

**International**

**The second India-Singapore ministerial roundtable kicks off in Singapore**



**About News:-**

- ❖ On August 26, 2024, Singapore hosted the 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISRM) conference as part of their ongoing efforts to strengthen and widen their strategic ties. Four top Singaporean ministers attended the inaugural India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable, which took place in New Delhi on September 17, 2022.
- ❖ The ISMR is a high-level forum that allows both nations to discuss the whole range of partnerships and decide on future goals for their bilateral ties.

**Attendees of the Second ISMR:-**

- ❖ Six senior ministers from Singapore and four from India participated in the 2nd ISMR.
- ❖ Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman of Finance, Dr. S. Jaishankar of External Affairs, Piyush Goyal of Commerce and Industry, and Ashwini Vaishnaw of Electronics and Information Technology, Railways, Information, and Broadcasting represented India.
- ❖ Gan Kim Yong, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade and Industry, led the Singaporean delegation. Ministers K Shanmugam for Home Affairs and Law, Josephine Teo for Digital Development and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs, Dr. Tan See Leng for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, and Chee Hong Tat for Transport and Second Minister for Finance were also present. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan was the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

**Agenda for the Second ISMR:**

- ❖ The goal of the 2nd ISMR was to strengthen bilateral collaboration in several fields. It examined the developments from the initial gathering in New Delhi.

- ❖ Focused on digital connectivity, Fintech, the green economy, green hydrogen, skill development, and food security, the first ISMR was hosted in New Delhi in 2022. A Memorandum of Understanding on healthcare, education, skill development, digital cooperation, and semiconductor ecosystem cooperation was signed by both parties as a result.
- ❖ During the 2nd ISMR, India and Singapore talked about stepping up their collaboration on the six pillars of the ISMR, which include advanced manufacturing and connectivity, digitalization, skill development, sustainability, healthcare, and medicine.

**Singapore-India Economic Relations:-**

- ❖ With USD 11.77 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) during the fiscal year 2023–2024, Singapore was India's top provider of FDI.
- ❖ With USD 35.61 billion in bilateral trade, Singapore ranked as India's sixth-largest trading partner in 2023–2024.
- ❖ Among the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Singapore is India's biggest trading partner.
- ❖ Nonetheless, the trade was favorable to Singapore, as India had a USD 6.79 billion trade deficit due to its USD 14.41 billion in exports and USD 21.2 billion in imports.

**About Singapore:-**

- ❖ Capital :- Singapore City
- ❖ Currency :- Singapore dollar
- ❖ President :- Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- ❖ Prime Minister:- Lawrence Wong

**National**

**Amit Shah announces five new districts for Ladakh**



**About News:-**

- ❖ The Union Territory of Ladakh has five new districts: Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang. This was notified by the Center on Monday.
- ❖ At the moment, Ladakh is made up of just two districts: Kargil and Leh, each with an independent district council.
- ❖ Ladakh will now have seven districts overall after the creation of the new ones.

**Key Points:**

- ❖ As a major step toward Ladakh's growth and prosperity, the establishment of these five new districts will guarantee that administrative advantages are distributed throughout the entire region.
- ❖ Ladakh was a component of Jammu & Kashmir before 2019. In August 2019, the state's special status was withdrawn by the BJP-led government, which also divided it into two union territories: Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- ❖ Ladakh separated from the former Jammu and Kashmir state in August 2019 when Article 370 was abolished by the central government. The creation of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh as Union Territories was a result of this special status modification.
- ❖ In the meantime, Jammu and Kashmir, a Union Territory, is getting ready for its first elections following the repeal of Article 370. Three polling days are set for September 18, 25, and October 1. The vote counting day is set for October 4. The previous assembly elections in the region were held in 2014, making these the first in ten years.
- ❖ June 2018 saw the fall of the previous PDP-BJP coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir when the BJP withdrew its backing for Mehbooba Mufti, who was the Chief Minister at the time. The Supreme Court ordered the Center to complete the election process by September 30, 2024, in December of last year.

