

## Weekly Current Affairs-4th To 9th November 2024 English

## National News

**India May to Welcome Indonesia's President on Republic Day 2025**

New Delhi is considering inviting Indonesia's newly elected President, Prabowo Subianto, as the chief guest for its Republic Day 2025 celebrations, according to sources. This potential invitation underscores a growing partnership between India and Indonesia, with plans for high-level meetings, defense cooperation, and possibly even the participation of the Indonesian military in the Republic Day parade.

**NSE Launches Multilingual Mobile App and Website**

On the occasion of Diwali and to mark its 30th anniversary, the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has launched its official mobile app, NSEIndia, and expanded its corporate website to support a total of 12 languages. This initiative aims to create a more inclusive financial ecosystem for millions of investors across India, allowing them to access market information in their preferred regional languages.

**India Commits to 30% Protected Areas in Updated Biodiversity Plan**

India has unveiled its updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) during the 16th UN Biodiversity Conference in Cali, Colombia, committing to protect at least 30% of its terrestrial, inland water, and coastal marine areas by 2030. This ambitious target aligns with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), adopted at the previous conference in 2022, which aims for global protection of 30% of land and ocean areas while restoring degraded ecosystems crucial for providing clean water and air.

**EAM Jaishankar Inaugurates India's New Consulate in Brisbane**

India's new consulate in Brisbane was inaugurated on 4th of November, 2024 by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, marking a milestone in strengthening India-Australia relations. Jaishankar highlighted the recent transformation in bilateral ties, driven by initiatives like a trade agreement that has opened up significant opportunities for both countries.

**Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar Launches 'Shilp Samagam Mela 2024' and Unveils 'TULIP' Platform**

The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment inaugurated the 'Shilp Samagam Mela 2024' with a grand opening at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. Organized by key Corporations under the Ministry, including the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCDFC), and National Safai Karmachari Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC).

**Moldova's President Maia Sandu Wins Second Term Amid Russian Interference Claims**

Moldova as pro-Western President Maia Sandu won a second term in a highly contested presidential runoff. With the country divided over its future alignment—whether closer to the European Union or maintaining ties with Russia—the election was marred by allegations of interference, vote-buying, and intimidation. Sandu's victory is seen as a decisive push toward Moldova's EU integration, but the result reflects deep-seated geopolitical tensions and internal divisions. Maia Sandu secured 55% of the vote against her Russia-aligned opponent, Alexandr Stoianoglo, who garnered 45%, according to Moldova's Central Electoral Commission (CEC). Sandu's victory comes as a relief for Moldova's pro-European government, which fully supported her re-election bid to accelerate Moldova's path toward European Union membership.

**Switzerland's Burqa Ban Law to Take Effect in 2025**

Switzerland is set to enforce its controversial "burqa ban" starting January 1, 2025, following approval in a closely contested 2021 referendum. The law, which prohibits facial coverings in public spaces, has sparked significant debate and criticism, particularly from Muslim associations.

**Zimbabwe Launches ZIMSAT-2 to Advance Space Programme**

Zimbabwe has launched its second satellite, ZIMSAT-2, from the Vostochny Cosmodrome in Russia, a major milestone in the country's growing space programme. This satellite, equipped with a high-resolution multispectral camera, will aid in agriculture, resource exploration, environmental monitoring, and disaster management. It follows the successful launch of Zimbabwe's first satellite, ZIMSAT-1, in November 2022, marking continued progress in space technology and innovation.

**President Murmu Witnesses Naval Operations Aboard INS Vikrant**

Honorable President Droupadi Murmu embarked on her first visit to Indian Navy ships at sea aboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant on 7th November. During this significant event, she witnessed a series of advanced operational demonstrations, showcasing the Indian Navy's combat capabilities and maritime prowess.

## International News

**Kemi Badenoch: A Historic Rise as Conservative Party Leader and UK Opposition Chief**

Kemi Badenoch, 44, made history on November 2 as the first Black woman to lead the UK's Conservative Party, succeeding Rishi Sunak, Britain's first British Indian party leader. Following

Sunak's resignation after the Conservatives' electoral defeat in July, Badenoch won the leadership race, defeating former minister Robert Jenrick by securing 53,806 votes out of a turnout of 72.8% among Conservative Party members.

