

**Weekly Current Affairs-11th To 16th November 2024 English****National News****Sitharaman Launches MSME Outreach, Expands SIDBI in Karnataka**

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, launched the National MSME Cluster Outreach Programme in Bengaluru, jointly organized by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Key officials, including Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister for MSMEs (virtually from Gaya, Bihar), and other dignitaries were present. The programme linked around 150 MSME clusters virtually, emphasizing access to financial services and boosting MSME growth nationwide.

**Kartarpur Sahib Corridor Celebrates 5 Years of Religious Connectivity**

The Kartarpur Sahib Corridor, connecting India and Pakistan, marks its fifth anniversary today. The corridor leads to the Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan, where Guru Nanak Dev Ji spent the last 18 years of his life. The corridor was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 9, 2019, during the 550th Prakash Purb of Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Over the past five years, more than 3.4 lakh devotees have visited the site. The corridor is a significant step in religious diplomacy, allowing pilgrims from India to visit this sacred site without a visa. As of today, 417 pilgrims have traveled, the highest this year.

**Justice DY Chandrachud Retires, Leaves Enduring Legacy in Judiciary**

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud concluded his tenure as the 50th Chief Justice of India on Sunday, after two years marked by groundbreaking rulings and significant reforms. His leadership has left a lasting impact on the Indian judiciary, shaping its future with transformative decisions and a focus on judicial independence, transparency, and accessibility.

**Hindalco Tops Global Sustainability Rankings for 5th Year**

Hindalco Industries Ltd., the metals arm of the Aditya Birla Group, has secured the top position as the world's most sustainable aluminium company for the fifth consecutive year, according to the 2024 S&P Global Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings. The company earned a total score of 87 points, improving by 9 points from 2023, and surpassed its closest competitor by 22 points. Hindalco's consistent efforts to raise its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards have played a pivotal role in this achievement.

**MHA Greenlights CISF's First All-Women Unit**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has approved the creation of the Central Industrial Security Force's (CISF) first-ever all-women battalion, announced on 12th November, 2024. This historic move aims to promote gender equality and inspire more women to contribute to the CISF's mission of securing the nation's strategic assets.

**Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir Opens in Silvassa, Inaugurated by President**

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir school at Zanda Chowk in Silvassa on 13th November. During her visit, she enjoyed lighthearted interactions with the students, joining them in games and reciting poems together.

**Govt Invests in 12 Projects Under National Technical Textiles Mission**

The government approved 12 research projects worth ₹13.3 crore on 12th November, under the National Technical Textiles Mission. This decision was made by the 10th Mission Steering Group, led by Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh.

**Clean Ganga Mission Introduces Dolphin Ambulance**

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is spearheading several important initiatives under the Clean Ganga Mission, focusing on the preservation of the Ganga's biodiversity, particularly endangered species like the Ganga Dolphin. These efforts are part of a larger vision to restore the ecological balance of the river while protecting the flora and fauna that depend on it. One of the key initiatives in this mission is the launch of a special Dolphin Ambulance to aid in the rescue of injured Ganga Dolphins, a species vital to the river's ecosystem.

**First Bodoland Mohotsov to Be Inaugurated by PM in Delhi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first-ever Bodoland Mohotsov on 15th November at 6:30 PM at the SAI Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi. The two-day festival, which will be held on 15th and 16th November, will celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the Bodoland region. The Prime Minister will also address the gathering during the inauguration.

**Sabarimala Pilgrimage Gets Dedicated Weather Service from IMD**

For the first time, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has introduced a localized weather forecasting system for the Sabarimala pilgrimage, similar to those used for the Amarnath and Char Dham yatras. The IMD announced the installation of three rain gauges at key locations Sannidhanam, Pamba, and Nilakkal.

**PM Modi to Unveil Projects on Birsa Munda's Birth Anniversary in Bihar**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bihar on Friday to attend a function marking the 150th birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a revered freedom fighter known as "bhagwan" by tribal communities of the Chhota Nagpur plateau. Modi will travel to a remote village in Jamui district, approximately 200 km from the state capital, to celebrate "Janjatiya Gaurav Divas".