**State**

**Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi announces the implementation of the much-awaited Subhadra scheme**



**About News:-**

- ❖ The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Subhadra initiative, which provides financial support of Rs 10,000 yearly to over 1 crore women in Odisha, was unveiled by Chief Minister (CM) of Odisha, Mohan Charan Majhi.
- ❖ With a budget of Rs 55,825 crore, the Cabinet approved the Scheme to be implemented from the Financial Year 2024–2025 (FY 25) to the Financial Year 2028–29 (FY 29).

**About Subhadra Scheme:-**

- ❖ Women who are between the ages of 21 and 60 are eligible for Subhadra support.
- ❖ On Rakhi Purnima Day and International Women's Day (March 8), a total of Rs. 10,000 would be handed out annually in two installments of Rs. 5,000. Thus, in five years, a total of Rs. 50,000 will be received.
- ❖ Funds will be transferred straight to the beneficiary's Aadhaar-enabled Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) bank account via the Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS).
- ❖ A 'Subhadra' debit card will also be given to the beneficiary.
- ❖ The program will also aid divyang women who get gratuities and widows.
- ❖ Women who get help under any other government program for at least Rs. 1,500 per month or Rs. 18,000 per year will not be allowed to participate in Subhadra.
- ❖ Each gram panchayat and urban local body will choose 100 beneficiaries with the highest number of digital transactions to promote digital transactions. These beneficiaries would each receive an additional incentive of Rs. 500.
- ❖ The Women and Child Development Department will set up a society called Subhadra Samiti to oversee this programme.

**About Odisha:**

- ❖ Chief Minister (CM):- Mohan Charan Majhi
- ❖ Governor :- Raghubar Das

**Maharashtra**

**Sarbananda Sonowal unveils major sustainable drive at JN Port Mumbai**



**About News:-**

- ❖ At Jawaharlal Nehru (JN) Port in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) inaugurated three recently restored freshwater lakes on August 22, 2024, marking the beginning of significant sustainable projects.
- ❖ The lakes, named after prominent Maharashtrian saints, Saint Dyaneshwar Maharaj, Saint Eknath Maharaj, and Saint Namdeo Maharaj, will play a significant role as reservoirs for habitat restoration and rainwater collection.
- ❖ The ceremony saw the signature of two Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) intended to support JN Port's infrastructure and sustainability initiatives, which Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal witnessed.

**Key Points:-**

- ❖ An agreement was inked between the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA), Vadhavan Port, and Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) to provide loans for a range of infrastructure projects.
- ❖ An agreement was made between JNPA and Gateway Terminal India (GTI) to strengthen the port's power supply for its vessels to promote sustainability.

**Smart SEZ launch:**

- ❖ The Smart Special Economic Zone (SEZ) initiative was introduced by Union Minister Sonowal during a ceremony at Mumbai, Maharashtra's JN Port.
- ❖ In order to provide the critical infrastructure needed for upcoming applications such as weighbridges, energy management systems, smart parking, and smart street lighting.

- ❖ Preventing perimeter invasions, guaranteeing orderly vehicle circulation, optimizing gate operations, expanding network connectivity to all utility buildings for Local Area Network (LAN) users, and intelligent staff and vehicle tracking are a few of the project's main features.
- ❖ To SEZ concessionaires, he also issued Letters of Intent (LoI).

**Economic**

**Goldman Sachs cuts India's 2024 and 2025 GDP growth forecasts**

**About News:-**

- ❖ Due to a decline in central government spending, Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has cut its prediction for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for Calendar Years 2024 and 2025 by 20 basis points (bps) each.
- ❖ According to estimates, India's GDP would grow by 6.7% in CY24 and 6.4% in CY25.

**Key Points:**

- ❖ The bank has listed the primary causes of the GDP drop in CY24: a 35% decrease in government spending Year-over-Year (Y-o-Y) in the first quarter (Q1: April-June) of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25), which fell amid a weeks-long general election.
- ❖ It has been stated that the central government's pledge in the union budget to reduce the fiscal deficit to less than 4.5% of GDP may impede India's growth for CY25.
- ❖ Slower real consumption growth—primarily caused by a slowdown in household credit as a result of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) tougher regulations governing banks' unsecured lending—will provide additional challenges to the growth expansion.
- ❖ But according to estimates, the RBI's easing of monetary policy may be able to partially offset the slowdown in real GDP growth in 2025.
- ❖ India's real GDP is expected to rise by 7.2% in FY25, according to the RBI's third bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY25, which was issued in August 2024.
- ❖ In the meantime, India's GDP is expected to moderately decline from 7.8% in Q4 of FY24 to 6% in Q1 of FY25, according to ICRA Limited.