#### US Election Results 2024: Date, Time and Parties Name

The United States is gearing up for one of the most significant political events of the decade: the 2024 presidential election. Set to take place on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, this high-stakes election has already drawn worldwide attention as Americans prepare to cast their votes for the country's next leader. This election will be a contest between two influential figures: Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. Both campaigns have intensified, particularly in critical battleground states, making this election one of the most anticipated political events globally.

#### Donald Trump Set To Back In The White House As 47th President Of USA

Donald Trump has clinched a critical victory in Wisconsin, securing 276 electoral votes—well above the 270 needed—to reclaim the White House as America's 47th president. Speaking to an enthusiastic crowd in West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump expressed gratitude for the "extraordinary honor" bestowed upon him by the American people, acknowledging his unique role as both the 45th and now the 47th president.

#### Bangladesh Human Rights Commission Members Resign Amid Crisis

All members of Bangladesh's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) resigned on Thursday, shortly after the release of a critical report highlighting an increase in mob violence. The NHRC, chaired by Kamal Uddin Ahmed, along with members Md Salim Reza, Aminul Islam, Kongjari Chowdhury, Biswajit Chanda, and Tania Haque, submitted resignation letters to the president, according to BDNews24.com.

#### Australia to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16

Australia is set to implement a significant move by banning social media access for children under 16, starting in November. This proposed ban targets platforms like Instagram and Facebook, which have been linked to various issues such as body image concerns, cyberbullying, and mental health challenges among the youth. While this ban doesn't block internet access, it aims to mitigate the harmful impact these platforms have on young minds. However, the question remains: Will this measure be effective in shielding kids from the digital world's dangers?

#### Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki Erupts, Ash Column Reaches 6,500 Meters

Mount Lewotobi Laki-laki in eastern Indonesia erupted on November 7, spewing a massive ash column over 6,500 meters high, as authorities ramped up warnings and evacuation efforts.

The 1,584-meter volcano, located on Flores Island, has shown increasing volcanic activity since November 3, with eruptions causing fatalities and severe damage. Indonesia, situated on the Pacific Ring of Fire, is highly susceptible to volcanic eruptions, and Lewotobi's latest eruption serves as a stark reminder of the region's volatility.

### State News

#### Karnataka Embraces Bali Padyami Festival

Karnataka is celebrating the Bali Padyami festival (Bali Pratipada) on marking the fourth day of Deepavali. This festival commemorates the return of the Asura king, Bali Chakravarty, from Pathala Loka to Bhuloka, a journey made possible by the boon granted to him by Lord Vishnu during his Vamana Avatar.

#### Uttar Pradesh Boosts Veterinary Services with New Policy

The Uttar Pradesh government has announced a new policy to enhance veterinary services by introducing diploma and certificate courses in animal husbandry and para-veterinary medicine. This decision, taken during a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, aims to address the shortage of veterinarians in the state, where only 8,193 are available compared to the national total of about 34,500. By training more para-veterinarians, the government seeks to empower rural communities with essential animal health services, addressing the challenges posed by the current lack of resources and adequate training.

#### MP Cabinet Approves 35% Job Reservation for Women in State Services

Madhya Pradesh cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, approved a 35 percent reservation for women in all state government recruitments. The decision was made during a cabinet meeting held at the Mantralaya in Bhopal.

#### Supreme Court Targets Child Marriage Elimination in Rajasthan by 2030

The Supreme Court's recent guidelines to eliminate child marriages in Rajasthan by 2030 have provided a significant boost to civil society organizations working to combat this issue. With a focus on holding local panchayats, school authorities, and child protection officers accountable, these guidelines aim to address the widespread practice of child marriages in the state.

#### Ningol Chakkouba Festival Celebrated with Joy Across Manipur

Ningol Chakkouba, one of the most significant festivals of the Meitei community in Manipur, was celebrated across the state with immense religious fervor and joy. Traditionally held on the second day of the lunar month of Hiyangei in the Meitei calendar, the festival symbolizes family bonds and togetherness.

**Telangana Launches Statewide Caste Census**

On November 6, 2024, Telangana’s Backward Classes Welfare Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar officially launched a statewide door-to-door survey at the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) office in Hyderabad. Conducted by the State Planning Department, the survey aims to gather comprehensive data on the social, economic, political, caste, and educational status of all households across Telangana.

**Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan Form Joint Panel for Cheetah Project**

In response to recent incidents of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh straying into neighboring Rajasthan, a joint corridor management committee has been established between the two states. The committee’s primary focus will be on the conservation of these felines, ensuring the development of suitable habitats, and facilitating the future relocation of cheetahs from Madhya Pradesh’s Kuno National Park (KNP) and Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary.

**Bihar’s Sultanganj Station Gets New Name Ajgaibinath Dham**

Sultanganj railway station in Bihar’s Bhagalpur district is set to be renamed in honor of the revered Hindu shrine, Ajgaibinath Dham. The announcement was made by Bihar’s Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader, Samrat Choudhary. He revealed that the proposal to rename the station has been approved by the municipal council of Bhagalpur.

**Economy News**

**Canara Bank Aims for ₹6,000 Crore Recovery in H2 FY25**

State-owned Canara Bank is setting a significant target for loan recovery, aiming to recoup approximately ₹6,000 crore from bad loans in the second half of the current fiscal year (H2 FY25). This strategic goal reflects the bank’s ongoing efforts to improve asset quality while building on its recent financial performance.

**Cabinet Approves ₹10,700 Crore Equity Infusion for FCI**

In a significant financial boost, the Union Cabinet approved an equity infusion of ₹10,700 crore for the Food Corporation of India (FCI) on Wednesday. This move is expected to reduce FCI’s dependency on high-interest debt for funding its large-scale food distribution efforts. It aligns with the government’s ongoing strategy to enhance food security and minimize subsidy burdens.

**Govt Reconstitutes CAC to Strengthen Apprenticeship Training and Drive Industry Reforms**

In a move to enhance apprenticeship programs across India, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has restructured the Central Apprenticeship Council (CAC), tasked with reforming existing rules and promoting industry adoption of on-the-job training. This reconstituted council, with a three-

year mandate, is designed to bolster apprenticeship opportunities and encourage workforce development.

**Rankings & Reports News**

**Global AI Preparedness India’s Position Among Leading Nations**

Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing the global economy, reshaping labor markets, industries, and societal dynamics. This transformation brings vast opportunities along with complex challenges. According to a forecast by Grand View Research, the global AI market is expected to grow at a robust compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 36.6% from 2024 to 2030, highlighting AI’s expanding role in various sectors.

**Significant Rise Himalayan Glacial Lakes Increase 10.81% from 2011 to 2024**

A recent government report indicates that glacial lakes and water bodies in the Himalayan region have experienced a 10.81% increase in area from 2011 to 2024, primarily driven by climate change. This expansion raises concerns about the heightened risk of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). The report, accessed by PTI from the Central Water Commission (CWC), highlights that lakes in India have seen an even more significant growth, with a surface area increase of 33.7%.

**QS Asia Rankings 2025: India’s Top 10 Universities and Their Growing Impact**

The QS Asia Rankings 2025 recently unveiled by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) reflect India’s significant academic progress on a global scale. With 161 Indian universities included among the 984 ranked institutions across Asia, and six institutions making it to the top 100, this ranking affirms India’s expanding influence in the academic landscape of Asia. In 2025, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) leads among Indian institutions, achieving 44th place overall in Asia. Not far behind, IIT Bombay ranks at 48th, followed by IIT Madras at 56th. These institutes, along with others in the top 100, embody India’s commitment to academic excellence, research, and global reputation.

**Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024, Check Top 10 Philanthropists**

The EdelGive-Hurun India Philanthropy List 2024 reveals an inspiring rise in philanthropic contributions across India. With over 200 philanthropists donating nearly ₹8,783 crore, this year’s report reflects an increasing dedication among the nation’s wealthiest individuals to drive social change. At the top of the list is Shiv Nadar, founder of HCL Technologies, who continues to be India’s most generous philanthropist. For the third time in five years, Nadar has led in donations, contributing ₹2,153 crore in FY 2024—translating to an average of ₹5.9 crore per day.

**ISA Launches World Solar Report Series**

The 3rd edition of the World Solar Report series was launched at the 7th Assembly of the International Solar Alliance, spotlighting key areas in the global transition to sustainable energy. This year's release includes four reports: the World Solar Market Report, World Investment Report, World Technology Report, and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries.

