

Awards

Sahitya Akademi Award 2024



Author from Nagaland, *Easterine Kire*, has been selected for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024.

Key point

- ❖ The Sahitya Akademi announced its annual awards in 21 languages on 18 December 2024. Notably, *Easterine Kire's* novel *Spirit Nights*, published by Simon & Schuster India, won in the English language category. The novel draws inspiration from a tale of darkness shared by the *Chang Naga* tribe of Nagaland.

Other prominent awardees from the North East include:

- ❖ *Sameer Tanti*, for *Pharingbore Bator Katha Jane* in Assamese.
- ❖ *Haobam Satyabati Devi*, for *Mainu Bora Nungshi Sheirol* in Manipuri (Poetry).
- ❖ *Aron Raja*, for *Swrni Thakhai* in Bodo (Novel).
- ❖ Each recipient will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.
- ❖ The award ceremony is scheduled for 8 March 2025 in Delhi.

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Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI)



According to the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report India is ranked 39th among 119 countries.

Key Point

- ❖ The Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report, published by the World Economic Forum (WEF), reflects India's significant strides in the tourism sector.

Key Highlights:

- ❖ In the previous report of 2021, India was ranked 54th, which was revised to 38th following a change in WEF's methodology.

- ❖ India's improved ranking demonstrates a robust recovery in global tourism post-pandemic and underscores its emergence as a hub for medical and cultural tourism.

Contributing Factors:

- ❖ **Government Initiatives:**

- **Swadesh Darshan Scheme:** Focuses on developing theme-based tourist circuits.
- **PRASHAD Scheme:** Targets the development of pilgrimage and heritage destinations.
- **Assistance to Central Agencies Scheme:** Provides financial support for tourism-related infrastructure.

- ❖ **Medical Tourism:**

- The Advantage Healthcare India portal has positioned India as a preferred destination for medical tourists.

- ❖ **Infrastructure Development:**

- **Aviation Sector:**

- ✓ Launch of 500 new routes and establishment of 150 new airports.

- **Railways:**

- ✓ Introduction of modern and high-speed trains like Vande Bharat to boost connectivity and enhance travel experiences.

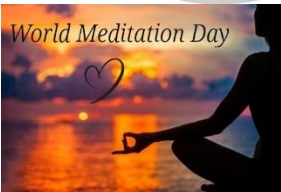
India's performance in the TTDI 2024 underscores its growing role in the global tourism industry and highlights the effectiveness of its policies and infrastructure advancements.

About World Economic Forum

- ❖ It is a Swiss non-profit foundation established in 1971, based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ It is recognised by the Swiss authorities as an international institution for public-private cooperation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Founder and Executive Chairman: Klaus Schwab ❖ Mandate: It is committed to improve the situation of the world by engaging business, political, academic, and other leaders of society to shape global, regional, and industry agendas. <p>Few Major Published Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Energy Transition Index ❖ Global Competitiveness Report ❖ Global Gender Gap Report ❖ Global Risk Report ❖ Global Travel and Tourism Report
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Important Days

<p>World Meditation Day</p> 	<p>First-ever World Meditation Day is set to be observed on 21 December marking a global initiative to promote well-being, peace and mindfulness across nations.</p> <p>Key Point</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution, co-sponsored by India, to designate 21st December as World Meditation Day. <p>World Meditation Day 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Theme: "Inner Peace, Global Harmony". ❖ Significance: This historic event marks the beginning of an annual global celebration of the ancient practice of meditation, known for its benefits to physical and mental health, as well as overall well-being. ❖ Relevance: The UN's recognition of this day highlights meditation's universal potential to address contemporary global challenges, such as stress, violence, and social discord.
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Importance of 21st December:

- ❖ In Indian tradition, this day marks the beginning of **Uttarayana**, considered an auspicious time for self-reflection and inner growth.
- ❖ It falls exactly **six months after the International Day of Yoga (21st June)**, which is celebrated on the Summer Solstice.
- ❖ This day represents a significant step toward fostering inner peace and global harmony through meditation.

Person in News

Tulsi Gowda



Tulsi Gowda, a Padma Shri awardee and renowned environmentalist from Karnataka, passed away on 16 December at the age of 86 .

