

23 January 2025

Gujarat to host 1st Olympic Research Conference

Key Points:

- ❖ Officials from Indian Olympic Association (IOA) along with a host of experts are scheduled to meet in Gujarat for discussing the strategies and innovative economic models for financing and building “sustainable” sports infrastructure that will help India position itself as a strong contender to host the 2036 Olympics.
- ❖ The four-day event to be held in collaboration with Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, will host keynote sessions on “**2036 Vision: Pathway to become an Olympic host**”, “**Global Best Practices and Comparative Analysis in Olympic City Selection and Urban Legacy**”, “Financing the Future: Innovative Economic Models for hosting Olympics in India—Insights into sustainable funding and investment”, “Greening the Games: Integrating sustainability into the Indian Olympic plan strategies”, “the Road to 2036: Promoting Gender equity and inclusion across disciplines”, among others.
- ❖ Officials who are scheduled to participate include IOA President PT Usha and vice-president Gagan Narang.

Yala Glacier in Nepal Set to Vanish by 2040s Due to Climate Change

Key Points:

- ❖ The Yala glacier (Nepal) retreated by 680m and witnessed significant reduction in area (36%) between 1974 and 2021.
- ❖ It is the only glacier in entire Himalayas to be included in the Global Glacier Casualty List (GGCL) which highlights accelerating impact of climate change on Himalayan glaciers/cryosphere.

- ❖ The cryosphere is the frozen part of the Earth, including snow, ice, and frozen ground.
- ❖ The GGCL project was launched in 2024 by Rice University, University of Iceland, Iceland Glaciological Society, World Glacier Monitoring Service, & UNESCO.



10th anniversary of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme

Key Points:

- ❖ This year, the Ministry of Women and Child Development is set to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme, marking a decade of relentless efforts to protect, educate, and empower the girl child in India.
- ❖ This milestone aligns with India's vision of a Viksit Bharat 2047 and the global shift from Women's Development to Women-Led Development, a priority championed during India's G20 Presidency and now adapted by Brazil's G20 Presidency.



- ❖ The celebrations commenced on January 22, 2025, with an inaugural event at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Union Ministers J.P. Nadda, Annapurna Devi, and Savitri Thakur graced the occasion, joined by women officers from the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and the Delhi Police.

- ❖ Additionally, officials from central ministries, Anganwadi workers, student volunteers, and representatives from international organizations such as UNICEF, UN Women, UNDP, UNFPA, the World Bank, and GIZ participated in the event.
- ❖ Improved Sex Ratio at Birth: The national sex ratio at birth has improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24.
- ❖ Increased Enrollment of Girls in Secondary Education: The gross enrollment ratio of girls at the secondary level rose from 75.51% to 78% during the same period.
- ❖ Enhanced Institutional Deliveries: Institutional deliveries increased from 61% to 97.3%. Improved Antenatal Care Registrations: First-trimester antenatal care registrations surged from 61% to 80.5%.

Chhattisgarh CM Launches Rs 10K Annual Aid Scheme for Labourers

Key Points:

- ❖ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai has launched a scheme to provide Rs 10,000 annually to landless labourers in the state, continuing his commitment to support vulnerable sections.
- ❖ This initiative is part of a larger series of welfare measures promised during the pre-poll campaign. The scheme aims to benefit approximately 7.5 lakh landless agricultural labourers in Chhattisgarh, reflecting the government's focus on improving their financial stability.
- ❖ The CM's announcement builds on past promises made during elections and further strengthens the state's social welfare framework.

Senior IPS Officer Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal Appointed as BSF ADG

Key Points:

- ❖ Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, a 1994-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the

Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as the Additional Director General (ADG) of the Border Security Force (BSF). This appointment was confirmed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on January 19, 2025. Aggarwal will serve in this capacity for four years from the date he assumes charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya Takes Oath as Chief Justice of Delhi High Court

Key Points:

- ❖ Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya was officially sworn in as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court in a formal ceremony. The oath was administered by Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena at the Raj Niwas in the presence of several dignitaries, including Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and other judges of the Delhi High Court.



