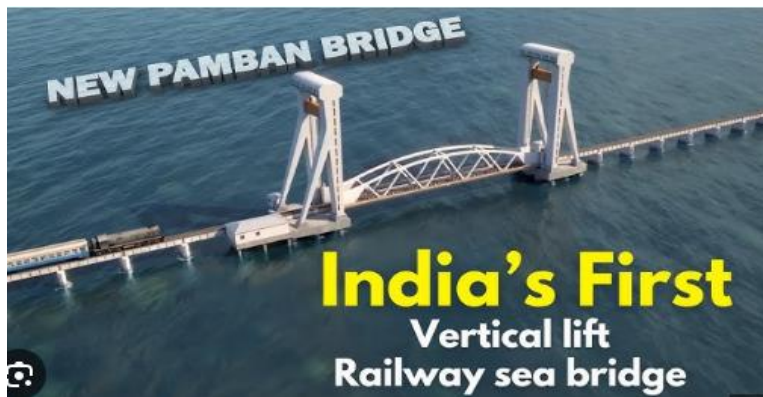
TAMIL NADU	STATES	NATIONAL	INDIA & THE WORLD	INTERNATIONAL
SCHEMES	DEFENCE	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	EVS	ECONOMY
COURT VERDICTS	CONFERENCES & SUMMITS	AWARDS	PERSONALITIES	BOOKS & AUTHORS
SPORTS	RANKS & REPORTS	DAYS	OBITUARY	NEWS OF THE MONTH
KNOWLEDGE	APPOINTMENTS	COMMITTEES	APPS / PORTALS	MISCELLANEOUS

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TAMIL NADU

➤ India's First Vertical Lift Rail Bridge, Pamban 2.0

- ✓ The new Pamban rail bridge is likely to be operational within a fortnight, after inspection by Southern Circle Railway Safety Commissioner A M Chaudhari on November 13 and 14.



- ✓ The first of its kind in India, this vertical lift bridge is inspired by the dynamic rail bridges of Germany and Spain.
- ✓ The new bridge, which will replace the 110-year-old iconic cantilever bridge, has 100 spans of which 99 spans are 18.3 metres long and a 72.5-metre-long navigational span across the sea.
- ✓ To be built at an estimated cost of Rs 280 crore, the bridge will rise vertically, allowing even large ships to pass through the Rameswaram coast.

➤ Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund

- ✓ The State government has issued an order to establish the Tamil Nadu Endangered Species Conservation Fund with an initial corpus of 50 crore, aiming to protect the endangered and critically endangered species.



- ✓ The fund will begin with a contribution of 5 crore by the government, with additional funds to be raised through government entities, corporate social responsibility contributions, and national and international donations.
- ✓ The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden has outlined several key objectives and strategies for the fund's utilisation.

➤ **Kalaignar Kaivina Thittam**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu launched the “**Kalaignar Kaivina Thittam**” to empower artisans and craftsmen.



- ✓ The scheme has been launched to benefit all sections of people who are engaged in 25 trades/crafts.
- ✓ It will promote support, skill and entrepreneur development for the expansion of existing trades.
- ✓ The artisans will get credit support of Rs 3 lakh, including a subsidy of 25 per cent (a maximum of Rs 50,000).
- ✓ Under this scheme, a five per cent interest subsidy will be given to beneficiaries.
- ✓ A beneficiary should be at least 35 years of age to apply for the scheme.

➤ **India's First Diabetes Biobank has been set up in Chennai**

- ✓ Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in partnership with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) has established India's first diabetes biobank in Chennai.



- ✓ This has been designed to collect, process, store, and distribute biological samples to advance diabetes research.
 - ✓ This biobank will study the cause of diabetes and its unique pattern in India.
 - ✓ The biobank contains blood samples from two major ICMR-funded studies.
 - ✓ From 2008 to 2020, the ICMR-India Diabetes (ICMR-INDIAB) study was conducted across States and Union Territories.
- **17 SIPCOT Parks to be equipped with Creche Facilities**
- ✓ The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) plans to establish creche facilities at 17 of its industrial parks.



- ✓ This is in addition to the already existing 63 creches located across 13 SIPCOT industrial parks.
- ✓ As outlined in the 2024- 25 Budget Speech, the creches will provide safe and accessible childcare, allowing parents, particularly women, to productively engage in the workforce.
- ✓ The crèches in these 17 industrial parks are expected to benefit 3.23 lakh employees.

STATE

➤ **India's First Integrated Waste Management City**

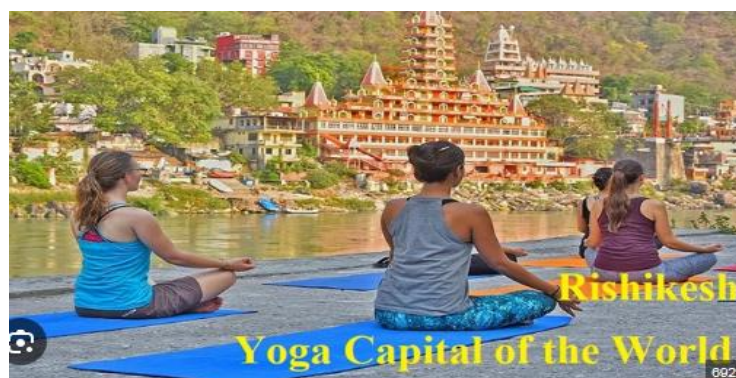
- ✓ Gorakhpur City in Uttar Pradesh is set to establish India's first Integrated Waste Management City-cum-Learning Centre by September 2025, aiming to create a garbage-free environment.



- ✓ It will promote sustainable waste management through a circular economy model and the facility will occupy 40 acres in Suthni village, Sahjanwa.
- ✓ The primary goal is to process various waste types, producing charcoal and Bio-CNG.
- ✓ The centre will manage multiple waste categories, including biomedical waste, e-waste, batteries, and tyres.

➤ **India's First Yoga Policy to Become Global Yoga Hub**

- ✓ Uttarakhand, famously known as "Devbhoomi," is set to become the first Indian state to implement a dedicated Yoga Policy, aimed at transforming the state into a global yoga destination.

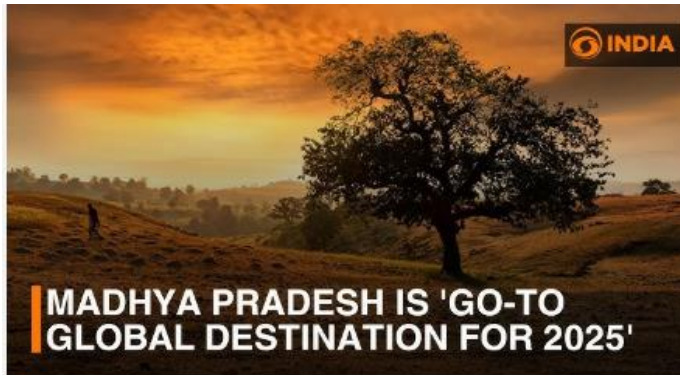


- ✓ With Rishikesh already recognized as the "Yoga Capital of the World," this policy envisioned by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, integrates yoga, Ayurveda,

and wellness into a comprehensive development strategy for tourism, health, and employment.

