

**INTERNATIONAL**

**India and Saint Kitts and Nevis Sign MoU to Enhance Cooperation in Sports**



**About News:-**

- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in New Delhi (Delhi) on August 5, 2024, by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) of the Government of India (GoI) and Denzil Llewellyn Douglas of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis (SKN) to strengthen cooperation in various sports-related matters.
- ❖ Denzil Douglas signed the Memorandum of Understanding on his official visit to India from August 4-9, 2024.
- ❖ to increase the sporting potential of both nations by encouraging teamwork in the development of sports, knowledge exchange, and reciprocal advancement across sports disciplines.

**Important areas of cooperation:-**

These MoU's principal areas of cooperation are

- ❖ **Training and Competition:** Giving athletes and sports teams from both nations access to training and competitive environments.
- ❖ **Technical Help and Coach Training:** Encouraging coaches to receive technical help and training to improve their abilities and efficacy.
- ❖ **Exchange Programs:** Arranging visits and exchanges for executives, specialists, technicians, and support staff in the sports industry.
- ❖ Encouraging exchanges in youth and junior sports, including wrestling, kabaddi, badminton, shooting, and athletics.

- ❖ **Sports science programs:** Organizing and carrying out exchange, attachment, and training programs for sports science professionals; moreover offering additional development support in this domain.
- ❖ **Coach Education and Curriculum Development:** Offers instruction and networking opportunities in the areas of sports administration, infrastructure development and management, and coach education.
- ❖ **Technology and Infrastructure Development:** Sharing information and resources regarding research development, technology, and sports infrastructure.
- ❖ **Sports research and development:** Cooperation in training and anti-doping initiatives are included in the field of sports research and development.
- ❖ Collaboration in the fields of fitness development and physical education between the universities or centers for physical education of the two nations.

**About the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis (SKN):**

- ❖ Capital :- Basseterre
- ❖ Currency:- East Caribbean Dollar (XCD)
- ❖ Prime Minister (PM):- Terrance Micheal Drew

**National**

**Union Home Minister Amit Shah Launched 4 Apps for 3 New Criminal Laws**



**About News:-**

- ❖ In accordance with the three new criminal laws in Chandigarh, Union Minister Amit Shah, the Ministries of Home Affairs (MoHA), Cooperation (MoC), and e-Sakshya, Setu, and Shruti, introduced four applications (Apps) on August 4, 2024. The National Informatics Centre (NIC), located in New Delhi (Delhi), created these applications.

- ❖ The British-era laws, the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860; the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc), 1973; and the Indian Evidence Act (IEA), 1872, have been repealed by the three new criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), which went into effect on July 1, 2024.

#### About New Apps:-

- ❖ With the use of the smartphone software e-Sakshya, law enforcement can store any photographs, videos, and testimony related to a criminal case on a cloud-based e-evidence server that will be instantly accessible to the courts.
- ❖ The Nyaya Shruti app, which has been shared with all states, Union Territories (UTs), and the Supreme Court's e-committee for deployment by the courts, will facilitate judicial proceedings using electronic means like video conferencing and document onboarding.
- ❖ A more inclusive and just society will be made possible by Nyaya Setu, which will offer a single legal interface for legal information, legal counsel, and legal help.
- ❖ With the integration of police, medical, forensic, prosecution, and prisons, this interface will give officers access to all relevant investigation-related data in a single click.

#### Economic

#### LIC introduces term insurance products for youth



#### About News:-

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) introduced four new products on August 5, 2024, aimed at the country's youth. LIC's Yuva Term/Digi Term and Yuva Credit Life/Digi Credit Life will be on sale starting on August 6, 2024, both online and offline.

