

Daily Current Affairs

13 September 2024

Russia & India

- **National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met with Russian President Vladimir Putin** on the sidelines of the **BRICS National Security Advisers' meeting** in St Petersburg, Russia.
- Russian Embassy in India said, during his meeting with Mr. Doval, President Putin praised the **Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership** between India and Russia and emphasised the crucial role of security issues in bilateral relations.



- **Russia's President proposed to hold a bilateral meeting with PM Narendra Modi** on October 22, on the sidelines of the **BRICS Summit in Kazan**. The meeting will summarise the outcomes of joint work on the implementation of the agreements reached during his visit to Moscow and to outline prospects for the near future.



- **Ministry of External Affairs** said that since Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia, **35 Indian nationals have been released** from the Russian Army. MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that around 50 Indian nationals are still with the Russian Army, and New Delhi is working diligently to secure their release as soon as possible.

Global Bio India 2024

- Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said that India is ushering in an exciting time for a **biotechnology-based bio-revolution**.
- Addressing the **Global Bio-India 2024 at Bharat Mandapam** in New Delhi, Dr. Singh said that a **bio-revolution could have the same impact for India that the IT revolution once had for the Western world**.



- Talking about the Global Bio-India 2024, the Minister said it would serve as a business networking platform for various entities, including ministries, state governments, start-ups, researchers, bio-clusters, investors, international bodies, policymakers, and industry leaders.
- **With over 500 exhibitions from more than 30 countries**, he hopes it will help produce innovative ideas and partnerships.
- The **Global Bio-India 2024 is a major international congregation** of biotechnology stakeholders showcasing India's biotech growth and opportunities to the world.

Report On Future Pandemic Preparedness

- **NITI Aayog released an Expert Group** report titled **“Future Pandemic Preparedness and Emergency Response: A Framework for Action.”**
- The primary focus of the report is to provide a blueprint for the country to prepare for any future public health emergency or pandemic and to have a rapid response system in place.



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- Learning from the experience of COVID-19, NITI Aayog had constituted an expert group to prepare a framework to tackle future pandemics. The expert group has stated that **responding within the first 100 days** of an outbreak is crucial for effective management.
- The group has **provided an action plan that outlines a detailed roadmap** for preparedness and implementation. The report indicates the steps on how the

outbreak can be tracked, tested, treated, and managed through a well-developed framework.

US Backs India's Bid For Permanent UNSC

- **United States** has reaffirmed its support for a **permanent seat for India and endorsed text-based negotiations** to reform the UN Security Council, which has been stalled due to disagreements among a few countries.
- **Linda Thomas-Greenfield**, the US Permanent Representative to the UN, said that the US is ready to work with other nations to draft and refine a resolution for a General Assembly vote and **potentially amend the UN Charter**.



- The **US also reaffirmed its support for permanent Security Council seats** for India, Japan, and Germany. This support comes as India and other nations advocate for the adoption of a negotiating text, which could now gain momentum with US backing.
- The reform process, known as **Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN)**, has been blocked by a few countries opposed to adopting a negotiating text. With the US now backing the process, there is renewed hope for progress.

Flipkart Engaged In Anti Competitive Practices

- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has found that e-commerce giants Amazon and Flipkart engaged in anti-competitive practices by favouring select sellers on their platforms.
- The **CCI's investigation resulted in a 1,027-page report** on Amazon and a separate 1,696-page report on Flipkart, both dated last month.
- The reports concluded that the companies created an ecosystem where preferred sellers were ranked higher in search results, effectively sidelining other sellers.

amazon.in



Flipkart



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- The **two companies are currently reviewing** the reports and will submit their responses to the CCI. Earlier, in 2020, the CCI had ordered an investigation into Amazon and Flipkart for allegedly promoting certain sellers with whom they had business arrangements and giving priority to specific listings.
- **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** is a **statutory body** of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the **Competition Act, 2002**, it was duly constituted in March 2009.
- The **Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969** (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002, on the recommendations of the Raghavan committee.



- The Commission consists of **one Chairperson and six Members** who shall be appointed by the Central Government.
- The commission is a **quasi-judicial body** which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases. The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.
- **Eligibility criteria of members of CCI:**
- The Chairperson and every other Member shall be a person of ability, integrity and standing and who, has been, or is qualified to be a judge of a High Court, or, has special knowledge of, and professional experience of not less than fifteen years in international trade, economics, business, commerce, law, finance, accountancy, management, industry, public affairs, administration or in any other matter which, in the opinion of the Central Government, may be useful to the Commission.

PM E-DRIVE Scheme

- Union Cabinet, chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has approved the **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** Scheme to promote electric mobility in India. The scheme, with an outlay of Rs **10,900 crore** over two years, aims to expedite EV adoption, improve air quality, and reduce the environmental impact of transportation.
- Key Features
- **Subsidies and Incentives:** Rs. 3,679 crore allocated for subsidies to incentivize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and e-buses, supporting over 28 lakh electric vehicles.



- **E-Voucher System:** Aadhaar-authenticated e-vouchers will be generated for buyers, which will be signed and submitted to dealers, enabling OEMs to claim reimbursements.
- **E-Ambulances:** Rs. 500 crore dedicated to the introduction of e-ambulances, ensuring safer, more comfortable patient transport with new safety standards.
- **PM E-DRIVE scheme** is a pivotal step towards reducing pollution, securing fuel resources, and fostering sustainable transportation solutions aligned with India's net-zero 2070 target. The initiative will attract investments, boost the EV ecosystem, and enhance India's leadership in global clean mobility.

Switzerland Crowned As Best Country

- Won In A New Survey Which Is Called "**Best Countries For 2024**" It Is Found That Switzerland Was Crowned As Best Country In World. Switzerland Achieved This Fate In The **Third Year Successively**. This Survey Has Included **89 Countries** For The Results.