➤ **Go-To Global Destinations for 2025**

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as one of the 'Go-To Global Destinations for 2025' by the Wall Street Journal (WSJ).



- ✓ The honour highlights the state's rich heritage, unique wildlife and exceptional natural beauty. This global recognition reinforces Madhya Pradesh's position as a world-class tourist destination.
- ✓ With UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Tiger Reserves and vibrant cultural experiences, our state offers unique experiences for every traveller.

NATIONAL

➤ 57th Tiger Reserve: Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh



- ✓ The Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, has officially announced the notification of the Ratapani Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh as India's 57th Tiger Reserve.
 - ✓ This remarkable step emphasizes India's commitment to tiger conservation and highlights the nation's dedication to preserving its rich biodiversity.
- **Boilers Bill, 2024**
- ✓ A bill to replace the 100-year-old Boiler Act passed by the Rajya Sabha.



- ✓ On 4 December, a bill to provide for regulation of boilers, protection of life and property from danger of explosion of steam boilers, and uniformity in registration was approved by the Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ The aim of the Boilers Bill, 2024, is to repeal the century-old Boilers Act, 1923.
- ✓ This bill was approved by voice vote in the Upper House, which aims to decriminalize seven types of charges and promote ease of doing business.
- ✓ The bill also provides for ensuring the safety of people working inside boilers.

➤ **Anna Chakra Platform**

- ✓ Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi has unveiled '**Anna Chakra**', a groundbreaking supply chain optimization tool for the Public Distribution System (PDS).



- ✓ Developed in partnership with the World Food Programme and IIT-Delhi, the system leverages advanced algorithms to optimize food-grain movement across the country's logistics network.
- ✓ The initiative covers 4.37 lakh Fair Price Shops and 6,700 warehouses, targeting the country's food security programme serving 81 crore beneficiaries.

➤ **Railways Amendment Bill 2024**

- ✓ The current Bill proposes to simplify the legal framework by incorporating the proposals of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 in the Railways Act, 1989.



- ✓ It aims to provide statutory backing to the Railway Board, which has functioned without such sanction since its inception.
- ✓ The Bill proposes the decentralising financial and operational decision-making to zones, empowering them to manage the budgets, infrastructure works, and recruitment.

- ✓ The Bill introduces Section 24A to allow the government to expedite superfast train operations and infrastructure upgrades.
- **Senior Citizens' Free Treatment Scheme gets 25 Lakh Members**
- ✓ As many as 25 lakh persons have enrolled so far for the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card senior citizens aged 70 and above which was launched on October 29.



- ✓ This followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of the expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to include all senior citizens in this age category.
- ✓ Since the launch, 22,000 senior citizens had utilised more than ₹40 crore for treatment, a press release issued by the Union Health Ministry said on Monday.
- **PM launches LIC's 'Bima Sakhi Yojana'**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched the 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' of LIC here under which two lakh woman insurance agents will be appointed over the next three years. 'Bima Sakhi Yojana', an initiative of State-owned LIC, is designed to empower women aged 18-70 years who are Class X pass.



- ✓ The women agents will receive specialised training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.

- ✓ Under the scheme, the woman agents will also get a stipend of 7,000 per month for the first year, 6,000 per month in the second year and 5,000 per month in the third year.

➤ **Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (MPACS) Launched**

- ✓ The Government of India has recently inaugurated 10,000 new Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (MPACS) to enhance rural development, aims to modernize the cooperative sector and improve financial access for farmers.



- ✓ The launch coincides with Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth centenary.
 - ✓ 97th Constitutional Amendment was very important in this progress.
 - ✓ During the event, RuPay Kisan Credit Cards and Micro-ATMs were distributed to cooperative societies.
 - ✓ These tools will enhance financial inclusion and provide affordable loans to farmers.
- **India's Record Coal Production in 2023-24**
- ✓ India's coal production reached unprecedented levels in the fiscal year 2023-24, totalling 997.826 million tonnes.



- ✓ This marked an impressive increase of 11.71% from the previous year's output of 893.191 million tonnes.
- ✓ The government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative aims to enhance self-reliance in coal production.
- ✓ The increase in coal production is vital for India's energy security.
- ✓ As the country seeks to meet its rising energy demands, coal remains a primary source of electricity generation.



SCHEMES

➤ Central 'Smile Sub-Scheme'

- ✓ Central 'Smile Sub-Scheme': 970 lives rehabilitated, 169 families rehabilitated.



- ✓ The SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) sub-scheme is a central government initiative aimed at the comprehensive rehabilitation of individuals, including children, engaged in begging.
- ✓ Implemented across 81 cities and towns in 26 states and union territories, the scheme primarily focuses on areas of religious, historical, and tourist importance where begging is more prevalent.

➤ Yuva Sahakar: Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme

- ✓ The "Yuva Sahakar - Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme" was recently introduced by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

**Yuva Sahakar -
Cooperative Enterprise
Support and Innovation
Scheme**



- ✓ This initiative aims to encourage innovative cooperative societies across India and specifically targets young entrepreneurs looking to establish cooperative ventures.

- ✓ The primary objective is to support newly formed cooperative societies. These societies must have been operational for at least three months.
- ✓ The scheme encourages the development of fresh ideas and innovative projects within the cooperative sector.

➤ **FAME-III: New Milestone for Electric Mobility in India**

- ✓ India is aggressively advancing its electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem, and the launch of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme marks a significant step in this journey.



- ✓ The scheme aims to promote electric mobility and reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels.
- ✓ The Faster Adoption & Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme is gearing up for its third phase (FAME-III), expected to roll out within the next two months.
- ✓ The government is determined to ensure that India becomes a global leader in electric mobility, with a vision of a 'Viksit Bharat.'

➤ **Jalvahak**

- ✓ Jalvahak has been introduced by Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.



- ✓ Jalvahak is the cargo promotion scheme to increase freight traffic on three national waterways.
- ✓ The goal of Jalvahak is to encourage the transportation of long-distance cargo across national waterways on the Barak, Brahmaputra, and Ganga rivers.
- ✓ The cargo owners are directly encouraged by Jalvahak to move their goods across a distance of more than 300 km via inland waterways.
- ✓ It also marks the start of National Waterways (NW) 1 and 2's fixed scheduled service of cargo vessels from Haldia.

