

**09 September 2024**

**Ministry of Panchayati Raj Partners  
with IIM Jammu to Launch  
Transformative 5-Day Management  
Development Programme**

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, is set to launch a transformative 5-day Management Development Programme (MDP) from 9th to 13th September 2024.



### Key Points

- ❖ This intensive, residential programme will bring together elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) from across 11 states and Union Territories (UTs), including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ The initiative aims to enhance the leadership, management, and governance skills of key PRI representatives, such as Presidents

and Vice Presidents of District Panchayats, Block Panchayat Samitis, and heads of Gram Panchayats. The program will focus on essential topics including leadership, ethics, resource mobilisation, rural innovation, convergence, project management, and the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance.

- ❖ A central theme of the MDP will be increasing Own Source Revenue (OSR), vital for ensuring the financial sustainability of Panchayats and transforming them into "Saksham Panchayats," or capable, financially independent local governing bodies. By empowering Panchayats with greater financial autonomy, they can better meet the needs of their communities and spearhead rural development.
- ❖ Given that Panchayats are the backbone of governance at the grassroots level, responsible for providing basic amenities and fulfilling constitutional duties, the MDP's objective is to equip these local leaders with the tools and knowledge required for more effective governance. The programme is designed to foster expert-led sessions, case studies, and interactive discussions, ensuring a dynamic learning experience.

- ❖ Launched in January 2024, this Leadership/Management Development Programme by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is already garnering positive feedback. It is seen as a strategic move towards improving the effectiveness of local governance, with the overarching goal of achieving the vision of "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).

**Ashwini Vaishnav and Anil Kapoor included in Time magazine's 100 most influential people in the AI field**

Central Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, and actor Anil Kapoor are among the Indians honored in Time magazine's prestigious list of "100 Most Influential People in AI 2024."



#### Key Points

- ❖ Fifteen Indians or people of Indian origin have been included in this list released by Time magazine. Among them are Sundar Pichai of Google and Satya Nadella of Microsoft.
- ❖ While writing about 54-year-old Vaishnav, the magazine mentioned that under his leadership, India is

expected to become one of the top five countries in semiconductor manufacturing within the next five years — a critical component for modern AI systems.

#### About Time Magazine

- ❖ Time is an American weekly news magazine published from New York City. It was founded in 1923 and was dominated for many decades by Henry Luce. Various editions of Time are published across the world.

**IIT Indore's discovery will aid in the treatment of TB, making the production of indigenous medicine possible.**

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore has developed new compounds. These could help tackle the significant health issue of drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) in India and globally.



#### Key Points

- ❖ Under the leadership of Professor Venkatesh Chelvam from the Department of Chemistry and Professor Avinash Sonawane from the Department of Biosciences and Biomedical Engineering at IIT Indore, researchers have developed over 150 new antibacterial

compounds as part of their drug discovery program aimed at treating TB. These compounds belong to the pyridine ring-fused heterocyclic family, which includes pyrolopyridine, indolopyridine, and others.

- ❖ Tuberculosis (TB), caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB), is one of the leading causes of death worldwide, claiming around 1.5 million lives each year. The situation is worsening due to the emergence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extremely drug-resistant (XDR) strains of TB, which render most existing anti-TB drugs ineffective.
- ❖ According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately 480,000 new cases of MDR-TB and an additional 100,000 cases of rifampicin-resistant TB (RR-TB) are reported globally, with half of them occurring in China and India. Current TB treatments require antibiotics for six to nine months, but for MDR and XDR-TB, treatment with toxic drugs can take several months to years, often resulting in higher failure rates and mortality.
- ❖ About Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore
- ❖ Located in Madhya Pradesh, IIT Indore, also known as IITI, is an

institute of national importance established by the Government of India in 2009. It is one of the eight new IITs initiated by the Ministry of Education. The institute started functioning under the guidance of IIT Bombay in a temporary campus at the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Devi Ahilya University, in 2009-10.