#### About LIC's Yuva Term/Digi Term:-

- ❖ The Yuva Term plan from LIC is accessible offline. Offline sales of this Plan are available through brokers, corporate agents, licensed agents, and insurance marketing companies. LIC's Digi Term plan, however, can be accessed online via the LIC website. Benefits payable in the event of death are assured.
- ❖ Young people looking for early-term insurance can purchase these Non-Par, Non-Linked, Individual, Pure Risk Life Plans, which give them the option to do it online or offline.
- ❖ The maturity age ranges from 33 to 75 years, with an entering age of 18 years and a maximum of 45 years.
- ❖ The guaranteed amount is between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 5 crore, with larger sums being evaluated on an individual basis.
- ❖ Women's premium rates are reduced.
- ❖ For regular and limited premiums, the death benefit is equal to seven times the annualized premium, or 105% of the total amount paid in premiums; for single premium payments, it is equal to 125% of the single premium, or the absolute amount assured.

#### Concerning LIC's Digi Credit Life and Yuva Credit Life:-

- ❖ LIC has launched two products that use term insurance to cover loan liabilities: Yuva Credit Life, which is sold offline through intermediaries, and Digi Credit Life, which is sold only online via LIC's website.
- ❖ These are individual, pure-risk, non-par, non-linked life insurance plans with declining death benefits throughout the policy.
- ❖ The maturity age ranges from 23 to 75 years, with an entering age of 18 years and a maximum of 45 years.
- ❖ The guaranteed amount varies between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 5 crore.
- ❖ These plans provide women with cheaper premium rates, a choice of loan interest rates at policy beginning, and a high sum assured rebate.
- ❖ If the policy is in effect and the claim is admissible, the insured's death benefit will be paid out if they pass away within the policy's term.

**About Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC):-**

- ❖ Establishment:- 1956
- ❖ Headquarters:- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ MD & CEO :- Siddhartha Mohanty

**Appointment**

**Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera assumes charge as DG of Assam Rifles**

**About News:-**

- ❖ Lieutenant (Lt.) General (Gen) Vikas Lakhera became the 22nd Director General (DG) of the Assam Rifles, India's oldest paramilitary organization, which is sometimes referred to as the "Sentinels of the North-East," on August 1, 2024.
- ❖ He took over for Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair, who left the army on July 31, 2024. Since 2021, he has been the 21st DG of the Assam Rifles.
- ❖ Vikas Lakhera oversaw information warfare as the Additional Director General (ADG) of Military Operations before being appointed to this position.



**About Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera:-**

- ❖ In 1990, Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera received his commission in the Indian Army's 4th Battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry (LI). Later, he became the commander of the Red Horn Division's Unit in Lower Assam.
- ❖ Additionally, he held several staff and command positions, such as:
- ❖ Division Officer and Training, Advising, and Counseling (TAC) at Khadakwasla, Maharashtra's National Defence Academy (NDA).
- ❖ At Eastern Command Headquarters in Kolkata, West Bengal, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) is advised by a Military Advisor (MA).
- ❖ led the 15th Infantry Brigade in Rajasthan's Sri Ganganagar.

- ❖ He assumed command of the Assam Rifles (North) in Kohima, Nagaland, in 2022 and was elevated to the rank of Lieutenant General in January 2024.
- ❖ He was employed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) (Army) as the DG of Military Operations and the Integrated Headquarters.
- ❖ He has received two GOC-in-C Commendation Cards, the Sena Medal (SM), the Ati Vishist Seva Medal (AVSM), and a Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Commendation Card.

**About the Assam Rifles:-**

- ❖ Established:- 1835
- ❖ Headquarters:- Shillong, Meghalaya

**Summit**

**India to host first BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi from August 6-8**



**About News:-**

- ❖ The first-ever BIMSTEC Business Summit will be held in New Delhi, India, on August 6–8, signaling a major advancement in the promotion of increased regional cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region. This three-day event is being organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- ❖ The summit will be opened by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and keynote speeches will be given by Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister of Commerce and Industries, and other dignitaries.

**Key Points:-**

- ❖ A wide range of attendees is anticipated for the event, including senior government officials, legislators, business owners, and representatives from industry associations, as well as ministers from BIMSTEC member states in charge of trade, commerce, industry, and energy.
- ❖ More than 300 important participants from the Bay of Bengal region will be present at the event to foster economic cooperation

and discuss future directions in areas of interest such as trade facilitation, regional connectivity, energy security, inclusive growth, and sustainable development.