**External Affairs Minister Inaugurates Symbiosis Dubai Campus**

On the occasion of the inauguration of Symbiosis International University's first international campus at Dubai Knowledge Park, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and UAE Minister Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan highlighted the significance of the event for both nations, particularly in terms of education and bilateral relations.

**PM Modi Inaugurates 1st Bodoland Mohotsav, Celebrating Peace and Progress**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-ever Bodoland Mohotsav in Delhi, a two-day event celebrating the language, literature, and culture of the Bodo community. The event underscores the significant progress achieved after the Bodo Peace Accord in 2020, marking the end of decades of conflict and violence. The festival aims to foster unity, promote the Bodo culture, and highlight the region's development under the current government's leadership.

**International News****Rare H5 Bird Flu Case Found in Canadian Patient in B.C, Canada**

Canada has reported its first-ever presumptive human case of H5 bird flu, with British Columbia confirming the diagnosis. A teenager tested positive for avian influenza caused by the H5 influenza virus, marking a significant development in the country's efforts to monitor and manage the spread of avian diseases. The case was disclosed through an official statement on the province's website, with health authorities calling it a rare event.

**Li Quanhai Re-Elected as World Sailing President for Second Term**

At the World Sailing General Assembly held in Singapore on November 9, Li Quanhai was re-elected as president for a new four-year term. The only Chinese president of an Olympic International Federation, Li's re-election marks a significant achievement for both him and the sport. He received 55 votes, securing a decisive victory over his competitors, Rodion Luka (UKR) with 2 votes and Philippe Rogge (BEL) with 29 votes. Li's leadership has been central to the growth and stability of World Sailing in recent years, and his continued role signals the future direction of the sport globally.

**Canada Cancels SDS Visa Program Ended for India and 13 Other Countries**

The Government of Canada has officially announced the termination of its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program, which was widely popular among Indian students for expedited processing of study permits. Effective immediately, students from India and 13 other countries who previously benefited from faster application handling through the SDS will now have to apply through the regular study permit system.

**Leadership Shift: Ramgoolam Set to become New PM of Mauritius**

In a significant political shift, Mauritius' opposition appears poised for victory in the recent legislative elections, as Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth conceded defeat on 11th November. Opposition leader Dr. Navin Ramgoolam is expected to assume the role of prime minister for the third time, leading his Alliance of Change coalition.

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

Businessman Alix Didier Fils-Aime has been sworn in as Haiti's new prime minister, vowing to address the country's critical security issues and restore stability. His predecessor, Garry Conille, was ousted just five months into office following a power struggle with Haiti's transitional council over ministerial appointments.

**Trump Picks Elise Stefanik as U.N. Ambassador**

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik to serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, marking his first Cabinet pick for his second term. Stefanik, a staunch defender of Israel and a key Trump ally, has been a prominent voice in Congress, especially on foreign policy and security issues. At 40, Stefanik's career has been marked by her vocal support for Trump and her leadership role within the GOP, making her an influential figure in both domestic and international politics.

**Dominica to Award Its Highest National Honour to PM Modi**

The Commonwealth of Dominica has announced that it will award Prime Minister Narendra Modi its highest national honour, the Dominica Award of Honour, in recognition of his significant contributions to the island nation, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. This prestigious award will be presented to the Indian Prime Minister by Sylvanie Burton, the President of the Commonwealth of Dominica, during the upcoming India-CARICOM Summit in Georgetown, Guyana. The summit is set to take place next week, and the award ceremony will be one of the key highlights of the event.

**Australia Appoints First Anti-Slavery Commissioner to Combat Modern Slavery**

In a landmark move, Australia has appointed its first Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Chris Evans, who will serve a five-year term starting in December 2024. The position is designed to strengthen efforts across the government, business, and society to combat modern slavery, which includes human trafficking, forced labour, and deceptive recruiting. The move is in line with the Albanese Government's commitment to address modern slavery, with a focus on victim support, raising awareness, and improving business accountability in supply chains.