**The Central Government honoured Madhya Pradesh in the Top Achiever category for Citizen Services.**

The Appointment Committee of the Union Cabinet has appointed senior Indian Police Officer (IPS) B Srinivasan as the new Director General of the elite counter-terrorism force National Security Guard.



**Key Points**

- ❖ The Central Government has honored Madhya Pradesh in the "Top Achiever Category in Citizen Services" for the successful implementation of the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2022. Union Minister of Commerce, Piyush Goyal, presented the award to Raghvendra Singh, Principal



Secretary of the Department of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion, Madhya Pradesh, at a ceremony held in New Delhi.

- ❖ Public Relations Officer Babita Mishra stated that the Central Government's Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has appreciated the innovations and process simplifications made by Madhya Pradesh for industries and citizen services. The state received this award based on the evaluation of services available on various online portals implemented by different departments of the state, such as the Labor Service Portal, Invest Portal, e-Nagar Palika, RCMS, Cyber Tehsil, Sampada, MPE District Portal, etc.
- ❖ She further mentioned that all departments are working to strengthen "Ease of Living" and "Ease of Doing Business" in Madhya Pradesh. Acts and rules are being simplified by the departments. New upgraded systems like Cyber Tehsil and Sampada 2.0 are assisting in this effort.
- ❖ Notably, the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) is a program of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, which assesses

the reforms made by Indian states and Union Territories (UTs) in business and citizen services. BRAP's objectives include a single-window system, an online building permission system, inspection reforms, and labour and environmental reforms.

- ❖ Under BRAP 2022, the Central Government placed states in the "Top Achievers" category if they scored over 95% in 25 reform areas (15 business and 10 citizen-centric). Madhya Pradesh was honored for its outstanding work in a citizen-centric service – "Empowering citizens through streamlined Employment services."

**Sports Academy's shooting athlete Chetan Hemant Sapkal wins bronze medal.**

Minister of Sports and Youth Welfare, Shri Vishwas Kailash Sarang, congratulated him on this achievement.



- ❖ The second World Deaf Shooting Championship 2024 is being held in Hanover, Germany, from August 29 to September 8, 2024. Sports Academy athlete Chetan Hemant Sapkal won the bronze medal in the

**25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men's Individual event**, bringing pride to the nation and the state. This is Chetan's second medal in the competition.

- ❖ **Detailed Results:** In the second World Deaf Shooting Championship 2024, held in Hanover (Germany), **Chetan** won the bronze medal in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Men's Individual event with a score of 539-10x. Ukrainian athletes secured the gold and silver medals.
- ❖ Notably, Chetan Hemant Sapkal joined the Sports Academy earlier this year. He was selected through the talent identification program.

### India overtook China in Emerging Markets Investable Market Index

India has surpassed China in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Emerging Markets Investable Market Index. India's weightage in the index stood at **22.27%**, while China's weightage was **21.58%**. This announcement was made by Morgan Stanley.



### Key Points

- ❖ India's markets have benefited from favorable macroeconomic conditions.

Recently, the country has attracted more investment due to the strong macroeconomic fundamentals of the Indian economy and the stellar performance of corporates.

- ❖ Additionally, there have been broad-based gains in the Indian equity markets. This gain is reflected in both large-cap as well as mid-cap and small-cap indices. Key factors contributing to this positive trend include a 47% increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) earlier this year, a decrease in crude oil prices, and substantial foreign investment in Indian debt markets.
- ❖ According to market analysts, this change in the index could lead to an investment potential of approximately \$4.5 billion in India.

### What is the MSCI Emerging Markets Index?

- ❖ The MSCI (Morgan Stanley Capital International) Emerging Markets Index is a benchmark index that measures and reviews the performance of stock markets in emerging countries. It was launched by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) in 1988.

