

Best Tourism State of the Year

The Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department has been awarded the prestigious title of 'Best Tourism State of the Year' during the Travel and Tourism Conclave and Awards in New Delhi.



Key Point

- ❖ This recognition underscores the state's remarkable achievements in advancing its tourism industry.
- ❖ The department consistently adopts innovative approaches to highlight the state's unique landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and extraordinary tourist destinations.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has been awarded the 'Best State Tourism Board' award.
- ❖ The state of Madhya Pradesh has received the **Best State Award** for promoting domestic tourism.
- ❖ In 2023, the number of tourists visiting Madhya Pradesh was almost three times that of the previous year (2022).
- ❖ The state has not only surpassed the pre-Covid levels of tourist arrivals, but has also set an all-time record.
- ❖ According to the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, 11.2 crore tourists visited the state last year.

List of UNESCO Heritage Sites in Madhya Pradesh

UNESCO Site	Description
Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986)	Intricately carved temples featuring exquisite erotic sculptures.
Sanchi Stupa (1989)	Ancient stupas, monasteries, and relics dating back to the Mauryan period.
Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (2003)	Prehistoric rock shelters with ancient cave paintings depicting human life.

INDIAN ARMY LAUNCHES 'EKLAVYA' ONLINE DIGITAL PLATFORM

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), launched an online learning platform for the Indian Army named as "Eklavya" on 28 November.



Key Point

- ❖ This initiative aligns with the Indian Army propelling itself into the "Decade of Transformation" as envisioned by the COAS and also with Indian Army's theme for 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption."

- ❖ The Eklavya software platform has been developed under the aegis of Headquarters Army Training Command with Army War College as the sponsor agency.
- ❖ The platform has been developed at zero cost through “The Bhaskaracharya National Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics” (BISAG-N), Gandhinagar, along with support from the Directorate General of Information Systems.
- ❖ A total of 96 courses by 17 Category ‘A’ Training Establishments of the Indian Army have already been hosted on the platform.

Network Readiness Index 2024

India has improved its position by eleven slots and is now placed at 49th rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2024 (NRI 2024) report released on 21st November 2024.



Key Point

- ❖ In its latest 2024 version, the report maps the network-based readiness landscape of 133 economies, evaluating their performance across four pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact, encompassing a total of 54 variables.

- ❖ The report has been published by the Portulans Institute, an independent non-profit research and educational institute based in Washington, DC.
- ❖ India has not only improved its ranking but also increased its score from 49.93 in 2023 to 53.63 in 2024. Notably, India leads in several indicators.

The report highlights that India secured:

- ❖ 1st rank in ‘AI scientific publications’, ‘AI talent concentration’, and ‘ICT services exports’.
- ❖ 2nd rank in ‘FTTH/Building Internet subscriptions’, ‘Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country’, and ‘International Internet bandwidth’.
- ❖ 3rd rank in ‘Domestic market scale’.
- ❖ 4th rank in ‘Annual investment in telecommunication services’.

55th International Film Festival of India

The 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) concluded on 28 November with a spectacular display of cinematic brilliance as filmmakers, actors, and industry professionals gathered to celebrate the art of storytelling.



Key Point

- ❖ The Lithuanian film *Toxic* triumphed by winning the **Golden Peacock for Best Film**.
- ❖ Romanian director **Bogdan Muresanu** claimed the **Silver Peacock for Best Director** for *The New Year That Never Came*.
- ❖ In the **Best Actor (Male)** category, the award was presented to **Clément Faveau** for *Holy Cow* (France).
- ❖ **Vesta Matulytė** and **Ieva Rupeikaitė** jointly won **Best Actor (Female)** for their performances in *Toxic* (Lithuania).
- ❖ French filmmaker **Louise Courvoisier** received the **Special Jury Award** for her film *Holy Cow*.
- ❖ The **Marathi** web series *Lampan*, directed by **Nipun Dharmadhikari**, was awarded **Best Web Series (OTT)**.
- ❖ **Vikrant Massey** was honored with the **Indian Film Personality of the Year** award for his contributions to the Indian film industry.
- ❖ The **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to Australian filmmaker **Phillip Noyce**, recognizing his significant impact on international cinema.

India International Science Festival (IISF)

India International Science Festival (IISF) is going to be celebrated at Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati during 30 Nov. to 3 Dec. 2024.



Key Point

- ❖ The theme of the 10th edition of IISF (India International Science Festival) is "Transforming India into an S&T-driven Global Manufacturing Hub."
- ❖ The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** is the nodal department for this year's IISF. The event is being coordinated by the **National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram)**, a constituent laboratory of CSIR.
- ❖ IISF is a unique festival that promotes science-society engagement. It was initiated in **2015**, with the first IISF being organized at **IIT Delhi**.
- ❖ The festival was conceptualized by **Vijnana Bharati**, a prominent science movement in India.
- ❖ For the first time, **North East India** will host this prestigious science festival.

Short News

- ❖ Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader **Hemant Soren** took oath as the **Chief Minister of Jharkhand** for the fourth time on **28 November 2024**.

- ❖ The Indian Chemical Council, an apex body representing the Indian chemical Industry, was conferred with the 2024 OPCW The Hague Award in a ceremony in the Hague, Netherlands.
- ❖ IFFCO MD US Awasthi Awarded the 2024 Rochdale Pioneers Award by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) for promoting the cooperative sector in India.
- ❖ The 13th National Seed Congress (NSC) 2024, hosted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare,

was inaugurated on November 28, 2024, by Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

- ❖ Dr. Jaiteerth Raghavendra Joshi has been appointed as the new head of BrahMos Aerospace, the organization responsible for the world-famous BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system.
- ❖ John Tinniswood, recognized as the world's oldest man in April 2023, passed away peacefully at the age of 112 in a Southport care home on November 25, 2024.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following departments has been awarded the prestigious title of 'Best Tourism State of the Year' during the Travel and Tourism Conclave and Awards in New Delhi.
 - A. Madhya Pradesh Tourism Department
 - B. Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department
 - C. Goa Tourism Department
 - D. Uttarakhand Tourism Department

Answer -A

2. The 10th edition of India International Science Festival is going to be celebrated at which of the following places?
 - A. Indian institute of technology Indore
 - B. Indian institute of technology Bombay
 - C. India institute of science Bangalore
 - D. Indian institute of technology Guwahati

Answer -D

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