**China Unveils Megaport in Peru, but Locals Feel Left Behind**

China's \$1.3 billion megaport in Chancay, Peru, majority-owned by Chinese shipping giant Cosco, promises to connect South America to Asia and boost regional trade. However, locals in this coastal desert village, where many live without basic services, express dissatisfaction, claiming the port harms their livelihoods and brings no tangible benefits. While the government envisions significant economic growth, the residents of Chancay, particularly the fishermen, see the project as a threat to their resources and environment.

**Tropical Storm Sara Hits Honduras, Threatens Floods in Central America and Mexico**

Tropical Storm Sara made landfall in northern Honduras late Thursday, bringing heavy rain and the threat of life-threatening flooding to parts of Central America and southern Mexico. The storm hit near Brus Laguna, Honduras, and is expected to continue its path west, impacting Belize and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Forecasts predict up to 30 inches of rain in some areas, with winds of 45 mph (75 km/h) and slow movement at 10 mph (17 km/h).

**Shanghai, Tokyo, New York, and Houston Leading Emitters of Greenhouse Gases**

A new dataset released at the United Nations climate talks reveals that cities in Asia and the United States are the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Shanghai tops the list of polluting cities, followed closely by Tokyo, New York, and Houston. The data, compiled by Climate Trace using advanced observations and artificial intelligence, highlights the urgent need for global action to combat climate change.

**From Congress to Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard's New Role for National Intelligence**

Former Democratic Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard was appointed as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on November 13. Announcing the decision on Truth Social, Trump praised Gabbard's fearless spirit and commitment to defending constitutional rights and national security.

**State News****Igas Bagwal: Celebrating Uttarakhand's Vibrant Folk Heritage**

Uttarakhand, a state rich in culture and tradition, observes a unique festival known as Igas Bagwal. This festival, also called Budhi Diwali or Harbodhni Ekadashi, is celebrated in the mountainous regions with reverence and joy, precisely 11 days after Diwali. Rooted in local customs, Igas Bagwal represents the essence of Uttarakhand's folk heritage, uniting communities through shared festivities and traditional practices. This article delves into the significance, customs, and cultural essence of Igas Bagwal, offering insight into one of the most treasured festivals in Uttarakhand. This year this festival starts from 12 November.

**Which States Launched Double-Decker Electric Buses?**

As cities work to reduce pollution and ease traffic, using electric vehicles like buses is becoming more important. Several Indian states are now leading the way by starting double-decker electric bus services, a big step towards eco-friendly public transportation. These buses not only reduce pollution but also carry more passengers, helping make public transport both efficient and sustainable. The launch of double-decker electric buses by states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka sets an inspiring example for other regions. By investing in electric public transport, these states are not only leading in innovation but are also making strides towards a cleaner and greener India. The success of these programs may soon inspire other cities to follow suit, moving India closer to a sustainable urban transport ecosystem.

**Delhi's New Mayor AAP's Mahesh Kumar Khichi**

Mahesh Kumar Khichi, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate, emerged victorious in the Delhi mayoral polls. Khichi secured 133 votes, defeating BJP's Kishan Lal, the councilor from Shakurpur ward, by a narrow margin of three votes. This marks the conclusion of the long-delayed election for the Delhi mayor's office.

**Economy News****Supreme Court Overturns 1967 Ruling on AMU's Minority Status**

In a historic 4-3 decision on November 8, 2024, the Supreme Court overturned its 1967 ruling in the Azeez Basha case, which had denied Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) minority institution status. This landmark judgment paves the way for AMU's minority status to be reassessed based on its historical, administrative, and founding context, under the protective framework of Article 30 of the Indian Constitution. While AMU's status remains undecided, the verdict has crucial implications for how educational institutions are recognized under constitutional provisions.

**5th National EMRS Fest Celebrates Tribal Heritage & Birsa Munda's Legacy**

The 5th National EMRS Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav, organized by the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS), is taking place from 12th to 15th November 2024 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, at Shiksha 'O' Anusandhan.