### Praveen Kumar wins sixth gold medal for India, breaks Asian high jump record

Indian para-athlete Praveen Kumar won the gold medal for India in the Men's High Jump T-64 final at the Paris Paralympics. In the medal round, Praveen set a new Asian record with a record-breaking jump of 2.08 meters. Both the President and Prime Minister have congratulated Praveen on his achievement.



#### Key Points

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu wrote, "Heartfelt congratulations to Praveen Kumar for winning the gold medal in the Men's High Jump event at the Paris 2024 Paralympics. By securing a medal with record-setting performances in successive Paralympics, Praveen has demonstrated extraordinary talent. India is proud of Praveen. I hope he continues to reach new heights of sporting excellence in the future."
- ❖ PM Modi said, "Congratulations to Praveen Kumar for reaching new heights and winning the gold medal in the Men's High Jump T64 at the

Paris 2024 Paralympics! His determination and perseverance have brought glory to our country. India is proud of him!"

- ❖ Meanwhile, the silver and bronze medals were secured by USA's Derek Lokident, who jumped 2.06 meters, and Uzbekistan's Temurbek Giyazov, who jumped 2.03 meters. Derek also broke the previous Paralympic record of 1.88 meters set by Japan's Toru Suzuki in 2021, while Giyazov achieved a personal best record.

### M.P. First state in the country to include sign language in police training

Police officers and staff will receive special training to better understand the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities. This training will enable them to communicate and interact more effectively with individuals with disabilities.



#### Key Points

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government has introduced a significant change in the police training process by incorporating sign language under the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

- ❖ This initiative aims to ensure that police officers and staff can easily understand and sensitively interact with persons with disabilities in distress. Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to take this step in the field of disability welfare.
- ❖ Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Mr. Sandeep Rajak, has played a crucial role in implementing this training system. He had made decisions from his court under the provisions of the Disabilities Rights Act, advocating for a meaningful approach to this humanitarian and sensitive issue.
- ❖ The state government believes that this initiative will honor the rights of persons with disabilities and prevent any form of neglect they may face. This step is expected to bring about a positive change in society, enhancing safety and equality for all citizens.

**Bengaluru's Siddharth Aggarwal becomes the oldest Indian to swim solo across the English Channel**



### Key Points

- ❖ Bengaluru's 49-year-old swimmer Siddharth Aggarwal has made history by becoming the oldest Indian to cross the English Channel. Aggarwal successfully covered the 42-kilometer distance between England and France in 15 hours and six minutes.
- ❖ Reflecting on his achievement, Aggarwal admitted he was unsure if he would accomplish it. His quest to swim across the icy waters of the English Channel began in 2018 when he crossed the channel as part of an eight-member relay team. Interestingly, that same year, Srikanth Vishwanathan from Bengaluru set a record in the Limca Book of Records as the oldest person to swim across the English Channel alone at the age of 46.
- ❖ Six years later, Aggarwal, affectionately known as "Sid" in the swimming community, surpassed his compatriot's record. He faced his biggest challenge in the final 10 kilometers, dealing with harsh conditions and high tides, exacerbated by winds blowing at nearly 25 miles per hour. Despite these obstacles, Aggarwal completed the swim successfully and secured his place in the record books.



### About the English Channel:

- ❖ The English Channel is a part of the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ It separates England from France.
- ❖ It connects the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean through the Strait of Dover.
- ❖ The first person to swim across the English Channel was Captain Matthew Webb, an English sailor, swimmer, and stuntman. He made the journey from Dover to Calais on August 24, 1875, without any

assistance, completing it in 21 hours and 45 minutes.





Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Who among the following is not included in Time magazine's list of "100 Most Influential People in AI 2024"?

- (a) Ashwini Vaishnav
- (b) Rajinikanth
- (c) Nandan Nilekani
- (d) Anil Kapoor

Answer- (b)

2. Which of the following is the first state in the country to include sign language in police training?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Kerala
- (d) neither of the above

Answer- (d)