Permanent Court of Arbitration Back India on IWT Dispute with Pakistan

Key Points:

- ❖ The Permanent Court of Arbitration situated in The Hague, Netherlands has endorsed the Indian government's stand and has ruled that the World Bank-appointed neutral expert 'is competent' to decide on the design and water usage by two hydropower projects in Jammu and Kashmir under the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) 1960.

- ❖ The ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration came on the petition of Pakistan which approached the court against the Kishanganga and Ratle Hydroelectric Project in Kashmir. India opposed this as it insisted on the matters to be resolved through a World Bank-appointed Neutral Expert.

Background to the Case and IWT

- ❖ Under the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, the waters of the Indus River and its five tributaries—Beas, Sutlej, Ravi, Jhelum, and Chenab—were divided between India and Pakistan.
- ❖ India got the right to develop the Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi rivers, while Pakistan has the right to develop the Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab rivers.
- ❖ India can use the rivers allotted to Pakistan but shall not obstruct the flow of the river water to Pakistan. If there is any dispute between the two countries there is a three-stage dispute resolution mechanism.
- ❖ In the first stage both the countries try to resolve the dispute at the Indus Water Commissioners meeting and if it fails then they can approach the World Bank.
- ❖ The World Bank which brokered the Indus Water Treaty, will appoint a Neutral Expert.
- ❖ If either of the countries disagrees with Neutral Experts' ruling then they can approach the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

Pakistan's Objection to the Kishanganga and Ratle Project

- ❖ India is constructing the 330 MW Kishanganga hydroelectric project on the Kishanganga River, a tributary of Jhelum in the Bandipora district, and the 850 MW Ratle Hydroelectric Project on the Chenab River in the Kishtwar district.

- ❖ Both are run-off-river projects, which means that no dams are built to store the water.
- ❖ Pakistan is objecting to these river projects as it feels that India is violating the provision of the Indus Water Treaty and these projects will adversely affect the flow of river water to Pakistan.

About the Permanent Court of Arbitration

- ❖ The Permanent Court of Arbitration was established in 1899 during the first Hague Peace Conference held in 1899.
- ❖ The Permanent Court of Arbitration was established by the Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International Disputes which was agreed upon during the first Hague Peace Conference.
- ❖ The Permanent Court of Arbitration is an intergovernmental body that provides various dispute resolution services to the states, state entities, international organizations and private parties.
- ❖ Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands

Dhananjay Shukla elected President of ICSI for 2025

Key Points:

- ❖ The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) has elected its new office bearers for 2025. Company Secretary (CS) Dhananjay Shukla has been elected as the President and CS Pawan G Chandak has been elected as the VicePresident of the ICSI.



About the President and the Vice President

- ❖ Dhananjay Shukla was the vice-president of the ICSI for 2024. CS Dhananjay Shukla is a Commerce and Law graduate and is also a Fellow Member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI).
- ❖ He is a practicing Company Secretary and has expertise in the areas of Corporate Law, Securities Law, and Taxation.
- ❖ CS Dhananjay Shukla has been serving the ICSI in different capacities for many years.

Vice-President Pawan G Chandak

- ❖ The newly elected Vice-President of ICSI Pawan G Chandak is a qualified Company Secretary with a specialization in Labour Laws and Labour Welfare. He has varied experience in the fields of Corporate Law, Foreign Exchange Law, Industrial Law, Legal Metrology, Secretarial Audits, Arbitration matters, etc.
- ❖ He has worked with large corporate houses and multinational corporations (MNCs).

About Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI)

- ❖ The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) was set up in 1968 and was converted into a statutory body in 1981 under the provisions of the Company Secretaries Act 1980. ICSI is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Function

- ❖ It is responsible for the development and regulation of the profession of Company Secretaries in India.
- ❖ The Institute conducts the examination for the Company Secretaries courses and awards Diploma in Company Secretaryship.
- ❖ **Headquarters:** The Headquarters of the ICSI is in New Delhi. Regional office: Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata
- ❖ **Overseas Research Center:** Australia, Singapore, Canada, United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Donald Trump: US to withdraw from WHO and Paris Climate Accord

Key Points:

- ❖ American President Donald Trump on the first day of his office signed several Executive Orders to implement his election promise of America first.
- ❖ The Executive Order signed on 20 January 2025 includes several controversial issues and reverses the previous Joe Biden administration decisions.
- ❖ The order includes the American withdrawal from the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the Paris Climate Change Agreement 2015, ending automatic citizenship rights for foreign parent's children born in the USA.