**Business News****NTPC and ONGC Drive India's Green Energy Future with New Joint Venture**

NTPC Limited and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), two Maharatna public sector giants, have officially launched a 50:50 Joint Venture Company (JVC) through their green energy subsidiaries – NTPC Green Energy Ltd. (NGEL) and ONGC Green Energy Ltd. (OGL). This collaboration, formalized after receiving approvals from DIPAM and NITI Aayog, marks a significant step in accelerating India's renewable and new energy goals. The companies have now applied to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to establish the JVC, following the signing of their joint agreement during India Energy Week in February 2024.

**BEML Recognized with 'Self-Certification' Honor**

BEML Limited has been awarded the prestigious "Self-Certification" status for its defense equipment by the Department of Defence Production (DDP) of the Government of India. The certification was presented by RA Govardhana, ADGQA (V&EE), HQ DQAV, to Shantanu Roy, the Chairman and Managing Director of BEML Ltd., during a special event held at the company's headquarters.

**Royal Enfield Launches EV Brand "Flying Flea"**

Royal Enfield has recently unveiled its highly anticipated electric vehicle (EV) brand, "Flying Flea", an homage to one of the brand's most iconic models. The original Flying Flea was a compact, lightweight motorcycle designed in the 1940s for military use during World War II. Engineered to be air-dropped behind enemy lines, the bike was valued for its nimble handling and ability to navigate rugged terrains. Its unique design and military legacy eventually paved the way for a civilian model that remains popular among enthusiasts today.

**IFC Invests \$400 Million in Bajaj Finance for Climate and Women Empowerment**

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has announced a strategic partnership with Bajaj Finance Ltd. (BFL), committing \$400 million as part of a \$1 billion fundraising initiative to enhance access to climate finance in India. This investment is aimed at expanding financing for electric vehicles (EVs), energy-efficient consumer goods (EECG), and women-owned micro-enterprises, aligning with India's climate goals and promoting financial inclusion.

**Agreement News****CDS Gen Chauhan Signs Key Defense Pact with Algeria**

India and Algeria have formalized their commitment to strengthening bilateral defense ties with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on defense cooperation. The agreement was signed by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and Said Chanegriha, the Chief of Staff of the Algerian People's National Army. This significant development occurred during Gen. Chauhan's official visit to Algeria from October 31 to November 3.

**Cairn Joins UNEP's OGMP 2.0 as India's First Oil & Gas Pioneer**

Cairn Oil & Gas, a part of Vedanta Group, has become the first oil and gas producer in India to join the United Nations Environment Programme's Oil & Gas Methane Partnership (OGMP) 2.0. By signing this agreement, Cairn committed to reducing methane emissions effectively, marking a significant step towards environmental sustainability in the oil and gas sector.

**IREL and Kazakhstan's UKTMP Collaborate for Titanium Slag JV in Odisha**

In a significant Indo-Kazakh collaboration, IREL (India) Limited, a CPSU under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and Kazakhstan's Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC (UKTMP JSC) have inked a joint venture agreement to establish IREUK Titanium Limited, aimed at producing titanium slag in Odisha, India.

**\$200 Million Deal Signed to Enhance Uttarakhand's Green Mobility and Urban Infrastructure**

The Indian government has signed a \$200 million loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to enhance urban infrastructure and improve essential services in Uttarakhand. The initiative aims to modernize water supply systems, sanitation, urban mobility, and other key public amenities, thereby fostering sustainable development in the state.

**Appointment News****Itaru Otani Appointed as Chairman of India Yamaha Motor**

India Yamaha Motor has appointed Itaru Otani as its new Chairman, a significant move aimed at enhancing the company's presence in India's dynamic two-wheeler market. With over 30 years of experience at Yamaha Motor Company, Otani brings a wealth of expertise from leadership positions in diverse global markets, including Australia, Brazil, and Japan. His appointment signals a strategic shift to align Yamaha's offerings with the evolving preferences of Indian consumers, focusing on innovative and stylish products that cater to local demands.



**Wriddhiman Saha Announces Retirement from All Forms of Cricket**

Indian wicketkeeper-batter Wriddhiman Saha has officially announced his retirement from all formats of cricket, marking the end of an illustrious career that spanned nearly two decades. Saha shared the news via a social media post on Sunday (November), revealing that the ongoing Ranji Trophy season would be his last. Known for his exceptional wicketkeeping skills and steady presence with the bat, Saha has been a prominent figure in Indian cricket, especially in the Test arena.

