

### **\$500 million ADB loan to develop sustainable infrastructure in India**

#### **Key Points:**

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a \$500 million financial intermediation loan to India to finance environmentally sustainable infrastructure development in the country. The ADB approved the loan on 12 December 2024.

#### **Loan to IIFCL with Sovereign Guarantee**

- ❖ The \$500 million loan has been granted to India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL), owned by the government of India.
- ❖ The loan has a sovereign guarantee. It means that if IIFCL fails to repay the loan to the ADB, then the government of India will repay the loan to ADB on behalf of the IIFCL.

#### **Use of the Loan amount**

- ❖ The IIFCL will use the loan amount to provide loans to both greenfield (new projects) and brownfield (existing projects) sustainable infrastructure projects.
- ❖ The special focus will be on providing finance for the connectivity and energy transition and sectors like urban projects, education, and health care.
- ❖ The loan amount will be used to build the institutional capacity of IIFCL to integrate green technology and best practices into infrastructure projects.

#### **Climate Financing Gap in India**

- ❖ According to the ADB, India is among the world's most impacted economies due to climate change and hazards like floods, droughts, and cyclones.
- ❖ India needs to invest huge amounts in environmentally sustainable infrastructure to deal with such extreme climate-related events.

- ❖ However India faces a \$1 trillion climate financing gap to build such infrastructure.

#### **Asian Development Bank(ADB)**

- ❖ Asian Development Bank is a regional development bank of the Asia Pacific region with 69 member countries.
- ❖ It was established in 1966 and has its headquarters in Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila, Philippines.

#### **About IIFCL**

- ❖ The India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) is a wholly owned company of the government of India, which was set up in 2006. It is registered as a Non-Banking Finance Company-Non Deposit-taking Infrastructure Financing Company(NBFC-ND-IFC) with the Reserve Bank of India. The Reserve Bank of India regulates it. IIFCL provides long-term loans to viable infrastructure projects. It provides loans to both greenfield (new projects) and brownfield (existing projects) projects in transportation, energy, water, sanitation, communication, and social and commercial infrastructure sectors.
- ❖ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ❖ Managing Director: Padmanabhan Raja Jaishankar

### **Elon Musk Reaches \$400 Billion Milestone and Created History**

#### **Key Points:**

- ❖ Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, has recently made history by becoming the first individual to surpass a net worth of \$400 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.
- ❖ This remarkable achievement reflects his growing influence and success across multiple ventures, including SpaceX, Tesla, and his AI project, xAI. Musk's wealth trajectory has been fueled by a combination

of insider share sales, stock market performance, and strategic political connections, making him the richest person in the world.



### Trump Named Time's Person of the Year

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Time magazine has honored Donald Trump as its 2024 Person of the Year, marking his second time receiving this recognition.
- ❖ The accolade underscores Trump's significant political impact and his remarkable comeback after winning the November 5 election.
- ❖ Time magazine has named Donald Trump as its Person of the Year for 2024, marking the second time he has received this prestigious recognition.
- ❖ Person of the Year (called Man of the Year or Woman of the Year until 1999) is an annual issue of the American news magazine and website Time featuring a person, group, idea, or object that "for better or for worse ... has done the most to influence the events of the year".



### 22nd Divya Kala Mela

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The 22nd Divya Kala Mela, inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar at India

Gate, New Delhi, from December 12-22, 2024, showcases the entrepreneurial spirit and creativity of Divyangjan. The 22nd edition of the Divya Kala Mela, inaugurated by Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar at India Gate, New Delhi, from December 12-22, 2024, celebrates the talent and entrepreneurial spirit of Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs.



- ❖ This event is a powerful initiative by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) and the National Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation (NDFDC), aimed at enhancing the visibility and economic independence of persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- ❖ With a history of successful Mela editions across 21 cities, this year's event features over 100 participants from 20 states and Union Territories.