**About Goldman Sachs Inc.:**

- ❖ Founded:- 1869
- ❖ Headquarters:- New York City, (USA)
- ❖ CEO:- David M. Solomon

**Appointment****Sanjeev Raina Has Been Appointed ITBP Additional Director General****About News:-**

A member of the India-China LAC guarding force since 1987, Sanjeev Raina is now an Additional Director General (ADG) of the force. A cadre officer has only been promoted to the ADG position, the second-highest level in the force after the Director General, twice in the ITBP.

**About Sanjeev Raina:**

- ❖ Originally hailing from Jammu and Kashmir, Sanjeev Raina relocated to Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, during the exodus. He obtained his graduate and post-graduate degrees in Economics from Jiwaji University in Gwalior, where he finished his further education.
- ❖ The renowned counter-insurgency and jungle warfare (CIJW) school of the mountain-warfare trained force is credited to Sanjeev Raina, a Kashmiri who joined the ITBP in November 1987 and performed assignments in Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, and the northeast. Raina was born and raised in Mahidanda, Uttarakhand.

**Concerning the Indo-Tibetan Border Police:**

In 1962, in response to Chinese aggression, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was established, initially consisting of four battalions. Originally, it was intended to be an integrated "fighting force, intelligence, and guerrilla group." Over time, it changed into a force that guards the border. The CRPF Act was originally the source of ITBP. The ITBP Act was passed by the Parliament in 1992, and the regulations that followed were drafted in 1994.

**Defence****Indian Army Transfers 'Xploder' & 'Agniastra' Tech to Private Sector for Mass Production****About News:-**

- ❖ The Xploder and Agniastra, two cutting-edge technologies created in-house by the innovative officers of the Army Design Bureau (ADB), are now being mass-produced by private Indian companies thanks to a knowledge transfer from the Indian Army.
- ❖ Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani led the Transfer of Technology (ToT) ceremony (VCOAS).
- ❖ The Indian Institutes of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) in New Delhi, Delhi's Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT) oversees the ToT process.

**Xploder features include:**

- ❖ A sophisticated Unmanned Ground Vehicle (UGV) system called Xploder is built to perform a variety of military and operational functions
- ❖ With its all-terrain capabilities, the Xploder can deliver explosive payloads precisely, conduct unmanned reconnaissance, and securely dispose of remote Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).
- ❖ Its versatility in various circumstances is further demonstrated by the fact that it may be used in disaster relief operations and has a self-destruct capability for efficient hiding clearing.

**Agniastra's characteristics:-**

- ❖ Redefining remote detonation technology is the Agniastra Multi-Target Portable Detonation System.
- ❖ It improves the Army's capacity to carry out multiple targets with remote detonation.
- ❖ It can be manually placed or supplied via UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) or UGVs, and it can target numerous sites at once across long distances.
- ❖ It is anticipated that the system would revolutionize counterterrorism and conventional warfare by making large-scale infrastructure destruction, specific room incursions, and bunker demolition possible.

**About the Indian Army:-**

- ❖ Headquarters:- New Delhi, Delhi
- ❖ Chief Of the Army Staff (COAS):- General Upendra Dwivedi

### Sport

#### India clinches silver medal at Asian Surfing Championships 2024



#### About News:-

- ❖ At the 3rd Asian Surfing Championships 2024 in Thulusdhoo, Maldives, the Indian men's surfing team captured a historic silver medal. The third Asian Surfing Championships 2024 will take place in the Maldives from August 17–27, 2024, on the stunning island of Thulusdhoo.
- ❖ The Third Asian Surfing Championships serves as a qualifier for the Asian Games in 2026, which will take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The 2026 Asian Games will mark the debut of the surfing game in the Asian Games.

