

Daily Current Affairs

23 November 2024

India, Maldives Sign Mou

- Reserve Bank of India and the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to establish a framework for promoting the use of local currencies **Indian Rupee and Maldivian Rufiyaa** in cross-border transactions.
- The MoU was signed by **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** and **MMA Governor Ahmed Munawar** in Mumbai.



- The MoU encourages the **use of Indian Rupee (INR)** and **Maldivian Rufiyaa (MVR)** in current account transactions, permissible capital account transactions,

and any other economic or financial transactions agreed upon by both countries.

- This framework will **allow exporters and importers to invoice and settle payments** in their respective domestic currencies, facilitating the development of trading in the **INR-MVR pair in the foreign exchange** market.
- The **use of local currencies** is expected to optimize transaction costs and settlement times. According to the official note, this collaboration marks a **significant milestone in strengthening bilateral cooperation** between the RBI and MMA.
- The **use of local currencies in bilateral transactions** will not only promote trade between India and the Maldives but also deepen financial integration and strengthen economic ties between the two nations.

‘Jobs At Your Doorstep’ Report By World Bank

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched a report titled **Jobs at Your Doorstep in New Delhi**.
- Mr. Pradhan complimented the **World Bank team for the detailed report** on six states. He also suggested that the **World Bank team adopt** a pan-India framework.



- Minister said that **such in-depth diagnostics on skilling and jobs** will enable stakeholders to create new architectures and make progressive policies for empowering the population.

- He highlighted the **need to broaden the definition of jobs and employment**. Mr. Pradhan also said that technological disruptions will change the nature of jobs and economic activities and that it is necessary to continuously up-skill and re-skill the workforce for the future.
- **Dr. Mandaviya mentioned** that in the last budget, it was proposed to develop a curriculum to harness the potential of region-specific skills and employment. He added that it is important to include informal education in academic education.

India Launches First AI Data Bank

- India revealed its **first Artificial Intelligence (AI) data bank**, which aims to encourage innovation and **enhance national security, by the Ministry of Science and Technology**.
- The **data bank will serve researchers**, startups, and developers by providing essential datasets for AI solutions. The AI data bank was launched at the 7th **ASSOCHAM AI Leadership Meet 2024**.



k
MS

- Jitendra Singh, the Minister of Science and Technology, introduced the initiative. The event focused on **“AI for India – Advancing India’s AI Development – Innovation, Ethics, and Governance.”**
- The data bank **intends to improve national security**, which enables real-time analysis of satellite, drone, and IoT data. Additionally, it supports AI applications in disaster management and cybersecurity.

AroTrack: IIT Bombay

- **AroTrack is a groundbreaking device** developed by scientists at **IIT Bombay**, which aims to tackle the **critical issue of water pollution**. The device can detect **harmful pollutants like phenol and benzene in water**, which utilises proteins from bacteria that thrive in contaminated environments.
- This innovation is essential as water pollution rises due to industrialisation and waste disposal. **AroTrack is a portable and low-cost solution**, which is roughly the size of a small projector.



- The device was created by a team led by Professor Ruchi Anand and Professor Rajdip Bandyopadhyaya, which employs a **biosensor known as MopR**, developed in **2017 from Acinetobacter calcoaceticus** bacteria.
- The device detects **pollutants by causing a colour change** in the water sample. When mixed with the sample, the proteins react chemically to aromatic compounds.
- AroTrack measures the **intensity of the colour change** by shining light through the sample. **Higher absorbance indicates a greater concentration of pollutants**. AroTrack is designed to be affordable, **costing around \$50 (less than ₹5,000)**. Its user-friendly design allows anyone to operate it, regardless of technical skills.

- This **accessibility is crucial for communities** with limited access to expensive lab tests. The device can detect pollutants at very low concentrations, ranging from **10 to 200 parts per billion**.
- It has been tested in both simulated wastewater and real environmental samples. **AroTrack remains effective** in water temperatures up to 50°C. It provides results in under 30 minutes, making it suitable for rural and low-income areas.

Indira Gandhi Prize 2023

- **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development** was awarded to **Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad**, which recognizes their important contributions to peace efforts.
- **Barenboim is a renowned classical pianist** and conductor, and Awwad is a dedicated Palestinian peace activist. **Barenboim has used music as a tool** for cultural dialogue.
- His performances aim to **promote understanding and harmony among** diverse communities. He believes in the power of music to transcend political barriers. His work has inspired many to seek peaceful resolutions.



