



Government announces setting up of 8th Pay Commission for Central government employees & pensioners.

- ❖ The government announced the setting up of the 8th Pay Commission for the Central government employees and pensioners. An announcement in this regard was made by Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi.
- ❖ Traditionally, Central Pay Commissions are established every 10 years to review and recommend changes to the pay scales, allowances, and benefits of central government employees. These commissions take factors like inflation and economic conditions into account.
- ❖ The 8th Pay Commission could be expected to take effect from January 1, 2026.
- ❖ The decision will benefit more than 45 lakh central government employees and more than 68 lakh pensioners.

- ❖ The 7th Pay Commission, constituted by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on February 28, 2014.

The Cabinet approved the establishment of the Third Launch Pad.

- ❖ The Cabinet approved the establishment of the Third Launch Pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre of ISRO at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at a cost of 3985 Crore rupees.
- ❖ The TLP project envisages the establishment of the launch infrastructure at Sriharikota for the Next Generation Launch Vehicles of ISRO and also to support as standby launch pad for the Second Launch Pad there.
- ❖ It will also enhance the launch capacity for future Indian human spaceflight missions.
- ❖ It will boost the Indian Space ecosystem by enabling higher launch frequencies and the national capacity to undertake human spaceflight and space exploration missions.

**NITI Aayog Organizes Workshop on
Carbon Capture, Utilization, and
Storage (CCUS) in the Indian Cement
Sector.**

- ❖ NITI Aayog organized a pivotal workshop titled "Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) in the Indian Cement Sector" at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on 16th January 2025.
- ❖ The workshop is part of India's ongoing efforts to achieve its net-zero target of 2070 and ensure a sustainable future.
- ❖ The objective of the workshop was to discuss sector-specific approaches to decarbonization and explore CCUS technologies as a cornerstone of India's strategy to reduce emissions by tailoring solutions to the unique challenges and opportunities in the cement sector.
- ❖ Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) is essential for reducing emissions in the cement sector, which contributes approximately 5.8% of India's CO₂ emissions.

- ❖ CCUS is estimated to address 35%-45% of the sector's emissions.

**Cabinet Approves revival plan for
Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL) at
a total cost of Rs 11,440 crores.**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the revival plan for RINL for a total of Rs 11,440 crores.
- ❖ The infusion includes ₹10,300 crore as equity capital into Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) and Conversion of ₹1140 crore working capital loan as 7% Non-cumulative Preference Share Capital redeemable after 10 years to keep RINL as a going concern.
- ❖ A Schedule-A CPSE under the Ministry of Steel with 100% Government of India ownership.
- ❖ Operates Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), the only government offshore steel plant in Andhra Pradesh, with a 7.3 Mtpa liquid steel capacity.

- ❖ RINL is an important company in the country's steel sector, located in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The package will greatly benefit RINL employees and all those involved in its economic activities.

Odisha govt Signs 8 MoUs with Singapore Organisations.

- ❖ The Odisha government today signed eight MoUs with Singapore-based organisations for collaborations in different fields, including skill development, green energy, and industrial park development.
- ❖ The MoUs were signed in Bhubaneswar in the presence of Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi and Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

President Murmu confers National Sports Awards 2024

President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Sports Awards 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 17 January 2025.

- ❖ World Chess Champion D. Gukesh, double medalist at the Paris Olympics Manu Bhaker, Men's Hockey Team Captain Harmanpreet Singh, and gold medalist at the Paris Paralympics Praveen Kumar were honoured with the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.
- ❖ The award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over the past four years.
- ❖ Para-shooting coach Subhash Rana, Shooting coach Deepali Deshpande, Hockey coach Sandeep Sangwan, Badminton coach S Muralidharan and Football coach Armando Agnelo Colaco were presented Dronacharya Award.
- ❖ The Arjuna Award was given to 32 Sportspersons.
- ❖ Veteran Athlete Sucha Singh and veteran para swimmer Murlikant Petkar were honoured with the Arjuna Awards (Lifetime).

- ❖ Chandigarh University received the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy as the overall top-performing university in the Khelo India University Games.



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