

# Daily Current Affairs

## 11 November 2024

### QS World University Rankings

- **Seven Indian institutions** have secured a place in the **Top 100 of the QS World University Rankings: Asia 2025**. India is home to two universities in the top 50 and seven in the top 100, with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi** leading at **44th place**.



- In a statement, the Education Ministry said that this edition highlights India's impressive **upward trajectory in higher education** across the continent.
- **IIT Bombay is ranked 48th**, while IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur, and the University of Delhi are the other Indian institutes in the Top 100, showcasing India's robust academic standing.
- **Institutions such as IIT Guwahati, IIT Roorkee, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Chandigarh University, UPES, and Vellore Institute of Technology** are in the Top 150.
- **This ranking assesses 984 institutions across 25 countries** in Eastern, Southern, South-Eastern, and Central Asia.

## 67<sup>th</sup> Grammy Awards

- Prominent Indian musicians **Ricky Kej** and **Anoushka Shankar** have earned Grammy nominations for the **67th Grammy Awards**.
- **Ricky Kej, a three-time Grammy winner**, received his fourth Grammy nomination for his album **Break of Dawn** in the Best New Age, Ambient, or Chant Album category.



- **Anoushka Shankar, the renowned sitarist and composer**, was also nominated in the same category for her album **Chapter II: How Dark It Is Before Dawn**, a reflection of her distinctive fusion of traditional and contemporary sounds.
- Other nominees in this category are **“Warriors of Light”** by **Radhika Vekaria** and **“Triveni”** by entrepreneur and musician Chandrika Tandon, created in collaboration with flautist Wouter Kellerman and cellist Eru Matsumoto.
- The **2025 Grammy Awards are scheduled to** take place on February 2, next year, at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles.

## Russia - North Korea

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin** has signed a treaty establishing a comprehensive **strategic partnership with North Korea**.
- The treaty, **originally signed by the top leaders of the two countries** in Pyongyang on June 19, was ratified by the lower house of parliament on October 24.



- **Russia's upper house of parliament** approved the bill on November 6. The preamble to the treaty said that the document aligns with the core interests of the two peoples, aiming to ensure regional and global peace, security, and stability.
- Under the terms of the agreement, **Russia and North Korea are committed to developing a sustained partnership** based on mutual respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, non-interference in internal affairs, equality, and other principles of international law that support friendly relations and cooperation among nations.
- The **treaty also includes provisions for immediate military** and other forms of assistance if either nation faces an armed attack, as stipulated by **Article 51 of**

**the United Nations Charter.** The treaty will come into effect upon the exchange of ratification instruments

## Global City Index

- **Dubai has emerged as the highest-ranked city** in West Asia and Africa in the **'2024 Global City Index'** by **Brand Finance**, maintaining its regional lead for the second consecutive year.
- The city has also made impressive strides globally, **rising to fifth place, surpassing major cities** like Singapore, Los Angeles, Sydney, San Francisco, and Amsterdam.



- The report highlights **Dubai's global reputation, ranking it first**, worldwide in this category, ahead of Sydney and London.
- The city has also shown remarkable progress in local and remote work opportunities, **jumping from 24th to 4th place.**
- Dubai's **strategic position as a global trade hub and its strong economy** were key factors in its recognition as the second most significant city globally.
- With a **score of 86 out of 100, Dubai's performance** across various key indicators underscores its economic strength and strategic vision.
- **Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council**, Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, attributed the city's success to the foresight of his father, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

## Canada Suspends Fast-Track Visa

- Canada has announced the suspension of the **Student Direct Stream (SDS) visa programme**. This decision impacts international students, particularly from India.
- The **SDS programme was introduced in 2018** to expedite study permit applications. It aimed to alleviate housing and resource challenges in Canada.
- The SDS programme allowed **students from 14 countries to apply for study permits** with reduced processing times.

# BREAKING NEWS

## CANADA SUSPENDS FAST TRACK VISA PROGRAM



- Applicants needed to **demonstrate language proficiency and financial stability**. The initiative received praise for **higher approval rates and quicker processing**, making it attractive to Indian students.
- The **Canadian government cited housing shortages**, rising living costs, and pressure on public services as reasons for discontinuing the SDS programme. Officials stated the need to **“strengthen program integrity”** and ensure equitable access for all international students.
- The **cancellation is part of broader immigration policy reforms**. India has been an important source of international students in Canada.