**FSIB Recommends Rahul Bhawe as New MD & CEO of IFCI**

In a significant development for the financial sector, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Rahul Bhawe, currently the Deputy Managing Director of IFCI Ltd, for the position of Managing Director (MD) and CEO. This recommendation comes after FSIB evaluated four candidates, taking into account their performance, overall experience, and established criteria.

**Banking News**

**SEBI Proposes Reforms to Enhance Flexibility and Protection for REITs and InvITs**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a range of proposed changes for Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), and Small and Medium REITs (SM REITs) aimed at enhancing market flexibility and investor protection. This aligns with SEBI's ongoing efforts to strengthen governance, reduce financial risk, and improve operational efficiency in these investment structures.

**SEBI's New Securitisation Rules: Key Investor Safeguards**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed significant changes to the securitisation framework to bolster investor protection and streamline regulatory requirements. The proposal includes a minimum investment threshold, limitations on investor participation, mandatory dematerialisation, and liquidity safeguards. Public feedback is invited until November 16, 2024, as SEBI aims to build on its 2008 framework and the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2021 securitisation guidelines.

**SBI Mutual Fund Surpasses ₹10 Lakh Crore AUM, Leading the Industry**

SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) has made headlines by becoming the first fund house in India to surpass the ₹10 lakh crore mark in assets under management (AUM), reaching ₹10.99 lakh crore in the September quarter, a notable increase from ₹9.88 lakh crore in June. This achievement places SBI MF ahead of its

closest competitors, ICICI Mutual Fund and HDFC Mutual Fund, which have AUMs of ₹8.41 lakh crore and ₹7.47 lakh crore, respectively.

**Punjab & Sind Bank Launches e-Bank Guarantee Facility with NeSL**

Punjab & Sind Bank (PSB) has announced the launch of its e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in collaboration with National e-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL). This innovative service modernizes the traditional bank guarantee process, transitioning from paper-based issuance requiring physical stamping and signatures to a fully digital format utilizing e-stamping and e-signatures.

**IDFC FIRST Bank Launches Real-Time International Money Transfer Tracking**

IDFC FIRST Bank, in partnership with Swift, has introduced a groundbreaking real-time tracking service for international money transfers. Available on its award-winning mobile app and internet banking platforms, this service positions IDFC FIRST Bank as the first Indian bank to offer end-to-end traceability for cross-border payments. This service aligns with the bank's "Customer First" philosophy, aimed at bringing the transparency and speed of UPI and IMPS digital payments to international transactions.

**Deutsche Bank Infuses ₹5,113 Crore to Boost India Operations**

Deutsche Bank has injected ₹5,113 crore into its Indian operations, marking its largest capital infusion into the country in recent years. This move, aimed at funding growth and expanding services across corporate, investment, and private banking, demonstrates the bank's long-term commitment to India. With this fresh capital, Deutsche Bank's regulatory capital for its India branches has increased by 33% to nearly ₹30,000 crore, tripling in the last decade. The bank plans to leverage India's strategic position in global trends like digital transformation and infrastructure development to drive future growth.

**SBI Unveils Innovation Hub at Singapore Fintech Festival**

State Bank of India (SBI), in partnership with APIX—a global collaborative platform for financial institutions and FinTechs—has launched the 'SBI Innovation Hub' at the Singapore Fintech Festival from November 6-8, 2024. The hub provides a dedicated space for global FinTechs, startups, and innovators to create next-generation financial solutions that meet the digital needs of SBI's diverse customer base. This initiative underlines SBI's commitment to driving financial innovation, accelerating digital transformation, and promoting financial inclusion.

**RBI Designates 10-Year Sovereign Green Bonds Under FAR for Non-Resident Investments**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the list of Government securities available for non-resident investment

under the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) by designating 10-year Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) as 'specified securities.' These bonds will be issued by the government in the second half of the fiscal year 2024-25, aligning with the increasing global inclusion of Indian Government Securities (G-Secs) in international bond indices, such as JPMorgan Chase's GBI-EM GD index, Bloomberg EM Local Currency Government indices, and FTSE Russell's EMGBI.

## Science & Technology News

### ISRO Begins Groundbreaking Analogue Space Mission in Leh

ISRO announced the launch of its analogue space mission in Leh, Ladakh. This innovative mission aims to simulate life in an interplanetary habitat, addressing the challenges associated with establishing a base station beyond Earth. Through this initiative, ISRO seeks to gather insights and prepare for future space exploration endeavors.