### "Dr. Dinesh Shahra Unveils Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness"

#### Key Points:

- ❖ On December 12, 2024, Dr. Dinesh Shahra, a well-known philanthropist and author, launched his book Dalai Lama's Secret to Happiness at the Library of Tibetan Works & Archives in Dharamshala. The event focused on the importance of the Dalai Lama's teachings on peace and happiness, with attendees.



### Delhi Govt. Announces ₹2,100 Monthly Aid for Women

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, CM Arvind Kejriwal introduced the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana, increasing financial aid for eligible women from ₹1,000 to ₹2,100 per month after elections.
- ❖ Registrations for the scheme begin on December 13, 2024. In a strategic move ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has unveiled the Mukhya Mantri Mahila Samman Yojana, promising to increase financial assistance for eligible women from ₹1,000 to ₹2,100 per month post-elections.



### Haris and Wyatt-Hodge crowned ICC Players of the Month for November 2024

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the ICC Players of the Month for November 2024 as Pakistan's Haris Rauf and England's Danni Wyatt-Hodge.
- ❖ Pakistan pacer Haris wins after his destructive bowling spells in Australia secured Pakistan's first ODI series victory in the country since 2002, while England's

evergreen Wyatt-Hodge produced trademark fireworks in her side's convincing short-format victory over South Africa. Both players win their maiden Player of the Month awards.



### Union Cabinet gives approval for Bills on simultaneous polls

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Nearly three months after the Union Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind on holding simultaneous polls, it approved two Bills on Thursday — one Constitutional amendment Bill to conduct elections for the Lok Sabha and all state assemblies together, and another ordinary Bill to align elections for assemblies in Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir. The two Bills, it is learned, are likely to be introduced in the ongoing Parliament session.
- ❖ "But it will just be the introduction and within minutes it will go to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, which will be set up by the House," said a BJP source. However, the Union Government has not confirmed the timeline for implementation — whether simultaneous polls will begin in 2029 or 2034.





- ❖ A top source in the government said there would be “extensive deliberations” on the Bill both inside and outside Parliament. Apart from the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the ruling BJP will also conduct an awareness campaign over the idea of ‘one nation one election’.
- ❖ Formed in September last year, the Kovind Committee conducted extensive consultations with stakeholders, including political parties, before submitting its report to President Droupadi Murmu on March 14. Of the 47 political parties that submitted their views, 32 supported the proposal, while Opposition parties, including the Congress, raised strong objections.

### One Nation One Election

#### Membership of the Panel:

- ❖ It included the following members:
- ❖ Home Minister Amit Shah
- ❖ Former Rajya Sabha Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad
- ❖ Former Lok Sabha Secretary General Subhash C Kashyap
- ❖ Former chairman of the 15th Finance Commission N K Singh
- ❖ Senior Advocate Harish Salve
- ❖ Former Chief Vigilance Commissioner Sanjay Kothari
- ❖ Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal was a Special Invitee to the Committee.

#### Recommendations Kovind Committee Report On One Nation One Election

- ❖ Amendments to the Constitution: Kovind committee report recommended amendments to: Article 83 deals with the duration of the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ Article 172 deals with the duration of a state Assembly.
- ❖ No need for the state’s ratification.

#### Two-Step Process:

- ❖ Elections for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies: In the first step, simultaneous elections will be held for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

- ❖ Elections to Local Bodies: In the second step, elections to municipalities and the panchayats will be synchronised with elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.
- ❖ These elections must be held within 100 days of the elections to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies.
- ❖ This step will require ratification by at least one-half of the states.

#### Conduct of Simultaneous Elections:

- ❖ In India, general elections for the House of the People and State Legislative Assemblies were held simultaneously in 1951-52, 1957, 1962, and 1967.

#### Recommendations Kovind Committee Report On One Nation One Election

##### Single Electoral Roll And Election ID:

- ❖ It proposed to amend the Constitution to facilitate the creation of a unified electoral roll and electoral photo identity cards for elections across all three tiers of government.
- ❖ Ratifying these amendments by at least half of the states would be necessary.

