

Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024

The Lok Sabha passed the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 on December 12.

Key Points-

- ❖ The bill was passed by voice vote.
- ❖ The aim of this bill is to amend the **existing Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- ❖ This bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha in **August** this year.
- ❖ This bill proposes to create a **disaster database at the national and state level**, formation of Urban Disaster Management Authority for the state capital and big cities with municipal corporation and formation of State Disaster Response Force by the state governments.
- ❖ **Objective:** According to the Minister of State for Home, the aim of the bill is to bring clarity and uniformity in the role of various institutions at the national, state and district level.

Khelo India Winter Games, 2025

The dates for the **5th edition** of Khelo India Winter Games have been announced.

key points-

- ❖ The Union Territory of Ladakh will host the Ice Sports events from **January 23 to January 27, 2025**.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir will host the Snow Sports events from **February 22 to February 25, 2025**.
- ❖ This will be the second consecutive year that the Union Territory of Ladakh will host a part of the Khelo India Winter Games.

About Khelo India Winter Games-

- ❖ The Khelo India Winter Games started in **2020**.
- ❖ Around 1000 athletes including 306 women participated in its inaugural edition.

22nd Divine Art Fair

The 22nd Divya Kala Mela is being organised at India Gate, New Delhi.

Key Points -

- ❖ **Organiser:** Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) under the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment National Disabled Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC)
- ❖ **Date:** From December 12 to December 22, 2024.
- ❖ With the **participation of around 100 Divyang entrepreneurs/artisans from 20 States/UTs**, this unique event is an inspiring celebration of potential, determination and skill.
- ❖ Divya Kala Mela is a movement towards the **economic empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (PwD)**.
- ❖ It provides a national platform to showcase the skills, craftsmanship and entrepreneurial spirit of Divyangjan, helping them gain visibility, market access and new opportunities.
- ❖ Divya Kala Mela was launched in **2022**.

RBI Increases Collateral-Free Agricultural Loan Limit

To support the agriculture sector and address rising input costs, RBI has announced an increase in the limit of collateral-free agricultural loans, including loans for allied activities.

Key Points-

- ❖ Under this, the current loan limit of **Rs 1.6 lakh per borrower has been increased to Rs 2 lakh**.
- ❖ **Objective:** This decision acknowledges the impact of inflation and rising cost of agricultural inputs on farmers. It aims to provide better financial access to farmers.
- ❖ This policy will be effective from January 1, 2025.
- ❖ This move increases credit accessibility especially for **small and marginal farmers (over 86% of the area)**.
- ❖ This policy offers loans up to Rs 3 lakh at an effective interest rate of 4%, with a revised interest subsidy scheme.

Indian Light Tank

The Indian Light Tank achieved a major feat by firing several rounds of accurate fire at high altitude.

Key Points -

- ❖ The Indian Light Tank (ILT) has achieved a major feat by firing multiple rounds at various ranges on high altitude hilly terrain, at an **altitude of over 4200 meters**, with consistently accurate results.
- ❖ This is the next test after the **Phase I test conducted** in a desert environment in **September 2024**.
- ❖ **Manufacturing:** It has been designed and developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment, a Chennai-based laboratory of DRDO.
 - While it has been manufactured by **industry partner Larsen & Toubro Precision Engineering & Systems**.

- ❖ The ILT is being designed as a 25 tonne class armoured fighting vehicle, to meet the requirements of the armed forces in high altitude areas.

Person IN News - Appointment

V. Mohan

He has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the **International Diabetes Federation**.

He is currently the Chairman of the Diabetes Specialities Centre and the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation.



The award is given to individuals who have made outstanding **contributions to diabetes care, research and advocacy**.

He is one of **17 individuals worldwide**, and the second from India (along with diabetologist A Ramachandran) to receive this honour.

Person IN News - Sports

Shaheen Afridi

Pakistan fast bowler **Shaheen Afridi** reached **100 T20 wickets** by taking three wickets in his four-over spell in the first T20 match against South Africa in Durban.

He became the third Pakistani bowler to take 100 wickets after Shadab Khan and Haris Rauf.



Important Days/Dates

December 14

National Energy Conservation Day, 2024

- ❖ National Energy Conservation Day is celebrated on **14 December** in India.
- ❖ The celebration serves as a motivating force for individuals, industries and institutions to adopt energy efficiency, paving the way for a greener, more harmonious future.
- ❖ Started in **1991**, the day is celebrated by the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** under the **Ministry of Power** as a symbol of the nation's commitment towards energy efficiency and conservation.
- ❖ Objectives of National Energy Conservation Day
 - raising awareness
 - boost efficiency
 - reduce wastage
 - promote responsibility



National Energy Conservation Award:

- ❖ National Energy Conservation Awards (NICA) is an initiative of the Bureau of Energy Electronics (BEEI).
- ❖ The awards were instituted in 1991.
- ❖ The NICA for the year 2024 will be presented during **Energy Conservation Day celebrations** on December 14, 2024.

Important News- Other States

Manipur

- ❖ Manipur on December 12 paid rich tributes to the women freedom fighters who took part in the 'Nupi Lal' (Women's War) against British actions in **1904 and 1939**, in the memory of **Nupi Lal Numit**.

- ❖ On this day in **1939**, hundreds of Manipuri women took to the streets of Imphal demanding a complete halt to the indiscriminate export of rice by the British rulers.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Defence Ministry has signed a **Rs 13,500 crore** deal with state-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) to procure **12 Sukhoi jets** for the Indian Air Force. The Russian-origin aircraft will have **62.6 per cent domestic content**.
 - The Su-30MKI is a two-seater multi-role long-range fighter jet developed by Russian aircraft manufacturer Sukhoi.
- ❖ The Indian Navy is likely to induct the **last Kalvari class or Scorpene class submarine in early 2025 and the first Nilgiri class frigate** in January.
- ❖ According to the Civil Aviation Minister, 'Udaan Yatri Cafés' will be opened at airports managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to provide affordable refreshment options to passengers.
 - The first 'Udaan Yatri Café' will be opened at **Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport** as a pilot project.
- ❖ Renowned philanthropist, author **Dr. Dinesh Shahra** released his much-awaited book, **Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness** at the prestigious Library of Tibetan Work and Archives (LTWA) in Dharamshala.



- ❖ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will chair the **4th National Conference of Chief Secretaries** in Delhi on **14th and 15th December** 2024. This will be another important step towards further promoting partnership between the Central and State Governments.

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