### ISRO to Launch EU's Proba-3 Satellite in December, Aims for Bold Space Milestones

In a significant advancement for India's space sector, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the European Union's Proba-3 Solar Observation Mission in December from Sriharikota. The satellite, arriving at Sriharikota, is designed to study the Sun's faint corona, a crucial aspect of solar science. This marks India's third collaboration with the EU in space, following the earlier launches of Proba-1 and Proba-2.

### World's First Wooden Satellite, LignoSat

Japanese scientists launched the world's first wooden satellite, named LignoSat, marking a pioneering experiment in sustainable space technology. Developed by Kyoto University in collaboration with Sumitomo Forestry, this satellite aims to explore the potential of timber as a material for future space habitation and structures. The innovative project, which uses honoki wood, is designed to test the resilience of wood in the extreme conditions of space, possibly paving the way for long-term human settlements in space with renewable resources.

## Schemes and Committees News

### Andhra Pradesh CM Launches Deepam 2.0 Scheme for Women

On November 1, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu visited Edupuram in Srikakulam district to launch the Deepam 2.0 scheme, aimed at empowering women by providing them with free gas cylinders. During his visit, Naidu personally handed over a gas cylinder to a beneficiary, Santhamma, and even lit her stove, preparing tea as a gesture of support for the initiative.

## Cabinet Approves PM-Vidyalaxmi Scheme for Higher Education

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the PM-Vidyalaxmi scheme on November 6, 2024, aimed at providing financial support to meritorious students seeking higher education. The scheme ensures collateral-free, guarantor-free loans for students enrolling in top 860 Quality Higher Education Institutions (QHEIs) across India, covering tuition fees and other educational expenses. With an outlay of ₹3,600 crore, this scheme targets to benefit 22 lakh students annually, empowering them to pursue their academic dreams without financial barriers.

## Summits & Conference News

### ILO's 352nd Governing Body Meeting Kicks Off in Geneva

The 352nd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) is currently taking place in Geneva. This important gathering began on October 28 and will run until November 7, bringing together representatives from member countries to discuss key labor issues and strategies for improving working conditions globally.

### India Secures ISA Presidency Again, Ashish Khanna New Director General

India and France have been re-elected as the president and co-president of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), respectively, at the seventh ISA assembly held in New Delhi. During the inaugural day of the assembly, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi announced that India would continue to hold the presidency until 2026.

### India Hosts Maiden Asian Buddhist Summit to Strengthen Asia's Spiritual Development

India is hosting the first-ever Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS) in New Delhi from November 5 to 6, 2024, under the theme, "Role of Buddha Dharma in Strengthening Asia." This event, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), celebrates the deep-rooted Buddhist heritage in India and underscores its role in promoting peace and unity across Asia.

### Indian Navy Hosts 3rd Mahasagar Summit on Maritime Security

The Indian Navy successfully conducted the third edition of the Mahasagar summit, continuing its flagship outreach initiative for maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Held virtually under the theme, "Training Cooperation to Mitigate Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR," the summit brought together senior leaders from 10 countries to discuss collaborative efforts to tackle shared maritime threats.

**Amit Shah Chairs 32nd Kendriya Hindi Samiti Meeting in New Delhi**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, chaired the 32nd meeting of the 'Kendriya Hindi Samiti' in New Delhi. The Kendriya Hindi Samiti is the apex body responsible for providing guidelines for the development and promotion of the Hindi language across the country.

**Awards & Honors News****Anil Pradhan Honored with Rohini Nayyar Prize**

Anil Pradhan has been awarded the prestigious Rohini Nayyar Prize for 2024, recognizing his impactful contributions to rural development in India. Known for his dedication to empowering rural communities, Pradhan's work has brought positive change and opportunities to underserved areas.

**Important Dates News****Celebrating 50 Years Coal India's Foundation Day**

Coal India Limited (CIL) celebrated its 50th Foundation Day on 1st November, marking a significant milestone as it entered its golden jubilee year. The day began with a respectful tribute at the Coal Martyrs' Memorial, where CIL's Chairman PM Prasad, along with Functional Directors and the Chief Vigilance Officer, honored the contributions and sacrifices of coal industry workers throughout the decades.