➤ **Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi Initiative**

- ✓ The 'Viksit Panchayat Karmayogi' initiative was launched on Good Governance Day and commemorates the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



- ✓ The initiative aims to strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) through enhanced governance tools and knowledge.
- ✓ The initiative is part of the 'Prashasan Gaon Ki Aur' campaign, to empower elected representatives and officials in effective governance.
- ✓ The focus is on grassroots-level reforms to create lasting change.
- **SVAMITVA Scheme**
- ✓ SVAMITVA scheme is an initiative aimed at empowering rural property owners and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute over 58 lakh property cards, enhancing ownership rights in villages.



- ✓ The scheme is designed to provide a legal record of property ownership, which can facilitate access to credit and financial services.
- ✓ The primary goal of the SVAMITVA scheme is to provide property ownership documentation, reduce property disputes, and improve village-level planning.

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INTERNATIONAL

➤ Australia Bars Under-16s From Social Media

- ✓ Australia has enacted a world-first legislation to ban children under 16 from social media platforms, such as TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram, as part of its effort to protect minors from online harm.



- ✓ The law imposes hefty fines of up to AUD 50 million for non-compliance, with social media companies given a year to implement the changes.
- ✓ While proponents laud the move as essential for child safety, critics argue the legislation is rushed, may pose privacy risks, and could unintentionally harm vulnerable youth.

➤ India to chair UN Commission on Narcotic Drug

- ✓ The Indian Embassy in Austria **announced that** India has been chosen to Chair the 68th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND).



- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Vienna, Ambassador Shambhu S Kumaran, officially assumed the Chairmanship of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.
- ✓ This is the first time that India has been named to Chair this important UN body.

- ✓ The CND is the principal policy-making body of the United Nations on drug-related matters.
- **China Approves world's largest \$137 Billion Dam on Brahmaputra River**
- ✓ The Chinese government has given its green signal to the construction of the world's largest dam on the river Yarlung Zangbo/Tsangpo (known as the Brahmaputra in India) on the eastern rim of the Tibetan plateau.



- ✓ The dam, part of China's 14th Five-Year Plan, could generate over 300 billion kWh of electricity annually.
- ✓ The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches where the Brahmaputra makes a U-turn to flow into Arunachal Pradesh and then to Bangladesh.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum

- ✓ India has partnered with France Museums Développement to establish Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum as a global cultural landmark.



- ✓ This ambitious project is an integral part of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project and is set to span approximately one lakh 55 thousand square meters across the iconic North and South Blocks in New Delhi.
- ✓ External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar and Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat were present at the signing ceremony between the National Museum and France Museums Développement in New Delhi.

➤ India, Kuwait

- ✓ Kuwait has bestowed its highest honour, the Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer, to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



- ✓ The External Affairs Ministry said, this is the 20th international honour given to Prime Minister Modi by a country.
- ✓ The Order of Mubarak Al Kabeer is a knighthood order of Kuwait.

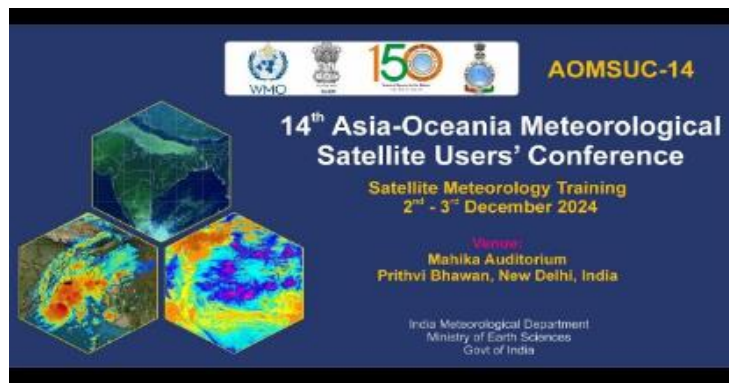
- ✓ It is awarded to Heads of State and foreign Sovereigns and to members of foreign royal families in sign of friendship.



CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference

- ✓ The 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) is scheduled to be held from December 4-6, 2024, in New Delhi.



- ✓ The conference will be hosted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), and the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ✓ The main aim of the conference is to promote the significance of satellite observations. About 150 participants from different countries will participate in this event. The first AOMSUC was held in Beijing, China, in 2010. The conference has been hosted annually in various locations across the Asia-Oceania.

➤ Chennai to Host World Maritime Conference 2024

- ✓ The World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTTC) is a premier global event held every three years under the auspices of the World Maritime Technology Congress.



- ✓ This prestigious gathering brings together industry leaders, professionals, and experts in maritime technology and allied sectors from across the globe.
- ✓ The 2024 edition of WMTC will be hosted in Chennai, India, from December 4-6, by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Chennai Branch.
- **India to host World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES)**
- ✓ India will host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) for the first time in 2025.



- ✓ The WAVES Summit is poised to serve as a global platform for India's creative talents, fostering collaborations and showcasing the country's potential as a hub for world-class content creation.
- ✓ The Summit will also highlight India's advancements in animation, gaming, entertainment technology, and regional and mainstream cinema.

DEFENCE

➤ Exercise CINBAX

- ✓ The 1st edition of Joint Table Top Exercise, CINBAX, between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army commenced at the Foreign Training Node, Pune.



- ✓ It will be conducted from 1st to 8th December 2024.
- ✓ The Cambodian Army contingent comprising 20 personnel will take part in this exercise with an Indian Army contingent from an Infantry Brigade.
- ✓ The exercise will focus on discussions pertaining to the establishment of a Joint Training Task Force for Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance besides planning operations in Counter terrorism environment.

➤ 4th India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise: HARIMAU SHAKTI-2024

- ✓ The 4th India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise, HARIMAU SHAKTI, has begun at Bentong Camp in Malaysia's Pahang district and will continue until December 15, 2024.



- ✓ India is represented by 78 personnel from the MAHAR Regiment.
- ✓ Malaysia has 123 personnel from the Royal Malaysian Regiment..

- ✓ The primary aim is to enhance joint operational capabilities, which focus is on counter-insurgency operations in jungle environments.
- ✓ This aligns with the United Nations Mandate for peacekeeping and stability.

➤ **K-4 Missile**

- ✓ The K-4 missile was tested from submarine INS Arighaat at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.



- ✓ It was the first test of the submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) from a submarine.
- ✓ With the missile test, India also became part of a small group of countries that can fire a nuclear missile from land, air and undersea.

➤ **Desert Knight Exercise**

- ✓ India, France, and the UAE have initiated the Desert Knight air combat exercise over the Arabian Sea.



- ✓ A trilateral air combat exercise designed to enhance military interoperability and combat readiness among the participating nations.
- ✓ Nations Involved: India, France, and the UAE.