- ❖ India's commitment to BIMSTEC, which links two Southeast Asian countries (Myanmar and Thailand) with five South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, and Sri Lanka), was highlighted in the MEA.
- ❖ This summit comes after the 4th Annual Meeting of BIMSTEC Security Chiefs, which took place in July in Naypyitaw, the capital of Myanmar. The Indian delegation was led by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

**About BIMSTEC:-**

- ❖ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)
- ❖ Establishment:- 6 June 1997
- ❖ The BIMSTEC member states – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand

**Science & Technology**

**IAF Sanctions Astra Missile Production by DRDO and BDL**



**About News:-**

IAF Sanctions Astra Missile Production by DRDO and BDL: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently approved the production of 200 Astra Mark 1 air-to-air missiles, marking a significant advancement in India's indigenous missile capabilities. This clearance allows Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), a public sector enterprise, to commence manufacturing these advanced missiles.

**IAF Sanctions Astra Missile Production by DRDO and BDL:-**

- ❖ In a significant advancement for domestic missile manufacturing, the Indian Air Force has authorized Bharat Dynamics Limited, a public sector enterprise, to produce 200 Astra Mark 1 air-to-air missiles. Check Key Details here:

- ❖ **Missile Production Approval:** The IAF has authorized BDL to produce 200 Astra Mark 1 missiles, an important step in bolstering the country's air combat capabilities.
- ❖ **Development and Production:** The Astra Mark 1 missiles have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), with BDL designated as the production agency.
- ❖ **Recent Visit:** The production clearance was granted during a visit by Indian Air Force Deputy Chief Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to Hyderabad, where he also visited the DRDO's Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), the project's nodal lab.
- ❖ **Project Details:** The project, valued at over ₹2,900 crore, received approval from the Defence Acquisition Council in the 2022-23 fiscal year. The clearance follows the completion of all necessary tests and developmental phases.
- ❖ **Integration Plans:** The Astra missiles are set to be integrated with both the Russian-origin Su-30MKI and the indigenous LCA Tejas fighter aircraft, enhancing their operational effectiveness.
- ❖ **Future Developments:** The DRDO and IAF are progressing with the Astra program, including plans for testing the Astra Mark 2, which aims to achieve a range of approximately 130 km. Additionally, ongoing efforts are to develop a long-range variant with a strike capability of up to 300 km.
- ❖ **Indigenous Efforts:** This initiative is part of India's broader efforts to develop indigenous missile technologies, with several other missile programs nearing completion, including air-to-ground variants.
- ❖ The sanctioning of the Astra Mark 1 production underscores India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities through domestic technology and manufacturing.

**What is Astra Mark 1 Missile?**

The Astra Mark 1 missiles are advanced air-to-air missiles developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Here's a detailed overview:

Feature	Details
Type	Air-to-air missile
Developed By	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
Produced By	Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
Range	Approximately 100 kilometers
Guidance System	Features a combination of active radar and infrared guidance for high-precision targeting.
Target Capability	Designed to engage and destroy enemy aircraft beyond visual range (BVR).
Integration	It can be integrated with various aircraft, including the Su-30MKI and LCA Tejas.

### Key Features of Astra Mark 1 Missile:-

#### Astra Mark 1 Missile has the following features:-

- ❖ **Advanced Guidance Systems:** Equipped with advanced guidance systems, including an active radar seeker and infrared homing, to ensure accurate targeting and interception of enemy aircraft.
- ❖ **Multi-Platform Capability:** Compatible with multiple fighter aircraft, enhancing the versatility and effectiveness of the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy's air combat operations.
- ❖ **Combat Performance:** Designed to operate in all weather conditions, the Astra Mark 1 is intended to improve air superiority by extending the range and capability of Indian fighter jets
- ❖ **Indigenous Development:** Part of India's broader strategy to develop indigenous defense technologies and reduce dependence on foreign military hardware.
- ❖ **Future Upgrades:** The Astra program includes ongoing development efforts for the Astra Mark 2, which aims to extend the missile's range and enhance its capabilities further.
- ❖ The Astra Mark 1 missile represents a significant advancement in India's air-to-air missile technology, contributing to the modernization and strategic capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.

