

Monthly Current Affairs

November 2024

Waste To Energy Plant In Ahmedabad

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated **Gujarat's largest waste-to-energy plant at Piplaj** in Ahmedabad City.
- The plant has been established on a PPP model at a cost of 375 crore rupees. Akashvani correspondent reports that this will be Ahmedabad's first waste-to-energy plant, which will prove to be a big step towards a green future.



- The **largest West-to-Energy Plant**, which has been set up at Pirana Piplaj Road in Ahmedabad, is a joint partnership between the Government of Gujarat and the Jindal Urban Waste Management Company.
- The plant, which was set up on an experimental basis, was inaugurated officially today. It has the capacity to **generate 15 megawatts of energy** from **1 thousand metric tonnes of solid waste** per day. The plant will not only ensure a green and clean future for Ahmedabad but will also prove to be a model initiative for effective waste management

Secular Civil Code

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India is moving towards One Nation Civil Code that is a **Secular Civil Code**. Addressing 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' celebrations at Kevadia in Gujarat, Mr Modi said that the pursuit of a **secular civil code** is key to ending discrimination.

- Prime Minister said, today we are all seeing the success of **One Nation Identity – Aadhar** and the world is also discussing it. He said, earlier, there were different tax systems in India, but we created the **One Nation One Tax System – GST**.



- Prime Minister said, his government strengthened the country's power sector with **One Nation One Power Grid** and integrated the facilities available to the poor through **One Nation One Ration Card**.
- Mr Modi said, we have provided the facility of **One Nation One Health Insurance** to the people of the country in the form of **Aayushman Bharat**.
- He said, under these efforts of ours for unity, we are now working towards **One Nation One Election**, which will strengthen India's democracy, which will give optimum outcome of India's resources and the country will gain new momentum in achieving the dream of a developed India.

Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak

- **Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak** has been awarded to **463 personnel of various States and Union Territories**, Central Armed Police Forces and Central Police Organisations for the year 2024.
- The medal is given to recognize excellent work, promote high professional standards and boost the morale of the officers in the fields of **Special Operation, Investigation, Intelligence and Forensic Science**.
- The **Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak** was instituted by the Ministry of **Home Affairs on 1st February this year**.
- The Ministry said, the medal will be announced every year on the occasion of the **Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on 31st of October**. The

award will be conferred on **members of the Police Forces, Security Organization**, Intelligence Wing, National Security Guard in consideration for excellence in Operations, exceptional performance, indomitable and daring intelligence service.

Kendriya Grihmantri Dakshata Padak (Gold)



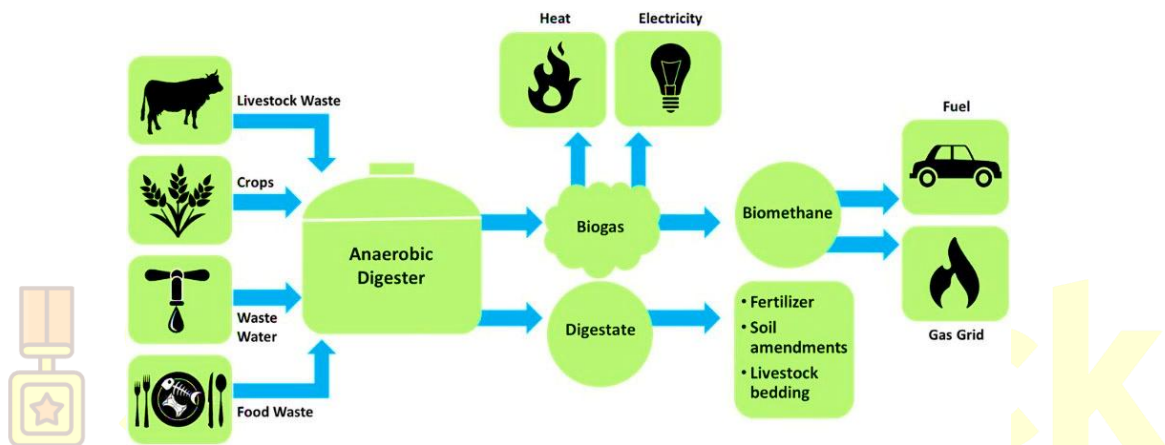
Aandhi Village's Journey To Zero-Waste Transformation

- **Aandhi, a small village in Jaipur district, is adopting a zero-waste model.** This initiative is driven by green technology. The village aims to convert various types of waste into valuable resources.
- This includes **food waste, agricultural waste, wastewater, and hospital waste.** Innovative technology interventions have been installed to support this transformation.

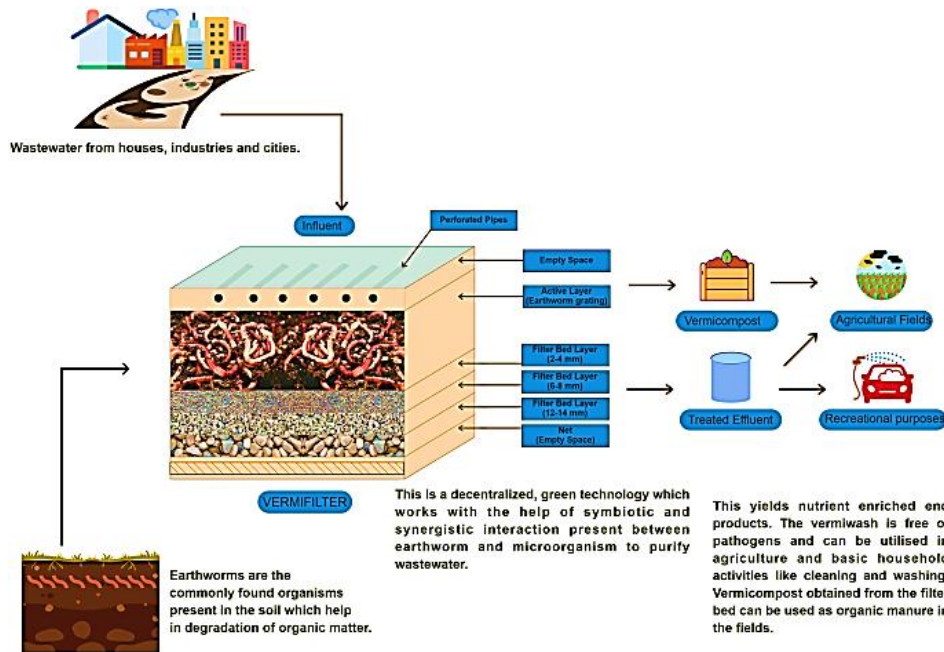


- The project features a comprehensive package of technologies. Key components include:
 - Organic Waste Bio-Methanation Plant
 - Vermifiltration Technology

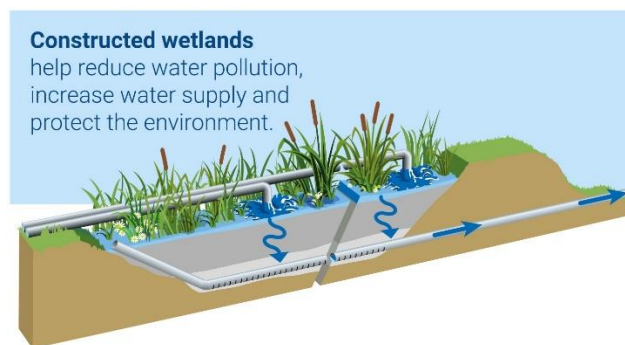
- Constructed Wetlands
- Resource Recovery Centre (RRC)
- These technologies work together to create a sustainable waste management system.
- **Organic Waste Bio-Methanation Plant** : Located at the government school, this plant has a capacity of 100 kg. It processes organic waste, such as food scraps and agricultural residues. The method used is anaerobic digestion. This process generates biogas, which is used for cooking and electricity. A 5 KW solar energy system powers the plant. This reduces reliance on traditional fuels and lowers greenhouse gas emissions.



- **Vermifiltration Technology** : Installed at the community health centre, this system has a capacity of 10 KLD. It uses earthworms to filter and treat wastewater. The treated water is suitable for agricultural irrigation and landscape watering. This technology is energy-efficient and eco-friendly, thanks to solar energy integration. It promotes sustainable water reuse and environmental conservation.



- Constructed Wetlands :** The constructed wetlands are located at the main pond in Aandhi. With a capacity of 20 KLD, they mimic natural wetland processes. This system treats wastewater and helps restore local ecosystems. It enhances biodiversity and supports local flora and fauna. The wetlands improve the overall health of the pond ecosystem.



- Community Involvement :** The project actively involves the local community. Demonstration plants were inaugurated at key locations. This included a government school and a community health centre. Dr. Anita Gupta and Dr. G.V Raghunath Reddy attended the inauguration. Their presence marks the project's significance.



- **Environmental Impact** : These initiatives showcase the power of green technology in rural areas. They align with India's goals for environmental sustainability. The project aims to mitigate climate change and promote waste-to-wealth models. This approach uplifts local communities and creates a self-sustaining zero-waste model.

