



DECEMBER 2024

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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LSAT



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and more..

"Guru Gyan"

Dear Students,

I want to talk to you about two superpowers that can change your life: perseverance and hard work. These aren't just fancy words you hear in speeches; they're the secret to achieving all your dreams.

Perseverance is all about pushing through even when things get tough. It's not giving up when you face obstacles, failures, or disappointments. It's having the courage to keep moving forward, knowing that every setback is an opportunity to learn and grow. As Nelson Mandela once said, "The greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

And let's not forget hard work! It's like the fuel that powers your dreams. It's putting in the effort, day in and day out, to make progress towards your goals. As Thomas Edison famously put it, "Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration." So, roll up your sleeves, get ready, and go after what you want with all your heart.

Sure, the road to success might have bumps, potholes, and unexpected challenges, but that's what makes the journey so incredible. Each step you take, each challenge you conquer, makes you stronger and more resilient.

So, my friends, don't be afraid to dream big and work even bigger! Embrace perseverance and hard work as your best buddies on this exciting adventure called life.

Now, go out there and show the world what you're made of! You've got this!

Vishishta Nayak

(Faculty)

Yes Academy for CS|Law (Pune)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Cabinet approved National Mission on Natural Farming



The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the launching of the National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF) as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.

The scheme has a total outlay of Rs.2481 crore (Government of India share – Rs.1584 crore; State share – Rs.897 crore) till the 15th Finance Commission (2025-26).

Objective – To promote natural farming in mission mode across the country as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.

Rooted in the traditional knowledge inherited from their forefathers, farmers will practise Natural Farming (NF) as a chemical free

farming which involves local livestock integrated natural farming methods, diversified crop systems, etc.

MoD inks contract worth ₹1207 Cr with Cochin Shipyard Limited for Short Refit and Dry Docking of INS Vikramaditya

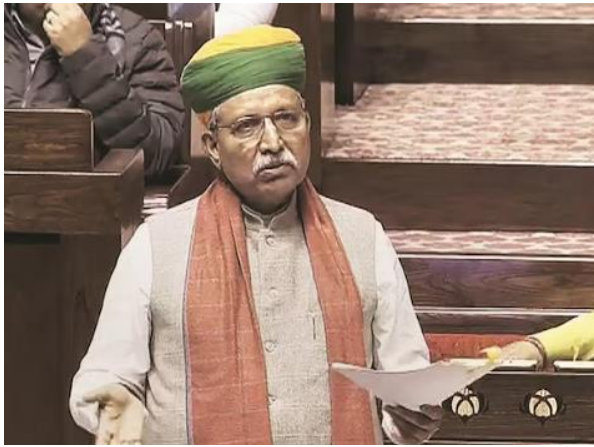


The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with M/s Cochin Shipyard Limited for Short Refit and Dry Docking (SRDD) of INS Vikramaditya at an overall cost of Rs. 1207.5 Cr.

INS Vikramaditya is an Indian Aircraft Carrier commissioned in the Indian Navy in November 2013. After completion of the Refit, INS Vikramaditya will join the active fleet of the Indian Navy with upgraded combat capability.

This project is an important step towards development of Cochin Shipyard Limited as Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) Hub for supporting the industrial ecosystem of India.

'Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Samman' Portal



The Department of Justice is implementing a pan-India, year-long nationwide campaign titled 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' to celebrate the 75th year of India as a Republic and the adoption of India's Constitution.

The campaign was launched on January 24, 2024, by the Hon'ble Vice-President of India. Following this, three regional events have also been organized in Bikaner, Rajasthan, on March 9, 2024, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, on July 16, 2024, and in Guwahati, Assam on

November 19, 2024 respectively to ensure decentralized outreach of the campaign.

The campaign aims to reaffirm our collective commitment to the principles enshrined in the Constitution of India and to celebrate the shared values that bind our nation.

Arunachal Pradesh launches 'Mission Himveer' to boost local economy



To boost market linkage for agricultural and horticultural products in Arunachal Pradesh, the state government has launched Mission Arun Himveer by signing a pact between the agriculture marketing board and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, North East Frontier.

