

### International

#### Russia and Iran's presidents sign partnership treaty in Moscow



##### About News:-

- ❖ Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Iranian counterpart, Masoud Pezeshkian, signed a broad cooperation pact Friday as their countries deepened their partnership in the face of stinging Western sanctions.
- ❖ 20-year strategic partnership treaty that includes closer defence cooperation, something likely to worry the West.

##### Key points:-

- ❖ **GENERAL:-** The two sides will work to deepen their relationship in all areas of mutual interest. They will strengthen cooperation in security and defence, and closely coordinate their activities at regional and global levels, aiming for a long-term, comprehensive, and strategic partnership.
- ❖ **SECURITY:-** The two countries will cooperate against common military threats, participate in joint exercises and develop their "military-technical cooperation".
- ❖ If attacked, the other shall not assist the aggressor and will seek to resolve differences based on the U.N. Charter and international law.
- ❖ Neither side will allow its territory to be used to support separatist movements or actions threatening the other's stability and territorial integrity.
- ❖ To tackle common threats, their intelligence and security services will share information and experience and work more closely together.

- ❖ **ENERGY:-** Russia and Iran will promote cooperation between their energy companies and encourage investments in projects for developing oil and gas fields.
- ❖ **NUCLEAR:-** Both parties will work on long-term joint projects on the peaceful use of nuclear energy including the construction of nuclear power stations.
- ❖ **TRADE:-** The two sides will work together to create a modern payment system that is independent of third countries, with settlement in national currencies. They will strengthen direct interbank cooperation and promote their national financial products.

##### About Russia:-

- ❖ Capital:- Moscow
- ❖ Currency:- Ruble
- ❖ President:- Vladimir Putin
- ❖ Prime Minister:- Mikhail Mishustin

### National

#### Government launches Entity Locker for secure document management

##### About News:-

- ❖ Building on the success of DigiLocker, the government has introduced 'Entity Locker,' a new digital platform aimed at streamlining the management and verification of business and organizational documents.



- ❖ **Developed by:-** the National eGovernance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), this secure, cloud-based platform caters to a diverse range of entities, including corporations, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), trusts, startups, and societies.
- ❖ Entity Locker leverages advanced technology to seamlessly integrate with various government and regulatory systems.

**Key Points:-**

- ❖ **Key features:-** include real-time access to government databases, consent-based mechanisms for secure information sharing, Aadhaar-authenticated role-based access, and legally valid digital signatures. Users are also provided with 10 GB of encrypted cloud storage for secure document handling.

**Alignment with Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI):-**

- ❖ As part of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), the platform aligns with the Union Budget 2024-25 goals of improving digital governance and facilitating ease of doing business. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology highlighted its potential to reduce administrative tasks, cut processing times, and boost operational efficiency for businesses.

**Benefits:-**

- ❖ Entity Locker connects seamlessly with systems like the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN), and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), offering instant access to essential documents. It also ensures transparency and accountability by tracking document-related activities, enhancing document security, and eliminating processing delays.
- ❖ The platform supports multiple applications, such as vendor verification on procurement portals, speeding up MSME loan approvals, facilitating FSSAI compliance, and streamlining registrations with GSTN, MCA, and tendering processes. Additionally, it simplifies corporate annual filings, ensuring a smoother process for businesses of all sizes.

**State**

**Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh to Inaugurate Livestock Conclave in Shillong on 23rd January 2025**

**About News:-**



- ❖ The Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying is organizing a conclave, themed "Dialogue For Holistic Development of Livestock Sector in North East India" in Shillong, Meghalaya on 23rd - 24th January 2025.
- ❖ The conclave will be inaugurated by Union Minister, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (FAHD), and Panchayati Raj as Chief Guest.
- ❖ Ms Alka Upadhyaya, Secretary Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD) along with other senior officers from the Department, and Principal Secretaries from NER states will also be present for the two-day dialogue. The conclave will also witness the participation of key stakeholders including scientists, NGOs, entrepreneurs, and private players from the livestock and poultry industry.

**Key Points:-**

- ❖ On this occasion, several projects will be dedicated to the people of NER and MOUs will be signed with the industry for promoting investment in the livestock sector in the NER. The objective of the Livestock Conclave is to bring together the key stakeholders to discuss strategies for the holistic development of the livestock and poultry sector in the NER states.

- ❖ The Conclave also aims to assess the present status and challenges and explore opportunities for growth and development through value chain strengthening, technological interventions, and policy support.
- ❖ It will facilitate knowledge sharing and capacity building among stakeholders, including farmers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and researchers, and promote sustainable and inclusive farming practices in alignment with the One Health approach.
- ❖ The government of India is implementing various flagship schemes such as the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF), the Entrepreneurship Development programme (EDP) under the National Livestock Mission (NLM), the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) and National Programme for Dairy Development (NPDD) to augment productivity and promote sustainable livestock practices in the country.
- ❖ This conclave aims to provide outcomes that help in policy formulation, guide investment decisions, and pave the way for sustainable and inclusive growth in the region's livestock and poultry industries.