- ❖ The order also includes a declaration of state of emergency along the Mexican border to curb illegal migrants seeking asylum in the USA by crossing the Mexican border to the USA. The withdrawal of the US from the international agreements will take place after 12 months after the signing of the President's Executive Orders.

Withdrawal From WHO

- ❖ Donald Trump In his first term as President in 2020, had ordered the American withdrawal from the WHO due to its mishandling of the Covid-19 pandemic. But before the process could be completed he was replaced as the American President by Joe Biden. In his second term as President Donald Trump again signed an order for withdrawal from the WHO.

Reason for withdrawal

- ❖ The mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic and other international health crises by the WHO.
 - In an apparent reference to China, the Trump administration accused the WHO of failing to act independently from the inappropriate political influence of WHO member states.
 - Contribution made by the United States government is unfairly onerous as compared to countries like China.

Contribution to the WHO

- ❖ All the 194 member countries of the WHO are mandated to contribute to the WHO. The size of the contribution depends on the size of the country's economy and the member countries can contribute above their mandatory contribution voluntarily. The WHO also accepts donations from non-governmental organisations like the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundations etc.
- ❖ The United States of America is the largest contributor to the WHO contributing around 18% of its overall funding of the WHO.
- ❖ After the United States, the largest contributor to WHO is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, though it funds the polio eradication program of the WHO.
- ❖ The next-largest state donor in terms of combined mandatory and voluntary contributions is Germany.
- ❖ India is the 18th largest contributor country of the WHO.

Impact of the United States Move

- ❖ It will financially weaken the WHO affecting its major health program especially in tuberculosis, as well as HIV/AIDS and other health emergencies, across the world.

Withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement 2015

- ❖ Donald Trump also signed an order for the withdrawal of the United States from the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement which came

into effect in 2016. The US will now join Iran, Yemen, and Libya as the only countries to currently stand outside the agreement. This is the second time that Trump has withdrawn from the Paris Agreement. In 2017, Donald Trump withdrew the United States of America from the Paris Agreement but when Joe Biden became the President of America the United States rejoined it in February 2021.

About Paris Agreement

- ❖ The Paris Agreement is a legally binding agreement that seeks to limit greenhouse gas emissions from member countries to prevent climate change.
- ❖ It also seeks to limit the rise in global temperature from more than two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrialisation levels.
- ❖ China is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world followed by the United States and India.

Reason for Withdrawal

- ❖ Donald Trump plans to increase the use of fossil fuels in the country to produce cheap electricity in the country and boost economic growth.
- ❖ The United States has sizable reserves of oil and gas and the Trump administration aims to export the oil and gas.

Halt on Foreign Aid

- ❖ President Trump also ordered a halt on all aid provided by the American government to foreign governments and organisations for the next 90 days.
 - He said that the government will review whether the aid serves the American national interests or not.
 - He also said that US foreign aid had served to “destabilize world peace by promoting ideas in foreign countries that do not further harmonious and stable relations within the country and among the countries.

Parakram Divas

Key Points:

- ❖ Parakram Diwas, initiated in 2021, is an annual celebration in India commemorating the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
- ❖ The term "Parakram" translates to courage or valour in Hindi, symbolizing Netaji's strong and courageous spirit and the bravery of those who fought for India's freedom.
- ❖ The celebrations include events and activities that highlight Netaji's significant role in India's freedom struggle.
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture organizes the comprehensive celebration in collaboration with allied institutions such as:
 - ❖ Archaeological Survey of India
 - ❖ National School of Drama
 - ❖ Sahitya Akademi
 - ❖ National Archives of India
- ❖ The program features activities that delve into the profound legacy of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Azad Hind Fauj.
- ❖ **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar (SCBAPP):** Instituted by the Government of India to recognize individuals and institutions for excellent work in disaster management.
- ❖ **Field Recognized:** Disaster management, including activities like prevention, mitigation, preparedness, rescue, response, relief, rehabilitation, research, innovation, and early warning systems.
- ❖ **Administered By:** National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