India's First Analog Space Mission

- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has started the country's **first analog space mission at Leh in Ladakh**, where space agency will simulate life in an interplanetary habitat.
- The move assumes significance as India is **planning to send a human to the Moon in the near future**.
- **Analog space missions are field tests in locations on Earth** that have physical similarities to the extreme space environments and play a significant role in problem solving for spaceflight research.



- **Ladakh has been chosen for such a mission** as the geographical features of the area – dry and cold climate, barren land, high-altitude terrain and extreme isolation – are considered to closely resemble Martian and lunar landscapes.
- The **month-long mission comes in the wake of India's plans** to set up lunar habitats, which could provide a base to launch interplanetary missions. The mission includes a compact, inflatable **habitat named Hab-1**, which is equipped with essentials like a hydroponics farm, kitchen, and sanitation facilities.
- It provides a **self-sustaining environment, offering valuable** data as India is planning long-duration space missions to the Moon, Mars, and beyond.
- ISRO said, analog space **mission at Leh is a collaborative effort** by Human Spaceflight Centre, ISRO, AAKA Space Studio, University of Ladakh, IIT Bombay, and supported by Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.
- **Lying at an elevation over 3,000 metres** above sea level, Ladakh has oxygen levels only 40 percent of those at sea level. The low-pressure and low-oxygen setting allows researchers to evaluate life support systems under conditions similar to those on Mars.

Indian Startup Ecosystem

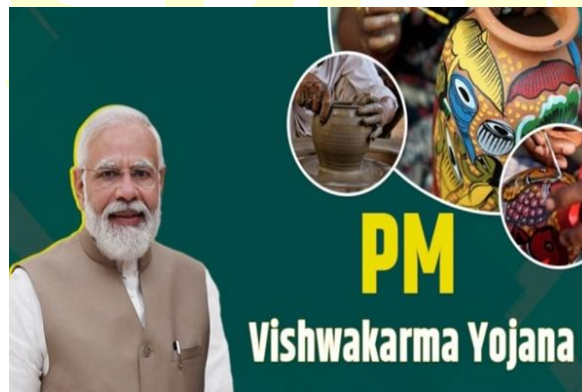
- **Indian startup ecosystem has reached 12.2 billion dollars** in funding in the first 10 months this year. It has already surpassed the total amount raised throughout **2023, with two months to go.**
- **Homegrown startups crossed 1 billion dollars** in funding again across 119 deals in the month of October.
- September saw the second-highest **funding with 1.63 billion dollars**, behind the **peak of 1.92 billion** registered in June.



- In October, the growth and late-stage funding segment comprised 28 deals, **contributing 846.2 million dollars to the total funding** amount.
- Last month, Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the setting up of a **1,000 crore rupees venture capital (VC)** fund dedicated to the growing space sector.
- The deployment period of the proposed venture capital fund, under the aegis of IN-SPACE, is planned to **be up to five years from the actual date** of the start of the fund operations. The average deployment amount could be **150 to 250 crore rupees per year**, depending on the investment opportunities and fund requirements.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

- Government said that over **25 million applications** have been submitted under the **PM Vishwakarma Scheme** since its launch. Out of these, more **than 2 million applicants** have successfully registered, following a thorough three-step verification process.



- The **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** said that the scheme, which was launched last year in September with the aim of empowering artisans and craftspeople across India, has garnered remarkable interest.
- **Nearly 1 million registered artisans** have benefited from toolkit incentives of up to **15,000 rupees through** these e-vouchers, enabling them to acquire modern tools that enhance their craftsmanship.
- **Ministry said that the PM Vishwakarma Scheme** stands as a testament to the government's dedication to revitalizing traditional crafts and supporting the artisans who embody the nation's cultural diversity and heritage.

India To Launch ESA Mission PROBA-3

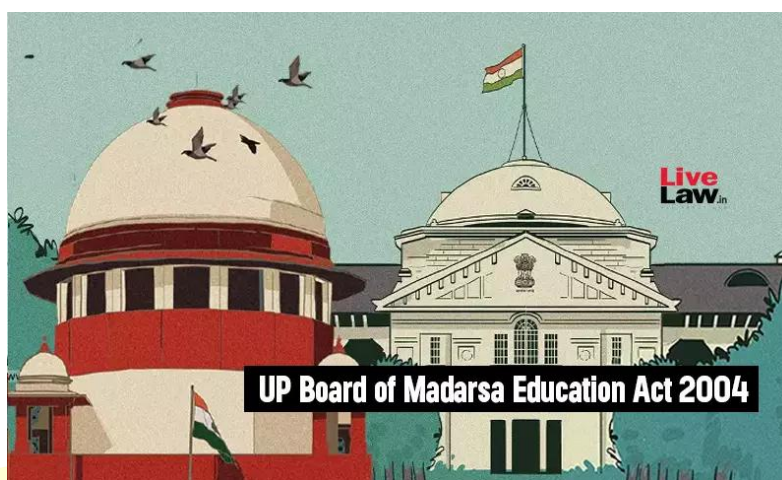
- Science and Technology Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh has said **that India will launch the European Space Agency mission named PROBA-3 next month from the Sriharikota Space Station.**
- The mission will study the **Sun's faint corona closer to the solar rim.** Addressing the Indian Space Conclave 3.0 in New Delhi, the Minister highlighted that almost every sector in the country is using space technology.



- He also added that **space technology also fosters** the creation of smart cities by providing navigation, satellite imaging, terrain mapping among others. The Minister also underscored India's vision to increase their contribution in the global **space economy from 2 percent to 10 percent** in the coming years.
- **Proba-3 mission is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission** that demonstrates the use of precise **satellite formation flying technologies**: The mission involves launching two small satellites that will fly together in a precise formation to mimic a single, large structure in space. This will test the ability of satellites to work together in a coordinated manner.
- The two satellites will **work together to form a 144-meter-long solar coronagraph**, which will create an artificial eclipse to study the Sun's corona. The coronagraph will block out the Sun's bright surface light, allowing scientists to study the Sun's corona with unprecedented detail and proximity.

UP Board of Madarsa Education Act 2004

- **Supreme Court upheld the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004.** A bench comprising **Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud**, and Justices **JB Pardiwala** and **Manoj Misra** gave the verdict against the Allahabad High Court's March 22 judgement that declared the Act as **"unconstitutional" and violative of the principles of secularism.**



- The Apex Court said that the statute can be struck down if a state lacks legislative competence. The **ruling means that madarsas** would continue to function in Uttar Pradesh with the state regulating the education standards.
- Earlier in April, staying the impugned decision, the Bench, also comprising **Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra**, had observed that the Allahabad High Court misconstrued the provisions of the Madarsa Act and the view taken by it was prima facie not correct.
- The Supreme Court, however, held the **Madarsa Education Act "unconstitutional"** to the extent it regulates higher education in relation to 'fazil' and 'kamil' degrees granting by Madarsas beyond class XII for being in **conflict with the UGC Act.** The Supreme Court said that the Allahabad High Court erred in holding that the madarsa law had to be struck down for violating basic structure, which is the principle of secularism.

Not All Private Properties Part Of 'Material Resources Of Community'

- **Supreme Court in a majority ruling**, held that not all private properties are part of the **"material resources of the community"** that the State must redistribute under **Article 39(b) of the Constitution.**

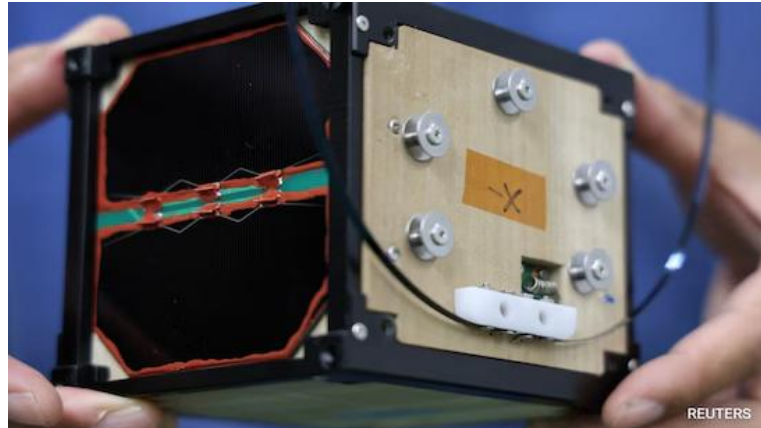
- However, it noted that some private properties could fall under this category if they are significant and serve the community.



- **The nine-judge bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud**, included Justices Hrishikesh Roy, B.V. Nagarathna, Sudhanshu Dhulia, and others. The 8:1 majority verdict authored by the CJI, with Justice Nagarathna partially agreeing and Justice Dhulia dissenting.
- **The judgment also rejected earlier interpretations** that broadly included private resources as community assets, emphasizing that prior statements on the matter were not binding.

World's First Wooden Satellite, LignoSat

- In Japan, the **world's first wooden satellite** was launched into space today aims to prove that **wood is a space-grade material**.
- The satellite **LignoSat is scheduled to orbit the Earth for six months**.
- According to media reports, designed by researchers at **Kyoto University in Japan, LignoSat is made of honoki**, a kind of **magnolia tree** that was traditionally used to make sword sheaths.