As part of the initiative, the state government will supply fruits, vegetables, meat, and poultry to the ITBP. These produces will be procured from local farmers, self-help groups (SHGs), farmer producer organisations and farmer cooperatives.

The mission aims to provide readymade markets for farmers in remote villages and regions with low marketable surplus.

[Government scraps windfall tax on crude, petrol, diesel export](#)



The Indian government has abolished the windfall tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), crude oil, petrol, and diesel, effective immediately.

This move marks the end of a levy introduced in July 2022 and aims to provide relief to oil producers and refiners.

The decision is expected to benefit major oil players like Reliance Industries and ONGC by boosting their gross refining margins—a measure of profitability in refining crude oil.

What is a windfall tax?

- A windfall tax is an additional levy imposed on extraordinary or unexpected profits made by companies or industries.

- India introduced the windfall tax on domestic crude oil production in July 2022, following a sharp rise in global crude oil prices. The tax aimed to capture excess revenue generated from these unexpected gains.

[Ratapani Tiger Reserve, MP notified as the 57th Tiger Reserve of the country.](#)



Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, informed the Nation about the notification of the Ratapani Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh, as the 57th Tiger Reserve of the country.

Ratapani Tiger Reserve has a core area of 763.8 sq km, a buffer area of 507.6 sq km and a total area of 1271.4 sq km. It is the 8th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh.

Government Launches Training Program on Chemical and Petrochemical Industrial Safety



As part of the Viksit Bharat@2047 initiative, the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has introduced its first training program on “Chemical and Petrochemical Industrial Safety” in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

The program, themed “Safety First, Sustainability Always: Protecting People and Planet,” was held at the Central Institute of Petrochemical Engineering & Technology (CIPET): Institute of Petrochemicals Technology (IPT).

2nd India-UK 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue held in New Delhi



The second India and the United Kingdom 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue was held in New Delhi.

The first was held in New Delhi in October 2023, and both countries have agreed to hold their third Dialogue next year in the United Kingdom.

The 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue is different from the 2+2 Foreign and Defence Minister Dialogue.

The 2+2 Foreign and Defence dialogue is a Senior official-level mechanism for discussing and reviewing all aspects of the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

[Nafithromycin: Country’s First Indigenous Antibiotic](#)



India has led the way with the creation of Nafithromycin, the country’s first indigenous Macrolide antibiotic. This remarkable achievement marks a pivotal moment in the fight against antimicrobial resistance, showcasing India’s growing capabilities in pharmaceutical innovation.

Developed by Wockhardt with support from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Nafithromycin (marketed as “Miqnaf,”) targets Community-Acquired Bacterial Pneumonia (CABP) caused by drug-resistant bacteria, which disproportionately affects vulnerable populations such as children, the elderly, and those with compromised immune system.

[25 years of Hornbill Festival of Nagaland](#)



Nagaland’s signature tourism and cultural festival, “Hornbill Festival”, is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2024 that is annually held from December 1 to 10

The Hornbill Festival, also famous as the “Festivals of Festivals”, derives its name from the elusive Hornbill bird.

The Hornbill Festival was launched in 2000 by the Nagaland government as a celebration of Naga culture but over a period of time has grown in popularity and stature, attracting national and international visitors.

During the festival,17 tribes of Nagaland showcase their culture and tradition through dances, processions, art exhibits and musical performances.

India's first Hyperloop train test track completed by IIT Madras



IIT Madras has completed a 410-meter Hyperloop test track, marking a significant milestone in India's journey toward futuristic transport systems.

The project is being led by IIT Madras's Avishkar Hyperloop team in partnership with TuTr, a startup incubated at the institute. The Avishkar Hyperloop team comprises 76 undergraduates and postgraduate students from IIT Madras.

The Hyperloop concept, originally popularised by Elon Musk in 2012, is now gaining traction worldwide, and this development takes India closer to adopting cutting-edge transportation technology.

The technology will be implemented in two phases: the first phase will feature an 11.5-kilometre test track to validate and certify the technology.

PM Modi launched 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' for women



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched 'Bima Sakhi Yojana' in Panipat to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness among women.