This event, hosted by the Odisha Model Tribal Educational Society (OMTES), marks a significant moment in honoring the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. With the theme "A Tribute to Bhagwan Birsa Munda & Tribal Freedom Fighters," this event underscores the deep connection between India's tribal communities, their culture, and their history.

**55th International Film Festival of India: A Celebration of Global Cinema in Goa**

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is set to begin its 55th edition in Panaji, Goa. This annual event, which has become synonymous with cinematic excellence, is once again transforming Goa into a lively hub of global culture, talent, and cinema. For film enthusiasts, industry leaders, and aspiring filmmakers, IFFI offers a platform not only to showcase their films but also to experience a unique blend of artistic celebration and cultural exchange.

**Amit Shah Greenlights Rs. 725.62 Crore for Fire Services Expansion**

In a major step towards enhancing disaster resilience, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has approved three significant projects worth Rs. 725.62 crore under the "Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States." These projects, aimed at bolstering fire safety infrastructure, will benefit Chhattisgarh (Rs. 147.76 crore), Odisha (Rs. 201.10 crore), and West Bengal (Rs. 376.76 crore). This approval comes as part of the government's broader effort to strengthen disaster management and response systems in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a disaster-resilient India.

**Deposit Growth Matches Credit Amid Lending Slowdown**

In the fortnight ending November 1, 2024, deposit growth nearly matched credit growth, with credit increasing by 11.9% and deposits growing by 11.83% year-on-year (Y-o-Y), according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This alignment comes after a period where credit growth consistently outpaced deposit growth since March 2022, driven by a significant widening gap that reached as high as 700 basis points. The shift reflects the impact of RBI's regulatory measures and the moderation of credit growth, especially in sectors like unsecured loans and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

**Rankings & Reports News****India's Historic Rise: Ranked 6th Globally in WIPO Patent Filings 2023**

India has made remarkable progress in intellectual property (IP) filings, securing 6th place globally for the first time in 2023, according to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Global Patent Filing Report. This achievement reflects a robust growth of 15.7% in patent filings, marking the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth in India. With more than 64,480 patents filed in 2023, India's contributions are now among the top 10 nations globally across major IP rights, including patents, trademarks, and industrial designs.

**London Leads Global City Brands Rankings Again**

London has topped the list of the world's top 100 "city brands" for the second consecutive year, according to Brand Finance's Global City Index. The ranking, released on Thursday, was based on a survey of 15,000 people across 20 countries, including Türkiye, the US, Germany, Australia, the UAE, Brazil, China, and others.

**Business News****Tata Power Invests Rs 550 Crore in Renewable Energy for Noida International Airport**

Tata Power has partnered with Noida International Airport (NIA) to supply renewable energy, investing Rs 550 crore in solar and wind power capacity development. This strategic move is part of Tata Power's commitment to building sustainable infrastructure in India's aviation sector. The collaboration will see the development of a 13 MW solar power facility and 10.8 MW of wind energy, powering NIA's operations and contributing to the airport's long-term sustainability goals.

**ADB Approves \$200 Million Loan for Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project**

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to enhance the urban infrastructure and climate resilience of Uttarakhand under the Uttarakhand Livability Improvement Project. This initiative aligns with both the Government of India's urban development agenda and the state's efforts to provide sustainable and livable urban spaces. The project will upgrade essential urban services, including water supply, sanitation, drainage, flood management, and urban mobility, in five cities of Uttarakhand—Haldwani, Champawat, Kichha, Kotdwar, and Vikasnagar.

**\$8.5B Disney-Reliance Merger Completed for Indian Assets**

Reliance Industries and Walt Disney have finalized an \$8.5 billion merger of their Indian media assets, concluded on 14th

November. The merged assets have been reorganized into three distinct divisions, each led by its own CEO, marking a new era for the two media giants in India.