- The Japanese researchers conducted a 10-month experiment aboard the **International Space Station (ISS)** and found that honoki was the timber most suited for space applications.
- After the experiment, the team constructed **LignoSat using a traditional Japanese crafts technique** without screws or glue to hold the satellite together.
- The satellite will measure how wood endures the extreme environment of space, **where temperatures fluctuate from -100 to 100 degrees Celsius** every 45 minutes as objects orbit through darkness and sunlight. It will also gauge timber's ability to reduce the impact of space radiation on semiconductors.

PM- Vidyalaxmi scheme

- Government has approved the **PM- Vidyalaxmi scheme to provide financial support to meritorious students.**
- On the decisions taken in the Cabinet meeting, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, **students will be eligible to get collateral-free and guarantor-free loans** to pursue higher education.

Decisions
2024

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PM-Vidyalaxmi

Collateral-free, Guarantor-free Education Loans
Maximising access to quality Higher Education
for **Yuva Shakti**

- ₹ Total outlay ₹ 3600 Crore
- 🏛️ Financial assistance to meritorious students securing admission in top 860 HEIs of India
- 👥 Benefitting 22 Lakh+ new students every year

- He said the scheme has been introduced so that financial constraints do not prevent any youth of India from pursuing quality higher education. As per the scheme, loan amount up to **7.5 lakhs rupees will be provided 75 percent credit guarantee** by the government to support banks to expand coverage.
- **Three percent interest subvention** for loans up to 10 lakh rupees will also be provided during the moratorium period for students with an annual family income of upto eight lakh rupees.
- **This scheme is expected to benefit seven lakh students.** To avail the benefit of the scheme, the students can apply on the unified portal PM Vidyalaxmi for an education loan.

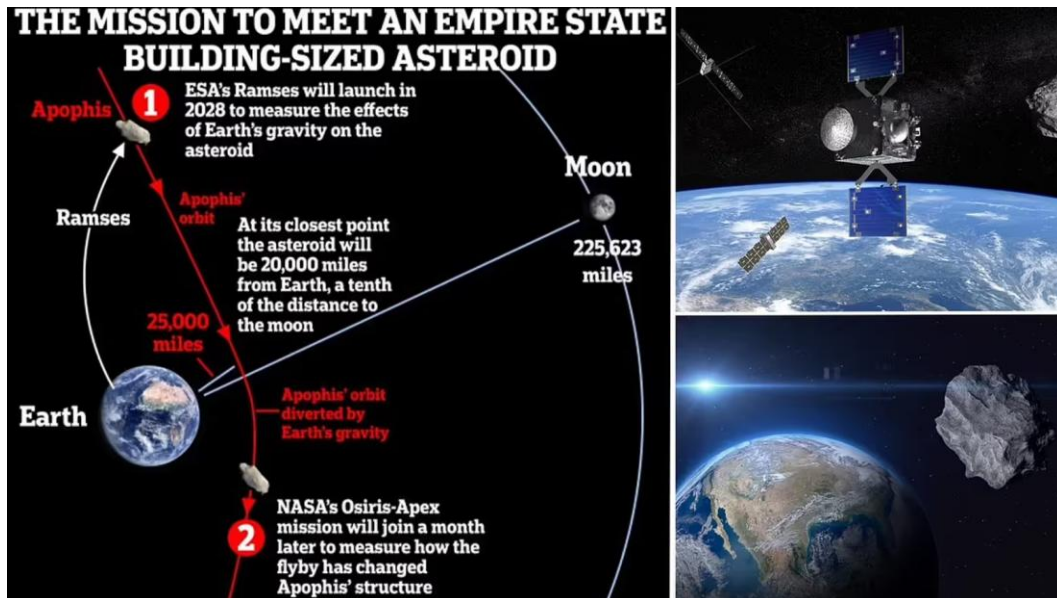
Rapid Apophis Mission For Space Safety

- **European Space Agency (ESA)** has started initial planning for a mission to explore a **large asteroid called Apophis**, officially known as asteroid (99942). This mission, named the **Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES)**, is designed to reach **Apophis in February 2029**.
- **NASA is also preparing its mission, Osiris-Apex**, to examine Apophis during the same close approach.
- **Apophis was discovered in 2004** and is roughly 340 meters (1,115 feet) in diameter.



- Due to its size, it could cause severe destruction if it hit Earth. Thankfully, it's expected to pass safely by on **April 13, 2029, coming** within about **19,794 miles (31,860 kilometers) of our planet**, which is close enough for detailed study but not a danger to Earth.
- Asteroids are ancient pieces left over from when the Solar System formed. Many are **located in the asteroid belt**, but some are closer to Earth. Earth is at constant risk from these objects, especially from the 35,000 or so near-Earth

objects (NEOs). Of these, about 2,300 are large enough and close enough to be considered “potentially hazardous.”



- **Large asteroids have impacted Earth in the past**, leading to major extinction events. For instance, scientists believe an asteroid impact 66 million years ago was a major factor in the extinction of the dinosaurs. A collision with a large asteroid would release massive energy, potentially as much as several nuclear explosions.



- **Astronomers use various surveys and telescopes** to find and track hazardous asteroids. However, detecting these objects alone isn't enough. It's also important to develop ways to deflect or redirect them if one is on a collision course with Earth.

- The **RAMSES mission will observe changes in Apophis's orbit**, rotation, and shape as it comes near Earth. **NASA's Osiris-Apex mission** will investigate its surface by disturbing dust to reveal the asteroid's layers underneath. Together, these missions may help scientists develop methods to deflect future asteroids that could pose a threat to Earth.

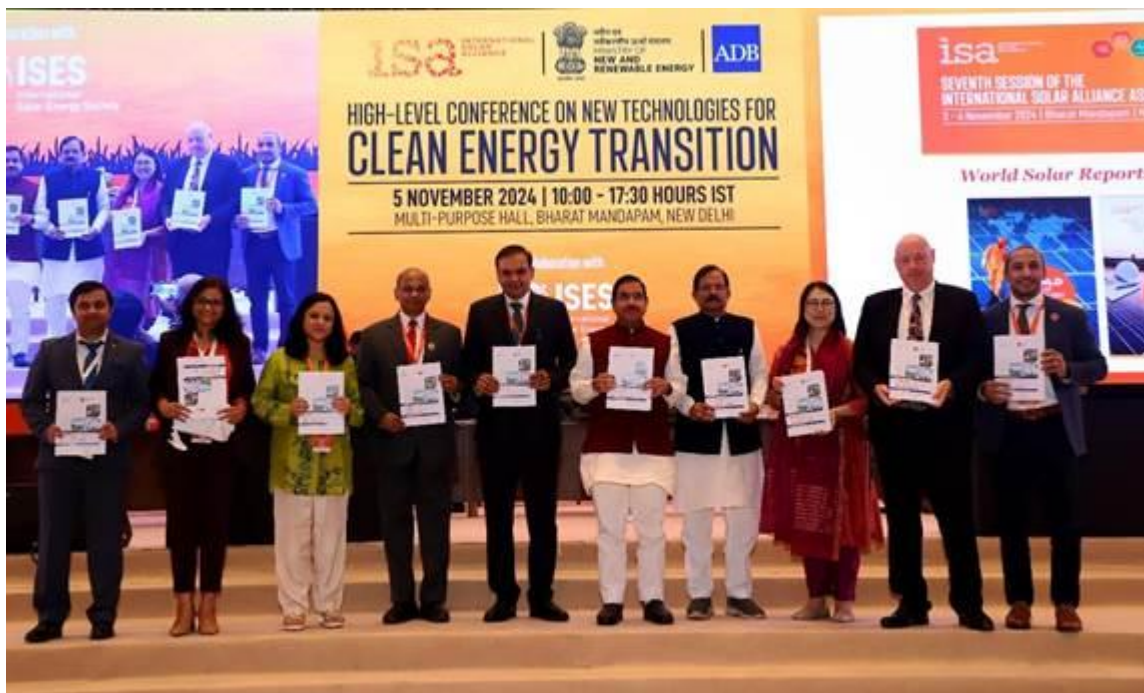
World Solar Report

- **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** released the **3rd edition of the World Solar Report** series during its 7th Assembly. This event brought to light global solar energy growth, investment trends, and technological advancements.
- **The series includes four new reports:** the World Solar Market Report, World Investment Report, World Technology Report, and Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment for African Countries. These reports underscore the importance of solar energy in the transition to sustainable energy.



- **World Solar Market Report Highlights**
- **World Solar Market Report** reveals growth in the solar sector.
- **Rise in Capacity:** Global solar capacity increased from 1.22 GW in 2000 to 1,418.97 GW in 2023, marking a 40% annual growth rate.
- **Manufacturing Growth:** By 2024, solar manufacturing is expected to exceed 1,100 GW, surpassing demand.
- **Employment:** The solar industry now supports 7.1 million jobs, a 44% increase from 2022.
- **Future Projections:** Capacity could reach between 5,457 and 7,203 GW by 2030.
- **World Investment Report Insights**
- The World Investment Report indicates a shift in energy investments.