**International Day for the Prevention of Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict**

The United Nations observes the International Day for the Prevention of Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict each year on November 6 to raise awareness and encourage global efforts to protect the environment in times of conflict. This day sheds light on the often-overlooked environmental impacts of armed conflict and underscores the importance of environmental protection as part of peacebuilding efforts.

**World Radiology Day 2024: Date, Theme, History And Significance**

World Radiology Day, celebrated every year on November 8, honours the contributions of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen, the German physicist who discovered X-rays in 1895. This monumental discovery has since revolutionized medical diagnosis and treatment by providing non-invasive ways to see inside the human body. Observing this day serves as a reminder of the importance of radiology in modern healthcare, recognizing the dedication of radiographers, and promoting a greater understanding of X-ray therapy in patient care.

**National Cancer Awareness Day 2024, Date, Significance, and History**

National Cancer Awareness Day is observed annually on November 7 in India, a day dedicated to increasing awareness about cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment. Since its inception in 2014, this observance has aimed to educate the public on how to prevent and manage cancer—a disease that continues to affect millions of lives across the country. The day also pays homage to the renowned Polish-French scientist Marie Curie, whose work in discovering radioactive elements laid the foundation for radiation therapy, a critical tool in modern cancer treatment.

**Sports News****Indian Boxers Shine at U-19 World Boxing Championships with 17 Medals**

Parthavi Grewal, Vanshika Goswami, and Hemant Sangwan showcased their exceptional talent by securing gold medals as Indian boxers made a remarkable impact at the inaugural U19 World Championships organized by World Boxing in Colorado, USA. The Indian contingent delivered an impressive performance, culminating in a total of 17 medals.

**India Submits Formal Bid for 2036 Olympics**

India has officially submitted a Letter of Intent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for the 2036 Olympic and Paralympic Games, marking a significant step in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of hosting the prestigious event. The bid was submitted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on October 1, 2023, as part of the ongoing effort to elevate India's global sporting profile. This would be the first time India hosts the Olympics, fulfilling a dream long cherished by its citizens.

**Jangra Seizes WBF World Championship Title**

Indian professional boxer Mandeep Jangra claimed the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in an intense match in the Cayman Islands. The 31-year-old, who trains under former Olympic silver medallist Roy Jones Jr, dominated most rounds and secured a significant victory, marking only one defeat in his professional career so far.

**Max Verstappen's Triumph at Brazil Grand Prix 2024**

Max Verstappen's phenomenal win at the Brazil Grand Prix has left the Formula 1 world in awe. Despite starting in 17th place, Verstappen stormed to victory under challenging rain-soaked conditions at Sao Paulo's Interlagos circuit. His remarkable drive, skill, and resilience not only impressed fans but also earned admiration from Formula 1's multiple world champions, including Lewis Hamilton and Fernando Alonso. This victory

inches Verstappen closer to his fourth straight world championship, placing him among the greatest drivers in F1 history.

### Arjun Erigaisi's Climb Continues Now World's Second Best in Chess Ratings

Arjun Erigaisi made a significant leap in the chess world by securing the world No. 2 spot in live ratings on 7th November. His victory over Alexey Sarana in Round 3 of the Chennai Grand Masters tournament boosted his live rating to 2805.8, propelling him past both USA's Fabiano Caruana, who stands at 2805.0, and American Grandmaster Hikaru Nakamura at 2802.0.

### Zverev Triumphs at Paris Masters, Securing 2024 Title

Alexander Zverev, the German tennis star from Hamburg, claimed his second Masters 1000 title of 2024 with a decisive 6-2, 6-2 victory over France's Ugo Humbert in the Paris Masters final. This impressive win not only underscores Zverev's dominant form on the indoor hard courts but also propels him past Spain's Carlos Alcaraz into the ATP world's No. 2 ranking, further cementing his status as one of the top players this season.

### 3 Year Old Anish Chooses GothamChess Over Peppa Pig, Scores Big

Three-year-old Anish Sarkar from Kolkata, India, is defying expectations with his passion for chess, setting aside typical toddler favorites like Peppa Pig and Baby Shark for chess idols like International Master Levy Rozman and Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen. Anish has become the world's youngest-rated player, achieving an impressive initial FIDE rating of 1555.