### Sport

#### Dinesh Karthik appointed SA20 league ambassador

#### About News:-

Krishnakumar Dinesh Karthik, an Indian commentator and former India wicket keeper has been appointed as the league ambassador of South Africa's premier T20 cricket League (SA20 League) ahead of the 2025 edition of the tournament. He became the first Indian player to be associated with the South African tournament.



#### Key Points:-

- ❖ Karthik will join his former Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Delhi Daredevils teammate AB de Villiers as one of the league's ambassadors.
- ❖ Karthik announced his retirement from all forms of cricket in June 2024 after the completion of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 tournament.
- ❖ He played for India in 26 Tests, 94 One Day International (ODI), and 60 T20Is. He was also a part of the Indian team that won the 2007 T20 World Cup in South Africa.

#### About SA20 League:-

- ❖ SA20 League, also known as Betway SA20 for sponsorship reasons, is organised by organised by Cricket South Africa (CSA) and was first contested in 2023. The 3rd season is set to be held from 9th January to 8th February 2025.
- ❖ The tournament features six franchises: MI Cape Town, Joburg Super Kings (JSK), Durban SuperGiants (DSG), Paarl Royals, Pretoria Capitals, and Sunrisers Eastern Cape (SEC). The teams are owned by owners of IPL franchises.

### Miscellaneous

#### The government declares Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuary

#### About News:-

- ❖ Choolannuar in Kerala and Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka have been designated as Peacock Sanctuaries by the central government, according to Union Minister Bhupender Yadav of the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

- ❖ Since 1963, the MoEF&CC has set up breeding and conservation institutions to safeguard peacocks, India's national bird.



#### Key Points:-

- ❖ The ubiquitous and well-known giant pheasant, or any large, colorful, long-tailed bird belonging to the Phasianidae family, is the peacock, also known as the Indian peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*).
- ❖ The peafowl's deep religious and mythological ties to Indian customs led to its designation as the country's national bird in 1963.
- ❖ The Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 provides complete protection for it.
- ❖ **About the Peacock Sanctuary in Choolannur:-**
- ❖ The Choolanur Peacock Sanctuary was first created as the "Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary" on March 14, 1996.
- ❖ Situated approximately 30 miles from Palakkad town, the first Peacock Sanctuary in India is a unique attraction in Kerala.
- ❖ Locally known as Mayiladumpara, the sanctuary was renamed "Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary, dedicated to the memory of K.K. Neelakantan" by the Kerala government in 2008. Indian ornithologist Kavassery Kailasam Neelakantan, often known as K.K. Neelakantan or Induchoodan.
- ❖ It covers about 500 hectares of reserve forest in the districts of Thrissur and Palakkad, namely in Malesamangalam and Peringottukurisi Panchayat.

#### About the Peacock Sanctuary in Adichunchanagiri:-

- ❖ Established in 1981, the Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary in Karnataka serves a sizable population of peafowl or members of the pheasant family.
- ❖ The sanctuary is roughly 115 kilometers (km) west of Bengaluru, in the Nagamangala Taluk of the Mandya district in Karnataka.
- ❖ With bounds spanning around 88.4 hectares (ha), the sanctuary is a well-liked destination

for trekking and mountain climbing with breathtaking vistas.

- ❖ The peafowl's stronghold is the Adichunchanagiri and the other hills and hill ranges, which are all within a 1-kilometer radius.
- ❖ The well-known pilgrimage site Chunchanagiri Temple is not far from this sanctuary.

#### Another Indian Peacock Sanctuary:-

- ❖ The Bankapur peacock sanctuary in Karnataka is involved in peacock breeding and conservation.

#### Obituary

#### Veteran Gandhian Shobhana Ranade passes away at 100 in Pune

#### About News:-

- ❖ Senior social worker and Gandhian leader Shobhana Ranade, who served and supported destitute women and children, passed away on Sunday at the age of 100.
- ❖ Ranade was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Central government in 2011 for his social work.