- **Investment Growth:** Global energy investments are projected to rise from \$2.4 trillion in 2018 to \$3.1 trillion by 2024.
- **Solar Investments:** Solar accounts for 59% of renewable energy investments, totaling \$393 billion. –
- **Regional Leaders:** Asia-Pacific (APAC) leads with \$223 billion in solar investments in 2023.



- **World Technology Report Innovations**
- Efficiency Milestones: Solar PV Panels Have Achieved A Record Efficiency Of 24.9%.
- Material Use Reduction: Silicon Usage In Manufacturing Has Decreased By 88% Since 2004.
- **Green Hydrogen Readiness Assessment**
- Decarbonisation Potential: Green Hydrogen Can Replace Fossil Fuels In Industries Like Steel And Fertilizer Production.
- Production Method: It Is Produced Via Renewable-powered Electrolysis.
- Target Countries: The Assessment Includes Egypt, Morocco, And Namibia, Evaluating Their Readiness For A Green Hydrogen Economy.
- **Mr Ashish Khanna from India** was selected as the new Director General. He **succeeds Dr Ajay Mathur**, who has led the Alliance since 2021.
- The ISA **focuses on promoting solar energy globally**, addressing common challenges faced by member countries.



- **The Director General of ISA plays a vital role in advancing** the organisation's mandate. This includes supporting member countries in the deployment of solar energy. The role involves engaging in coordinated actions and addressing challenges collectively.

Minority Status To AMU

- A seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court, by a 4-3 majority today overruled the 1967 judgment in **S. Azeez Basha vs. Union Of India case** that became the basis for **denying the minority status** to the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- The 1967 judgment in the case had held that an **institution incorporated by a statute cannot claim** to be a minority institution.



- The Apex court today said that an institution will not lose its minority status merely because it was created by a statute.
- The majority held that the Court must examine who established the University and **who was the "brain" behind it.**
- If that enquiry is **pointing towards minority community**, then the institution can claim minority status as per **Article 30 of the Constitution.**
- For this factual determination, the Constitution Bench relegated the matter to a regular bench.

- **Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud**, who headed the bench, said there were four separate opinions, including three dissenting verdicts.
- **The CJI said he has written the majority verdict** for himself and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra. Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma had penned their separate dissenting verdicts.



Ancient Fortified Town Discovered In Saudi Arabia

- Archaeologists have **uncovered a 4,000-year-old fortified town** in northwest Saudi Arabia. This site, **called al-Natah**, reveals vital information about early urbanisation.
- The discovery was led by French archaeologist **Guillaume Charloux**. The findings were **published in PLOS One earlier this year**. Al-Natah is situated in **Khaybar's walled oasis**.
- This lush area is surrounded by a dry desert. The town was hidden for centuries, now revealing its historical importance. The site includes a **remarkable 14.5-kilometre wall**.



- This ancient barrier encircled a residential area, **indicating organised occupancy**. The wall suggests that the town was fortified for protection.

- The town dates **back to around 2400 BC**, during the early Bronze Age. It is believed to have housed a population of up to **500 residents**. This marks the town's significance in the region's history.



- The discovery marks a pivotal shift from nomadic to urban lifestyles. The authors of the study describe the town as a fortified area measuring 2.6 hectares. It **functioned from 2400 to at least 1500 BC**, with possible interruptions until 1300 BC. The town featured nucleated dwellings built on a standard plan.
- **Small streets connected these homes**. The layout indicates a degree of planning and organisation typical of urban centres. The findings enhance our understanding of social dynamics during this period.
- The **site includes a probable decision-making zone** and a necropolis. This suggests a structured society with defined roles.

Karnataka Waqf Board Claims 17 Monuments Bidar Fort

- **Karnataka Board of Waqfs declared 17 monuments** within the historic Bidar Fort as its property. This announcement has raised concerns and confusion among local authorities and the **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**, which manages the fort.
- **Bidar Fort is an important historical site** located in Karnataka. It houses numerous monuments, including mosques and tombs.



- The fort is a major landmark and a point of interest for both tourists and historians. **The Karnataka Board of Waqfs identified 17 monuments** as its own.
- This includes the famous **16-Khamba mosque and tombs of Bahmani rulers**. The Waqf Board claims these properties belong to them, out of a total of 60 properties within the fort.
- The ASI, which has been responsible for the preservation of Bidar Fort for decades, was not informed about the Waqf Board's claim. This lack of communication has led to confusion regarding the ownership and management of these historical sites.



- A senior official from the Waqf Board expressed **concerns over misinformation related to their actions**. They stated that **no notices had been issued to the ASI**, questioning how the Waqf Board could serve notices to an established custodian of historical monuments.
- The situation has **prompted concerns among local farmers**. Allegations have surfaced that the Waqf Board marked some farmers' lands as Waqf properties without due process.



- Farmers from **Vijayapura district have reported receiving notices** and changes to their land records.

- **Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** assured farmers that they would not be evicted. He confirmed that any notices issued would be rescinded, aiming to alleviate fears among the agricultural community.

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.

67th 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.



SSBCrack
EXAMS

India Achieves WOAH Reference Laboratory Status

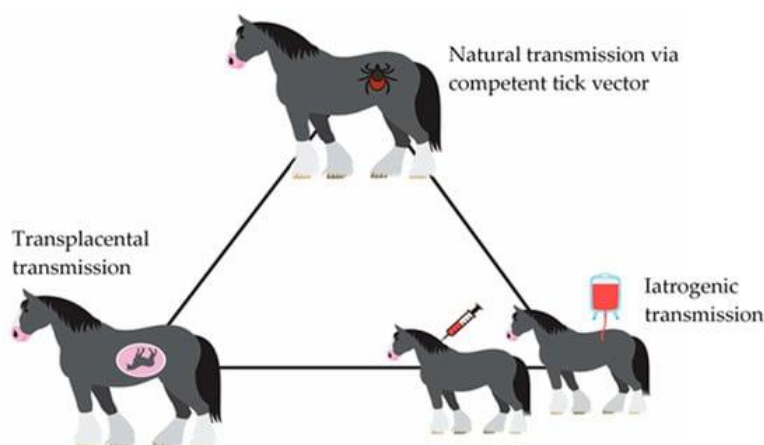
- India’s Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying has made important strides in animal health. The **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Research Centre on Equines (ICAR-NRC Equine)** has been designated as a World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Reference Laboratory for Equine Piroplasmiasis.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



सत्यमेव जयते

मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF FISHERIES,
ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

- 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 piroplasmiasis 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 piroplasmiasis**, 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.

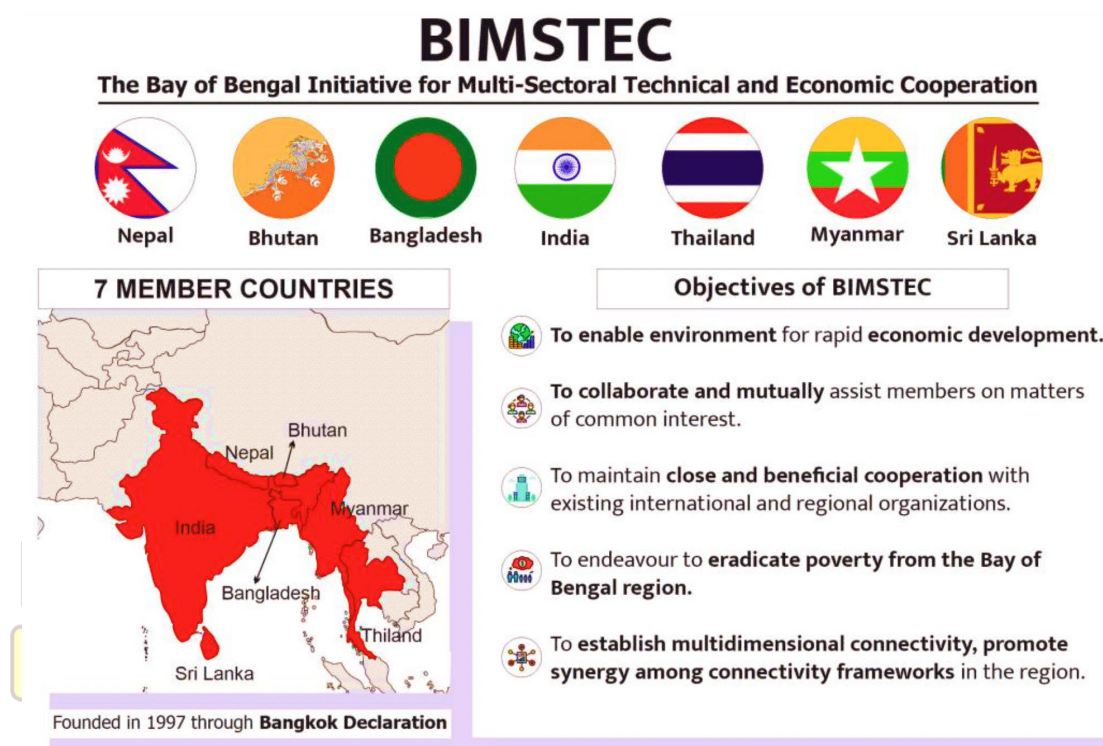
India & BIMSTEC

- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has announced the signing of an agreement to establish the **BIMSTEC Energy Centre in Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- **Host Country Agreement Signed** : On November 11, 2024, MEA Secretary (East) **Jaideep Mazumder** and **BIMSTEC Secretary General Indramani Pandey** signed a Host Country Agreement in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The agreement establishes the **BIMSTEC Energy Centre**, aiming to strengthen energy cooperation among member states.
- MEA Spokesperson **Randhir Jaiswal** stated that the **Energy Centre will foster inter-grid connectivity across** the Bay of Bengal region, promoting energy security and sustainable development.