This initiative of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is designed to empower women aged 18-70 years, who are Class X pass. They will receive specialized training and a stipend for the first three years to promote financial literacy and insurance awareness.

After training, they can serve as LIC agents and the graduate Bima Sakhis would have the opportunity to qualify for being considered for Development Officer roles in LIC.

[PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit](#)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Rising Rajasthan Global Investment Summit 2024 and the Rajasthan Global Business Expo at the Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Centre (JECC) in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

It is part of the Rajasthan Government's goal of doubling the state's economy to USD 350 billion in the next five years.

Theme 2024 – Replete, Responsible, Ready

[Cabinet approves Signing of MoU between GSI and CNR-IRPI, Italy for Collaboration in Landslide Prediction and Forecasting](#)

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) will collaborate with Italy's Research Institute for Geo-Hydrological Protection (CNR-IRPI) to enhance landslide forecasting and early warning systems.

This partnership, approved by the Union Cabinet, aims to improve India's Landslide

Early Warning Systems (LEWS) to international standards.

GSI's state-of-the-art NLFC, based in Kolkata, currently provides daily live forecast reporting in Kalimpong and Darjeeling (West Bengal) and Nilgiri (Tamil Nadu), while ground testing is underway in 13 additional districts.

[HPCL inks pact with Sea6 Energy to convert seaweed biomass into fuels](#)



Government-owned oil major HPCL and Sea6 Energy Private Limited have entered into a MoU for R&D collaboration to take up joint development and commercialisation of technologies for valorising seaweed biomass.

Under this MoU, HPCL will develop and scale up technologies jointly with Sea6 Energy for the conversion of seaweed biomass into fuels and chemicals. While these technologies are being developed and piloted, Sea6 Energy will also work on the upstream portion of making

seaweed farming and harvesting more cost-effective.

[IEPFA and ACCA Sign MoU to Boost Financial Literacy and Investor Protection Across India](#)

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) have signed an MoU to enhance financial literacy, investor education, and protection in India, focusing on both urban and rural sectors.

The collaboration will implement the “Financial Education for You” (FEFY) program, a four-year initiative targeting students in grades 6 to 9 to build a strong foundation for sound financial decision-making.

[CM Dhami inaugurated 10th World Ayurveda Congress 2024 at Dehradun](#)



Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 at Dehradun. The 10th World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo 2024 will be held in Dehradun from 12-15th December 2024.

Theme 2024 – Digital Health- an Ayurveda Perspective

The first Ayurveda Conference was organised in Kochi, Kerala, in 2002.

It is organised every two years, and the 9th edition of the World Ayurveda Congress and Arogya Expo was held in Goa from 8-11 December 2022.

[Uber launches women-only bike taxi service ‘Moto Women’ in Bengaluru](#)



Ride-hailing giant Uber India has introduced ‘Uber Moto Women’ in Bengaluru, marking its first women-exclusive bike taxi service globally.

The service, which connects female riders with female drivers, is set to expand to other major metropolitan cities, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, and Hyderabad.

Uber Moto Women drivers will have the option to switch between accepting only female riders or all passengers.

[India sets up its first diabetes biobank in Chennai](#)

Aimed at facilitating advanced research on diabetes, the variations of the Indian type and other related disorders, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) has set up the country's first diabetes biobank.

This repository of population-based biological samples established in Chennai will gather, process, store and distribute biospecimens to assist scientific studies.

[OTHERS](#)

- Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary announced that Sultanganj railway station in the Bhagalpur district will be renamed after the revered Hindu shrine, Ajgaibinath Dham.
- The 30th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF), slated to kick off on December 4, announced its lineup of 175 films from 29 countries, and revealed France as the focus country of this year's film festival.
- Gujarati "Gharcholas" traditionally worn at weddings within Hindu and Jain communities has received a Geographical Indication or GI tag from the Government of India.
- The World Maritime Conference 2024 will hold in Chennai from the 4th to 6th December. The Director General of Shipping Shyam Jagannathan will be the Guest of Honour.
- The Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini has inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsav at Kurukshetra, Haryana.