Key point

- ❖ **Born:** 1944, in **Honnali village**, Ankola taluk, Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka.
- ❖ **Recognition:** Known as the “**Encyclopedia of Forest**” for her extensive knowledge of forests despite having no formal education.

Notable Contributions:

- ❖ Played a pivotal role in **afforestation**, preventing **poaching**, and mitigating **forest fires**.
- ❖ Planted over **1 lakh trees** and significantly contributed to the strengthening of forest reserves and wildlife sanctuaries across Karnataka.
- ❖ Her efforts have been instrumental in protecting **tiger reserves**, conservation areas, and enhancing biodiversity.
- ❖ Revered as the “**Tree Goddess**” by the **Halakki tribal community**.

Honors and Recognition:

- ❖ Awarded the **Padma Shri** in **2021** for her lifelong dedication to environmental conservation.

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised her as a “guiding light”, highlighting her work as an inspiration for generations to protect the planet.

About Halakki Tribe

- ❖ **Origins:** The Halakki Vokkaligas are an ancient tribe with a history spanning over 400 years, residing near the Western Ghats in Uttara Kannada, Karnataka.
- ❖ **Nickname:** Often referred to as the “Aboriginals of Uttara Kannada”.
- ❖ **Cultural and Linguistic Identity:**
 - The Halakki Vokkaligas are said to resemble the Maasai Mara community of Africa in their cultural lifestyle.
 - They speak a unique dialect of Kannada called Achchagannada.
 - Their traditional attire includes beads and sarongs, and the clothing is designed to facilitate agricultural work.
 - ✓ Their way of life remains rooted in ancient traditions and has limited integration with the mainstream.
 - ✓ They primarily farm rice and maintain their own governance system, led by a leader called Gouda.

Place in News

India Partners with France to Establish Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum



The Ministry of Culture has announced a significant partnership with France Museums Développement (FMD) to develop the Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum into a world-class cultural institution.

Key Point

- ❖ This ambitious project is a key component of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project and will cover approximately 1,55,000 square meters across the iconic North and South Blocks in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Yuga Yugeen Bharat National Museum, envisioned as a tribute to India's unbroken civilizational history, was first announced by Prime Minister Modi at the International Museum Expo in May 2023.

Sports

World Para Athletics Championships



New Delhi is set to host the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships at the city's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium next year.

Key Point

- ❖ On December 20, the World Para Athletics announced that India will host the World Para Athletics Championships for the first time.
- ❖ The event will be held from September 26 to October 5, 2025, in New Delhi.
- ❖ This will be the 12th edition of the championships and the fourth time it has been hosted in Asia, following Doha 2015, Dubai 2019, and Kobe 2024.
- ❖ Additionally, New Delhi will also host the World Para Athletics Grand Prix for the first time next year.
- ❖ The Grand Prix is scheduled to take place from March 11 to 13, 2024, at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

Short News

- ❖ On December 19, 2024, the Central Government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a 42 million dollar loan to strengthen coastal protection and boost community resilience in Maharashtra.
- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report on Site Adjacent Factory Employee (S.A.F.E.) Accommodation—Worker Housing for Manufacturing Growth in New Delhi.
- ❖ India was the top recipient of remittances in 2024, with an estimated inflow of \$129 billion, according to a World Bank blog post.
- ❖ Meena Ganesh, a prominent actor in Malayalam cinema and television, passed away at the age of 81 on December 19, 2024.
- ❖ The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 will take place from January 17 to 22 in Delhi NCR, setting the tone for India's progressive expansion in the international mobility sector.
- ❖ Ex-Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala passed away at the age of 89 on December 20, 2024, in Gurugram.
- ❖ The Indian men's hockey team secured the fifth position in the latest FIH World Rankings after an impressive performance at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which among the following has been selected for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024 in the English language category?

- A. Easterine Kire
- B. Haobam Satyabati Devi
- C. Mainu Bora
- D. Nungshi Sheirol

Answer-A

2. What is the rank of India According to the Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024 report?

- A. 32nd
- B. 39th
- C. 59th
- D. 66th

Answer- B