- **Recent BIMSTEC Engagements**
- **Raisina Down Under Participation** : On November 5, 2024, Secretary General Indramani Pandey attended the second edition of Raisina Down Under in Canberra, Australia.
- **BIMSTEC highlighted the organization's commitment to sustainable**, inclusive development and proposed a dialogue platform for the Indo-Pacific region.

- **Foreign Ministers' Meeting** : External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar emphasized India's commitment to BIMSTEC during a recent meeting of foreign ministers. Jaishankar highlighted **India's Neighborhood First Policy**, Vision SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), and Act East Policy as central to India's collaboration with BIMSTEC.



PM Modi To Visit Nigeria, Brazil And Guyana

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will embark on a **three nation visit to Nigeria, Brazil and Guyana from 16th of this month**. He will visit Nigeria at the invitation of **Nigerian President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, from 16th to 17th November**.
- This will be the **first visit by a Prime Minister of India to Nigeria in 17 years**. During the visit, the Prime Minister will hold talks to **review the strategic partnership** between the two countries and discuss further avenues to enhance the bilateral relationship. He will also address a gathering of the **Indian community in the west african nation**.



- **India and Nigeria** have been strategic partners since **2007** with growing economic, energy and defence collaboration. More than 200 Indian companies have **invested over 27 billion dollars** in important sectors in Nigeria.
- India and Nigeria also share a strong **development cooperation partnership**.
- Prime Minister will travel to **Rio De Janeiro in Brazil to attend the G20 Summit** during 18th and 19th November. **India is part of the G20 Troika** along with Brazil and South Africa and has been actively contributing to the ongoing G20 Summit discussions.
- **During the Summit, Prime Minister** will put forward India's positions on various issues of **global importance and build on the outcomes from the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration** and Voice of the Global South Summits which were hosted by India in the past two years.
- Mr Modi is expected to meet several leaders on the sidelines of the G20 Summit.



- Prime Minister Modi will undertake a **state visit to Guyana from 19th to 21st November**. The visit to Guyana will be the first by an **Indian Prime Minister since 1968**.

- Last year, **President of Guyana, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali** visited India as the Chief Guest at the **17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas** in Indore and was also awarded the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman.
- During the visit, Prime Minister will hold discussions with **President Ali, meet other senior leaders of Guyana**, address the Parliament of Guyana and address a gathering of the Indian diaspora.
- In Guyana's Georgetown, Prime Minister will also participate in the Second **CARICOM-India Summit and hold meetings** with leaders of CARICOM member countries to further enhance India's long-standing friendship with the region.

India In Global Top 10 For Patents

- India has secured a spot in the **global top 10 countries in Patents, Trademarks, and Industrial Designs** in the World Intellectual Property Indicators 2024 report.
- The report reveals **significant growth in patent**, trademark, and industrial design applications across top economies.
- India continues to **solidify its place as a global leader** in the intellectual property, and IP landscape by showing substantial progress and marking new milestones in IP activity.



- Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement that India ranks sixth globally for patents **with 64 thousand 480 applications**, with resident filings accounting for over half of all submissions.
- **The patent office also granted 149.4 per cent** more patents in 2023 compared to the previous year, underlining the country's fast-evolving IP ecosystem. The report indicates a **steady rise of 36.4 per cent in India's industrial design** applications, which aligns with increasing emphasis on product design, manufacturing, and creative industries within India.

- The top three sectors-Textiles and Accessories, Tools and Machines, and Health and Cosmetics-made up almost half of all design filings.

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.



Kayakalp Scheme

- Rajasthan College Education Commission has mandated a new initiative. Twenty government colleges will paint their front facades and entry halls orange. This directive aligns with the Kayakalp Scheme. The scheme aims to encourage a positive environment in educational institutions.
- The Kayakalp Scheme is a national initiative. It is launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The primary goal is to enhance cleanliness and hygiene. It focuses on infection control in public healthcare facilities. The scheme encourages aesthetic improvements in institutions.



2024 Booker Prize

- British author **Samantha Harvey** has won the **2024 Booker Prize** for her novel *Orbital*, the first book set in space to win the prize.
- **Orbital** contemplates the world from a different viewpoint as it follows a team of astronauts aboard the **International Space Station**. It is the biggest-selling book on the **shortlist in the United Kingdom** and has also outsold the past three Booker winners combined, up to the eve of their success.



- **Ms Harvey** is the first woman to win the award since 2019. She will receive 50,000 pounds. She dedicated the prize to **“all the people who speak for the Earth and work for peace.”**

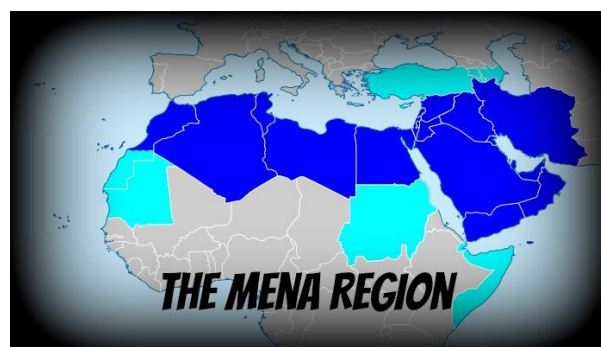
- The **name of the winner was announced** at a ceremony at London's Old Billingsgate.

Brands Of India

- The 2nd edition of Brands of India, organized by the **Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI)**, has gathered over **150 Indian apparel brands** and white-label manufacturers at the **Dubai World Trade Centre**.
- This premier trade event offers a **unique sourcing opportunity for retailers**, chain and department stores, boutique outlets, wholesalers, agents, distributors, importers, traders, e-commerce platforms, and buying houses from around the world to procure **"Made in India" textiles and other value-added products**.



- **Supported by the Ministry of Textiles**, Government of India, the Indian Missions in the UAE, the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), the Noida Apparel Export Cluster (NAEC), TEXMAS (Dubai), and the Readymade Garments Merchants Group (Dubai), the event aims to foster business growth and **partnerships, primarily within the MENA region**.



- The trade show has attracted significant interest, with over **1,200 retailers, wholesalers, and importers** from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen, Egypt, Turkey, Angola, Ghana, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Morocco, Nigeria, Kenya, Somalia, Algeria, the USA, UK, Australia, Canada, Germany, Greece, Singapore, South Africa, and other countries.



THE CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

- Leveraging the benefits of the **India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**, which **eliminates the 5% import duty** on Ready Made Garments (RMG), Brands of India further bolsters India's competitive edge in the region, particularly against major global players.
- The standout features of Indian apparel manufacturing include cost-effective labour, the **ability to fulfil small orders at competitive prices**, decades of expertise in white-label manufacturing for leading global brands, and timely deliveries supported by efficient logistics systems.
- **CMAI, representing the Indian apparel industry with over 5,000 members** and supporting more than 25,000 retailers nationwide, has promoted the show extensively, inviting **international buyers from more than 60 countries**. The event is poised to strengthen business ties and create new opportunities for Indian manufacturers in the global market. The three-day fair will conclude on November 14th.

First Bodoland Mohotsov

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **the first-ever Bodoland Mohotsov on 15th November** 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.
- **Theme: "Peace and Harmony for Prosperous Bharat"**.



- Bodos are the **single largest tribal community in Assam**. They have controlled large parts of Assam in the past. They constitute the **Bodo Territorial Area District (BTAD)** and constitute **four districts in Assam** — Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri and Chirang.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the **Bodo Peace Accord** had not just benefitted the Bodo community, but also opened avenues for many more peace accords.
- Addressing the first Bodoland Mohotsav in New Delhi this evening, Mr Modi said, that due to **peace accords, more than 10 thousand youths have given up arms and violence in Assam alone** and they joined the mainstream. He said, the Central Government has given a **special package of 1,500 crore rupees** for the development of Bodoland.



- A **Memorandum of Settlement (MoS)** was signed on **27.01.2020** with factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), All Bodo Students Union etc.
- This MoS seeks to increase the **scope and power of Bodoland Territorial Council and to streamline its functioning**; resolve issues related to Bodo people residing outside Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (BTAD); promote and protect Bodo's social, cultural, linguistic and ethnic identities; provide legislative protection for the land rights of tribals; ensure quick development of tribal areas and rehabilitate members of NDFB factions.
- MoS also provides for establishing a **Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council** as per existing procedure, notifying Bodo language as an associate official language in the State and to set up a separate directorate for Bodo medium schools.