- ✓ Location: Conducted over the Arabian Sea, approximately 350-400 km southwest of Karachi.
- ✓ Aim of the Exercise is to strengthen trilateral defence cooperation, enhance combat skills and interoperability among air forces.

➤ **Exercise SLINEX**

- ✓ The Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise (SLINEX) is a significant annual event that fosters maritime cooperation between the two nations.



- ✓ Initiated in 2005, SLINEX has grown in scope and importance over the years, strengthening the bilateral relationship between India and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The 2024 edition of SLINEX will be held from December 17 to December 20, 2024, at Visakhapatnam under the auspices of the Eastern Naval Command.

➤ **Indian Army AI Incubation Centre (IAAIIC)**

- ✓ The Indian Army has launched the Indian Army AI Incubation Centre (IAAIIC) in Bengaluru, marking a significant leap towards modernizing its operations and enhancing its technological capabilities.



- ✓ In a virtual inauguration led by Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi, the initiative aims to revolutionize the Army's operational capabilities through Artificial Intelligence (AI).
 - ✓ The centre will focus on developing AI-driven solutions to improve decision-making, operational efficiency, and readiness for AI-driven warfare.
- **Exercise SURYA KIRAN 2024**
- ✓ A contingent of 334 Indian Army personnel has departed for Nepal to participate in the 18th Battalion Level Joint Military Exercise, known as SURYA KIRAN.



- ✓ This exercise is scheduled to occur in Saljhandi, Nepal, from December 31, 2024, to January 13, 2025, an annual event that alternates between India and Nepal.
- ✓ Exercise SURYA KIRAN reflects the deep-rooted friendship and cultural ties between India and Nepal.
- ✓ It aims to fortify Defence cooperation and achieve shared security objectives.

ECONOMY

➤ **GST Collection for November Rises by 8.5% to 1.82 Trillion**

- ✓ India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue rose by 8.5% to 1.82 lakh crore in November 2024, compared to 1.68 lakh crore in the same month last year.



- ✓ The growth is primarily driven by higher revenues from domestic transactions, with GST from domestic transactions increasing by 9.4%.
- ✓ This increase is significant, though it follows a previous high of 1.87 lakh crore in October, which marked the second-best collection in GST history.
- ✓ In April 2024, India recorded its highest-ever GST collection of over 2.10 lakh crore.

➤ **Indian Pharmaceutical Sector**

- ✓ By 2030, the Indian pharmaceutical sector is expected to have grown 58% to \$130 billion.



- ✓ With \$27.85 billion in export revenue, India solidifies its standing as the "Pharmacy of the World."
- ✓ The Indian pharmaceutical sector is currently worth \$55 billion. By 2047, it is expected to reach \$450 billion.

- ✓ With \$27.85 billion in exports to date, India is firmly establishing itself as the "Pharmacy of the World."
- ✓ The pharmaceutical industry in India is predicted to keep growing, reaching a \$1 trillion market by 2047.

➤ **India's Data Centre set for \$100 Billion Investment by 2027**

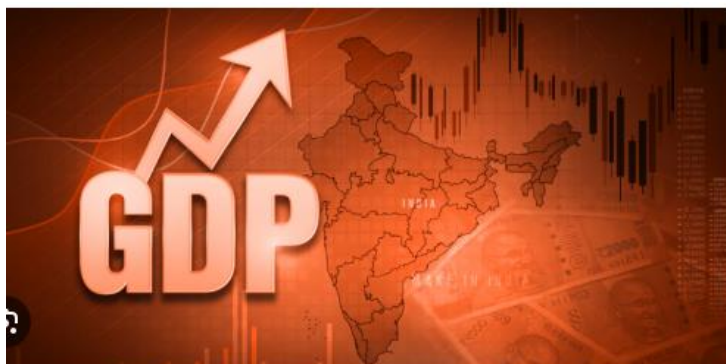
- ✓ India's data centre industry is transforming, with investments projected to surpass \$100 billion by 2027.



- ✓ The sector has attracted approximately \$60 billion in investment from 2019 to 2024, reflecting its appeal to global and local investors.
- ✓ Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have emerged as prime locations for data centres.
- ✓ Their robust infrastructure and supportive government policies have established them as leaders in the sector.
- ✓ Mumbai holds the largest share, contributing 49% of India's total data centre capacity.

➤ **GDP to Grow at 6.6% in FY25: RBI**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its December 2024 Financial Stability Report (FSR), projected India's GDP growth at 6.6% for FY25, driven by a revival in rural consumption, increased government spending, and strong services exports.



- ✓ Despite a moderation in GDP growth to 6% in H1 FY25 from 8.2% in H1 FY24, the RBI highlighted India's economic resilience, supported by sound macroeconomic fundamentals, improved asset quality in banks, and robust financial system indicators.

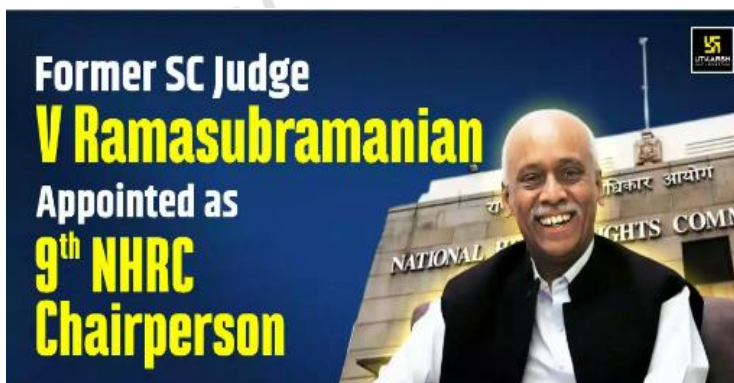


APPOINTMENT

- **Sanjay Malhotra has been appointed as RBI Governor**
- ✓ Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra has been appointed as 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).



- ✓ His tenure will begin on December 11, 2024, and will last for three years.
 - ✓ Sanjay Malhotra played a key role in formulating tax policies, including those for direct and indirect taxes.
 - ✓ He assumed office as the 25th Governor of the RBI on December 12, 2018, and his term was extended in 2021.
- **Former SC Judge V. Ramasubramanian**
 - ✓ Retired Supreme Court judge V. Ramasubramanian has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).



- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice Ramasubramanian.
- ✓ Priyank Kanoongo and Dr Justice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi (Retd.) have also been appointed as members of the commission.
- ✓ Justice Ramasubramanian was appointed Judge of the Supreme Court on 23rd September 2019 and retired on 29th June 2023.

AWARDS

➤ Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development

- ✓ Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile, has been awarded the 2024 Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development, by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.