#### About Shobhana Ranade:-

- ❖ He was born on October 26, 1924 in Pune. At the age of 18, he met Mahatma Gandhi at the Aga Khan Palace. After this meeting, Ranade adopted Gandhian ideals throughout his life. It was a turning point in his life
- ❖ In 1955, she participated in a padayatra with Vinoba Bhave at North Lakhimpur in Assam. He helped establish the first child welfare center in Maitri Ashram and Shishu Niketan. At Vinoba's insistence, Shobhanatai Became a trustee of Maitri Ashram.
- ❖ Shobhanatai translated two novels in Assamese into Marathi.
- ❖ Ranade started the Primitive Caste Seva Sangh to train women in how to run charkhas.
- ❖ On August 15, 1974, he opened the first Bal Sadan for destitute children.

- ❖ He started training women on how to do social work based on Gandhian thoughts and trained more than 300 social workers.
- ❖ India's first girls' Kasturba Women's Khadi Village School was started.

#### Award:-

- ❖ He was awarded the Jamnalal Bajaj Award, Rabindranath Tagore Award, Rajiv Gandhi Manav Seva Puraskar, Pride of Pune Award, National Award for Child Welfare Work, and Mahatma Gandhi Award.
- ❖ Ranade was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the Central government in 2011 for his social work.

### Important Day

#### National Handloom Day – 7 August

##### About Day:-

- ❖ The 10th National Handloom Day will be celebrated on Wednesday, 7th August 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble Vice President of India will be the Chief Guest on the occasion. Union Textiles Minister, Shri Giriraj Singh and Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita will attend the function. MPs, eminent personalities, designers, Industry representatives and exporters, Senior Government Officers as well as more than 1000 weavers from across the country will be attending the function.
- ❖ During the function, the Sant Kabir Awards and National Handloom Awards will be conferred to handloom weavers for their outstanding contribution to the handloom sector.
- ❖ Award Catalogue and Coffee Table Book- "Parampara- Sustainability in Handloom Traditions of India" will be released by the Hon'ble Vice President of India.

##### Key Points:-

- ❖ Guided by the vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, the Government started celebrating National Handloom Day with the first such celebration being held on 7th August 2015.
- ❖ The date was specifically chosen to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on 7th August 1905 and encouraged indigenous industries, particularly handloom weavers.

- ❖ National Handloom Day seeks to honour the handloom weavers and provide motivation and a sense of pride to the handloom industry, by appreciating their contribution to the cultural, traditional, and economic landscape of the country.
- ❖ The celebrations aim to generate awareness about the importance of the handloom sector and its contribution to the socio-economic development of the country.
- ❖ As part of the 10th National Handloom Day celebrations, various activities are being organized across the country in all States/UTs. State Governments, Weaver Service Centres under the Office of Development Commissioner (Handloom), Apex Handloom bodies, educational institutions including the National Institute of Fashion Technology and Indian Institute of Handloom Technology, National Handloom Development Corporation, National Crafts Museum, etc are organizing various activities.

##### Some of the major activities include:

- ❖ Social Media Campaign through My Gov portal: Pledge, Selfies, Design a souvenir, Quiz contest.
- ❖ Virasat, an exclusive exhibition of handloom products with the matic display & live demonstration at Handloom Haat, New Delhi (3rd to 16th August)
- ❖ Virasat- Exclusive exhibition at Delhi Haat INA (1st to 15th August),
- ❖ Special Sourcing Show (B2B) at Varanasi organized by Handloom Export Promotion Council (7th to 9th August).
- ❖ Know Your Weaves event at Crafts Museum (1st to 14th August)- This initiative seeks to create awareness among students about India's handlooms. Approx 10,000 students from schools across Delhi will be participating in this programme.
- ❖ Handloom expos, and awareness activities in colleges organized by Weaver Service Centres at various places across the country.
- ❖ Awareness activities including Thematic display/Weaving demonstration, Panel discussion, Quiz on handlooms, Fashion presentations by NIFT and IIHTs.