1st Trilateral Power Transaction Nepal To Bangladesh

- **The first trilateral power transaction** – from **Nepal to Bangladesh through the Indian Grid**, was inaugurated.
- Power Minister Manohar Lal jointly inaugurated the power flow from Nepal to Bangladesh, along with the Adviser of Bangladesh Ministry of Power, Fouzul Kabir Khan, and Nepal's Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Dipak Khadka, through a virtual event.
- External Affairs Ministry said this historic occasion marks the **first trilateral power transaction which has been** carried out through the Indian grid. The government announced its decision to facilitate the first trilateral power transaction from Nepal to Bangladesh, through the Indian grid with an export of **up to 40 MW of power during the visit** of the former Nepal Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' to India last year.



- During the visit, both sides expressed their commitment towards **greater sub-regional cooperation**, including in the energy sector, which would lead to increased inter-linkages between the economies for the mutual benefit of all stakeholders.
- Following this, a tripartite power sales agreement **between NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam, Nepal Electricity Authority and Bangladesh Power Development Board** was signed on 3rd October this year in Kathmandu. The start of this power flow from Nepal to Bangladesh through India is expected to boost sub-regional connectivity in the power sector.

Dominica To Confer Highest National Honour

- Dominica has announced to confer **its highest national honour** to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Dominica Award of Honour will be bestowed to the Prime Minister **in recognition of his contributions** to Dominica during the **COVID-19 pandemic** and his dedication to **strengthening the partnership** between India and Dominica.
- President of Dominica Sylvanie Burton will confer the award during the **upcoming India-CARICOM Summit**, scheduled to take place in Georgetown, Guyana from 19th to 21st of this month.



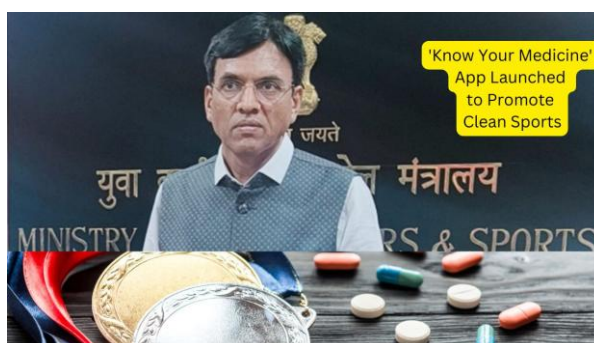
- According to the statement of the Prime Minister Office of Dominica, India supplied Dominica with **70 thousand doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine** during the Covid pandemic in February 2021.

- The award also recognizes India’s support for Dominica in **healthcare, education and information technology** under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, as well as his role in promoting climate resilience-building initiatives and sustainable development on a global level.
- Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skerrit said, Mr. Modi has been a true partner to Dominica, particularly during the time of need amid a global health crisis. He said, it is an **honour to present him with Dominica’s highest national accolade** as a symbol of country’s gratitude for his support and as a reflection of the strong ties between the two countries. He said, Dominica is looking forward to building on this partnership and advancing a shared vision of progress and resilience.

Country	Dominica
Capital	Roseau
Currency	East Caribbean Dollar (XCD)
Prime Minister	Roosevelt Skerrit
President	Luis Rodolfo Abinader

‘Know Your Medicine’ App

- 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**.



- **Launch Objective**
- Part of a nationwide initiative to combat doping in sports.

- Aimed at promoting integrity and fair play among athletes.
- **KYM App Features and Functionality**
- Provides users with a quick way to verify if a medicine or its ingredients contain prohibited substances listed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- Supports athletes in avoiding accidental consumption of banned substances.
- **Image and Audio Search:** Allows users to search for substances by uploading images or audio inputs, enhancing accessibility.
- **Sport-Specific Information:** Users can select their sport category and access tailored information related to their specific needs.
- **Convenience:** Ensures athletes and coaches can effortlessly verify medicines and stay informed on banned substances.

Grand Commander Of The Order Of The Niger Award

- Prime Minister has been conferred with the **'Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger'** Award by Nigeria.
- In his speech, Mr Modi said he accepts the honour with great humility and dedicated it to the people of India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi noted that an Indian Prime Minister is **visiting Nigeria after seventeen years.**



- He expressed happiness that he got the opportunity to visit Nigeria in his third term. He said India is **sending 20 tonnes of humanitarian aid to support** Nigeria in its flood relief efforts. He congratulated Nigeria for **becoming a partner country of BRICS.**
- Mr Modi expressed confidence that India and **Nigeria will bring the issues affecting Global South in front** of the rest of the world. Several Memorandum

of Agreement, MoUs were exchanged following the talks in the presence of Prime Minister Modi and President Tinubu.

India's Heavy Communication Satellite GSAT-20

- **Elon Musk's SpaceX** will launch **India's heavy communication satellite GSAT-20** from **Cape Canaveral** in the US on Nov 19.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath has said that SpaceX's Falcon-9 will launch **ISRO's GSAT-20, also called GSAT N-2**, on November 19.



- The satellite is expected to remain in **operation for 14 years**. It will provide vital services across India, including internet connectivity for remote areas. Weighing **4,700 kg, GSAT-20 is one of India's heaviest communication satellites**.
- The GSAT-20 is too heavy for India's own rocket **LVM-3, popularly known as 'Bahubali'** to carry, so SpaceX was chosen for the launch.
- Radhakrishnan Durairaj, Chairman and Managing Director of New Space India Ltd (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, said that the ISRO has got a good deal for launching such a heavy satellite on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.



- India had till now relied on **French launch service provider Arianespace** for such heavy satellite launches, however, the company does not have any operational

rockets at present and the only reliable option India had was to go with SpaceX. SpaceX's heavy-lifter **Falcon-9 rocket can launch payloads of 8,300 kg or 8.3 tonnes** to geostationary transfer orbit.



Villages Recognised As 'Tsunami Ready' By UNESCO

- In a major achievement for **Odisha, 24 coastal villages from six districts** have been officially recognised as '**Tsunami Ready**' by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
- This recognition was granted during the **2nd Global Tsunami Symposium** in Indonesia, marking a significant milestone in the state's efforts to improve disaster preparedness and community resilience in tsunami-prone areas.



- **The IOC-UNESCO's 'Tsunami Ready' recognition** includes 24 villages from the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Ganjam.
- **The recognition also involved the renewal of certificates** for two previously recognised villages—Noliasahi (Jagatsinghpur) and Venkatraipur (Ganjam), which had already been acknowledged in 2020.
- These villages are part of **Odisha's broader strategy to ensure** preparedness for tsunami threats. Under the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP), the 24 villages have implemented various preparedness measures including training,

community awareness campaigns, mock drills, and installation of tsunami evacuation signages and hoardings.

- These efforts align with the **12 critical indicators** of the Tsunami Ready Programme, aimed at building capacity and reducing vulnerability.
- **Odisha has 381 tsunami-prone coastal villages.** The Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) plans to extend the 'Tsunami Ready' recognition to all of these villages in phases.
- The initiative highlights the **state's commitment to safeguarding** coastal communities from natural disasters, leveraging global frameworks like the IOC-UNESCO's recognition and national resources like INCOIS and NDMA for effective implementation.

Valdecy Urquiza

- **Brazilian Federal Police Commissioner Valdecy Urquiza** has been elected as the new Secretary General of Interpol at the organization's **92nd General Assembly, held in Glasgow, Scotland.**
- Interpol General Assembly is an annual event where member countries convene to discuss critical global policing issues.



- This year, the event was **attended by 1,000 delegates** from Interpol's 195 member countries.
- **India was represented by:** Praveen Sood, Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Vijayendra Bidari, Joint Director in the federal anti-corruption agency.

About Interpol	– Full Name: International Criminal Police Organization.
	– Headquarters: Lyon, France.
	– Founded: 1923.
	– Member Countries: 195.
	– Mission: Facilitate international police cooperation and combat transnational crime.



U.N. Methane Monitoring Program Report

- **U.N.** has monitored methane leaks and has sent **1,200** alerts to governments and companies. **Only 12** major alerts received any action, which is just 1% of the total alerts.
- **Roland Kupers**, the program's lead architect, expressed disappointment in the response. Many parties had pledged to reduce **methane emissions by 30% by 2030**. **Methane is a potent greenhouse gas.**



- It is **80 times more effective than carbon dioxide** over 20 years. Methane has already **contributed to a 0.5°C rise in global temperatures**.
- Reducing methane emissions is crucial for climate action.
- **Plugging leaks in oil and gas wells** is effective, and is one of the quickest methods to reduce methane emissions. Fixing leaks also saves money by preserving valuable products.