#### In Case of Hung House, Etc:

- ❖ In the case of a hung House or any such event, a fresh election to the House of the People will only be for the remainder of the term of the previous House.
- ❖ In the case of fresh elections to an Assembly, the new Assembly will continue only till the end of the term of the House of the People.

#### One Nation One Election

1. କିଛି ରାଜ୍ୟର ନିର୍ବାଚନ ଲୋକସଭା ନିର୍ବାଚନ ସହିତ ହୋଇଥାଏ। ଅନ୍ୟ କିଛି ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଲୋକସଭା ନିର୍ବାଚନ ପୂର୍ବରୁ ଏବଂ ଅନ୍ୟ କିଛି ରାଜ୍ୟରେ ଲୋକସଭା ନିର୍ବାଚନ ପରେ ବିଧାନସଭା ନିର୍ବାଚନ ହୋଇଥାଏ। ଏହାହେଲେ କିଛି ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିଧାନସଭା କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାଳକୁ ବଢ଼ାଇ ଏବଂ କିଛି ବିଧାନସଭାକୁ ଆଗୁଆ ଭଙ୍ଗ କରି ଏକାଠାଥିରେ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କରିବାକୁ ହେବ।

2. କିଛି ବିଧାନସଭାର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟକାଳ ଲୋକସଭା ନିର୍ବାଚନ ଶେଷହେବାର ଦୁଇବର୍ଷ ପରେ ଶେଷ ହେଉଛି। ସେଠାରେ ଦୁଇଟି ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କରାଯାଇ ପାରିବ। ପ୍ରଥମ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ଲୋକସଭା ସାଥରେ କିଛି ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିଧାନସଭା ନିର୍ବାଚନ କରିବାକୁ ହେବ। ଦ୍ୱିତୀୟ ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟରେ ଅବଶିଷ୍ଟ ରାଜ୍ୟର ନିର୍ବାଚନ ହେବ। ଏହାହେଲେ ୫ ବର୍ଷରେ ଦେଶରେ ଦୁଇଥର ବିଧାନସଭା ନିର୍ବାଚନ ହେବ।

3. ଆଇନ କମିସନ ଟାଙ୍କ ରିପୋର୍ଟରେ ପରାମର୍ଶ ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଯଦି ଏକାଠାଥିରେ ନିର୍ବାଚନ କରାଯାଇ ପାରିବ ନାହିଁ ତାହେଲେ ବର୍ଷକ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ହେବାକୁ ଥିବା ସବୁ ନିର୍ବାଚନକୁ ଏକାଠାଥିରେ କରିଦିଆଯିବ। ପକରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ବର୍ଷରେ ବାରମ୍ବାର ହେଉଥିବା ନିର୍ବାଚନ ଆଉ କରିବାକୁ ହେବନାହିଁ।

### Merits of One Nation One Election

- ❖ **Cost Savings:** Synchronizing elections reduces the financial burden on political parties, governments, and the electoral system, resulting in significant cost savings.
- ❖ **Stable Governance:** Simultaneous elections can lead to more stable and continuous governance by reducing the frequency of elections, allowing for better long-term planning and policy implementation.
- ❖ **Efficient Resource Allocation:** Political parties and candidates can allocate their resources, including time and manpower, more efficiently when elections are held together, optimizing their campaigns.
- ❖ **Reduced Voter Fatigue:** With fewer election cycles, voters may experience less fatigue, leading to higher voter turnout and more informed participation in the electoral process.
- ❖ **Logistical and Administrative Challenges:** Coordinating elections across the entire nation can be a complex and resource-intensive task, leading to potential logistical and administrative challenges.
- ❖ **Constitutional and Legal Hurdles:** Implementing simultaneous elections may require significant changes to the Indian Constitution, which can be a lengthy and contentious process.
- ❖ **Impact on Regional Parties:** Smaller or regional political parties may feel disadvantaged in a synchronized election cycle, as they may not have the resources or visibility to compete at the national level.
- ❖ He said that ONOE will be a game changer for the country as not only he but economists believe that after its implementation, "the country's GDP will rise by 1 to 1.5 per cent." "The central govt will have to build consensus. This issue is not in the interest of any party but the nation. It

(One Nation One Election) will be a game changer - it's not my opinion but of the economists that after its implementation, the country's GDP will rise by 1-1.5%," Kovind said.