- The **end of the SDS programme** means longer processing times for study permits. Indian students, who relied on the fast-track option, will now face a more cumbersome application process. This change may lead to delays in starting their courses.

## India Achieves WOAH Reference Laboratory Status

- India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has made important strides in animal health. The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRC Equine)** has been designated as a World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Reference Laboratory for Equine Piroplasmiasis. This recognition marks **India's commitment to improving its scientific and diagnostic** capabilities in animal health.



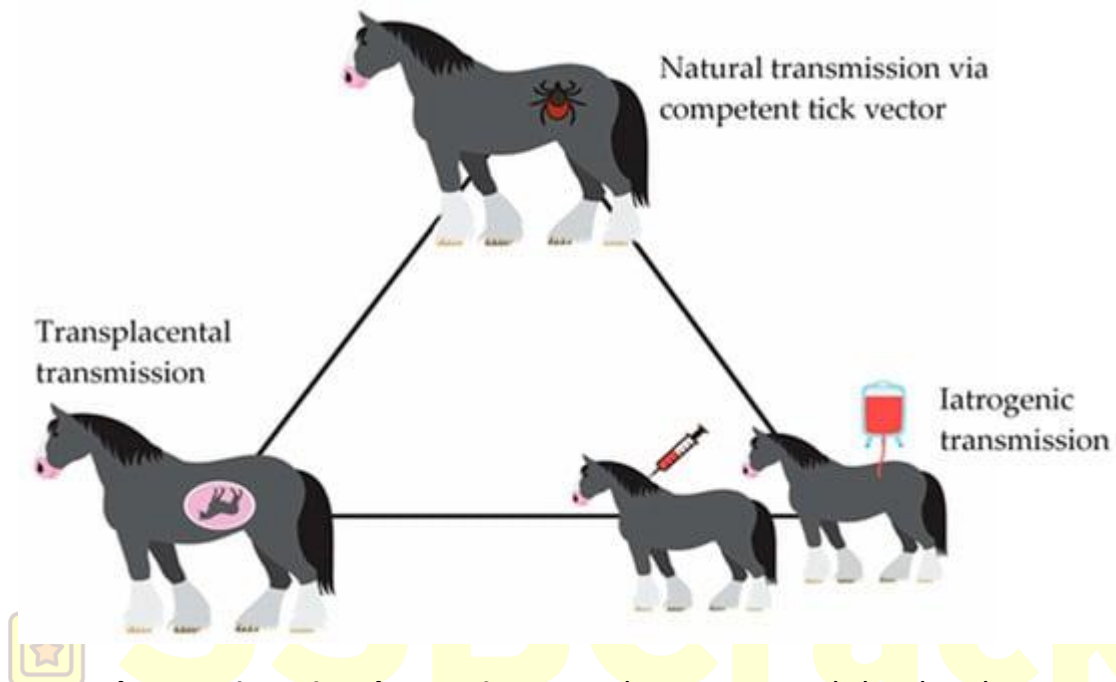
- The designation as a WOAH Reference Laboratory is a prestigious accolade. It **demonstrates India's adherence to international standards** in research and diagnostics. This status enhances India's reputation in global animal health. It also solidifies the country's leadership in combating critical animal health challenges.
- India is home to **approximately 0.55 million equines**. This includes around **0.34 million horses and ponies, 0.12 million donkeys, and 0.08 million mules**.
- Major states with high equine populations include Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Haryana. Equines play a vital role in various livelihoods and industries across the country.



- **As a WOAH Reference Laboratory, ICAR-NRC Equine** will take on several key responsibilities. The laboratory will provide advanced diagnostic services. It will also share **technical expertise and lead research initiatives** on equine piroplasmiasis. This role enhances India's capacity for international collaboration in animal health.
- **ICAR-NRC Equine is the fourth laboratory** in India's animal husbandry sector to receive this status. **Other recognised laboratories include** – ICAR-National Institute of High Security Animal Disease, Bhopal (Avian Influenza) – Veterinary College, Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences University, Bangalore (Rabies) – ICAR-National Institute for Veterinary Epidemiology and Disease Informatics, Bangalore (PPR and Leptospirosis)



- **Equine piroplasmosis is caused by protozoan parasites such as *Babesia caballi* and *Theileria equi*.** It affects horses, donkeys, mules, and zebras. The disease poses a serious threat to animal health and has important economic implications. In India, the seroprevalence rate ranges from **15-25%**, with some **high-risk areas reporting up to 40%**.