- ✓ The jury, led by Shivshankar Menon, selected Bachelet for her outstanding contributions to human rights and equality.
- ✓ The Indira Gandhi Prize was established in 1986 and is awarded annually to individuals or organizations that promote international peace and development. The prize includes a cash award of Rs 25 lakh and a citation.

➤ Best State in Promoting Sports

- ✓ Tamil Nadu has bagged an award at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) Turf 2024-14th International Sports Conference and Awards for being the 'Best State in Promoting Sports'.



- ✓ A release said the State government had taken a series of initiatives to develop sports infrastructure, and help sportspersons secure medals in national and international contests.
- ✓ Under the 'Kalaingar Sports Kits' initiative, equipment were distributed in nearly 12,525 village panchayats.
- ✓ Besides, the State government, through its Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation, had allotted 13.33 crore to 585 sportspersons.

➤ Award of Distinction

- ✓ UNESCO has selected the Abathsahayeshwarar Temple in Thukkatchi, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu for the Award of Distinction for 2023.



- ✓ The 1,300-year-old temple has received recognition for its preservation of its cultural legacy.
- ✓ King Vikrama Chola and King Kulothunga Chola built the temple.
- ✓ Five prakarams are claimed to have existed in the past in the temple.
- ✓ The award was announced as part of UNESCO Asia - Pacific Awards for cultural heritage conservation.

➤ Champions of the Earth Award

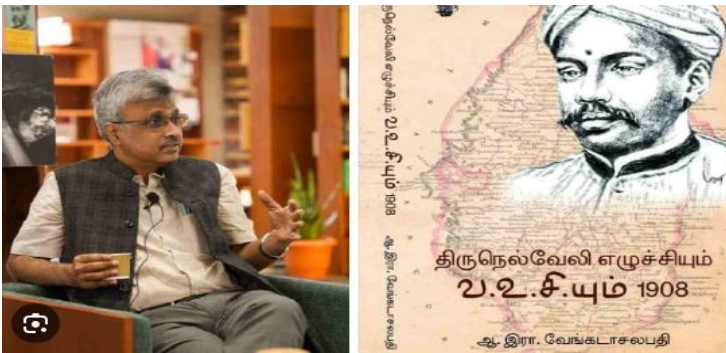
- ✓ The United Nations honored ecologist Madhav Gadgil with the Champions of the Earth Award, which is the UN's highest environmental recognition.



- ✓ Gadgil's contributions focus on the Western Ghats, a vital biodiversity hotspot in India.
- ✓ Madhav Gadgil chaired the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, and studied the impacts of population growth and development.
- ✓ In 2011, they recommended declaring the entire Western Ghats an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- ✓ They also suggested banning mining, quarrying, and new thermal power plants in sensitive areas.

➤ **Sahitya Akademi Award**

- ✓ Historian AR Venkatachalapathy has bagged the Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 2024 in the research category for his Tamil book Tirunelveli Ezhuchiyum Vaa Vuu Ciyum 1908 (Tirunelveli uprising and VO Chidambaram Pillai 1908).



- ✓ Venkatachalapathy, a professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies told TNIE that he is delighted to be recognised for his two-decade-long research work on VOC, a great and selfless leader.
- ✓ It gives me immense pleasure that my work on an event that assumed a significant place in history has been chosen for the award.
- ✓ The book covers the uprising that happened in Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi on March 13, 1908, following the arrest of VOC by the British. It was ruthlessly crushed by the police.

PERSONALITIES

➤ **Ashwin's Retirement: A Historic Cricket Career Concludes**

- ✓ Ravichandran Ashwin, one of India's premier spinners, has announced his retirement from international cricket at the end of the third Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test in Brisbane on December 18, 2024.



- ✓ The announcement marked the conclusion of a remarkable 14-year international career.
 - ✓ Known for his tactical brilliance and record-breaking achievements, Ashwin's retirement follows a stellar career in which he became one of India's greatest match-winners.
- ## ➤ **Kaamya Karthikeyan: Youngest Female to Conquer Seven Summits**
- ✓ 17-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan is from Mumbai's Navy Children School.



- ✓ On December 24, she and her father, Commander S. Karthikeyan, completed the Seven Summits Challenge by reaching the peak of Mount Vincent in Antarctica.
- ✓ When Kaamya Karthikeyan climbed Mount Everest, she was sixteen years old.

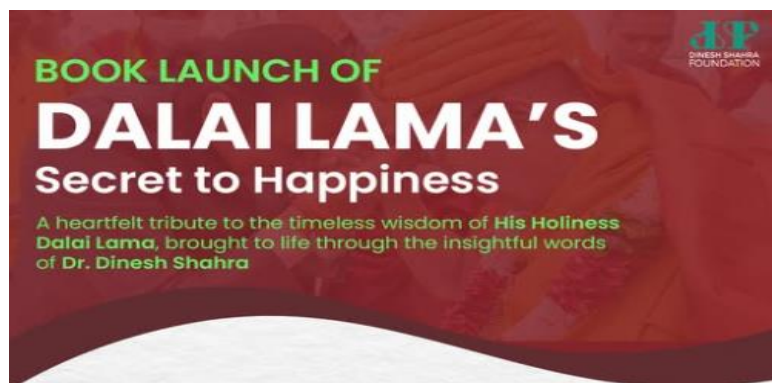
- ✓ In 2021, she was bestowed with India's highest national award for young achievers, the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Shakti Puraskar.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness

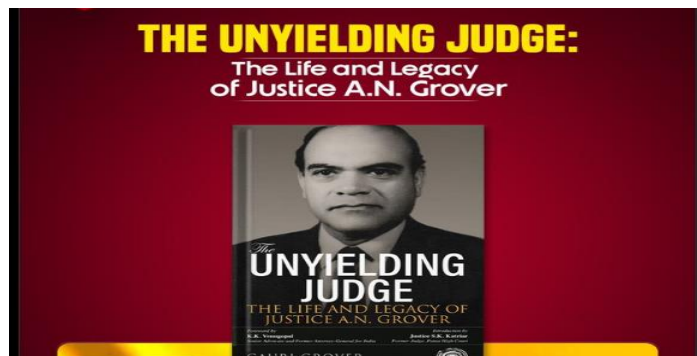
- ✓ On December 12, 2024, Dr. Dinesh Shahra, a renowned philanthropist, author, and thought leader, launched his book, Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness, at the prestigious Library of Tibetan Works & Archives (LTWA) in Dharamshala.



- ✓ This event highlighted the significance of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's teachings and their impact on promoting peace and happiness.
- ✓ The event was attended by scholars, dignitaries, and cultural representatives, all gathered to celebrate Tibetan culture, spirituality, and the wisdom shared through Dr. Shahra's latest work.