#### Japan won gold, and India took home silver at the Maruhaba Cup:-

- ❖ Three Asian Surfing Championships 2024 featured five events with over 100 competitors from 20 countries. These competitions comprised the ASF Maruhaba Cup team event, a junior category, and the men's and women's open division.
- ❖ With 58.40 points, Japan took home the gold and the Maruhaba Cup. With a score of 24.13, the Indian men's team—which included Kamali P, Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D, and Sanjay Selvamani—won the silver medal.
- ❖ With 23.93 points, the Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) won third place and the bronze medal.

#### Eligibility for the Asian Games in 2026:-

- ❖ The Indian women's and men's teams' results at the Third Asian Surfing Championships 2024 guaranteed them a spot in the Asian Games. Based on the ranking points that surfers at the Third Asian Surfing Championships achieved, quotas were given to the teams and individual players.

- ❖ Eight Indian surfers competed in four different divisions in the Maldives.
- ❖ Before losing in a close match, Harish Muthu became the first Indian to reach the quarterfinals.

#### Asian Championship of Surfing:-

- ❖ China hosted the inaugural Asian Surfing Championship in 2019. The Asian Games Organising Committee decided to include surfing in the 2026 Asian Games after seeing its success.
- ❖ Thulusdhoo, Maldives hosted the second Asian Surfing Championship in 2023.

### Obituary

#### Veteran Congress leader and Nanded MP Vasant Chavan passes away in Hyderabad

#### About News:-

Vasant Chavan, a veteran Congress leader and the newly elected Nanded MP, died on August 26, 2024, at 4 a.m. at KIMS Hospital in Hyderabad. The 70-year-old Chavan had been battling a protracted sickness and receiving treatment for kidney problems. His health abruptly declined, which resulted in his death.

#### Achievements and Political Career:-

- ❖ Chavan had a distinguished political career before narrowly winning the Nanded Lok Sabha seat in the face of formidable opposition.
- ❖ He prevailed over Pratap Patil Chikhalikar of the BJP by 59,442 votes, despite health issues and a party that was weakened by significant defections, such as the former chief minister Ashok Chavan's move to the BJP.
- ❖ Vasant Chavan thanked Ashok Chavan for leaving, saying that he believed it helped him win.

#### Background and Contributions:-

- ❖ Vasant Chavan, who was born in Naigaon, Nanded district, held positions in the Maharashtra Legislative Council, zilla parishad, and gram panchayat throughout his political career.
- ❖ From 2009 to 2014, he was the Naigaon MLA; from 2021 to 2023, he presided over the Nanded District Central Cooperative Bank.



### Important Day

#### World Water Week - 25 to 29 August 2024



#### About Week:-

- ❖ Every year, during the last week of August, people around the world mark World Water Week (WWW), the premier conference on global water concerns, to address important water-related issues such as sustainability, sanitation, clean water access, and water management.
- ❖ August 25, 2024–August 29, 2024 is World Water Week 2024.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ The dates of World Water Week 2023 were August 20–24, while the dates of World Water Week 2025 are August 24–28, 2025.
- ❖ "Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future" is the theme of the 2024 WWW meeting.
- ❖ The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in Stockholm, Sweden, is responsible for organizing this yearly event.
- ❖ With extensive experience in water governance ranging from sanitation and water resource management to water diplomacy, SIWI is a Not-For-Profit (NFP) organization.

#### History:-

- ❖ The world's top water specialists came together for the first Stockholm Water Symposium as part of a public celebration of the city's clean waters in 1991.
- ❖ The World Water Week in Stockholm, which takes place annually and is the leading forum for discussing freshwater concerns, officially replaced the Stockholm Water Symposium in 2001.
- ❖ The event, which is hosted by SIWI, draws attendees from 193 nations, including scientists, UN specialists, activists, business owners, politicians, and students.
- ❖ The Stockholm Water Prize, the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, and the Stockholm Industry Water Award are presented by SIWI during World Water Week.

#### Significance:-

- ❖ Water cooperation for peace and security, including human, food, nutrition, ecological, and energy security, among other things, is the main focus of WWW 2024.
- ❖ The objective of the 2024 forum is to ascertain and foster worldwide interdependence and prospects for efficient water collaboration among various industries.
- ❖ A vital forum for tying together global procedures and the yearly Conference of the Parties (COP) is WWW.
- ❖ WWW provides a chance to carry out the agreements established at the United Nations (UN) 2023 Water Conference in the years 2023–2027.