#### **About Meghalaya:-**

- ❖ Capital:- Shillong
- ❖ Governor:- C. H. Vijayashankar
- ❖ Chief minister:- Conrad Sangma

### **Economic**

#### **RBI Directs Regulated Entities to Use '1600xx' Series for Transactional Calls**

##### **About News:-**

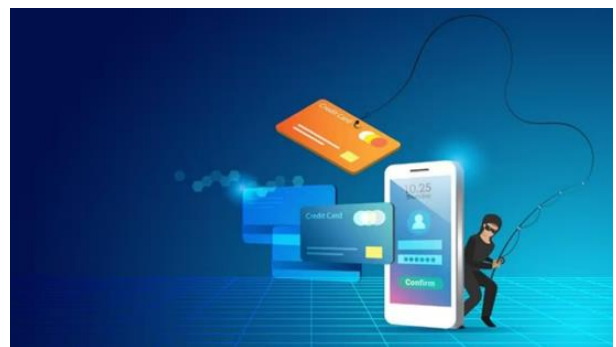
- ❖ In a bid to tackle financial fraud, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued directions to Regulated Entities (REs) to specifically use the '1600xx' numbering series for transactional calls to customers, in its recent release dated January 17, 2025.
- ❖ The central bank also directed them to clean their customer database using the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL), the list where Telecom Service Providers update numbers that have been disconnected permanently.

- ❖ In its circular titled "Prevention of financial frauds perpetrated using voice calls and SMS – Regulatory prescriptions and Institutional Safeguards," the central bank observed that while digital transactions offered both convenience and efficiency, they have also led to a surge in frauds.
- ❖ It noted that the customer's registered mobile number had emerged as a "ubiquitous identifier" in account verification, but was at risk of being misused by scammers and cybercriminals for online frauds.

##### **Monitoring and Cleaning Customer Database:-**

- ❖ The RBI advised REs to use the Mobile Number Revocation List (MNRL), accessible on the Digital Intelligence Platform developed by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), to monitor and clean their databases.
- ❖ In this regard, it further sought the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for required actions to be taken in emergent situations, such as updating registered mobile numbers after due verification, enhanced monitoring of accounts linked to revoked numbers to prevent said accounts from being used as money mules or being involved in fraud.

##### **Using Specific Numbering Series for Contacting Customers:-**



- ❖ The Central Bank also directed REs to use the '1600xx' numbering series, when operationalised, for transactional or service calls, and the '1400xx' series only through phone numbers for promotional voice calls, by the "Important Guidelines for sending commercial communication using telecom resources through Voice Calls or SMS" by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).



- ❖ It also directed entities to raise awareness about financial fraud using email, SMS, and other modes, including in vernacular languages.
- ❖ The last date for REs to ensure compliance with the circular is March 31, 2025.

#### Why it Matters:-

- ❖ This comes a little more than a month after RBI introduced MuleHunter AI, a tool by its Innovation Hub (RBIH) to detect and flag mule bank accounts involved in fraud.
- ❖ Reasoning that older static-rule-based detection systems had higher false-positive rates and longer turnaround times, RBIH stated that the newer AI/ML-based system operates based on a set of predetermined criteria or conditions.
- ❖ Taking into consideration metrics such as the number of cyber fraud incidents, that saw a substantial rise to 2,92,800 cases in FY24 from 78,800 cases in FY23, RBI's current act appears to be a future-facing regulatory decision.

#### About RBI:-

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India
- ❖ Established:- 1 April 1935
- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Governor:- Sanjay Malhotra

### Appointment

#### Assam Police Chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh appointed CRPF DG

#### About News:-

- ❖ Assam Police Chief Gyanendra Pratap Singh has been appointed as CRPF director general.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved his appointment as CRPF DG till the date of his superannuation on November 30, 2027.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ Singh is a 1991-batch Indian Police Service officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- ❖ Singh was repatriated to his parent cadre at the request of the Assam government. Singh is also known as 'Gun Point Singh' for his tough approach against insurgents.



- ❖ He will take charge from Special DG of the CRPF Vitul Kumar who has been holding officiating charge of the force after the retirement of Anish Dayal Singh on December 31, 2024.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal has also been named as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ❖ Shamsher Singh, the current DG of the Gujarat Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), has been appointed as the ADG of the BSF for a tenure upto the 31st of March 2026.