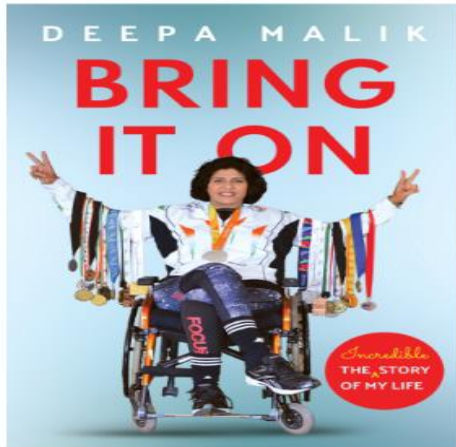
➤ The Unyielding Judge: A Tribute to Justice A.N. Grover's Legacy

- ✓ At the launch of 'The Unyielding Judge: The Life and Legacy of Justice A.N. Grover,' Attorney General R. Venkataramani highlighted the importance of judicial integrity, reflecting on how a judge's resistance to temptation defines their stature in human values.



- ✓ The event paid tribute to Justice Grover, renowned for his role in the landmark 1973 Kesavananda Bharti case, which upheld the basic structure doctrine of the Indian Constitution.

- **Deepa Malik's Memoir 'Bring It On: The Incredible Story of My Life'**
- ✓ In December 2024, HarperCollins Publishers India Private Limited, headquartered in Gurgaon, Haryana, announced the release of "Bring It On: The Incredible Story of My Life", a memoir by Deepa Malik, India's first female Paralympic medalist.



- ✓ Deepa Malik is a leading para-athlete with 23 international medals to her name.
- ✓ She created history by becoming India's first female Paralympic medalist, winning a silver medal at the Rio Paralympics 2016.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ ISRO Launch ESA's Proba-3 Mission

- ✓ Proba-3 mission by ESA was launched via PSLV-C59 from Sriharikota on December 4 at 4:06 PM, carrying 550 kg satellites into a highly elliptical orbit.



- ✓ The mission, an "In-Orbit Demonstration," will study the Sun's corona, showcasing India's collaboration in global space exploration.
- ✓ The launch marks ISRO and NSIL's growing role in advanced space missions.

➤ European Space Agency to support Gaganyaan Mission

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) has signed a Technical Implementing Plan (TIP) document for ground tracking support for India's Gaganyaan missions.



- ✓ The TIP, inked at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre on Wednesday, enables the ESA to provide ground station support for the space missions, which will ensure continuity in data flow and communication with the orbital module for monitoring and orbital operations.
- ✓ They had been collaboratively supporting each other in successful accomplishment of several space missions in the past.

➤ **Nafithromycin: Country's First Indigenous Antibiotic**

- ✓ India has led the way with the creation of Nafithromycin, the country's first indigenous Macrolide antibiotic.



- ✓ This remarkable achievement marks a pivotal moment in the fight against antimicrobial resistance, showcasing India's growing capabilities in pharmaceutical innovation.
- ✓ Developed by Wockhardt with support from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Nafithromycin (marketed as "Miqnaf,") targets Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP) caused by drug-resistant bacteria, which disproportionately affects vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune system.

➤ **India's First Hyperloop Train Test Track completed by IIT Madras**

- ✓ IIT Madras has completed a **410-meter Hyperloop test track**, marking a significant milestone in India's journey toward futuristic transport systems.



- ✓ The project is being led by IIT Madras's Avishkar Hyperloop team in partnership with TuTr, a startup incubated at the institute.

- ✓ The Hyperloop concept, originally popularised by Elon Musk in 2012, is now gaining traction worldwide, and this development takes India closer to adopting cutting-edge transportation technology.
- **India to Launch 'Bharat Antariksha Station' by 2035**
- ✓ The announcement of the 'Bharat Antariksha Station' marks a milestone, and is expected to be operational by 2035.



- ✓ An Indian astronaut is also anticipated to land on the moon by 2040, which reflects India's growing capabilities in space technology.
- ✓ The proposed space station aims to enhance India's presence in low Earth orbit and will support scientific research and international collaboration.
- **Google Unveils 'GenCast' for Weather Forecasting**
- ✓ Google's DeepMind team recently launched GenCast, a new AI model that excels in weather prediction and has surpassed the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF).



- ✓ GenCast provides faster and more accurate forecasts, extending up to 15 days.

- ✓ Unlike earlier versions, it offers multiple forecasts. Users receive at least 50 different weather scenarios.
- ✓ This variety allows for a comprehensive understanding of potential weather outcomes.

➤ **Gympie-Gympie: The World's Most Toxic Plant**

- ✓ The Gympie-Gympie, scientifically known as *Dendrocnide moroides*, is notorious as the most toxic plant in the world, primarily found in rainforests of Australia, Indonesia, and the Moluccas.



- ✓ Despite its unassuming appearance with heart-shaped leaves, this stinging tree is covered with fine, hair-like trichomes loaded with powerful neurotoxins.
- ✓ Contact with the plant causes excruciating pain described as being “burnt with hot acid and electrocuted at the same time,” with effects that can persist for weeks or even months.

➤ **Kisan Kavach – Bharat's Indigenous Anti-Pesticide Bodysuit**



- ✓ Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, unveiled Kisan Kavach, India's first indigenous anti-pesticide bodysuit. Developed by BRIC-inStem, Bangalore, in collaboration with Sepio

Health Pvt. Ltd., the suit aims to safeguard farmers from pesticide-induced health risks.

- ✓ The launch aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of leveraging science and technology to empower India's agricultural community.

➤ **Achieving Malaria-Free Status by 2030**

- ✓ A 97% reduction in malaria cases achieved by India, with a target of achieving malaria-free status by 2030.



- ✓ On 25 December, the Health Ministry said the number of annual malaria cases will drop from 75 million at the time of independence to 2 million by 2023, a reduction of over 97%.
- ✓ India is moving towards becoming a malaria-free nation by setting global standards in the field of public health.
- ✓ The government is working with a vision to achieve malaria-free status by 2030.

➤ **SPADEX Mission**

- ✓ ISRO is gearing up to end the year on a high note with the launch of SPADEX Mission- the launch of two small satellites to demonstrate docking in space.



- ✓ The launch is scheduled at 21.58 hours on December 30 from the first launch pad at Sriharikota.

- ✓ India's workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C60 will launch the two 220 kg satellites in a 470 km circular orbit.
- ✓ Through this mission, India is marching towards becoming the fourth country in the world to have space docking technology.
- **IIT Bombay has Developed Needle-Free Shock Syringes**
- ✓ A team from IIT Bombay has developed a shockwave based syringe that delivers medicine without piercing the skin with sharp needle.