## Agreement News

### India, BIMSTEC Sign Deal for Energy Hub in Bengaluru

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced the signing of an agreement to establish the BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka. MEA Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumder and BIMSTEC Secretary General Indramani Pandey formalized the agreement, aiming to foster greater energy cooperation among BIMSTEC member states.

### Russia's Pantsir System A Strategic Addition to India's Defence Arsenal

India and Russia have reached a significant agreement to jointly manufacture the Pantsir air defence missile-gun system, marking a major step in supporting India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the defence sector. The agreement was formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India's Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) and Russia's Rosoboronexport (ROE).

## Appointment News

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

On November 11, 2024, Justice Sanjiv Khanna was sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India, succeeding Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, whose tenure ended on November 10, 2024. Justice Khanna's appointment follows the recommendation of Justice Chandrachud and is officially notified by the Centre on October 24. He will serve a six-month term until May 13, 2025, bringing a legacy of landmark judgments into his new role.

### Sonu Sood Appointed as Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand

Sonu Sood, the celebrated actor, humanitarian, and philanthropist, has taken on an exciting new role as the Brand Ambassador and Honorary Tourism Advisor for Thailand. Widely recognized for his philanthropy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, this appointment adds another feather to his cap, expanding his global reach and impact. This collaboration between Sonu Sood and Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports marks an important step in promoting Thailand as a tourism destination in India.

### NEHHDC Announces Mara Kocho as Incoming Managing Director

Mara Kocho has been recommended as the next Managing Director (MD) of the North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms

Development Corporation Limited (NEHHDC), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). His appointment was approved by the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) panel on 11th November, 2024.

### Indian Oil Welcomes Arvind Singh Sahney as New Chairman

Arvind Singh Sahney has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, as per an order from the petroleum ministry on 13th November. Sahney, 54, currently serves as the Executive Director of Business Development in the Petrochemicals division at IOC.

### Professional Golf Tour of India Welcomes Amandeep Johl as CEO

The Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) announced that Amandeep Johl will take over as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) starting January 2025. A well-respected figure in Indian golf, Johl brings a wealth of experience to his leadership role.

## Banking News

### RBI's New Framework for Converting FPI Holdings to FDI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a new framework that allows Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to convert their investments into Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) if their holdings exceed the 10% equity threshold in Indian companies. This move is designed to streamline the process, making it easier for FPIs to align with FDI guidelines, provided they have the necessary government and company approvals. The new rules, effective from November 11, 2024, offer FPIs the option to reclassify excess shares within five trading days, ensuring compliance with the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) and sectoral FDI caps.

### SBI Seeks \$1.25 Billion in 2024's Largest Dollar-Denominated Loan

State Bank of India (SBI) is aiming to secure a \$1.25 billion five-year loan, which would be the largest dollar-denominated loan from India's financial sector in 2024. The loan, arranged by CTBC Bank, HSBC, and Taipei Fubon Bank, will be used for general corporate purposes. SBI's move follows a trend of increasing foreign currency borrowing by Indian financial institutions, particularly non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), due to stricter domestic regulations. Despite the rising demand, India's total dollar-denominated loan volume has decreased by 27% this year.

## Science &amp; Technology News

**New Fire-Resilient, Dual-Blooming Plant Species Discovered in Western Ghats**

In a groundbreaking discovery, scientists have identified a new fire-resilient species of Dicliptera in the Northern Western Ghats of India, named Dicliptera polymorpha. This new species is notable for its ability to thrive in harsh, fire-prone grasslands and its rare dual-blooming behavior, making it a significant addition to the biodiversity of the region. The discovery was made by a team from the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, led by Dr. Mandar Datar, with the support of local botanist Aditya Dharap and Ph.D. student Bhushan Shigwan. The species was found in Talegaon-Dabhade, an area known for its grasslands and fodder markets.

**IIT Madras, ISRO Collaborate on Spacecraft Thermal Research Centre**

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is teaming up with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to create a Centre of Excellence focused on research in 'Fluid and Thermal Sciences'. ISRO will provide seed funding of Rs 1.84 Crore to establish this center, which aims to advance research in these critical areas for space exploration.