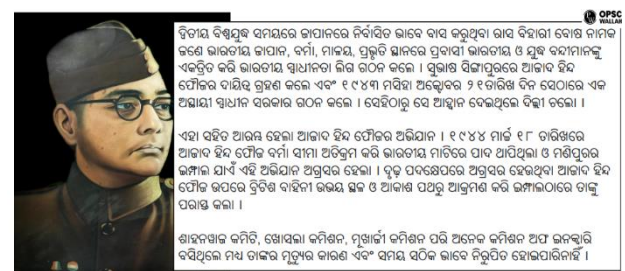
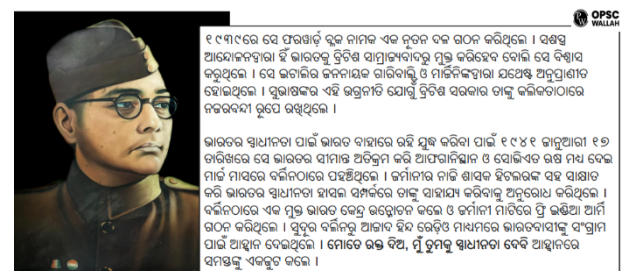
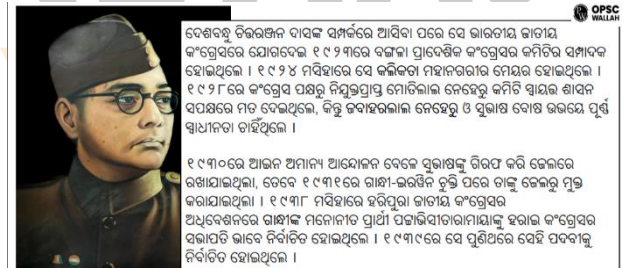
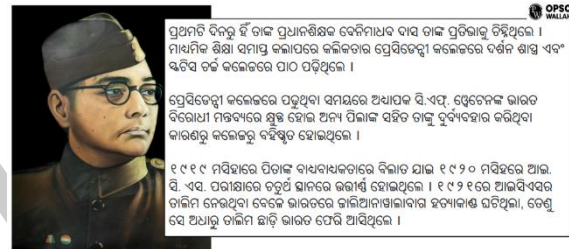
Award Details:

- ❖ Announced annually on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary (23rd January).
- ❖ Includes a certificate and cash awards:

- ❖ ₹51 lakhs for an institution (to be utilized for disaster management activities).
- ❖ ₹5 lakhs for an individual.

Eligibility Criteria:

- ❖ Open to Indian nationals and Indian institutions.
- ❖ Nominees must have contributed to disaster management activities within India.



Subhas Chandra Bose

Bose is known to have escaped to Manchuria to seek refuge in the Soviet Union.

As per reports, he died when his overloaded plane crashed in Taiwan on August 18, 1945. Though some Indians don't believe that the crash ever happened.



Who gave him the title Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose?

- ❖ The title 'Netaji' was given to Subhas Chandra Bose by German and Indian officials at the Special Bureau of India in Berlin.

3rd National Mining Ministers Conference in Konark, Odisha

Key Points:

- ❖ The third National Mining Ministers Conference concluded in Konark, Odisha on 21 January 2025 with a focus on critical minerals mining. Rajasthan won the award for outstanding contribution in conducting the highest number of auctions in 2023-24.
- ❖ The first National Mining Ministers Conference was held in Hyderabad, Telangana in September 2022, and the 2nd National Mining Ministers Conference was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh in January 2024.
- ❖ The main aim of the Conference was to bring together the central government, state government, and the industry related to the mining sector to discuss ways to make India selfsufficient in the mineral sector, especially critical minerals, and promote sustainable mining in the country.



Organiser of the 3rd National Mining Ministers Conference

- ❖ The National Mining Ministers Conference was organised by the Union Ministry of Mines in collaboration with the Odisha state government. It was held in Konark, Odisha on 20 & 21 January 2025.

Who Inaugurated the 3rd National Mining Ministers Conference?

- ❖ The 3rd National Mining Ministers Conference was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy.
- ❖ The Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi was the Chief Guest of the Conference.

Award for Rajasthan

- ❖ During the Conference, Rajasthan secured the first position amongst the states for their outstanding contribution in conducting the highest number of auctions in FY 2023-24.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh was in the second position and Maharashtra at the third position.

Other Notable Highlights of the Conference

- ❖ During the conference, G. Kishan Reddy and Mohan Charan Majhi launched the Fifth Tranche offering 15 critical mineral blocks located across 8 states.
- ❖ A total of 19 Geological Memorandums were signed during the Conference.
- ❖ 12 critical mineral memorandums were handed over to the central government and the remaining 7 memorandums, covering precious, bulk, and base metal commodities, were handed over to the respective State Governments.

85th All India Presiding Officers Conference Concludes in Patna

Key Points:

- ❖ The 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference concluded in Patna, Bihar on

21 January 2025. The two-day 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference was held at the Bihar Legislature premises in Patna on 20 & 21 January 2025. The 61st Conference of Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India was also held on 19th January 2025 in Patna just before the commencement of the 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference.



- ❖ The first All India Presiding Officer Conference was held in 1921 in Shimla. The 82nd All India Presiding Officer Conference which marked the 100th year of the first Conference was also held in Shimla in November 2021. The 84th All India Presiding Officer Conference was held at the Maharashtra Legislature premises in Mumbai on the 27th and 28th of January 2024.

Participant of the All India Presiding Officers Conference

- ❖ The All India Presiding Officers Conference is an annual event in which the Presiding Officers of the Union/State and Union Territories having legislature, attend. Parliament is the Union legislature in India which has two houses- Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The Presiding officer of Lok Sabha is the Speaker while the Vice President of India is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ However, in the All India Presiding Officers Conference the Deputy Chairman normally represents the Rajya Sabha.

- ❖ In Patna, Rajya Sabha was represented by Deputy Chairman Harivansh. In India, 28 States have their legislature. The state legislature can be unicameral (Legislative Assembly) or bi-cameral (Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council).
- ❖ At present three Union Territories of Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu and Kashmir have Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ The Presiding officers of the State/Union Territories Legislative Assembly are called Speakers while the Presiding officers of the Legislative Council are called Chairman. Currently, six states -Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka have a Legislative Council.

Bihar hosted the All India Presiding Officers Conference for the third time

- ❖ This was the third time that Bihar hosted the All India Presiding Officers Conference. Bihar hosted the All India Presiding Officers Conference for the first time on the 6th and 7th January 1964 when Lakshmi Narayan Sudhanshu was the Assembly Speaker. The second time Bihar hosted was in 1982 when Radhanandan Jha was the Speaker of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. At present the Speaker of the Bihar Legislative is Nand Kishore Yadav.

Who Inaugurated the 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference?

- ❖ The 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference was inaugurated by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on 20 January 2025. The Valedictory session was addressed by Om Birla and Bihar Governor Arif Muhammad Khan on 21 January 2025.

Theme of the 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference

- ❖ The theme of the 85th All India Presiding Officers Conference was "75th Anniversary of Constitution: Contribution of Parliament and State legislative bodies in strengthening constitutional values".

Om Birla inaugurated NeVA Seva Kendra

- ❖ During the Conference, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the NeVA Seva Kendra in the Bihar Legislature premises.
- ❖ The National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project aims to create paperless and digital legislative processes in state legislatures.
- ❖ It will help the Bihar Legislative Assembly project to go paperless like many states in India.
- ❖ Nagaland was the first state in India to implement NeVA in 2022 and the proceedings of the state Legislative Assembly became paperless. The members participated in the house proceedings through electronic devices.

Parliament Papers and Processing to be available in 22 Indian Languages

- ❖ Speaking on the occasion, the Lok Sabha Speaker said that soon with the help of artificial intelligence, all the Parliamentary papers and proceedings of both the houses of Parliament will be made available in the 22 Indian languages mentioned in the eight schedules of the constitutions.
- ❖ At present, the preceding papers of the parliament are available in English and Hindi only.
- ❖ The 22 languages mentioned in the 8th schedule are: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Maithili, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