### Champions Trophy 2025: ICC, PCB and BCCI agree to hybrid model, Dubai to host India's games

- ❖ The ICC Champions Trophy, originally named the ICC KnockOut Trophy, is a quadrennial cricket tournament organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- ❖ It is played in ODI format. Inaugurated in 1998, The ICC conceived the idea of the Champions Trophy – a short cricket tournament to raise funds for the development of the game in non-test playing countries.
- ❖ The first Champions Trophy was organised in Bangladesh in June 1998.

### Number of teams - 8

- ❖ In a major breakthrough, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) reportedly agreed in principle to ICC's request for the hybrid model for the Champions Trophy 2025.
- ❖ Dubai has been selected to host India's all games and potentially the knockouts if the Men in Blue progress to the semi-final round.
- ❖ According to a report from the PTI, both BCCI and PCB also agreed to a hybrid model for the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 in India where Pakistan will play their games in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The ICC Chairman Jay Shah will reportedly hold a virtual meeting with the PCB Chief Mohsin Naqvi on Saturday to finalise the hybrid model.
- ❖ So, the BCCI will miss out on hosting a highvoltage India vs Pakistan World Cup game at home, as the PCB put in a

condition in which they will play their ICC tournament games in India at a neutral venue in exchange for agreeing to a hybrid model for the Champions Trophy 2025.

- ❖ The same report also adds that the ICC has compensated Pakistan with a women's tournament after 2027. The BCCI also hosts the ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 and Pakistan will be playing their games at a neutral venue.
- ❖ After the BCCI refused to travel to Pakistan due to security reasons, the ICC approached the PCB with a hybrid model. Pakistan initially threatened to boycott the tournament and stayed adamant about hosting the entire event but finally caved in by requesting a similar hybrid model for their ICC games in India.



### BEML secures ₹136 crore contract from Ministry of Defence for High Mobility Vehicles

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Defence PSU BEML Limited has secured ₹136-crore contract to supply indigenously designed High Mobility Vehicles (HMs) 8x8.
- ❖ These vehicles will be deployed for the Battlefield Surveillance System (BFSS) project. The HMs will primarily be manufactured at the Palakkad plant, with additional production in other divisions as determined by management based on operational feasibility.

### ADB cuts India FY24 GDP growth forecast to 6.5%, 7% in FY25 on weak demand

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has lowered India's economic growth forecast to 6.5 per cent for the current financial year from its earlier estimate of 7 per cent due to lower-than-expected growth in private investment and housing demand.
- ❖ The multilateral development bank has also lowered India's growth forecast for 2025-26 financial year. Asia and the Pacific's economies are projected to grow 4.9 per cent in 2024, slightly below ADB's September forecast of 5 per cent.

### 12 December – International Universal Health Coverage Day

#### Key Points:

- ❖ International Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Day is celebrated annually on December 12 to raise awareness about the need for strong, resilient health systems and universal health coverage.
- ❖ **Theme 2024 – Health: It's on the Government!**
- ❖ It was first launched on December 12, 2012, when the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) unanimously supported the resolution to make UHC a priority of countries as integral and necessary for the fulfilment of human rights and international development. In 2014, it was proclaimed as UHC Day by the Universal Health Coverage Coalition. Thus, UNGA declared December 12 International Universal Health Coverage Day in 2017.



### Defence Ministry signs ₹13,500-crore deal with HAL for 12 Su-30MKI aircraft

#### Key Points:

- ❖ In a significant step toward bolstering India's defence capabilities and promoting the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the procurement of 12 Su-30MKI aircraft.
- ❖ The deal, valued at approximately ₹13,500 crore, includes associated equipment and is inclusive of taxes and duties. The aircraft will feature a homegrown content of 62.6%, achieved through the indigenisation of numerous components manufactured by the Indian defence industry.