The International Gita Mahotsav commemorates the birth of 'Srimad Bhagwat Gita', the sacred scripture containing advice of Lord Krishna that he gave to Arjuna in Kurukshetra on the first day of the famous 18-day battle in the Mahabharata.

- Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce platform, has signed an MoU with the Department for Promotion of Industry and

Internal Trade (DPIIT) to support and empower tech start-ups in India.

बूझो तो जानें

Done with National Affairs? Isn't our own country more interesting than you thought it to be? Here's a little reward for you! Solve this riddle and send us your answers to our Instagram page [yesdaily_official](https://www.instagram.com/yesdaily_official) and the best answers will be selected for our special prize. (Answer to the previous riddle: Vitamin K)

I come but once in twelve long years,
Drawing millions with hopes and tears.
At sacred rivers, they gather near,
For a holy dip to cleanse what's dear.

My name echoes with faith so deep,
A cosmic event, where vows they keep.
What am I, this ancient fest,
The largest gathering, by all confessed?



INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

India to host Asia-Oceania satellite users' conference

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in collaboration with the Ministry of Earth Sciences, will host the 14th Asia-Oceania Meteorological Satellite Users' Conference (AOMSUC-14) in New Delhi between 4 and 6 December.

The conference will bring together approximately 150 participants from various countries to discuss the latest advancements in satellite remote sensing and their application in meteorology and climatology.

The AOMSUC-14 aims to highlight the significance of satellite observations, promote advancements in satellite technology, and foster collaboration between satellite operators and users.

16th COP of the UNCCD Commences in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) commenced in Riyadh.

COP16 will take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from 2-13 December 2024 under the theme Our Land. Our Future.

The COP to the UNFCCC is held every two years, and the 15th COP was held in May 2022 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

The 16th Conference of Parties of the UNCCD is being organised by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and is hosted by the Saudi Arabian Government.

China's first atmospheric monitoring station in Antarctica begins operations

China has officially inaugurated its first overseas atmospheric background station in Antarctica, marking a major milestone in global climate research.

The National Atmospheric Background Station began operations, offering critical data to support international efforts in addressing climate change.

The station will carry out continuous, long-term monitoring of atmospheric components in the Antarctic. Its primary goal is to track shifts in concentrations of atmospheric elements and provide an accurate depiction of the region's atmospheric composition.

India emerges as Prime Global Target for Mobile Malware Attacks

According to a recently published Zscaler ThreatLabz 2024 Mobile IoT and OT Threat report, India has emerged as the most targeted country for mobile malware attacks.

The Report, published by the cloud security company Zscaler Inc., analysed security attacks by hackers on mobile and IoT/OT from June 2023 to May 2024.

28 % of the attacks on mobile phones in the world were reported from India. After India, the United States was second, followed by Canada, South Africa, and the Netherlands.

In the 2023 report, India was ranked third in the world after the United States and Canada. The United States remains the top target of Internet of Things (IoT) device attacks, followed by Singapore, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Canada.

India's IndiGo ranked among 'world's worst airlines' in survey

According to the report, IndiGo has been ranked among the "world's worst airlines" in the 2024 AirHelp Score report, securing 103rd place out of 109 with a score of 4.80. The low rating is attributed to underwhelming

customer satisfaction and poor handling of flight disruption claims.

Meanwhile, Tata's Air India fares slightly better, standing at 61st. At the top of the list, Brussels Airlines has been named the best airline, followed by Qatar Airways.

Conducted by AirHelp, an EU-based claim processing agency, the survey evaluates airlines globally on punctuality, quality of service, and handling of compensation claims. These criteria weighed equally, form the overall score.

Elon Musk makes history: Surpasses \$400 billion net worth, widening lead over Bezos and Zuckerberg

Elon Musk has become the first person to surpass \$400 billion in net worth, solidifying his position as the world's richest individual.

According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Musk's fortune has reached \$447 billion, marking significant growth since the US presidential election.

Musk's increasing wealth highlights the rising value of his ventures, particularly in the electric vehicle and space sectors, as Tesla and SpaceX continue to lead their respective markets.

Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is a distant second on the list with a total worth of \$249 billion and Mark Zuckerberg is a close third at \$224 billion.

Britain Becomes First European Nation to Join CPTPP

Britain has become the first European nation to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), becoming the 12th member.

The bloc comprises Canada and Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Brunei, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, and Vietnam.

The UK, following its 2016 Brexit referendum, is attempting to establish new trade deals abroad after signing the accession treaty with most EU members.

BANKING AND FINANCIAL

India signs \$98 million loan agreement with ADB to boost horticulture productivity

India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$98 million loan agreement to enhance horticulture crop productivity in the country.

The funding will support the establishment of disease-free planting material systems, boosting crop yields, quality, and resilience to climate change.

The loan amount will be used to target crops like almonds, apples, avocados, berries, citrus, grapes, guava, litchi, mango, pomegranate, and walnuts.

The government will establish dedicated clean plant centres to maintain disease-free foundation materials that accredited nurseries will later propagate.

India's external debt rises by \$31 bn to \$647 bn in 2023: World Bank report

India's total external debt has increased by \$ 31 billion to \$ 646.79 billion in 2023, according to World Bank International Debt Report.

The report further said that interest payment increased from \$ 15.08 billion in 2022 to \$ 22.54 billion in 2023.

India, ADB sign \$50 million loan for climate-resilient water security in Meghalaya

The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$50 million loan agreement to strengthen water security in Meghalaya by constructing climate-adaptive water-harvesting systems.

The initiative aims to improve access to water, reduce community vulnerability to climate change, and promote sustainable development in the state.

The project aligns with the Meghalaya State Water Policy (MSWP) 2019, which seeks to achieve sustainable development, management, and utilisation of the state's water resources through a participatory approach, reduce vulnerability, and promote integrated water resource management.

The project will support the construction of 532 small water storage facilities across 12 districts.

India's GDP growth aim for FY25 further slashed to 6.3% by Morgan Stanley

Morgan Stanley has again cut its GDP growth projection for India to 6.3 percent for this

fiscal year, down from its earlier estimate of 6.7 per cent.

BharatPe launches 'Shield' to protect users from digital transaction frauds

Fintech firm BharatPe has launched a fraud protection plan 'Shield' to offer coverage against digital frauds, including protection against fraudulent Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions.

The new offering extends protection to users from fraudulent digital transactions up to Rs 5,000. Users will have to pay Rs 19 per month to avail this protection.

Users making their first UPI transaction with the fintech app will receive 30 days of complementary fraud protection service.

RBI keeps rates unchanged, cuts CRR by 50 bps to 4% – MPC review

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent — the status quo for an 11th straight time — maintaining a "neutral" stance.

S&P Global retains 6.8% growth for FY25

The Indian economy is expected to grow by 6.8% in 2024-25 and 6.9% in 2025-26, according to India Outlook by S&P Global Ratings.

The economy is poised for robust growth in 2025, supported by strong urban consumption, steady growth in the service sector, and ongoing investment in infrastructure.

India's FDI Journey hits \$1 Trillion

India has crossed a milestone of \$1 trillion in cumulative foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows since April 2000, led by improved global competitiveness, a dynamic innovation

ecosystem, and a business-friendly environment, according to the commerce and industry ministry.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

- Praveena Rai has appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX).
- The General Council of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreed by consensus to reappoint Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General for a second four-year term, set to begin on 1 September 2025.
- Jay Shah has taken over as the chairperson of the International Cricket Council (ICC), the sport's global governing body.
- President Donald Trump has nominated Kash Patel as the next Director of the Federal

Bureau of Investigation (FBI), marking him as the highest-ranking Indian American in Trump's incoming administration.

- Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia's ruling SWAPO party has been elected president and will be the country's first female leader.
- Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Devendra Gangadharrao Fadnavis was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for the third time. Along with Devendra Fadnavis, two deputy Chief Ministers, Eknath Shinde of Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party, were also sworn in as deputy CM .
- The government has appointed Vaibhav Chaturvedi as the ex-officio member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- National Democratic Congress (NDC) presidential candidate and former Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama who is returning as Ghana's president eight years after losing power, achieved his political comeback on a promise to mend the West African country's economy.
- Sanjay Malhotra, the Revenue Secretary of the Finance Ministry, has been appointed the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He will assume office on 11 December 2024 after the incumbent

Governor, Shaktikanta Das, retires on 10 December 2024.

