

4th September 2024

SC- New Flag and Insignia

On September 1, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu unveiled the new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court of India during the two-day National Conference of District Judiciary held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ This event marked a significant moment in the history of the Indian judiciary, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Supreme Court's establishment.
- ❖ **Flag details:** The new flag is blue and prominently features the Ashoka Chakra, the Supreme Court building, and the Constitution of India.
- ❖ **Insignia details:** The insignia includes the phrase "Yato Dharmastato Jayah" inscribed in Devanagari script, which translates to "Where there is Dharma, there is victory." This phrase encapsulates the essence of justice and righteousness that the Supreme Court strives to uphold.
- ❖ The new flag and insignia were conceptualized and designed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Delhi.
- ❖ They symbolize justice and democracy, reflecting the Supreme Court's role as a guardian of the Constitution and the rule of law. The flag will be available in various designs, including cross table flat, single table flag, pole flag, and wooden frame, ensuring its presence in diverse settings.

UP- Global Technology Hubs

The Uttar Pradesh government is set to invest \$4 billion in establishing global technology hubs, aiming for a tenfold increase in the Information Technology (IT) and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) sectors over the next five years.

Key Points

- ❖ **Focus areas:** This investment will focus on advanced technologies across various fields, including industry, e-commerce, education, healthcare, tourism, space, electronics, and energy.
- ❖ **Selected cities:** Five cities have been selected for the development of these hubs: Noida, Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, and Prayagraj (Allahabad).

- Noida is set to become an IT & ITeS hub
- Lucknow will specialise in industries related to artificial intelligence and machine learning.
- Kanpur will focus on drones and robotics.
- Varanasi and Prayagraj will be established as centers for Engineering Research and Development (ER&D).
- ❖ The government is also considering granting the IT sector industry status, which would enable IT businesses to access electricity at industrial rates, Business Standard reported.
- ❖ To attract international investors, including those from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the UP administration is crafting a strategy to enhance the state's artificial intelligence and drone ecosystems.

Residential Management Development Programme

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management Bodh Gaya (IIM BG), is organizing a transformative 5-day residential Management Development Programme (MDP) from 2nd September to 6th September, 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ **Participants:** This program is designed for the elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), including Presidents and Vice Presidents of District Panchayats, Pramukhs of Panchayat Samitis, Sarpanch (s) and various Panchayat officials.
- ❖ **States Involved:** Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions from across eight States viz. Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are participating in the Training Program at the prestigious Indian Institute of Management, Bodh Gaya.
- ❖ **Aim:** This program aims to enhance the leadership, management and governance skills of the Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

- ❖ The initiative emphasizes the commitment of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to strengthening local governance and empowering Panchayats to deliver better services to the rural population.

INDUS-X Summit

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) has announced the third edition of its Defence Acceleration Ecosystem Summit, set to take place on September 9-10 at Stanford University in California.

Key Points

- ❖ **Aim:** The summit aims to enhance collaboration between the United States and India in advancing defence technology and innovation.
- ❖ **Focus of the event:** The event, known as the India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Summit, will focus on "Harnessing Investment Opportunities to Enhance Cross-Border Defence Innovation Ecosystems." It will highlight the essential role of private investment in driving forward defence innovation.
- ❖ The summit will feature keynote addresses, panel discussions, and roundtable sessions, bringing together top defence policymakers from both Washington and New Delhi.
- ❖ **INDUS-X Tech Expo:** A key highlight of the summit will be the INDUS-X Tech Expo, showcasing the latest technologies and innovations from defence and aerospace startups. This expo will attract venture capitalists, academics, accelerators, and technology professionals from the Bay Area, offering a platform to explore and invest in cutting-edge developments.

Chief Science Advisers Roundtable 2024

India and UNESCO are co-organising the 2024 Edition of Chief Science Advisers Roundtable (CSAR) in Paris, France on 6 September 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The 2024 Edition of the Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable (CSAR) is scheduled to take place at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris, France on Friday, 6 September 2024.