- ❖ The Russian-origin Su-30MKI jets are being procured for the Indian Air Force. These jets are now manufactured by the HAL under an intergovernmental framework. The Su-30MKIs will be produced at HAL's Nashik division, "The supply of these aircraft would enhance the operational capability of the Indian Air Force and strengthen the defence preparedness of the country."

### Nepal Army chief conferred honorary rank by President Murmu

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu conferred the honorary rank of 'General of Indian Army' on Nepal's Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- ❖ He was honoured for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to further fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India.

- ❖ Since 1950, the army chiefs of Nepal and India have had a unique tradition of being conferred the title of Honorary General.
- ❖ General Sigdel, an alumnus of the Nepali Military Academy, was commissioned into the Nepali Army in February 1987. He assumed command of the Nepali Army as Chief of Army Staff on September 9, 2024.



### National Panchayat Awards 2024

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The National Panchayat Awards 2024 honoured 45 exceptional Panchayats for their contributions to sustainable and inclusive development in rural India.
- ❖ The event was presided over by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, with Hon'ble Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh.
- ❖ During the prestigious ceremony, 45 Panchayats from diverse regions were honoured in recognition of their exemplary work in rural development.
- ❖ A booklet titled 'Best Practices on Works of Awardee Panchayats' was unveiled, documenting the innovative and impactful practices implemented by the award-winning Panchayats.
- ❖ The National Panchayat Awards are usually celebrated on April 24th every year, in conjunction with National Panchayati Raj Day (due to the General Elections to the Lok Sabha held earlier in 2024, the award ceremony was rescheduled to 11th December this year.).



- ❖ This day commemorates the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which came into effect in 1993 and granted Panchayats constitutional status as institutions of local self-governance.
- ❖ It is a day to recognize the importance of Panchayats in India's democratic structure and the crucial role they play in rural development.



ମାନ୍ୟବର ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ଶ୍ରୀମତୀ ଦ୍ରୌପଦୀ ମୁର୍ମୁ ଦେଶର ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ କ୍ଷେତ୍ରରେ ଉଲ୍ଲେଖନୀୟ ଅବଦାନ ନିମନ୍ତେ ଜାତୀୟ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ପୁରସ୍କାର ପ୍ରଦାନ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଏଥିରେ ୭ଟି ବିଭାଗରେ ଓଡ଼ିଶା ପୁରସ୍କୃତ ହୋଇଛି । କେନ୍ଦ୍ର ସରକାରଙ୍କ ପଞ୍ଚାୟତିରାଜ ମନ୍ତ୍ରାଳୟ ଦ୍ଵାରା ପ୍ରଦତ୍ତ ଏହି ପୁରସ୍କାର ବାରବାର ଓଡ଼ିଶାକୁ ୮ ବୋଟି ୫୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କାର ପୁରସ୍କାର ରାଶି ପ୍ରାପ୍ତ ହୋଇଛି ।



**National Panchayat Awards 2024**  
Odisha  
(7 awards)

Sl.No.	Award Category	Award Theme	Gram Panchayat/Equivalent Body	LGD Code	Block Panchayat	LGD Code	District Panchayat	LGD Code	State/UT
1	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar	Healthy Panchayat	Kelupalli	117961	Rangalunda	NA	Garjam	NA	Odisha
2	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayat	Sahapur	117781	Hirjolicut	NA	Garjam	NA	Odisha
3	Naraj Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar	Best Block Panchayats	NA	NA	Charapur	3732	Garjam	NA	Odisha
4	Naraj Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar	Best District Panchayats	NA	NA	NA	NA	Koraput	322	Odisha
5	Gram Ujya Swarnaj Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar	Gram Panchayats	Kasira	275329	Koinda	NA	Sundargarh	NA	Odisha
6	Carbon Neutral Vishesh Panchayat Puraskar	Gram Panchayats	Kendukaila	121574	Bonaigarh	NA	Sundargarh	NA	Odisha
7	Panchayat Kihanta Nimitan Sarvottam Sansathan Puraskar	Institutions	State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Odisha



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