- The Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS rebels in Syria, appointed Mohammad al-Bashir as the transitional Prime Minister of Syria after Bashar al-Assad's government fell.
- Rahul Narwekar of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party was re-elected as the 15th Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Speaker.
- Private sector lender YES Bank has appointed Manish Jain as executive director (whole-time director) of the bank for three years.
- French President Emmanuel Macron has been named Francois Bayrou his fourth prime minister of 2024, tasking the veteran centrist with steering the country out of its second major political crisis in the last six months.
- Tech giant Google has appointed Preeti Lobana as its new Country Manager and Vice President for India.
Lobana succeeds Sanjay Gupta, who was recently transitioned to a bigger role as President of the Asia Pacific region.

AWARDS

[Lithuanian drama 'Toxic' wins Golden Peacock Award for Best Film at the 55th IFFI](#)

The 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was concluded in Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa.

The 55th International Film Festival of India was organised by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Entertainment Society of Goa, Government of Goa.

This year, the festival received 1,676 submissions from 101 countries. The nine-day festival presented over 180 international titles from 81 countries, which include 16 premieres in World, three in International, 43 in Asian, and 109 in Indian categories.

The Director of the 55th IFFI was noted filmmaker Shekhar Kapur.

The theme of the 55th IFFI was 'Young Filmmakers: The Future is Now.'

[Bharat Forge honoured with IGBC Green Champion award](#)

Bharat Forge Ltd., India's leading manufacturing powerhouse and a global provider of high-performance, innovative components, has been honoured with the prestigious IGBC Green Champion Award at the Green Building Congress 2024, held at the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre in Bengaluru.

This recognition celebrates Bharat Forge's ground breaking efforts in transforming villages into IGBC-certified Green Villages.

[Payal Kapadia makes history with Golden Globes 2025 Nomination for Best Director and Best Non-English Motion Picture](#)

Payal Kapadia's film All We Imagine As Light made history as the first Indian film nominated for Best Director (Motion Picture) at the 82nd Golden Globes 2025.

The film also received a nomination for Best Motion Picture in a Non-English Language, earning acclaim worldwide.

[Nobel Prize 2024 winners Honoured in Stockholm and Oslo](#)

The 2024 Nobel Prize winners were honored in ceremonies held in Stockholm and Oslo on 10 December 2024.

The Nobel Prize was instituted by the Nobel Foundation in memory of Alfred Nobel, who passed away on 10 December 1896.

The Nobel Prizes are conferred every year on 10th December, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

The Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, and Economic Science Nobel laureates are honored at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden. The Peace Prize is awarded to its recipient in Oslo, Norway.

[Ecologist Madhav Gadgil honoured with UNEP Champions of Earth Award](#)

Veteran Indian ecologist Madhav Gadgil has been chosen as one of the six persons/institutions to be honoured with the prestigious 2024 United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 'Champions of the Earth'

Gadgil, the only Indian on the list of this year's award recipients, chaired the government-constituted Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel to study the impact of population pressure, climate change, and development activities on the ecologically fragile region in India.

The 'Champions of the Earth award is considered the United Nation's highest environmental honour.

SPORTS

Max Verstappen wins Qatar Grand Prix

Max Verstappen claimed his ninth win of the season and 63rd of his career with a stunning victory for Red Bull at the crash-hit and controversial Qatar Grand Prix.

In a race shaped by a litany of stewards' decisions and penalties, including a harsh late 10-second 'stop-go' for Lando Norris of McLaren, the newly-crowned four-time world champion was flawless as he came home six seconds ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc.

Sindhu & Lakshya win 2024 Syed Modi International Badminton tournament

The Indian badminton ace PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, respectively, won the women's and men's titles of the 2024 Syed Modi International badminton tournament.