## Schemes and Committees News

**Finance Minister Launches Union Bank's Nari Shakti Branches to Empower Women Entrepreneurs**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated five specialized "Nari Shakti" branches of Union Bank of India in Bengaluru, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Jaipur. These branches aim to boost financial inclusion and support for women entrepreneurs, especially in the manufacturing and service sectors. By launching these branches, the government and Union Bank emphasize empowering women through accessible finance, skills training, and advisory services, strengthening India's goal of gender-focused economic growth.

## Summits &amp; Conference News

**COP29: The Crucial Climate Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan**

The 29th UN Climate Summit, COP29, kicked off in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 11, 2024, with discussions set to focus on vital climate finance mechanisms, particularly the new "New Collective Quantified Goal" (NCQG). The summit, running until November 22, aims to address urgent global climate issues and secure financial commitments to assist developing nations in combating the devastating effects of climate change, caused largely by greenhouse gas emissions. COP29 has been dubbed the "Finance COP" due to its central focus on financial strategies, including a push for greater funding commitments and the role of the private sector in driving climate action.

## Awards &amp; Honors News

**Kunal Dalal Honored at Education World India School Rankings 2024**

Kunal Dalal, Managing Director of JBCN Education, was recently honored as the Education Leader of the Year at the Education World India School Ranking Awards 2024-2025 held in Gurgaon. This prestigious recognition celebrates his visionary leadership and dedication to building a progressive network of international schools.

**Veteran Filmmaker Phillip Noyce Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award**

Veteran Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce, renowned for his acclaimed works such as Clear and Present Danger, Salt, and Rabbit-Proof Fence, will be honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). The festival, which will be held in Goa from November 20-28, 2024, has Australia as its Country of Focus this year.

**British Writer Samantha Harvey Wins Booker Prize for Fiction with "Orbital"**

British author Samantha Harvey has won the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction for her novel "Orbital," a thought-provoking and imaginative exploration set in the unique setting of the International Space Station (ISS). The novel, which Harvey refers to as a "space pastoral," delves into the fragility of Earth and the profound connection humans have with their planet, using the perspective of astronauts in orbit.

**Manoj Bajpayee's 'The Fable' Triumphs at Leeds International Film Festival**

Manoj Bajpayee's critically acclaimed film The Fable has won the Best Film award at the 38th Leeds International Film Festival, adding to its growing recognition on the global stage. The film, directed by Raam Reddy, clinched the award in the Constellation Feature Film Competition, which honors groundbreaking cinema worldwide. This triumph is a significant achievement for both Indian and international film industries, with The Fable gaining widespread acclaim for its unique storytelling and portrayal of magical realism.

**Hyderabad Airport Earns Global Recognition for Digital Innovations**

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) has received global recognition at the prestigious 'Airport Excellence Awards' during the Saudi Airport Exhibition 2024, held on November 12 at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center. This marks a significant milestone in the airport's journey toward leveraging advanced technology to enhance airport operations and passenger experiences.

## Important Dates News

### National Education Day 2024: Honouring Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Every year on November 11, India observes National Education Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India. This day emphasizes the importance of education in shaping the nation's future and serves as a reminder of Azad's vision for an educated and empowered India. With a significant portion of India's population under the age of 35, the importance of quality education and skill development has never been more critical.

### World Pneumonia Day 2024: Theme, History, Significance, and Prevention Tips

World Pneumonia Day, observed each year on November 12, is dedicated to raising awareness about pneumonia, a potentially life-threatening yet preventable and treatable respiratory illness. The day brings global attention to pneumonia's impact, particularly among children under five and the elderly, who are most vulnerable. Through a coordinated effort by health organizations, governments, and communities, the observance highlights preventive methods, promotes better treatment options, and seeks to lower the mortality rate linked to this disease. Here's a detailed look at the theme, history, significance, and practical preventive measures to help combat pneumonia.