## Obituaries News

### Legendary Folk Singer Sharda Sinha Passes Away at 72

Legendary folk singer, Sharda Sinha, known fondly as the "Bihar Kokila" (Nightingale of Bihar) has passed away at age 72 due to complications from cancer. Sinha's voice brought joy and pride to countless people, especially those who celebrated the traditional festivals of Bihar. Her songs, full of warmth and authenticity, made her a beloved figure in Indian folk music.

## Defence News

### India-Vietnam Joint Military Exercise Begins in Ambala

The 5th edition of the Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise, "VINBAX 2024," began on Monday at Ambala. Scheduled from November 4 to 23, the exercise will take place at both Ambala and Chandimandir, aiming to strengthen military cooperation and interoperability between the two nations.

### Indian Military Heritage Festival 2024: A Tribute to India's Military Legacy

The 2nd edition of the Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) is set to begin on November 8, 2024, in New Delhi. The two-day event, backed by the Ministry of Defence and several esteemed institutions, aims to bring together global and Indian think tanks, academicians, corporations, and military experts to discuss topics related to India's national security, foreign policy, and military heritage.

### India Begins 'Poorvi Prahaar' Tri-Services Drill After China Disengagement

India has launched a significant tri-services military exercise, 'Poorvi Prahaar,' beginning November 8, aimed at strengthening military readiness across the eastern front. This 10-day exercise follows the recent disengagement between Indian and Chinese troops at key friction points in eastern Ladakh, including Depsang and Demchok, and underscores India's commitment to enhanced defense capabilities.

## Books & Authors News

### A Book Title "Friends – India's Closest Strategic Partners" by Prof. Sreeram Chaulia

Prof. Sreeram Chaulia's latest book, Friends – India's Closest Strategic Partners, dives into the intricate world of India's foreign relations, offering a unique perspective on India's closest allies and strategic partners. The book sheds light on how India is positioning itself globally as a "Vishwa Mitra," or "World Friend," a philosophy centred on cultivating goodwill and cooperation with other nations.

### Ramachandra Guha Latest Book, Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism

Renowned historian and public intellectual Ramachandra Guha is widely celebrated for his profound insights into Indian history and society, especially as the biographer of Mahatma Gandhi. However, his contributions extend well beyond biography and history; he is a pioneering figure in Indian environmentalism. His latest book, Speaking with Nature: The Origins of Indian Environmentalism, is a testament to his commitment to exploring India's unique ecological heritage. In this work, Guha challenges traditional Western perspectives on environmentalism and highlights India's deep-rooted environmental consciousness, which has evolved in response to socio-economic and cultural necessities.



**Miscellaneous News****Collins Dictionary Names "Brat" 2024 Word of the Year**

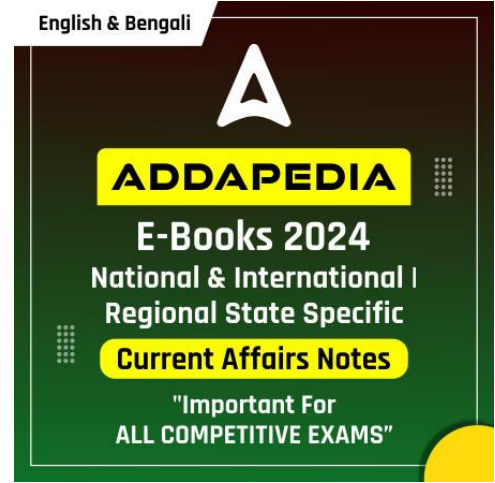
In a reflection of evolving social attitudes and pop culture influences, Collins Dictionary announced "brat" as its Word of the Year for 2024. The word, redefined by British singer Charli XCX and popularized through her album of the same name, has come to represent a "confident, independent, and hedonistic attitude." Originally used to describe a misbehaving child, "brat" now embodies a culturally resonant spirit of self-expression and rebellion that resonates globally, with notable support from US presidential candidate Kamala Harris.

**4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament Inaugurated in Ladakh**

Brigadier (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd), the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, inaugurated the much-awaited 4th LG Cup Horse Polo-2024 Tournament at the newly constructed Polo Stadium at Goshan, Drass. This event, organized by the Department of Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, marked a significant milestone for the region as it showcased not only the traditional sport of horse polo but also the growing emphasis on youth development and sports infrastructure in Ladakh.

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