The USD 2.10 Lakh prize money BWF (Badminton World Federation) World Tour 300 Syed Modi International badminton tournament was held at the Babu Banarsi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

It was PV Sindhu's first BWF title since the 2022 Singapore Open title.

Since 2022, after her win at the 2022 Singapore Open, PV Sindhu has failed to win a BWF Tournament singles title. In between, Sindhu made the finals at the 2023 Spain Masters Super 300 and 2024 Malaysia Masters Super 500 but lost in the finals.

India wins 5th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup after Defeating Pakistan

The Indian Men's Junior Hockey team crushed Pakistan 5-3 in the final of the 11th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 to win the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup title for a record fifth time.

The 11th Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup 2024 final was played at Muscat, Oman.

This was the fifth title win for the India team in the Men's Hockey Junior Asia Cup. Before their win in the 2024 edition, the Indian team had won the title in 2023, 2015, 2008 and 2004.

Harbhajan & Sania Mirza appointed Dubai Sports Council brand ambassador

The Dubai Sports Council has appointed former cricket player Harbhajan Singh and

women's Tennis player Sania Mirza as the Sports Ambassador.

They join Russian Khabib Nurmagomedov and French football player Patrice Evra as the four sporting icons appointed by the Dubai Sports Council.

[F1 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 2024: Lando Norris win ends McLaren's long wait for Constructors' Championship](#)

McLaren won the World Constructors' Championship after 26 years, at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the finale of the Formula One 2024 season.

Carlos Sainz and Charles Leclerc were second and third for Ferrari, respectively.

[2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil will run from June 24 to July 25](#)

The 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil will be played from June 24 to July 25, FIFA, soccer's international governing body announced.

Thirty-two teams will participate in the Women's World Cup, which is being played in South America for the first time.

Brazil has one of CONMEBOL's three spots as host.

[FIFA Confirms Saudi Arabia As 2034 World Cup Host](#)

FIFA has confirmed that Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 World Cup, underlining the Gulf kingdom's growing influence in world sport despite criticism of the country's human rights record.

At the same time, a virtual Congress of world football's governing body confirmed that Morocco, Spain and Portugal will be joint hosts of the 2030 World Cup, in which three games will also be played in South America.

[Ladakh to host Khelo India Winter Games from Jan 23](#)

The dates for the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) have been announced, with Ladakh set to host the ice events from January 23 to 27, 2025, while Jammu and Kashmir will host the snow events from February 22 to 25, 2025.

The Khelo India Winter Games began in 2020. Nearly 1,000 athletes, including 306 women, participated in the inaugural edition.

[Indian Grandmaster D. Gukesh becomes youngest World chess champion](#)

Indian Grandmaster Dommaraju Gukesh became the youngest chess champion in the world.

Gukesh made history as he clinched 18th World Chess Championship defeating Ding Liren of China in the 14th and the final match of the FIDE World Chess Championship in Singapore.

The left-arm pacer achieved the milestone during the first T20I against South Africa in Durban. The hosts defeated Pakistan by 11 runs in the match.

Shaheen Afridi Becomes Youngest Bowler to take 100 Wickets in all 3 formats

Pakistan pacer Shaheen Afridi made history by becoming his country first bowler to take 100 wickets in each format of the international cricket.

DEFENCE

13th edition of India -Singapore Agni Warrior Military Exercise concluded

The 13th edition of Joint Military Exercise AGNI WARRIOR (XAW-2024), a bilateral exercise between the Indian Army and Singapore Armed Forces, concluded at Field Firing Ranges, Devlali (Maharashtra).

The three-day exercise conducted witnessed participation by the Singapore Armed Forces

contingent comprising 182 personnel from the Singapore Artillery and the Indian Army contingent comprising 114 personnel from the Regiment of Artillery.

The aim of XAW-2024 was to maximise mutual understanding of drills and procedures to achieve jointness as a multinational force under the United Nations Charter.

Indian Coast Guard conducts maritime search and rescue exercises off Kochi coast

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted the 11th National Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX-2024) off the Kochi coast.

The exercise was inaugurated by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, and showcased the expertise of coast guards in maritime safety and search-and-rescue operations.