- **Awwad founded the organization Roots** after his imprisonment in Israel. He advocates for dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. His personal

experiences shape his message of forgiveness and understanding. Awwad emphasizes the importance of recognizing shared humanity.

- He believes **non-violent struggle** is essential for achieving Palestinian rights. During the award ceremony, **Awwad shared his story of a 17-day hunger strike** with his mother. This **protest led to his imprisonment in 1990**.
- He spoke about the pain of losing his brother to violence. Awwad expressed his choice to forgive rather than seek revenge.
- His encounters with Israeli victims have deepened his understanding of conflict. **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development** is prestigious. It recognises important contributions to peace efforts. The **2023 award** was given to Barenboim and Awwad.

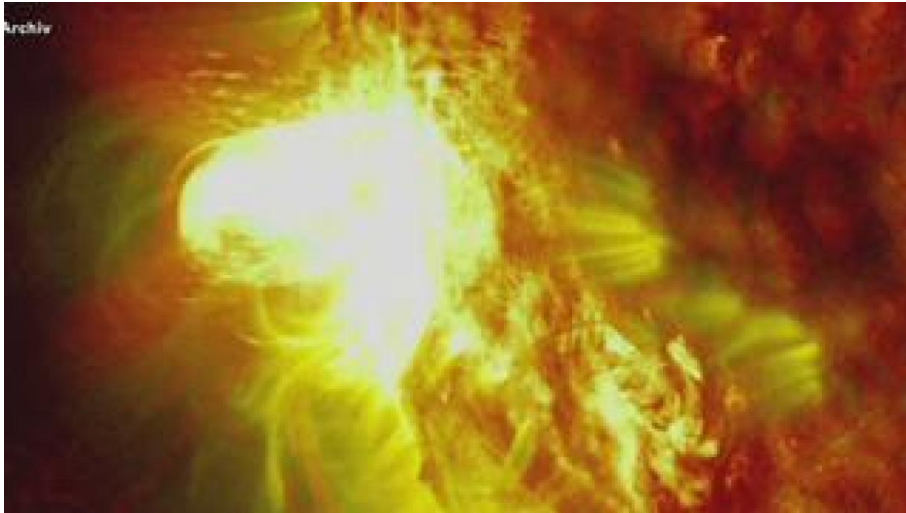
Binar Satellites Burn Up Due to Solar Activity

- **Three CubeSats from Curtin University's Binar Space Program** burned up in Earth's atmosphere. This was anticipated due to their name, **Binar**, meaning **fireball** in the Noongar language.
- The satellites, **Binar-2, 3, and 4**, **lasted** only two months in orbit instead of the planned six.



- **Satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO)** face atmospheric drag, which gradually decreases their altitude. **Eventually, they re-enter the atmosphere** and burn up. The Binar satellites experienced this process earlier than expected.

- **Increased solar activity** caused the early demise of the Binar satellites. The Sun has been unusually active, creating challenges for low-Earth orbit satellites. Solar phenomena like sunspots and solar flares contribute to this activity.



- The **Sun operates on an 11-year magnetic cycle**. At the cycle's peak, solar activity intensifies. **Current solar activity in Cycle 25** has exceeded forecasts, complicating satellite operations. University satellites like the Binar CubeSats lack thrusters.
- They cannot **counteract atmospheric drag effectively**. This vulnerability leads to faster orbital decay during high solar activity.
- **The Binar Space Program began in 2021** with Binar-1, which lasted nearly a year. The subsequent **launch of Binar-2, 3, and 4 coincided** with heightened solar activity. The early loss of these satellites is costly, even if they are relatively affordable.

Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan

- **AYUSH Minister Prataprao Jadhav** has said that the **Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan brings Ayurveda closer** to every household and empowers citizens to adopt personalized, preventive health practices.
- Talking to the media in New Delhi about the significant strides made under the initiative today, **Mr. Jadhav expressed his satisfaction** with the progress and emphasized the campaign's role in promoting holistic well-being.



- The **Minister reaffirmed the government's commitment** to integrating traditional wisdom with modern health practices, making Ayurveda a cornerstone of preventive healthcare.
- The campaign is managed by the **National Commission for the Indian System of Medicine**. It focuses on identifying an individual's unique mind-body constitution based on the Ayurvedic principles of **Vata, Pitta, and Kapha doshas**.
- The campaign is led by more than **four lakh seventy thousand dedicated** volunteers and aims to revolutionize healthcare awareness across India.
- Further, the **Desh Ka Prakriti Parikshan Abhiyan** also aims to set several Guinness World Records, including the largest online photo album of Prakriti certificates and the most pledges for a health campaign.