#### About Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF):-

- ❖ Established – 1939
- ❖ Headquarters - New Delhi (Delhi)
- ❖ Director General (DG) - Gyanendra Pratap Singh

### Award

#### Launch of Web-Portal for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2024

#### About News:-



- ❖ The Government of India has launched the Scheme for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2023 designed to acknowledge, recognize, and reward exemplary work done by civil servants across the country.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ For the year 2023, the Scheme for Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration has been revised to recognize the contribution of civil servants in the holistic development of Districts under the following schemes:
- ❖ **Category 1:** Holistic Development of Districts under 12 Priority Sector Programs, in this category 10 awards would be conferred.
- ❖ **Category 2:** Innovations for Central Ministries/ Departments, States, and Districts, under this category 6 awards would be conferred.

#### Registration:

- ❖ The registration and submission of nominations on the PM's Awards web portal commenced on January 3. The last date for submission of nominations is January 31.
- ❖ Furthermore, to encourage participation, the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has undertaken an outreach campaign. It held a series of outreach meetings with Central Ministries/ Departments, State Governments, and District Collectors and advised them to submit nominations on the web portal for PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2023 at <https://pmawards.gov.in>.

#### Prize Details:

- ❖ The Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2023 consists of a trophy, a scroll, and an incentive of Rs. 20 lakhs to the awarded District/ Organization to be utilized for the implementation of project/ program or bridging the resource gap in any area of public welfare.

- ❖ In the years 2019-2023, the Government has conferred 62 Awards under the Scheme Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration. Under the 2022 Scheme, 743 District Collectors submitted 2,520 nominations of which 15 nominations were conferred with PM's Awards. The PM's Awards are conferred by the Prime Minister of India on Civil Services Day, observed on April 21, 2024.

### Sport

#### Axelsen & An Se-Young claim India Open titles

##### About News:-

- ❖ Paris Olympic gold medalists Viktor Axelsen of Denmark and South Korea's An Se Young won the Men's and Women's Singles titles in the finals of India Open Super 750 badminton tournament 2025 held on 19th January 2025 at the KD Jadhav Indoor Hall in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ❖ Axelsen defeated Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk Yiu in the Men's Singles final while An Se Young defeated Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in the women's singles final.
- ❖ This was Axelsen's 6th India Open final in 10 years and has won his 3rd India Open men's singles title after winning it in 2017 and 2019.
- ❖ The India Open Super 750 badminton tournament 2025 was held from 14th January to 19th January 2025.



##### Key Highlights:

- ❖ Malaysia's Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin defeated South Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae in the Men's doubles

- ❖ In the Women's doubles category, Japan's Arisa Igarashi and Ayako
- ❖ Sakuramoto defeated South Korea's Kim Hye Jang and Kong Hee Young in the finals to win the title.
- ❖ China's Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin won in the mixed doubles category after defeating France's Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue in the finals.

**Prize:-**

- ❖ The total prize money for the India Open 2025 was USD 950,000.
- ❖ Out of the total, the men's and women's singles winners will be awarded USD 66,500, and the winners in the men's, women's and mixed doubles categories will be awarded USD 70,300 respectively.

**About India Open:**

- ❖ The India Open, officially known as the Yonex Sunrise India Open is an annual badminton event that has been held in India since 2008.
- ❖ It was held for the first time in 1973.
- ❖ In 2018, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) included it in its World Tour as a Super 500 event and later was upgraded to a Super 750 tournament.

**Miscellaneous**

**India ranks 7th in global coffee production as exports hit \$1.29 billion**

**About News:-**

- ❖ India is now the seventh-largest coffee producer globally with exports reaching USD 1.29 billion in financial year (FY) 2023- 24, almost double the USD 719.42 million in 2020-21, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry stated in the release.

**Key Points:-**

- ❖ In the first half of January 2025, India exported over 9,300 tonnes of coffee with top buyers including Italy, Belgium, and Russia.



- ❖ Approximately three-fourths of India's coffee production consists of Arabica and Robusta beans. These are primarily exported as unroasted beans.
- ❖ However, there is a growing demand for value-added products like roasted and instant coffee, further fueling the export boom.
- ❖ Due to the rise of cafe culture, higher disposable incomes, and a growing preference for coffee over tea, coffee consumption in India is also steadily increasing.
- ❖ This trend has been observed particularly in both urban and rural areas. Domestic consumption has increased from 84,000 tonnes in 2012 to 91,000 tonnes in 2023.
- ❖ India's coffee is primarily grown in the ecologically rich Western and Eastern Ghats, areas famous for their biodiversity. Karnataka leads in production, contributing 248,020 MT in 2022-23, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ These areas are home to shaded plantations that not only support the coffee industry but also play a vital role in preserving the natural environment, helping to maintain the ecological balance of these biodiversity hotspots.
- ❖ To enhance coffee production and meet growing domestic and international demand the Coffee Board of India has launched several important initiatives.

- ❖ Through the Integrated Coffee Development Project (ICDP) the focus is on improving yields, expanding cultivation in non-traditional regions, and ensuring the sustainability of coffee farming.
- ❖ A prime example of the success of this is Araku Valley, where nearly 150,000 tribal families in collaboration with the Coffee Board and the Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) have increased coffee production by 20 percent.

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