- ❖ The roundtable will be co-chaired by the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood and the Assistant Director General (ADG - Natural Sciences) of UNESCO, Dr. Lidia Brito.
- ❖ **Organised by:** This roundtable is co-organised by the Office of Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and the Natural Sciences Sector of UNESCO.
- ❖ **Conceptualisation:** The Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable (CSAR) was conceptualised and launched as a Sherpa-track initiative during Indian G20 Presidency, 2023.
- ❖ **Participants:** Delegations of 28 countries, led by their Chief Science Advisers (CSA) or nominated equivalents, and 6 international organisations will join this roundtable.
- ❖ **Theme:** The theme of the roundtable is "Fostering open science, bridging knowledge asymmetry, and building science advice capacity globally".

'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) 2024'

The West Bengal Assembly has unanimously passed the 'Aparajita' bill, aimed at strengthening laws against rape and sexual offences.

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This groundbreaking legislation makes West Bengal the first state to amend central laws addressing such grave crimes, following the tragic rape and murder of a trainee doctor last month at the RG Kar Medical Centre and Hospital.

Provisions

- ❖ The 'Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) 2024' introduces the death penalty for those convicted of rape and other sexual crimes, marking a significant step in the fight against gender-based violence.
- ❖ **Harshest punishment** is given for cases of harassment and rape of women
- ❖ Provisions of the **POCSO Act** have been further tightened.
- ❖ **Death penalty** has been provided for rapists if their acts result in the death of the victim or they suffer severe brain damage

- ❖ Under the bill, an Aparajita Task Force will be formed, in which punishment will be given within 21 days of the preliminary report. Routes on which nurses and female doctors travel will be covered. For this, the state's govt has sanctioned Rs 120 crores
- ❖ A provision of 'Ratri Saathi' states that women will do 12 hours duty, and if needed, doctors will extend their duty

Awards/Titles

<p>Ramon Magsaysay Award</p> 	<p>Film director and co-founder of Studio Ghibli, Hayao Miyazaki, has been honoured with this year's prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award.</p> <p>Ramon Magsaysay Award:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ It is given every year to honor the legacy of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay. ❖ It was established in April 1957 by the trustees of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund with the concurrence of the Philippine government. ❖ It is often called the Nobel Prize of Asia. ❖ Mother Teresa, Arun Shourie, Maheshweta Devi, Arvind Kejriwal, Kiran Bedi, Ravish Kumar, Sonam Wagnchuk, social entrepreneur Anshu Gupta are some of the notable recipients of the award from India.
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Sports

Paralympics 2024

- ❖ In recognition of his unstinting support for the success of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 President Emmanuel Macron was presented with the Olympic Order in gold.



- ❖ Nithya Sre Sivan won a bronze medal in the women's singles SH6 third-place playoff match, marking a historic day for Indian para badminton. The 19-year-old Nithya comfortably beat Indonesia's Rina Marlina 21-14 21-6 to sign off on a winning note in her maiden appearance at the Games.
- ❖ Sumit Antil won the gold medal in the men's javelin throw F64 class at Paris 2024 and became the first Indian male para-athlete to defend his title in the Paralympics. The 26-year-old Indian para-athlete achieved the feat with a new Paralympic record of 70.59m at the Stade de France.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the first Indian company to surpass Rs 10 lakh crore in annual revenue. During the financial year 2023-24, Reliance has achieved a record consolidated turnover of Rs 10,00,122 crore (USD 119.9 billion).
- ❖ Bisleri International has signed a Letter Of Interest with the Goa State Pollution Control Board to enhance waste management in Mormugao. The initiative, part of Bisleri's CSR program 'Bottles for Change' will focus on education, efficiency in waste collection, segregation, and recycling.
- ❖ WWF-India, in collaboration with Bird Count India and eBird, is thrilled to announce the launch of Vulture Count 2024, a crucial citizen-science initiative aimed at monitoring and conserving India's vulture populations. It is from 7th September to 6th October 2024, the count will coincide with International Vulture Awareness Day, which is on September 7th.

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