Jhulan Goswami

- India's Legendary **Cricketer Jhulan Goswami** Is Set To Receive A Remarkable Tribute At **The Iconic Eden Gardens In Kolkata**. The Cricket Association Of Bengal (CAB) Has Announced That A Stand At The Venue Will Be Renamed In Her Honor, Marking Her As First Woman Cricketer To Receive This Recognition.



- Represented India In 12 Tests, 204 Odis, And 68 T20is Over A 20-year Career.
- Claimed 355 Wickets Across Formats, Most By Any Female Bowler In Cricket History.
- Became The First Bowler To Cross 300 International Wickets In 2018.
- Only Bowler To Have Taken Over 200 Wickets (255) In Women's Odis.
- Tops The Odi World Cup Bowling Charts With 43 Wickets.



SSBCrack
EXAMS

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. 'Jobs At Your Doorstep' Report Is Published By

- A. World Bank
- B. UNEP
- C. ADB
- D. UNDP

ANSWER: A

2. India's Women Cricketer ___ Is Set To Receive A Remarkable Tribute At Iconic Eden Gardens In Kolkata

- A. Mannat Kashyap
- B. Arundhati Reddy
- C. Jhulan Goswami
- D. Shantha Rangaswamy

ANSWER: C

3. What Is India's Ranking In Climate Change Performance Index 2025

- A. 10th
- B. 15th
- C. 20th
- D. 25th

ANSWER: A

4. Which State Announced A 100% Exemption On Road Tax And Registration Fees For Electric Vehicles Until December 31, 2026

- A. Karnataka
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: C

5. Who Were Recipients Of The Indira Gandhi Prize For Peace, Disarmament And Development 2023

- A. Desmond Tutu and Malala Yousafzai
- B. Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad
- C. Jane Goodall and Dalai Lama
- D. Martin Luther King Jr. and Angela Davis

ANSWER: B

6. AroTrack Is Developed By

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Mandi

ANSWER: B

7. AroTrack Helps In Detecting

- A. Water Pollution
- B. Air Pollution
- C. Soil Pollution
- D. Carbon Emissions

ANSWER: A

8. India's First AI Data Bank Launched By

- A. Ministry of Defence
- B. Ministry Of Science And Technology
- C. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- D. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

ANSWER: B

9. Which Country Launched Its First National Census In Nearly 40 Years

- A. Egypt
- B. Turkey
- C. Jordan
- D. Iraq

ANSWER: D

10. Which Country Has Declared A National Emergency Due To Forest Fires, Water Shortages, And Drought

- A. Brazil
- B. Ecuador
- C. Argentina
- D. Chile

ANSWER: B

11. Which Indian State Is Establishing Three Global Innovation Districts To Support Global Capability Centres

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Telangana
- D. Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: B

12. Which State's Village, Dhudmaras , Was Selected For The UNWTO Best Tourism Village Upgrade Programme

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Jharkhand

ANSWER: C

13. Which Indian City Will Host The Country's First Night Safari

- A. Jaipur
- B. Pune
- C. Bhopal
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: D

14. Which Country's Ceasefire Resolution Was Vetoed By Russia In The UN Security Council

- A. Sierra Leone
- B. United Kingdom
- C. Sudan
- D. Nigeria

ANSWER: C

15. Which Country Approved A New Constitution Through A Referendum

- A. Gabon
- B. Ghana
- C. Senegal
- D. Cameroon

ANSWER: A

16. Gabon Which Was Seen In The News, Is Located In Which Region

- A. Africa
- B. Europe
- C. Australia
- D. Asia

ANSWER: A

17. Name Of India's First Indigenously Developed Antibiotic Targeting Antimicrobial Resistance

- A. Azithromycin
- B. Ciprofloxacin
- C. Nafithromycin
- D. Amoxicillin

ANSWER: C

18. The 9th Amur Falcon Festival Is Celebrated In Which State

- A. Mizoram
- B. Odisha
- C. Manipur
- D. Assam

ANSWER: B

19. Kumbhalgarh- Todgarh Raoli Sanctuary Is Located In Which State

- A. Gujarat
- B. Haryana
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Rajasthan

ANSWER: D

20. Which Indus Valley Site Was Discovered By Rakhal Das Bannerjee

- A. Kali Banga
- B. Harappa
- C. Lothal
- D. Mohenjodaro

ANSWER: D