Theme 2024 – Enhancing Search and Rescue Capabilities Through Regional Collaboration

1st Indo-Cambodian ‘CINBAX’ Exercise commences in Pune, Maharashtra

India-Cambodia’s first Joint Tabletop Exercise, codenamed ‘CINBAX,’ commenced at the Foreign Training Node, Pune, Maharashtra.

The first CINBAX exercise between the Armies of both countries will be held in Pune from 1 to 18 December 2024.

The exercise is part of the military diplomacy of both countries to strengthen friendly ties between the two countries, especially military-to-military ties.

Indian Army begins Harimau Shakti Exercise with Malaysian Army

India and Malaysia commenced the bilateral Joint Military Exercise “Harimau Shakti” on 2 December 2024 at Bentong camp, Pahang district, Malaysia.

The 2024 edition of the annual bilateral exercise will be held from 2 to 15 December 2024.

In 2023, the Indian Army hosted the exercise at its Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya.

The first annual bilateral military exercise, Harimau Shakti, between the Indian Army contingent and the Malaysian Army contingent was held in October 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Army concludes multilateral joint exercise ‘Sanyukt Vimochan 2024’ in Gujarat

The Indian Army successfully concluded the Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise, ‘Sanyukt Vimochan 2024’ held in Ahmedabad and Porbandar, Gujarat.

The exercise brought together all agencies involved with disaster relief efforts, signifying the necessity of a whole-government approach. Notably, there were 15 international participants from nine friendly foreign countries.

Stealth frigate INS Tushil commissioned into the Indian Navy in Russia

The Russian-built multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate INS Tushil was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia.

The flag-raising ceremony was held in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Russian Deputy Minister of Defence Alexander Vasilyevich Fomin, Ambassador of India to Russia Vinay Kumar, and other senior officials from both countries.

Defence Ministry signs ₹13,500-crore deal with HAL for 12 Su-30MKI aircraft

In a significant step toward bolstering India's defence capabilities and promoting the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the procurement of 12 Su-30MKI aircraft.

The deal, valued at approximately ₹13,500 crore, includes associated equipment and is inclusive of taxes and duties. The aircraft will feature a homegrown content of 62.6%, achieved through the indigenisation of numerous components manufactured by the Indian defence industry.

India, Sri Lanka joint naval exercise SLINEX 2024 begins

The bilateral naval exercise SLINEX 2024 (Sri Lanka–India Exercise) will be conducted from 17 to 20 Dec 24 at Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command.

The exercise will be held in two phases – the Harbour Phase from 17 to 18 December and the Sea Phase from 19 to 20 December.

Initiated in 2005, SLINEX is a significant series of bilateral naval exercises that have strengthened maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka over the years.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Kirti Vardhan Singh launches 'Nano Bubble Technology' for cleaning and purifying water

Union Minister of State for Forest, Environment and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh has launched 'Nano Bubble Technology' for cleaning and purifying water of the National Zoological Park in Delhi, and to promote the health of aquatic animals.

This technology can effectively clean dirty pond water by eliminating algae and similar growths. It is being tested in the zoo for the first time as a 15-day trial. If successful, it will be used in the zoo.

The primary goal of this technology is to keep water clean, ensuring the health and well-being of aquatic creatures.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day
01 Dec	World AIDS Day
02 Dec	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
03 Dec	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
04 Dec	International Day of Banks
05 Dec	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
05 Dec	World Soil Day
07 Dec	International Civil Aviation Day
09 Dec	International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime
09 Dec	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 Dec	Human Rights Day
11 Dec	International Mountain Day
11 Dec	UNICEF Foundation Day
12 Dec	International Day of Neutrality

12 Dec	International Universal Health Coverage Day
18 Dec	International Migrants Day
18 Dec	Minorities Rights Day
19 Dec	Good Governance Week
19 Dec	Goa Liberation Day
20 Dec	Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Raising Day
20 Dec	International Human Solidarity Day
21 Dec	World Meditation Day
21 Dec	World Basketball Day
22 Dec	National Mathematics Day
27 Dec	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness

NOTES:

