

### Digital Arrest



#### Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi cautioned people against “digital arrest” frauds on Sunday in the 115th edition of his Mann Ki Baat radio address.
- ❖ He said investigative agencies are working with the state government to deal with the issue, but he added that awareness is essential in protecting oneself from such scams.



- ❖ ‘Digital arrest’ is a new and innovative tactic employed by cybercriminals to defraud gullible victims and extort money.
- ❖ The targets of these scams are often contacted out of the blue usually on Instant messaging apps like WhatsApp and informed that their bank accounts, digital identities, or other online assets have been compromised.
- ❖ Criminals play into the victims' fear by threatening them with imminent arrest, legal consequences, or public humiliation if they don't cooperate with a series of urgent demands. Fraudsters behind digital arrests are masters of psychological manipulation.

- ❖ They understand that fear and urgency are powerful motivators that can cloud judgment and lead people to act against their best interests.
- ❖ By creating a fabricated sense of crisis, they pressure victims into making hasty decisions without the chance for rational thought or verification.



#### Actions by the Centre

- ❖ Intelligence agencies have concluded that the incidents are part of an organised online economic crime racket being run by cross-border crime syndicates.
- ❖ The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, which coordinates the response to cybercrime in the country, has blocked more than 1,000 Skype IDs linked to such activities, after collaborating with Microsoft. It is also working to block SIM cards, mobile devices and “mule” accounts used by the cybercriminals Money mules or “smurfers” are “innocent victims who are duped by fraudsters into laundering stolen/ illegal money via their bank account(s)”, according to a security advisory posted by HDFC Bank on its website.
- ❖ People who receive such calls should immediately report the incident on the cybercrime helpline 1930, or at <http://www.cybercrime.gov.in>. They should also file a complaint and inform the local police.

## World Polio Day



### Key Points:

- ❖ World Polio Day is observed on October 24 every year. Objective – To raise awareness about the fight against poliomyelitis.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – A Global Mission to Reach Every Child
- ❖ This day was established by Rotary International in honor of Dr Jonas Salk. He developed the first successful polio vaccine.
- ❖ The day serves to highlight ongoing efforts by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), founded in 1988.
- ❖ This initiative has reduced polio cases worldwide by 99 percent.

### ABOUT POLIO

- ❖ Polio, or poliomyelitis, is a highly contagious 'enteroviruses' caused by the poliovirus. It mainly affects children under the age of five, attacking the nervous system and leading to paralysis. In some cases, polio can cause permanent disability or death.
- ❖ The symptoms of Polio include:
  - ❖ Fever
  - ❖ Fatigue
  - ❖ Headache
  - ❖ Vomiting
  - ❖ Stiffness in the neck
  - ❖ Pain in the limbs
- ❖ While there is no cure for polio, it can be effectively prevented with the polio vaccine. Vaccination campaigns have significantly reduced the incidence of polio worldwide,

highlighting the importance of immunization in protecting vulnerable populations.

### Polio Cases in the World

- ❖ Although most regions are now polio-free, the disease persists in certain areas, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- ❖ Environmental monitoring data shows concerning trends, with Pakistan reporting 186 positive samples for WPV1 in 2024, up from 126 in all of 2023.
- ❖ In Afghanistan, 44 positive samples have been detected this year, a decrease from the previous year.

### Govt Announces Extra Pension for Seniors Over 80



### Key Points:

- ❖ The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) has announced a significant new initiative for central government pensioners aged 80 and older, introducing an additional pension known as the compassionate allowance.
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- ❖ This development comes with newly issued guidelines aimed at simplifying the process for retirees to access these supplementary benefits.

### New Initiative

- ❖ Introduction of an additional pension called compassionate allowance for central government pensioners aged 80 and above.

### Objective

- ❖ To assist senior pensioners in managing their financial needs as they age.
- ❖ Additional Compassionate Allowance Structure Pension Increases by Age Bracket
- ❖ 80 to 85 years: 20% of basic pension/compassionate allowance.
- ❖ 85 to 90 years: 30% of basic pension/compassionate allowance.
- ❖ 90 to 95 years: 40% of basic pension/compassionate allowance.
- ❖ 95 to 100 years: 50% of basic pension/compassionate allowance.
- ❖ 100 years and older: 100% of basic pension/compassionate allowance.

### Eligibility Criteria

#### Effective Date

- ❖ The additional pension will be applicable from the first day of the month in which the pensioner reaches the designated age.
- ❖ Example - A pensioner born on August 20, 1942, will be eligible for the additional 20% pension starting August 1, 2022.

**Tehran says Israeli airstrikes 'successfully' countered; 2 soldiers killed, says Iranian army**



### Key Points:

- ❖ After the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) had said that it has completed a series of airstrikes against Iranian military sites, termed "Days of Repentance", Iran's semi-

official news agency Tasnim, citing Iranian military said that the attacks claimed lives of two soldiers.

- ❖ Iran says its air defense system successfully countered Israel's attacks with "limited damage" caused to some locations.
- ❖ In a statement, the Iranian forces stated that Israel attacked military targets in the provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan and Ilam.



### Israeli airstrikes:

- ❖ US and Israeli officials said that three waves of multiple explosions are reported in the capital and at nearby military bases over more than two hours, highlighting Iran's air defenses, news agency Reuters reported.
- ❖ The operation involved dozens of Israeli aircraft, including fighter jets and refuelers, targeting military installations across various regions in Iran, approximately 1,600 kilometers from Israel.

**Legendary Gussadi folk dancer & Padma Shri Kanaka Raju passes away**



### Key Points:

- ❖ The legendary Gussadi folk dancer Kanaka Raju, also known as Gussadi Raju, passed away on 25 October 2024 due to age-related ailments.

- ❖ He was 84 years old.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy condoled the demise of the legendary Gussadi folk dance master Kanaka Raju.
- ❖ Kanaka Raju was born in the Marlawai village in Jainoor mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district in Telangana.
- ❖ Kanaka Raju who belonged to the Raj Gond tribe, learned the Gussadi dance on his own since he was eight years old by watching his tribal community performing the dance.



### About the Gussadi Dance

- ❖ Gussadi dance is performed only by male bachelors of the Raj Gond tribe . The dance is which is associated with a a local deity, is staged during the Dandari festival. The Dandari festival is held after Deepawali and continues for around 10 days.
- ❖ The Gussadi dance is a courtship ritual in the matriarchal society of the Raj Gond tribes where the dance tries to impress the prospective bride and her family.
- ❖ The dancers, also known as Ghusaraks or Ghusadi Tado, wear a cap made of around 1,500 peacock feathers, known as mal boora, and wrap animal skin around their waists. During the dance, the dancers mimic cows, snakes, horses, tribals, dandari and their divinity.
- ❖ Kanaka Raju has trained over thousands of young tribal dancers in the Gussadi dance form and has singularly kept alive the traditional tribal folk dance.

- ❖ For his effort in the conservation of the dance form he was awarded the country's fourth highest civilian award ,Padma Shri in 2021.
- ❖ The Telangana State government started a Kanaka Raju School of Gussadi Dance at Adilabad district where Kanaka Raju was made the chief dance master.

### Indo-German 7th Intergovernmental Consultations held in New Delhi



### Key Points:

- ❖ The 7th Intergovernmental Consultations between India and Germany was co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the visiting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in New Delhi on 25 October 2024.
- ❖ Chancellor Olaf Scholz is on a three-day visit to India from 24-26 October 2024. This was Olaf Scholz's third visit to India since becoming the German Chancellor in 2021.
- ❖ He visited India in February 2023 for a bilateral visit and again in September 2023 to attend the G 20 summit meeting.
- ❖ After his meeting with top Indian government leadership, Olaf Scholz will visit Goa.
- ❖ The German naval frigate "Baden-Wuerttemberg" and combat support ship "Frankfurt am Main" are visiting the Goa port as part of their IndoPacific deployment.
- ❖ The relationship between India and Germany was mainly economic in nature, but it is being converted into a strategic relationship.

- ❖ Germany looks at India as a key strategic partner, and last week, it adopted the "Focus on India" paper, indicating that it wants to deepen its relationship with India.
- ❖ The two leaders later held bilateral talks, where they discussed the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the conflict in West Asia among other issues.
- ❖ India and Germany signed pacts on mutual legal assistance and classified information, and a roadmap on green hydrogen.
- ❖ Modi highlighted the growing cooperation between India and Germany in the defence and security sectors, citing it as a symbol of their "deep mutual trust".
- ❖ After the talks, eight documents were signed — mutual legal assistance treaty on criminal matters, agreement on the exchange and mutual protection of classified information, Indo-German green hydrogen roadmap, roadmap on innovation and technology, and declarations on employment and labour, R&D on advanced materials, green urban mobility and skill development.
- ❖ He also welcomed the 'Focus on India' strategy announced by Germany. Addressing reporters alongside visiting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Friday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that Germany has decided to raise the annual visa quota for skilled Indian professionals from 20,000 to 90,000.
- ❖ While this fourfold increase will enhance economic and professional ties between the two countries, the move is also designed to make up for labour shortage that Germany might be facing owing to an ageing population.
- ❖ In 2014, around 27% of the German population was 60 and above, a number that is expected to touch 35% by 2030, as per statistics.

- ❖ The increased quota will come in handy in labour-intensive sectors such as nurses and elderly care, childcare, truck drivers and middle-level jobs in the engineering and IT sectors.
- ❖ Talking of the migration and mobility agreement that India and Germany signed in 2022, Baerbock said they have recorded a 25% increase in the number of students and professionals coming to Germany, and the potential is even higher.

### **7th Intergovernmental Consultations**

- ❖ In 2011, India and Germany agreed to set up an Intergovernmental Consultation mechanism to further bilateral ties.
- ❖ During the two-day Intergovernmental Consultation, ministers from both sides discuss their respective areas and inform their leaders, Scholz and Modi, about the outcome of their talks.
- ❖ After the conclusion of the 7th Intergovernmental Consultation meeting, a joint statement was issued by the two leaders.
- ❖ Both leaders agreed that technology and innovation, labour and talent, migration and mobility, climate action, green and sustainable development, and economic, defence and strategic cooperation will define the relationships between the two countries.
- ❖ Many agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoU) were also signed between the two sides.

### **German Support for India's Observer status in the Eurodrone programme**

- ❖ Eurodrone programme is a joint venture of Germany, France, Italy, and Spain that aims to develop an unmanned aerial system for military purposes.
- ❖ It is a European initiative funded by the European Union. 18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business The Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business (APK) is held every two years at various locations across the Asia-Pacific region.

- ❖ It is a flagship event that brings together German business leaders, executives, and political representatives to explore opportunities for promoting economic ties between Germany and the Asia-Pacific.
- ❖ The 18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business was held in New Delhi from 24-26 October 2024.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz jointly inaugurated the conference.

### India ranked 176 in the first Global Nature Conservation Index, 2024



#### Key Points:

- ❖ India has been ranked as one of the five worst performer countries in the recently released first Global Nature Conservation Index, 2024.
- ❖ India was ranked 176th among 180 countries in terms of their commitment to nature conservation.
- ❖ The tiny European country of Luxembourg was ranked as the top-ranked country. In contrast, the Pacific island country
- ❖ In contrast, the Pacific island country of Kiribati was ranked at the bottom of the Global Nature Conservation Index.

#### Who Prepares The Global Nature Conservation Index?

- ❖ Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and the non-profit website BioDB.com have jointly prepared and released the first Global Nature Conservation Nature Index.
- ❖ The first Global Nature Conservation Nature Index was released in October 2024

#### About the Global Nature Conservation Index

- ❖ The Nature Conservation Index shows how countries are protecting their environments and natural resources.
- ❖ While ranking countries, the index evaluates a range of factors, such as the number of plant and animal species at risk in the country, the size and quality of the protected areas, the health of habitats, and the effectiveness of the country's conservation programs.
- ❖ The countries were ranked on four key pillars;
  - ❖ Land Management,
  - ❖ Threats to Biodiversity
  - ❖ Capacity and Governance, and
  - ❖ Future Trends.
- ❖ These pillars were assessed using 25 performance indicators. The data for the Index has been from the World Bank and the IUCN(International Union for Conservation of Nature).

#### Status of India

- ❖ India, with a combined score of 45.5 out of 100, was ranked 176th among the 180 countries.. India has been ranked low due to its inefficient land management and rising threats to biodiversity.
- ❖ India, with a score of 42, has been ranked 154 in the Land Management category
- ❖ 177 in the Threat to Biodiversity category, with a score of 54. India has been ranked 115 in the Capacity and Governance category with a score of 60 and a rank of 133 in the Future Trends with a score of 35.

### Mudra Loan Limit Doubled to Rs 20 Lakh: A Boost for Entrepreneurs



**Key Points:**

- ❖ The government has doubled the Mudra loan limit under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, introducing a new 'Tarun Plus' category to support entrepreneurs who have successfully repaid previous loans.
- ❖ The government has doubled the limit of Mudra loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, introducing a new 'Tarun Plus' category
- ❖ This change, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her July 2024 Budget speech, aims to promote entrepreneurship and support emerging business owners.
- ❖ The increase is designed to empower budding entrepreneurs who have successfully repaid previous loans under the existing Tarun category, furthering the government's commitment to "Funding the Unfunded."

**Key Details of the Announcement**

- ❖ **Enhanced Loan Limits:** The new 'Tarun Plus' category allows loans up to Rs 20 lakh, providing crucial capital for business expansion.

**Historical Context:**

- ❖ Launched on April 8, 2015, PMMY initially provided loans up to Rs 10 lakh for non-corporate, non-farm small and micro-entrepreneurs, facilitating easy, collateral-free access to credit.
- ❖ **Loan Categories:** The scheme includes three existing categories—Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (between Rs 50,000 and Rs 5 lakh), and Tarun (up to Rs 10 lakh).

**Impact on the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem**

**Loan Sanctions:**

- ❖ In 2023-24, 66.8 million loans worth Rs 5.4 trillion were sanctioned under PMMY.

- ❖ Since its inception, over 487.8 million loans totaling Rs 29.79 trillion have been approved.

**Non-Performing Assets:**

- ❖ The NPA for public sector banks regarding Mudra loans has decreased to 3.4% in FY24, down from 4.77% in 2020-21, indicating improved loan recovery rates.

**Guarantee Coverage:**

- ❖ Loans up to Rs 20 lakh under the new category will receive guarantee coverage through the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU), further enhancing support for small businesses.

**EC Signs Electoral Cooperation Pact with Uzbekistan**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ The Election Commission of India signed an agreement for electoral cooperation with Uzbekistan's central poll body.
- ❖ This agreement was formalized during Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar's visit to Tashkent, where he is serving as an international observer for the upcoming elections.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India signed an agreement for electoral cooperation with Uzbekistan's central poll body.
- ❖ This agreement was formalized during Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar's visit to Tashkent, where he is serving as an international observer for the upcoming elections scheduled for October 27.

### Purpose of the Agreement

- ❖ The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aims to strengthen and deepen interaction between the two Election Management Bodies (EMBs).
- ❖ The agreement is designed for the mutual benefit of both democracies.

### Background

- ❖ Both electoral bodies have a history of mutual cooperation, with officials serving as observers in each other's elections.
- ❖ A four-member delegation from Uzbekistan, led by Khusanova Mukhtabar, participated in India's Lok Sabha elections earlier this year.

### Global Interaction

- ❖ The Election Commission of India and the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan actively engage through international forums, including the Association of World Election Bodies and the Association of Asian Election Authorities.

### International Collaboration

- ❖ The EC has signed MoUs for international cooperation with 30 EMBs globally.
- ❖ Collaboration extends to The International Institute for Democracy & Electoral Assistance, which supports sustainable democracy worldwide.

### About Election Commission of India (ECI)

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) is a permanent and independent body established by the Constitution of India to ensure free and fair elections in the country.
- ❖ Since it is established directly under the provisions of the Constitution, it is a Constitutional Body.
- ❖ The ECI is an All-India body in the sense that it is common to both the Central and the State governments.
- ❖ The Constitution vests the Election Commission of India (ECI) with the power

of superintendence, direction, and control of elections to,

- ❖ Parliament – Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha
- ❖ State Legislatures – State Legislative Assembly and State Legislative Council (if exist)
- ❖ Office of President of India
- ❖ Office of Vice-President of India

### Constitutional Provisions related to ECI

- ❖ **Article 324 of the Constitution of India deals with the provisions related to the Election Commission of India (ECI).**
- ❖ **The article contains detailed provisions regarding the composition of the ECI, appointment and service conditions of its members, powers and functions of the ECI, and other related aspects.**

### Composition of Election Commission of India

- ❖ Article 324 of the Constitution has made the following provisions about the composition of the Election Commission of India,
- ❖ It shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other Election Commissioners (ECs) as the President may from time to time fix.
- ❖ The appointment of CEC and other ECs shall be made by the President.

### Term of Members of ECI

- ❖ According to the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991, the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioners hold office for a term of 6 years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

### Resignation of Members of ECI

- ❖ According to the Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991, the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election

Commissioners can resign at any time by writing to the President.

**IIM Shillong signs MoU with SIDBI to launch entrepreneurship training and incubation programme**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Management Shillong, through its IIM Shillong Foundation for Incubation and Enterprise (IIMSFIE), has signed an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- ❖ The partnership aimed at providing comprehensive entrepreneurship training and incubation support to aspiring entrepreneurs.
- ❖ By leveraging SIDBI’s vast network and IIMSFIE’s infrastructure and experience, the initiative will create a robust support system to nurture innovative startups and enterprises.

**Rajiv Ranjan Singh launches “Weather Forecasting at the Gram Panchayat Level” in Vigyan Bhawan**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Minister of Panchayati Raj, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology & Earth Sciences, and Prof. S. P. Singh Baghel, Minister of State for Panchayati Raj, launched Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- ❖ This initiative, developed in collaboration between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), marks a major step forward in climate preparedness at the grassroots level.
- ❖ The initiative will provide Gram Panchayats with a five-day weather forecast and hourly updates, enabling rural communities to better plan agricultural activities and prepare for weather-related risks.

**24 October – World Development Information Day**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ World Development Information Day is observed every year on October 24, coinciding with the United Nations Day.
- ❖ The day focuses on the need to mobilise public opinion in both developing and developed countries in a bid to accelerate their economic and social progress.

**24 October 2024 – 63rd ITBP Raising Day**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has celebrated its Raising Day on October 24 every year.
- ❖ The ITBP Raising Day commemorates the founding of this elite paramilitary force, which was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Sino-Indian War.

- ❖ The force is entrusted with the security of the India-China border in the Himalayas and plays a critical role in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.
- ❖ The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was formally raised on October 24, 1962, as a direct response to the Sino-Indian War that highlighted the vulnerabilities in India's border security.

**Ayush Ministry to celebrate 9th Ayurveda Day on 29 October**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ The Ministry of Ayush will celebrate 9th Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi on 29th October.
- ❖ This year the day is being celebrated around the theme Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health.
- ❖ Over 150 countries across the globe are to join this year's Ayurveda Day celebrations. The government's aim is to promote Ayurveda globally as a robust system of medicine for the welfare of the public.

**24 to 30 October – UN Disarmament Week**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ UN Disarmament Week is observed every year on from 24 October to 30 October. The week-long observance is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of disarmament and promoting international dialogue to reduce the spread and impact of weapons.
- ❖ It was first called for in the Final Document of the UN General Assembly's 1978 Special Session on Disarmament (resolution S-10/2) and reinforced in 1995 by the General Assembly's invitation (resolution 50/72 B, 12 December 1995) to governments and NGOs to actively participate.