### Children's Day 2024: Date, History, and Significance in India

Every year, on November 14, India celebrates Children's Day, also known as Bal Diwas, to honor and uplift its young citizens. This significant day also marks the birth anniversary of India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, affectionately called "Chacha Nehru" for his deep admiration and love for children. Nehru's vision of children as the nation's future is commemorated on this day as a commitment to nurturing India's youth.

### Birsa Munda Jayanti 2024, Know Everything About It

Birsa Munda Jayanti, also known as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas or Tribal Pride Day, is celebrated on November 15th every year. This day marks the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a brave tribal leader and freedom fighter. He is remembered for leading the Ulgulan movement against British rule and fighting for the rights of tribal people in India.

### Jharkhand Foundation Day 2024

Jharkhand Foundation Day is celebrated on November 15th each year. This day marks the formation of Jharkhand as the 28th state of India in the year 2000. Before becoming a separate state, Jharkhand was part of South Bihar. November 15th is also special as it is the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a respected tribal leader and freedom fighter.

### Guru Nanak Jayanti 2024, Know Date, Time, History and Significance

Guru Nanak Jayanti, also called Gurbpurab or Guru Nanak Prakash Utsav, is an important festival for Sikhs. It celebrates the birth of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, the first Sikh guru, who taught unity, equality, and selfless service. In 2024, this special day will be marked with great respect and joy on November 15, which will be Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 555th birth anniversary.

### National Press Day Observed Every Year On November 16

National Press Day is observed every year on November 16 to commemorate the establishment of the Press Council of India (PCI) in 1966. This day serves as a reminder of the indispensable role of a free press in a vibrant democracy like India and highlights the importance of ethical journalism. In addition to celebrating the press's role, National Press Day also serves as an occasion to acknowledge the challenges faced by media professionals and to emphasize the significance of safeguarding press freedom in the country.

## Sports News

### FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024: Harmanpreet Singh and PR Sreejesh Shine

The FIH Hockey Star Awards 2024 ceremony, which took place on November 8, 2024, in Muscat, Oman, celebrated the top performers in international hockey. Indian hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh was named the Men's Player of the Year, while legendary goalkeeper PR Sreejesh was awarded the Men's Goalkeeper of the Year. The awards are determined by a voting process that includes national team captains, coaches, experts, and fans, as well as media representation.

### Tayyab Ikram Re-elected FIH President: A Triumph for Pakistan's Hockey

Tayyab Ikram has been re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for a second consecutive term, a significant achievement for Pakistan's hockey. At the 49th FIH Congress in Muscat, Oman, Ikram secured 79 votes out of 126, surpassing his competitor, Marc Coudron of Belgium, who received 47 votes. His re-election not only signifies personal recognition but also reinforces Pakistan's growing influence in global hockey.

### PM Hails Pankaj Advani's Success as World Billiards Champion 2024

Pankaj Advani, the veteran Indian cueist, has once again showcased his mastery in the sport by securing his 28th world title. At the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Doha on November 9, 2024, he triumphed over England's Robert Hall 4-2, marking his seventh consecutive World Billiards Championship win.

**Aravindh Chithambaram Clinches Masters Title at Chennai Grandmasters 2024**

GM Aravindh Chithambaram made a remarkable late surge in the final rounds, winning the last two classical games to secure the Chennai Grand Masters 2024 title. Meanwhile, GM V Pranav remained unbeaten throughout the tournament to claim the Challengers title at the Anna Centenary Library on 11th November, 2024.

**Tim Southee to Bid Farewell to Cricket After World Test Championship**

Tim Southee, New Zealand's all-time leading wicket-taker, has announced his decision to retire from international cricket after the completion of the current ICC World Test Championship campaign. The 35-year-old former Test captain will retire following the Black Caps' upcoming home series against England, marking the end of an illustrious Test career that has spanned almost two decades.

**'Know Your Medicine' App Launched to Promote Clean Sports**

Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, has launched a nationwide call to action to strengthen the fight against doping in sports, urging athletes, coaches, and the entire sporting community to adopt the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India's 'Know Your Medicine (KYM)' app.

