

4th December 2024

PRAGATI

Oxford study lauds PRAGATI monitoring of infra projects

Key Points

- ❖ A recent study by **Oxford University's Saïd Business School (SBS)** has lauded **Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) infrastructure monitoring system** for accelerating 340 projects worth \$205 billion across the country and bringing about economic transformation.
- ❖ The study entitled **"From Gridlock to Growth: How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress"** was authored by Soumitra Dutta, dean at the SBS, and co-authored by associate fellow Mukul Pandya.
- ❖ It was presented at a symposium hosted by the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore.

About PRAGATI

- ❖ It was **launched by Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on 25 Mar, 2015.**
- ❖ It is a **unique integrating and interactive platform.**
- ❖ The platform is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.
- ❖ It is a three-tier system (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States).

Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary

Madhya Pradesh gets its eighth tiger reserve in Ratapani.

Key Points

- ❖ The **Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh** was declared a tiger reserve following in-principle approval from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change through the National Tiger Conservation Authority.
- ❖ The Ratapani Tiger Reserve, located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, in Vindhya Range in central India.
- ❖ It has been a wildlife sanctuary since 1976. As of March 2013, in-principle approval by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has been granted for upgrading it to a status of tiger reserve.

NTCA

- ❖ The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** is a wildlife conservation agency formed to protect the endangered Bengal tiger in India.
- ❖ It was **established by the Government of India in December 2005** for the management of Project Tiger and the various tiger reserves in India.
- ❖ In **1973**, Project Tiger was initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the Government of India, which was aimed at protecting the Bengal Tiger and its habitats and establishing dedicated tiger reserves for sustaining tiger populations.
- ❖ In **December 2005**, the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** was formed under section 38 of the amended Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, to administer the tiger reserves which were set up as a part of Project Tiger with Project Tiger becoming a centrally sponsored scheme (CSS) to provide funding for the establishment and administration of the tiger reserves.

World Maritime Technology Conference

The World Maritime Technology conference is being held in Chennai.

Key Points

- ❖ The **World Maritime Technology conference** (WMTC), a triennial global event under the auspices of the World Maritime Technology Congress, is being held in Chennai from December 4 to 6.
- ❖ This **marks the return of the conference to India after a gap of 15 years**, with the last edition hosted in Mumbai.
- ❖ The previous conference, which was delayed due to the Covid pandemic, was held in Copenhagen in April 2022.

About WMTC

- ❖ The World Maritime Technology Conference (WMTC) is held **once every 3 years under the auspices of the World Maritime Technology Congress**.
- ❖ WMTC is a **global confluence with a large participation and contribution from the global maritime sector**.
- ❖ WMTC consists of 21-member organisations from 17 countries connecting professionals in the field of maritime technology and allied sectors.

UN Peacebuilding Commission

India was re-elected to the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) for the 2025-2026 term.

Key Points

- ❖ India's current term on the Commission was **expiring on December 31**.
- ❖ United Nations Peacekeeping is a mechanism/tool established by the United Nations (UN) to assist countries transitioning from conflict to peace.
- ❖ The **UN Peacekeepers are also called the Blue Helmets** because the General Assembly resolution 167 (II) passed in 1947 approved light blue as the color for the United Nations flag.

- ❖ The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) was jointly established by the General Assembly and the **Security Council in 2005**.

- The PBC is an intergovernmental advisory body of the United Nations that supports peace efforts in conflict-affected countries.

Person In News- Worldwide

Murdu Nirupa Bidushinie Fernando

- ❖ She was recently sworn in as the **48th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka**.
- ❖ She is the 2nd woman Chief Justice of Sri Lanka.



Person In News- Sports

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi

- ❖ Grandmaster **Arjun Erigaisi** on **(December 1, 2024)** became the **second Indian after legendary Viswanathan Anand and 16th worldwide to reach the gold-standard ELO rating of 2800**, while also occupying the fourth spot in the latest rankings.



Military Exercises

Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI

- ❖ The 4th edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI commenced at Bentong camp, Pahang district, Malaysia.
- ❖ The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 2nd to 15th December 2024.
- ❖ Joint Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Malaysia. The last edition was conducted in Nov 2023 at Umroi Cantonment in Meghalaya, India.
- ❖ It will enable both sides to share best practices in Tactics, Techniques and Procedures of conducting joint operations.

Important News- Other States

Gujarat

- ❖ Govt of India (GoI) granted the geographical indication (GI) tag for the **gharchola, a traditional sari worn during weddings**. This recognition is a boost for Gujarat's handicraft sector, celebrating the blend of tradition and modern design.

Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ In a pioneering move, Uber has launched its first water transport service in India, the **Uber Shikara, on the serene Dal Lake in Srinagar**. This new offering allows users to book shikara rides through the Uber app, bringing a modern twist to a traditional form of transport in Kashmir.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Singapore contributed the highest **Foreign Direct Investment to India** in the July-September quarter, with 50 per cent of the inward investments coming in from the neighbouring country. FPI inflows to India rose 43 per cent to USD 13.6 billion in the July-September quarter of 2024-25, data made available by DPIIT showed.
- ❖ On December 2, 1984, **chemical, methyl isocyanate (MIC) split out from Union Carbide India Ltd's (UCIL's) pesticide factory turned the city of Bhopal into a colossal gas chamber**. It was India's first major industrial disaster. At least 30 tonnes of methyl isocyanate gas killed more than 15,000 people and affected over 600,000 workers. Bhopal gas tragedy is known as the world's worst industrial disaster.