- ✓ The newly developed syringe uses high-energy shockwaves to create a microjet of liquid drugs.
- ✓ This microjet moves at around twice the speed of a commercial aeroplane during takeoff, penetrates the skin quickly and softly.
- ✓ This new development has the capability to bring a revolution in vaccination campaigns and reduce risks of infections from needle injuries.

SPORTS

➤ D. Gukesh Becomes Youngest World Chess Champion

- ✓ Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh became the youngest chess champion in the world.



- ✓ Gukesh made history as he clinched 18th World Chess Championship defeating Ding Liren of China in the 14th and the final match of the FIDE World Chess Championship in Singapore.
- ✓ Gukesh beat the record previously held by Garry Kasparov who got the crown at age of 22.
- ✓ Gukesh is the second world champion from India after Viswanathan Anand, who won the title four times.

➤ Ravichandran Ashwin Retires from International Cricket

- ✓ One of the all-time greats of India, **Ravichandran Ashwin**, has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket.



- ✓ The unexpected retirement announcement came after the third test of the 2024-25 Border Gavaskar Trophy in Brisbane ended in a draw.

- ✓ With 765 wickets in his credit, Ashwin is the second-highest wicket-taker from India after Anil Kumble.
- ✓ Ashwin has taken 537 wickets at an average of 24 in 106 Test matches. He is also 7th on the overall list of wicket-takers.

➤ **Para Athletics World Championships**

- ✓ The Para Athletics World Championships will be hosted in Delhi in 2025, marking a historic first for India.



- ✓ The announcement was made by the global governing body WPA on December 19, 2024.
- ✓ The competition will be held from September 26 to October 5 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, where the World Para Athletics Grand Prix will also be held from March 11-13.
- ✓ The Para Athletics World Championships will be the 12th edition of the event and the fourth time it will be held in Asia.

➤ **38th National Games 2025**

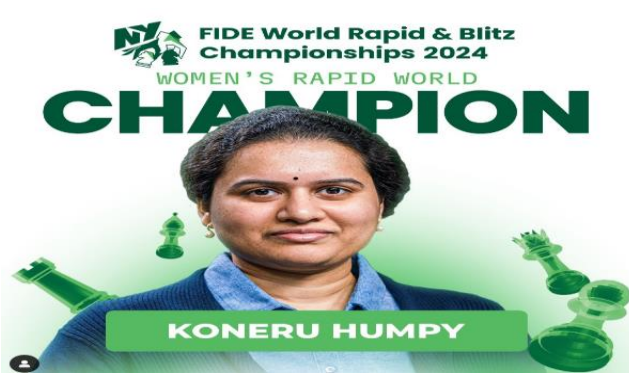


- ✓ Uttarakhand is set to host the National Games from January 28 to February 14, 2025.

- ✓ The mascot for the 38th National Games, along with the logo, jersey, anthem, and tagline, was unveiled in Raipur, Dehradun.
- ✓ The mascot, named “Mauli,” is inspired by the Monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The tagline for the Games is “Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak” (From Resolve to Zenith).

➤ **World Rapid and Blitz Championship**

- ✓ In Chess, India’s Koneru Humpy wins her second women’s title beating Indonesia’s Irene Sukander in the World Rapid and Blitz Championship held in New York.



- ✓ Humpy finished the tournament with 8.5 points from 11 rounds to secure her victory. Aged 37, the top ranked Indian is only the second player after China’s Ju Wenjun to clinch the title more than once.
- ✓ Indian Chess Grandmaster Humpy previously won in 2019 at Georgia.

OBITUARY

➤ **Tulsi Gowda, the 'Encyclopedia of Forests,' Passes Away**

- ✓ Tulsi Gowda, affectionately known as the "Tree Goddess," was an environmentalist from Karnataka celebrated for her exceptional dedication to afforestation and ecological preservation.



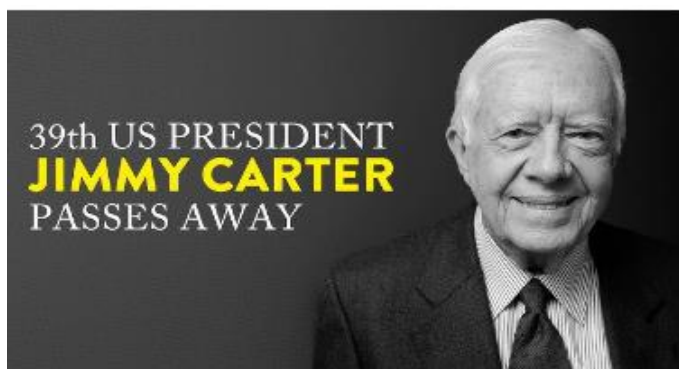
- ✓ Born in 1944 in Honnali village, Uttara Kannada district, she overcame personal and financial hardships to emerge as a symbol of environmental conservation.
 - ✓ Her tireless efforts, including planting over 1 lakh trees, earned her the Padma Shri award in 2021.
 - ✓ Her passing on December 16, 2024, marked the end of an era but left behind an inspiring legacy.
- **Doyen of Parallel Cinema Filmmaker Shyam Benegal Passes Away**
- ✓ Doyen of Indian Parallel Cinema, Shyam Benegal passed away at the age of 90 years.



- ✓ Shyam Bengal is considered one of the leading lights of the parallel cinema movement in India along with Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, and Govind Nihalini with films like 'Ankur', and 'Manthan'.
 - ✓ He was honoured with India's highest film award DadaSaheb Phalke Award in 2005. He also received 18 National Film Awards.
- **Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh Passes Away**
- ✓ Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, a towering figure in Indian politics and economics, passed away at the age of 92.



- ✓ Dr. Singh, India's 13th Prime Minister, served the nation from 2004 to 2014 and played a pivotal role as Finance Minister during the economic liberalization of the 1990s.
 - ✓ A distinguished economist, scholar, and statesman, his contributions have left an indelible mark on the trajectory of India's economic and political landscape.
- **Jimmy Carter, 39th U.S. President and Nobel Laureate, Dies at 100**
- ✓ Jimmy Carter, the 39th President of the United States, passed away at the age of 100 in his hometown of Plains, Georgia.



- ✓ Known for his strong moral values, humanitarian work, and pivotal role in the Camp David Accords, Carter's presidency faced challenges, including an economic recession and the Iran hostage crisis.
- ✓ Despite his one-term presidency, Carter later gained respect for his global peace efforts, winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002.



REPORT

➤ World Malaria Report 2024

- ✓ India has achieved progress in combating malaria, as reported in the latest World Malaria Report by the World Health Organisation (WHO).



- ✓ The country has seen a remarkable decrease in malaria cases and deaths from 2017 to 2023.
- ✓ Malaria cases in India dropped from 6.4 million in 2017 to 2 million in 2023, representing a 69% reduction in cases.
- ✓ The decline is attributed to improved prevention and treatment strategies across the nation.
- ✓ Deaths attributed to malaria in India fell from 11,100 to 3,500 during the same period.
- ✓ This 68% decrease marks the effectiveness of health interventions and public awareness campaigns.

➤ India Skills Report 2025

- ✓ Nearly 55 per cent of Indian graduates are expected to be globally employable in 2025, up from 51.2 per cent in 2024.



- ✓ Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi are emerging as major hubs for employable talent.
- ✓ Cities such as Pune, Bengaluru and Mumbai are leading the way in providing a skilled workforce.
- ✓ The employability rate for men is expected to rise to 53.5 per cent in 2025 from 51.8 per cent in 2024.
- ✓ Meanwhile, for women the employability rate is projected to decline to 47.5 per cent from 50.9 per cent during the same time.

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala are the top States favoured for employment across India.

➤ **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023**

- ✓ India's forest cover has increased by 1,445 square kilometres. As per the India State of Forest Report 2023, India's forest cover has increased by 1,445 square kilometres.



- ✓ India's total forest and tree cover stood at 8 lakh 27 thousand 357 square kilometers, which is 25.17 percent of India's total geographical area.
 - ✓ The highest increase in forest and tree cover has been registered in Chhattisgarh with 684 square kilometers.
 - ✓ It is followed by Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, each with a 559 square kilometer increase. In terms of forest cover, Mizoram, Gujarat, and Odisha were the top three leading states.
- **ECI Publishes Detailed Data for Lok Sabha and Assembly Polls 2024**
- ✓ The Election Commission of India (ECI) released comprehensive data for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, including 42 statistical reports.



- ✓ Voter turnout increased, with 64.64 crore votes polled, a 7.43% rise in registered electors, and higher participation from women and third-gender voters.
- ✓ Women electors now comprise 48.62% of the electorate, and the number of female candidates contesting elections grew to 800.
- ✓ National parties secured 63.35% of valid votes, while independent candidates performed modestly, with 7 elected out of 3,921 contestants.

APPLO
STUDY CENTRE

RANKING

- **India has become the third-largest smartphone exporter in the world**
- ✓ India, which was ranked 23rd in 2019, has now become the 3rd largest exporter of smartphones in the world.



- ✓ According to data submitted by companies and data compiled from industry associations, the country's smartphone exports have also crossed the Rs 20 thousand crore mark in a single month in November 2024.
- ✓ The country's smartphone exports reached 20,395 crore rupees last month, marking an impressive 92% increase compared to the same month last year, when the exports were 10,634 crore rupees.
- **India Ranks 39th in Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024**
- ✓ India has significantly improved its position in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024, ranking 39th among 119 countries.



- ✓ This marks a sharp rise from its 54th place in the previous 2021 index, which was later adjusted to 38th after a revision in WEF's methodology.

- ✓ The boost in India's ranking reflects a strong recovery in global tourism, following the pandemic, and the country's growing role as a hub for medical and cultural tourism.
- **India Ranks 49th in Network Readiness Index (NRI) 2024**
- ✓ India has made remarkable progress in the 2024 Network Readiness Index (NRI), jumping 11 places from 60th in 2023 to 49th, with an improved score of 53.63.



- ✓ This achievement reflects the country's strengthened commitment to advancing digital infrastructure and technology adoption.
- ✓ The NRI, published by the Portulans Institute, evaluates how effectively nations use technology for governance and citizen engagement, and India's rise in the rankings signifies its growing role as a global leader in technological advancements.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
December 01	World AIDS Day	The theme of World AIDS Day 2024 is "Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right!."
December 02	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery	The theme for the 2024 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is to unite efforts to detect, report, and abolish all forms of contemporary slavery.
December 03	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	This year's theme - 'Amplifying the leadership of disabled people for an inclusive and sustainable future.'
	Indian Navy Day	The theme for Indian Navy Day 2024 is "Strength and Power through Innovation and Indigenisation".
December 03	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	2023 Theme: "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities"
December 04	Indian Navy Day	The theme for Indian Navy Day 2023 is "Operational Efficiency, Readiness, and Mission Accomplishment in the Maritime Domain"
December 05	World Soil Day	The Theme for World Soil Day 2024 was

		"Caring for Soils: Measure, Monitor, Manage".
December 05	International Volunteer Day	The 2023 theme, "The Power of Collective Action: If Everyone Did."
December 06	Mahaparinirvan Diwas	Mahaparinirvan Diwas is an annual observance to commemorate the death anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar
December 07	International Civil Aviation Day	The theme for International Civil Aviation Day (ICAD) 2024 is "Safe Skies. Sustainable Future: Together for the next 80 years".
December 07	Armed Forces Flag Day	It pay tribute to the indomitable spirit and sacrifices of the soldiers, sailors, and airmen who stand guard at our borders
December 09	International Anti-Corruption Day	Theme - "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity."
December 10	World Human Rights Day	The theme for this year's celebration is: "Our rights, our future, right now."
December 11	International Mountain Day	The theme is "Mountain solutions for a sustainable future -

		innovation, adaptation, youth and beyond".
December 12	International Day of Neutrality	The theme for the 2024 International Day of Neutrality is "Promoting Peace and Stability".
December 14	National Energy Conservation Day	The theme for National Energy Conservation Day 2024 is "Powering Sustainability: Every Watt Counts".
December 16	Vijay Diwas	Vijay Diwas, observed annually on December 16, commemorates India's decisive victory over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War
December 17	Pensioners Day	The theme is "Ageing with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Care and Support Systems for Older Persons Worldwide".
December 18	International Migrants Day	In 2024, the day will be observed under the theme, "Honouring the contributions of migrants and respecting their rights."
December 18	Minorities Rights Day	The theme for Minorities Rights Day in India in 2024 is "Promoting Diversity and Protecting Rights".
December 20	International Human Solidarity Day	The theme is "Celebrating Unity in Diversity".
December 21	First-Ever World	The event's theme,

	Meditation Day	"Meditation for Global Peace and Harmony."
December 22	National Mathematics Day	The main objective of this day is to raise awareness among people about the importance of mathematics for the development of humanity.
December 23	National Farmers Day	The day highlights the importance of empowering farmers and addressing their concerns to ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for the nation.
December 24	National Consumer Rights Day	The theme is "Virtual Hearings & Digital Access to Consumer Justice."
December 25	Good Governance Day or Sushasan Diwas	The day is observed every year on 25 December to mark the anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee
December 27	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness	The International Day of Epidemic Preparedness , observed annually on December 27 , serves as a global reminder of the critical importance of investing in public health systems to prevent, detect, and respond to infectious

		disease outbreaks.
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