**Indian Tennis Star Prajnesh Gunneswaran Announces Retirement**

Prajnesh Gunneswaran, the Indian tennis star who won a bronze medal in singles at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, announced his retirement from professional tennis. The 35-year-old Chennai-born player reflected on his career, expressing gratitude for the journey and the lessons learned along the way. Known for his resilience and achievements, Gunneswaran made significant contributions to Indian tennis.

**Obituaries News****H S Sodhi, Celebrated Polo Player, Dies at 86**

Harinder Singh Sodhi, fondly known as 'Billy,' a celebrated figure in Indian polo, passed away at the age of 86 due to age-related ailments. Renowned for his skill and dedication to the sport, Sodhi reached a rare and highly respected handicap of plus-five at the height of his career, marking him as one of the sport's true stalwarts in India. His legacy in Indian polo is remembered with admiration and respect.

**Revolutionary Sarangi Virtuoso Pandit Ram Narayan Passes Away at 96**

The world of Indian classical music mourns the loss of Pandit Ram Narayan, a revolutionary sarangi virtuoso who passed

away on November 8, 2024, at his residence in Bandra, Mumbai. He was 96 years old. Renowned for his instrumental mastery and dedication, he elevated the sarangi from a traditional accompaniment instrument to a celebrated solo act in the Hindustani classical music arena. His legacy is deeply cherished by his family, admirers, and countless music lovers across generations. Through his work, Pandit Ram Narayan inspired a new appreciation and respect for the sarangi and its place in classical music.

**World-Renowned Mridangam Scholar Varadarao Kamalakara Rao Passes Away**

The music world has lost a legendary artist and scholar in Mridangam, Varadarao Kamalakara Rao, who passed away at the age of 88 in Rajahmundry. Renowned for his expertise and innovative approach to Mridangam, Rao dedicated his life to Indian classical music and inspired generations with his unique rhythm and technique. His contributions to Carnatic music, collaborations with celebrated musicians, and the numerous honors he received throughout his life underscore his impact on Indian music.

**Defence News****7th Annual India-Sri Lanka Coast Guard Meet Boosts Regional Maritime Security**

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) held their 7th Annual High-Level Meeting in Colombo on November 11, 2024. The meeting was attended by a four-member ICG delegation, led by Director General S. Paramesh, and a SLCG delegation headed by Director General Rear Admiral YR Serasinghe.

**India Launches First Space Defense Exercise Antariksha Abhyas – 2024**

The Defence Space Agency, under the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, is conducting Antariksha Abhyas – 2024, a groundbreaking three-day exercise from November 11 to 13, 2024. This first-of-its-kind space exercise aims to simulate and address the growing threats to space-based assets and services.

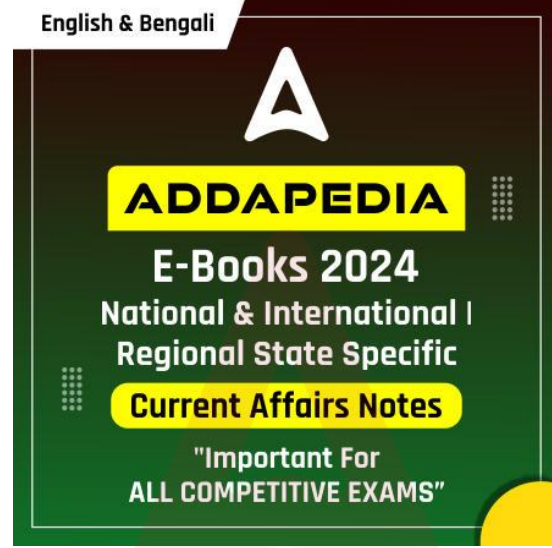
**Successful Flight Trials for DRDO's Pinaka Weapon System**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed a series of flight tests for the Guided Pinaka Weapon System, conducted as part of the Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials. This critical milestone involved three phases of testing across different field firing ranges, demonstrating the system's operational effectiveness, precision, and advanced capabilities.



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