- To **combat equine piroplasmosis**, DAHD has prioritised the development of advanced diagnostic tools. These **include ELISA based on recombinant antigens**, Indirect Fluorescent Antibody Tests, and PCR for antigen detection. Such innovations are crucial for early detection and control of the disease.
- The disease can lead to **severe economic losses**. It affects equine productivity, health, and mobility.
- **Restrictions on the movement and export** of equines can further exacerbate these losses. Hence, establishing rigorous control measures is essential for protecting the equine industry.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. AT QS World University Rankings IIT Delhi Placed At

- A. 40
- B. 34
- C. 44
- D. 54

**ANSWER: C**

2. How Many Seed Categories Introduced On Government E-marketplace Portal

- A. 100
- B. 150
- C. 170
- D. 200

**ANSWER: C**

3. Which Indian Bank Has Introduced Real-time Tracking For International Transfers Using Swift GPI

- A. HDFC Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. IDFC FIRST Bank
- D. Axis Bank

**ANSWER: C**

4. In Which Indian State Is The Khurja Super Thermal Power Project Located

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Bihar
- D. Uttar Pradesh

**ANSWER: D**

5. Who Is The Author Of The Book "Friends – India's Closest Strategic Partners"

- A. Prof. Sreeram Chaulia
- B. Dr. S. Jaishankar
- C. Amitav Acharya
- D. C. Raja Mohan

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Which International Financial Institution Has Approved A \$200 Million Loan To Upgrade Urban Services In Uttarakhand**

- A. World Bank
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. European Investment Bank
- D. Asian Development Bank

**ANSWER: D**

**7. Which Country Introduced A Fast Track Visa Scheme Specifically Indian Tourists**

- A. Australia
- B. South Africa
- C. New Zealand
- D. United Kingdom

**ANSWER: B**

**8. What Is The Name Of The World's First Wooden Satellite**

- A. LignoSat
- B. WoodSat
- C. EcoSat
- D. TimberX

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Which State, Along With Madhya Pradesh, Formed A Joint Corridor Management Committee For The Conservation Of Cheetahs**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Rajasthan

**ANSWER: D**

**10. Who topped EdelGive-Hurun Philanthropy List 2024**

- A. Shiv Nadar
- B. Nikhil Kamath
- C. Azim Premji
- D. Mukesh Ambani

**ANSWER: A**

**11. From Which Country Was Zimbabwe's Second Satellite, ZIMSAT-2, Launched**

- A. United States
- B. India
- C. France
- D. Russia

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Which Country Has Approved A Ban On Public Facial Coverings, Set To Take Effect From January 1, 2025**

- A. France
- B. Germany
- C. Switzerland
- D. Italy

**ANSWER: C**

**13. In Which Indian State Is The Ningol Chakkouba Festival, Symbolizing Family Unity, Primarily Celebrated**

- A. Assam
- B. Manipur
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Tripura

**ANSWER: B**

**14. Who Recently Secured The World No. 2 Spot In Live Chess Ratings**

- A. Gukesh
- B. Fabiano Caruana
- C. Arjun Erigaisi
- D. Hikaru Nakamura

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Who Was Awarded The Third Rohini Nayar Prize For Rural Development**

- A. Rajesh Sharma
- B. Anil Pradhan
- C. Meena Gupta
- D. Sunil Bhatt

**ANSWER: B**

**16. Which Country Will Host A National Pavilion At COP29 In Baku**

- A. UAE
- B. Yemen
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Qatar

**ANSWER: A**

**17. When Is National Cancer Awareness Day Observed Annually In India**

- A. November 10
- B. November 7
- C. December 1
- D. October 15

**ANSWER: B**

**18. Which Greek Ambassador Set Up A Pillar In Honour Of Vishnu**

- A. Megasthenes
- B. Heliodoros
- C. Theodorus
- D. Plato

**ANSWER: B**

**19. In Which Year, Ashoka Invaded Kalinga**

- A. 261 BC
- B. 235 BC
- C. 285 BC
- D. 275 BC

**ANSWER: A**

**20. The Temple City Of Osean In Rajasthan Was Established By Which Of The Following Rajputs**

- A. Gurjar Pratiharas
- B. Chauhans
- C. Solankis
- D. Sisodias

**ANSWER: A**