Past initiatives (2022) for curbing methane emissions around the Globe:

- There is extensive coverage at the United Nations Climate Conference in **Egypt (COP27)** and the growth of the **Global Methane Pledge (GMP)** since 2022.
- At **COP28 in Dubai**, United Arab Emirates, IMEO launched the new Methane Alert and Response System (MARS).
 - This system collects data from multiple satellites and alerts countries and companies when emissions are detected.
- Under the GMP, more than 150 countries have committed to collectively reducing their methane emissions by **30%** across all sectors by 2030.
- IMEO collaborates with governments, scientists, satellite operators, and companies to integrate and improve the quality of methane emissions data, specifically identifying mitigation opportunities.

- Despite global pledges, methane emissions remain at record highs. Emissions from the oil and gas industry have not decreased since 2019. Commitment from **150 countries and 140 companies** has not translated into action.
- **Turkmenistan reported the highest number** of leaks. Nearly 400 plumes were detected there. The **United States followed with 178 leaks. Azerbaijan recorded 32 leaks.** Satellite data is crucial for identifying leaks. However, cloud

cover can limit its effectiveness. Companies plan to use this data to comply with future methane regulations.



Karnataka To Set Up 3 Global Innovation Districts

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced the establishment of three **Global Innovation Districts (GIDs)** in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Belagavi to attract and support **Global Capability Centres (GCCs)** in the state.
- The announcement was made at the **27th Bengaluru Tech Summit**, where the CM also highlighted the launch of India's first dedicated GCC policy, aiming to empower innovation.



- These innovation districts will be **key pillars in Karnataka's strategy** to foster research, development, and emerging industries, alongside strengthening its position as a global tech hub.

- The **GIDs in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and Belagavi** will be dedicated parks for GCCs, with Bengaluru's district forming part of the **Knowledge, Wellbeing, and Innovation City (KWIN City)**.



- The **KWIN City** will position **Bengaluru** as a global hub for innovation and research, supported by Karnataka's unmatched engineering talent and its leadership in AI professionals.
- A significant aspect of Karnataka's strategy is the '**Nipuna Karnataka**' initiative, designed to create an industry-ready workforce. The state aims to skill one lakh people through partnerships with global tech giants like Microsoft, Intel, Accenture, IBM, and the BFSI Consortium. This will ensure the availability of top-tier expertise for GCCs.

PM Modi Honored With The Order Of Excellence

- Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi** conferred with **Guyana's highest national award**, The **Order of Excellence**, for his visionary statesmanship, championing the **rights of developing countries** on the global stage, exceptional service to the global community and for his commitment to strengthening India-Guyana relations.



- In a ceremony at the Guyana's State House, **Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali**, President of Guyana conferred this award upon the Prime Minister.
- Mr Modi dedicated the honour to the people of India and to the deep-rooted historical ties between the people of the two countries.
- He emphasized that his State visit is testament to India's continued commitment towards **deepening India-Guyana friendship**.
- The Prime Minister said that **India-Guyana relations are based on shared history**, cultural heritage, and deep mutual trust between both nations. Mr Modi said that India is also **ready to work shoulder to shoulder** with Guyana in every field. He said the cooperation of both countries is not only important for bilateral relations but also for the entire global south.

PM Modi Meetings On Sidelines Of India Caricom Summit

- PM Narendra Modi Met His **Dominican Counterpart Roosevelt Skerrit** On The Sidelines Of The 2nd **India- Caricom Summit In Guyana** . Mr Modi Thanked Him For The **Conferment Of Dominica's Highest Award**. The Leaders Explored Opportunities For **India- Dominica Cooperation** In Areas Such As **Climate Resilience, Healthcare**, Capacity Building And Deepening Of People-to-people Ties.



- Mr Modi Also Met President **Of Suriname Chandrikapersad Chan Santokhi** . Both Leaders Reviewed Progress On **India- Suriname Partnership And Emphasized** The Importance Of Strengthening Economic Cooperation. They Agreed To **Expand Bilateral Cooperation** In Areas Including Defense And Security, Trade And Commerce, Agriculture, Digital Initiatives Including UPI, ICT,

Healthcare, Traditional Medicine And Pharmaceuticals, Capacity Building, Human Resource Development, Cultural And People To People Engagements.



- Mr Modi Also Met **Prime Minister Of Trinidad And Tobago Dr Keith Rowley**. Mr Modi Congratulated Dr. Rowley **For Adopting India's Flagship UPI Platform**. The Leaders Discussed Ways To **Strengthen India – Trinidad And Tobago Relations** In Areas Of Digital Transformation, Health, Defence And Maritime Security, Transportation And Cultural Exchanges. The Prime Ministers Witnessed Exchange Of An Mou On **Setting Up Of Integrated Automatic Fruit And Vegetable Primary Processing Activities** In Trinidad And Tobago.



- During The Meeting Of **Mr Modi And His Counterpart From The Bahamas Philip Brave Davis**, The Discussion Focused On Strengthening Economic Ties, Climate Change Action And Green Partnership.



- Mr Modi And His Counterpart **From Barbados Mia Amor Mottley Reaffirmed To Strengthen The India-Barbados Relationship, While Reviewing Ongoing Cooperation Across Several Key Areas, Including Health And Pharma And Collaboration At The United Nations. During The Meeting, Prime Minister Of Barbados Announced The Decision Of Her Government To Confer On The Prime Minister The Honorary Order Of Freedom Of Barbados Award, Recognizing His Leadership In Assisting Barbados During The Covid 19 Pandemic And Commitment To India-barbados Ties.**



- PM Met His Grenadian **Counterpart Dickon Mitchell On The Sidelines Of The 2nd India- Caricom Summit In Georgetown. Mr Modi Congratulated Mr Mitchell For Successfully Conducting The 2nd India- Caricom Summit. Discussions Were Held On Development Cooperation In The Areas Of Education, ICT, Healthcare, Food Security, Cricket, Capacity Building, And Sustainable Development.**



- During The Meeting Of **Mr Modi And Prime Minister Of Antigua And Barbuda Gaston Browne Views Were Exchanged On Issues Of Trade And Investment, Capacity Building For Small Island Developing States SIDS And Climate Change**

Action. Mr Browne Announced Support For **India's Permanent Membership** Of The UN Security Council.



- Mr Modi Also Met His **Counterpart From St. Lucia Philip J Pierre**. Both Sides Exchanged Views On Cooperation In The Fields Of Capacity Building, Education, Health, Cricket, And Yoga And Stressed The **Need To Further Reinforce India-st Lucia Bilateral Relations**. Mr Pierre Thanked Mr Modi For The 7 Point CARICOM Plan.



India And Guyana Sign Ten Agreements

- **India and Guyana have signed ten agreements** to enhance cooperation in several areas including health, hydrocarbons, agriculture and allied sectors. The **Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs)** were signed on cooperation in the field of medical products, **Janaushadhi scheme**, Cultural Exchange Programme, deployment of UPI like system in Guyana and cooperation and collaboration in field of broadcasting between **Prasar Bharati and National Communications Network**, Guyana.



- Besides, MoU was also signed between **National Defence Institute, Guyana and Rashtriya Raksha University, Gujarat.**
- In a joint statement, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that **India and Guyana agree that dialogue and diplomacy** should be used to resolve all issues. He said, both the countries are unanimous that **reform of global institutions** is the need of the hour.
- Mr Modi said, **climate justice is a shared priority** for both nations, and they will continue to strive for progress in all areas. Mr Modi highlighted that India is an **important source of pharmaceutical products** for Guyana and India will also work on setting up **Jan Aushadhi Kendras** in that country.
- **Prime Minister Modi noted that Guyana is associated with various initiatives** taken by India, such as the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, and the Global Biofuel Alliance.



- President of Guyana, Dr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali said, the discussion held with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was not only fruitful but also reinforced their **shared commitment to strengthening bilateral** relations and the collaboratively address regional and global concerns. He said, Prime Minister Modi's visit to Guyana represents a significant milestone in enhancing cooperation between

the two countries. He commended Mr **Modi's governance style**, noting their relevance and adoption in Guyana and other nations.

Dominica Award Of Honour

- **Commonwealth of Dominica has bestowed** its highest national honour – the **Dominica Award of Honour, upon** Prime Minister Narendra Modi. President of **Dominica Sylvanie Burton conferred** the Award in recognition of Prime Minister Modi's contributions to Dominica during the COVID-19 pandemic and his dedication to strengthening the partnership between the two countries.
- Mr Modi said, he is honoured to be conferred with highest national award by Dominica. He **dedicated it to the 140 crore people of India**.



- He said, **India and Dominica are two democracies** and together are role models of women's empowerment for the world. Mr Modi said, it is a matter of deep satisfaction that India was able to help the people of Dominica during a pandemic like Covid-19.

ICC Issues Arrest Warrants For Netanyahu

- **International Criminal Court, ICC** has issued **arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** and his **former defence chief**, as well as a **Hamas leader, Ibrahim Al-Masri**, for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.