- European Countries Making Up **Majority Of Top 25** In Ranking, **Switzerland Is Followed By Japan**, USA, Canada ,Australia. **UAE And Qatar** Were The Only Two Middle-eastern Countries That Got The **17 And 25th Positions** In The Survey. This Year **India Drops Three Positions** With Respect To Last Year To 33.

Singapore Literature Prize

- **Prasanthi Ram** , who was an Indian origin lecturer from the University of Nanyang technological University won the **Singapore literature prize for English fiction** for her **short story -'Nine Yard Sarees'** and it was her debut work which was published at the end of year 2023.



- **Singapore Literature Prize** is a biennial award in Singapore recognise outstanding published works by Singaporean authors in any of **the four official languages**: Chinese, English, Malay and Tamil. The competition is organized by the Singapore Book Council (SBC) with the support of the National Art Council.

Subroto Cup

- In football, **Manipur's T.G. English School clinched the Junior Boys title of the 63rd Subroto Cup International Football Tournament**, defeating Meghalaya's Myngken Christian Higher Secondary School 4-3 via a sudden-death tiebreaker, after both teams were tied 1-1 in regulation time.

- It was the third time in history, first in 44 years, that a team from Manipur lifted the coveted trophy.
- **Subroto Cup is one of the oldest tournaments in Asia.** Steeped in tradition, the tournament aims to promote football at the grassroots level in the country.



SAAC 2024

- In the **South Asian Junior Athletics Championship**, India clinched nine gold medals in Chennai on the second day yesterday.
- **Anisha secured India's first gold** of the day in the women's discus throw with a record-setting distance of 49.91 meters, surpassing the previous meet record of 48.60 meters set by A Bajwa in 2018. **Amanat Kamboj won silver** with a throw of 48.38 meters, while Sri Lanka's JH Gauranganie took bronze with 37.95 meters.



- **Neeru Pahtak earned the ninth gold** for India in the women's 400 meters, clocking 54.50 seconds. **Sandra Mol Sabu claimed silver** with 54.82 seconds, and Sri Lanka's K Takshima Nuhansa won bronze with 55.27 seconds.
- **In the men's 110-meter hurdles**, Sri Lanka's WP Sandun Koshala took gold with a time of 14.06 seconds, edging out India's Nayan Pradip Sarde, who won silver in 14.14 seconds. E Vishwa Tharuka of Sri Lanka secured bronze with 14.27 seconds.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which major Indian bank became the first to join the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Union Bank of India
- C. HDFC Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

ANSWER: B

2. Which Institution Ranked No. 1 Globally For Networking In LinkedIn's Global MBA Ranking 2024

- A. Indian School of Business
- B. IIM Bangalore
- C. IIM Ahmedabad
- D. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade

ANSWER: D

3. Where Was "2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference On Civil Aviation" Held

- A. Kathmandu
- B. New Delhi
- C. Beijing
- D. Tokyo

ANSWER: B

4. Which Government Authority Introduced A Helmet Camera System In North Bengal To Prevent Train Accidents

- A. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India
- B. Indian Railways
- C. Central Electricity Authority of India
- D. National Human Rights Commission of India

ANSWER: B

5. Which Bank Introduced Third Edition Of Its Flagship 'Asha Scholarship Programme'

- A. Axis Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. State Bank of India
- D. HDFC Bank

ANSWER: C

6. PM Of India Inaugurated SEMICON India 2024 At India Expo Mart In Which City

- A. Greater Noida
- B. Bhopal
- C. Jaipur
- D. Gandhinagar

ANSWER: A

7. Which Country Become 101st Member To Join International Solar Alliance

- A. Pakistan
- B. Nepal
- C. Bhutan
- D. Croatia

ANSWER: B

8. Nilgiri Mountain Railway, Is Situated In Which State

- A. Assam
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: D

9. Which Ministry Organized Event 'Greening Steel: Pathway To Sustainability'

- A. Ministry of Steel
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
- D. Ministry of Defence

ANSWER: A

10. Nuakhai Festival, Is Celebrated In Which State

- A. Odisha
- B. Bihar
- C. Haryana
- D. Jharkhand

ANSWER: A

11. What Is "Mikania Micrantha"

- A. New TB vaccine
- B. Synthetic food dye
- C. Invasive weed
- D. Pesticide

ANSWER: C

12. What Is A 'Nebula'

- A. Giant cloud of dust and gas in space
- B. Aircraft carrier
- C. Earth observation satellite
- D. Exoplanet

ANSWER: A

13. Commission For Scientific And Technical Terminology Is Functioning Under Which Ministry

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry of Education
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

ANSWER: B

14. Blockchain Based Project Launched By NPCI

- A. Falcon
- B. Grape
- C. Pay See
- D. Orange

ANSWER: A

15. 'International Big Cat Alliance Was Launched In Which Year

- A. 2019
- B. 2020
- C. 2023
- D. 2024

ANSWER: C

16. Which Organization Released Its First Ever Global Guidance On Antibiotic Pollution

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. World Health Organization
- C. Indian Association for Medical Informatics
- D. European Union

ANSWER: B

17. Mukhyamantri Maiya Samman Yojana Was Launched By Which State

- A. Bihar
- B. Haryana
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: C

18. Where Was "Responsible Use Of Artificial Intelligence In Military Domain" Summit

- A. Paris
- B. Seoul
- C. New Delhi
- D. London

ANSWER: B

19. NASA Confirmed That Saturn's Rings Are Expected To 'Disappear' In Which Year

- A. December 2024
- B. March 2025
- C. April 2026
- D. March 2027

ANSWER: B

20. Tianwen-3 Mission, Is Associated With Which Country

- A. Japan
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. India

ANSWER: B