- The move comes after the ICC prosecutor Karim Khan announced on May 20, that he was seeking arrest **warrants for alleged crimes connected to the October 7th**, last year attacks on Israel by Hamas and the Israeli military response in Gaza.
- The ICC said, **Israel's acceptance of the court's jurisdiction** was not required. Israel has rejected the jurisdiction of the Hague-based court and denies war crimes in Gaza.
- Israel has said, it **killed Al-Masri, also known as Mohammed Deif**, in airstrike but Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied this.

International Solar Alliance

- **Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance.** Armenia handed over the **Indian Solar Alliance Instrument of Ratification** during a meeting between its Ambassador to India, Vahagn Afyan, and the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, Abhishek Singh, in New Delhi.



VISION Portal

- Science and Technology Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** inaugurated the **Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network (VISION)** in New Delhi.
- The initiative is aimed at **nurturing education, skill development,** and innovation among underprivileged children.



- Minister lauded the **entrepreneurial vision behind the initiative** and its focus on democratizing opportunities for students across the country. He emphasized how the **portal could act as a gateway for those in remote areas to access mentorship and training.** Further, the Minister said that reaching out to **underprivileged youngsters** helps democratize StartUp skills.
- He also highlighted the **country's journey in startups, biotechnology,** and space. Mr. Singh also said that initiatives like VISION are integral to realizing the country's aspirations under Vision India 2047, which aims to position India as a global leader in technology, education, and economic growth.

First Indigenous Antibiotic Drug Named Nafithromycin

- Union Minister of Science and Technology **Dr. Jitendra Singh** has launched the **first indigenous antibiotic drug named Nafithromycin** for resistant infections.
- Addressing the event in New Delhi, Mr Singh said that the **three-day treatment regimen of Nafithromycin** is a game-changer against **drug-resistant pneumonia,** a condition responsible for over two million deaths worldwide annually.



- The minister added that after 2014, researchers received the right kind of support to explore their potential.
- Dr. Singh stated that Prime Minister's personal intervention has made the task far more easier now. The **Made in India Antibiotic Nafithromycin has been developed** with the support of **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**, a unit of the Department of Biotechnology and has been brought to **market under the trade name Miqnaf**.
- It is the country's **first indigenously developed antibiotic** aimed at tackling Antimicrobial Resistance-AMR.

Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar

- **Union Minister of Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** will confer the **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** for the years 2022 and 2023 at a function in New Delhi.



- A total of **82 young artists** will be honoured with the **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar**.

- **Sangeet Natak Akademi** instituted the award in the name of Bharat Ratna Ustad Bismillah Khan for young performing arts practitioners up to the age of 40 years in **2006**.
- The **aim of this award is to encourage and motivate** young artists in the fields of music, dance, drama, folk and tribal art forms, and other allied performing art forms of the country.
- The award is **given annually to outstanding young artists** in the fields of music, dance, drama, folk and tribal arts, and puppetry in a special ceremony held in Delhi and also outside Delhi. The Yuva Puraskar carries a cash award of 25 thousand rupees, a plaque, and an angavastram.



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**.



- 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.

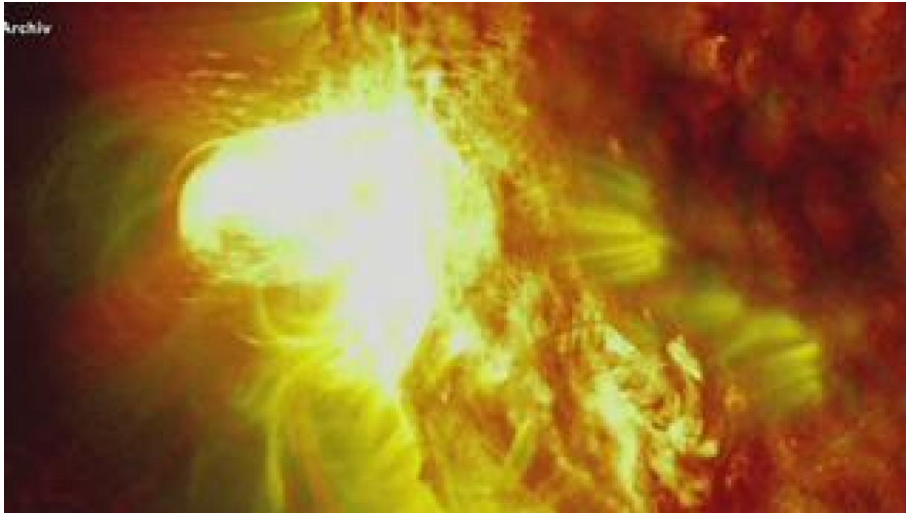
Binar Satellites Burn Up Due to Solar Activity

- **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.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which Village Is Home To India's First Writers' Village

- A. Kalsi
- B. Raipur
- C. Doiwala
- D. Thano

ANSWER: D

2. Which Country Opted Out Of China's Belt And Road Initiative (BRI)

- A. Brazil
- B. Russia
- C. South Africa
- D. Argentina

ANSWER: A

3. Which Fintech Firm Completed Its Merger With North East Small Finance Bank

- A. Paytm
- B. PolicyBazaar
- C. Slice
- D. PhonePe

ANSWER: C

4. Atanu Das Has Bagged ____ Medal In Swiss Open Indoor Archery In Lausanne

- A. Gold
- B. Silver
- C. Bronze
- D. None Of The Above

ANSWER: C

5. Pranahita Wildlife Sanctuary, Is Located In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Telangana
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: C

6. India's First Analog Space Mission Started In

- A. Ladakh
- B. Kerala
- C. Gujrat
- D. Delhi

ANSWER: A

7. Where Was The Climate And Health Africa Conference Held

- A. Kenya
- B. Zimbabwe
- C. Cameroon
- D. Angola

ANSWER: B

8. LignoSat Seen In News Is Associated With

- A. France
- B. Japan
- C. Spain
- D. Russia

ANSWER: B

9. PROBA 3 Mission Is Made By

- A. NASA
- B. ESA
- C. ISRO
- D. JAXA

ANSWER: A

10. Where Was 7th Session Of The International Solar Alliance Held

- A. New Delhi
- B. Chennai
- C. Bhopal
- D. Hyderabad

ANSWER: A

11. Which Country Elected As President Of International Solar Alliance Until 2026

- A. India
- B. France
- C. Australia
- D. Brazil

ANSWER: A

12. Which Institution Has Launched The 15-day 'Jal Utsav'

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Central Institute of Brackish Water Aquaculture
- C. Bureau of Energy Efficiency
- D. Ministry of Jal Shakti

ANSWER: A

13. Main Objective Of The PM- Vidyalaxmi Scheme

- A. To provide grants for students in primary education
- B. To provide financial aid to meritorious students for quality higher education
- C. To build new universities across India
- D. To support technical research in agriculture

ANSWER: B

14. Food Corporation of India Formed In

- A. 1945
- B. 1955
- C. 1965
- D. 1975

ANSWER: C

15. Mount Lewotobi Is Located In

- A. Japan
- B. Indonesia
- C. Philippines
- D. Italy

ANSWER: B

16. Which Ministry Launched Digital Life Certificate Campaign 3.0 In New Delhi

- A. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- D. Ministry of Rural Development

ANSWER: A

17. Which City Is The Host Of World Travel Market (WTM) 2024 Event

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

ANSWER: D

18. Bidar Fort, Is Located In Which State

- A. Karnataka
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: A

19. Which State Has Recently Approved A 35% Reservation For Women In All State Government Recruitments

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

ANSWER: C

20. Where Was The 4th LG Horse Polo Cup 2024 Inaugurated

- A. Ladakh
- B. Jaipur
- C. Mussoorie
- D. Shimla

ANSWER: A

21. Okinawicius Tekdi, Belongs To Which Species

- A. Butterfly
- B. Fish
- C. Spider
- D. Frog

ANSWER: C

22. UN Climate Change Conference, COP29 Begins At

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

ANSWER: A

23. BIMSTEC Energy Centre has been established in

- A. Chennai
- B. New Delhi
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: C

24. When is World Science Day for Peace and Development celebrated annually

- A. November 5
- B. November 10
- C. November 15
- D. November 25

ANSWER: B

25. Which City Is The Host Of Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024

- A. Jaipur, Rajasthan
- B. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Rajgir, Bihar
- D. Indore, Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER: C

26. Pandit Ram Narayan, Recently Passed Away, Was Associated With Which Field

- A. Music
- B. Journalism
- C. Politics
- D. Sports

ANSWER: A

27. Where G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group Ministerial Meeting Held

- A. Tokyo, Japan
- B. Belem, Brazil
- C. Mumbai, India
- D. Paris, France

ANSWER: B

28. From Which City Is Anish Sarkar, The Youngest-rated Chess Prodigy In History

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kolkata
- C. Chennai
- D. Delhi

ANSWER: B

29. Who Has Been Appointed As The New Coach Of India's Double Olympic Medallist Neeraj Chopra

- A. Jan Zelezny
- B. Uwe Hohn
- C. Steve Backley
- D. Andreas Thorkildsen

ANSWER: A

30. NITI Aayog's WEP Partners With ____ For Women MSME's

- A. Nyka
- B. Amazon
- C. Urban Company
- D. Flipkart

ANSWER: C