

### Om Prakash Chautala, Five-time Haryana Chief Minister, Passed Away

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Five-time Haryana Chief Minister and veteran Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) leader Om Prakash Chautala died at the age of 89 at his Gurgaon residence following a cardiac arrest. Born in Sirsa on January 1, 1935, Mr Chautala first became the Haryana chief minister in 1989 and remained at the post for six months.
- ❖ Two months later, he again took oath as chief minister, but had to resign with five days. His third term came in 1991, but was cut short when President's rule was imposed in the state within two weeks.
- ❖ He went on to serve two consecutive terms between 1999 and 2005. In 2013, Chautala and his son Ajay Singh Chautala were sentenced to 10 years in prison after being found guilty of corruption in a teacher recruitment scam. They were held guilty of illegally recruiting 3,206 teachers in the state in 2000.



ସୁଚନାମୁତାବକ, ସେ ହୃଦ୍‌ରୋଗରେ ପୀଡ଼ିତ ହୋଇ ଚିକିତ୍ସିତ ଅବସ୍ଥାରେ ରାତି ୧୨ଟା ପରେ ତାଙ୍କର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ହୋଇଥିଲା । ଓମ୍ ପ୍ରକାଶ ୪ ଥର ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଭାବରେ ଭାର ସମ୍ଭାଳିଥିଲେ ।

ତେବେ ଓମ୍ ପ୍ରକାଶ ଚୌତାଲା ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ପୂର୍ବ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ତଥା ଉପମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଚୌଧୁରୀ ଲାଲଙ୍କ ପୁଅ । ଚୌତାଲା ହରିଆଣାର ସପ୍ତମ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଥିଲେ ।

୧୯୮୯ରେ ଜନତା ଦଳ, ୧୯୯୦ ଜନତା ଦଳ, ୧୯୯୧ରେ ସମାଜବାଦୀ ଜନତା ପାର୍ଟି, ୧୯୯୯ ରେ ଇନ୍ଦିରା ସରକାରରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଭାବେ ଦାୟିତ୍ବ ନେଇଥିଲେ । ହରିଆଣାର ବିକାଶରେ ଓମ୍ ପ୍ରକାଶ ଚୌତାଲା ଏକ ଗୁରୁତ୍ବପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଭୂମିକା ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିଥିଲେ । ସେ ଗ୍ରାମାଞ୍ଚଳ ଏବଂ କୃଷକମାନଙ୍କର ଜଣେ ବଡ଼ ସମର୍ଥକ ଥିଲେ । ସେ ହରିଆଣାର ସବୁଠାରୁ ସକ୍ରିୟ ନେତା ଭାବରେ ଜଣାଶୁଣା ଥିଲେ ।

### UN Designates 21st of December as World Meditation Day

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The world will observe 21st December 2024 as the first World Meditation Day. The United Nations designated 21st December as World Meditation Day in a resolution passed by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 November 2024. As part of World Meditation Day, a special programme was organised by the Permanent Mission of India at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the United States of America, on 20 December 2024.
- ❖ Renowned Indian spiritual leader and founder of the Art of Living Foundation, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, was the chief guest at the special programme, and he conducted a live, global meditation session.

#### Indian Initiative behind World Meditation Day

- ❖ The initiative to declare 21st December as World Meditation Day was led by India in the United Nations. The resolution in the United Nations General Assembly was co-sponsored by India.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution, accepting that meditation played a positive role in the health and well-being of an individual.
- ❖ The celebration of the day seeks to raise awareness about the benefits of meditation around the world.

#### Theme of the first World Meditation Day

- ❖ The theme of the first World Meditation Day is "Inner Peace, Global Harmony".

#### What is Meditation?

- ❖ Meditation is an ancient practice that has been found in ancient Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Buddhism, Judaism and in the ancient civilisations of Egypt and China.

- ❖ Meditation refers to the practice where an individual uses techniques such as mindfulness, focused attention, or concentrated thought to train the mind and achieve a state of mental clarity, emotional calmness, and physical relaxation.
- ❖ In the modern world, meditation is seen as a tool for personal well-being and mental health.

#### **Benefits of meditation**

- ❖ Meditation is increasingly used as a stress management technique and in managing the symptoms of anxiety.
- ❖ Mediation in a group helps in fostering empathy, collaboration, and a sense of shared purpose, contributing to collective well-being.
- ❖ Mediation is also used to support the mental and physical well-being of an individual.

### **11th D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation meeting held in Egypt**

#### **Key Points:**

- ❖ The 11th summit meeting of the Developing Eight (D-8) Organization for Economic Cooperation was held in the New Administrative Capital of Egypt on 19 December 2024. The New Administrative Capital of Egypt is being built on the outskirts of the present capital city of Cairo, and it is intended to be the new capital of Egypt.
- ❖ Indonesia will host the 12th D-8 summit meeting in 2025. D-8 is a group of eight Islamic countries. The 10th summit meeting of D-8 countries was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 8th April 2021.
- ❖ Egypt assumed the rotating presidency of the D-8 groups from Bangladesh.



#### **Theme of the 11th D-8 Summit Meeting**

- ❖ The theme of the 11th D-8 Summit meeting was "Investing in Youth and Supporting Small and Medium Enterprises: Towards Shaping the Economy of Tomorrow."

#### **Who inaugurated the 11th D-8 Summit Meeting?**

- ❖ The Egyptian government hosted the 11th D-8 Summit Meeting and it was inaugurated by the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

#### **Who attended the 11th D-8 Summit Meeting?**

- ❖ The D-8 Summit Meeting was attended by the leaders of the eight-member countries and other leaders, notably. Türkiye President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Bangladesh's head of interim government, Muhammed Yunus, and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian.
- ❖ After 11 years, an Iranian President visited Egypt.
- ❖ A special session was organised during the summit to discuss the situation in Palestine and Lebanon.
- ❖ The Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati were invited to the summit meeting.

#### **About D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation**

- ❖ The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation is a multilateral forum of 8 Islamic countries - Egypt, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye.
- ❖ It was officially set up in June 1997 at the summit meeting of the Heads of State/Government of the eight countries in Istanbul, Türkiye.
- ❖ The D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation was formed to further economic cooperation amongst the member states so as to improve member states' position in the global economy and also to enhance participation in decision-making at the international level.

- ❖ It also aims to diversify and create new opportunities in trade relations amongst the member countries and improve the standards of living of their citizens.
- ❖ Headquarters: Istanbul, Türkiye.
- ❖ India to host 12th World Para Athletics Championships in 2025
- ❖ India will, for the first time, host the prestigious World Para Athletics Championships in 2025. Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, in the Indian capital city of New Delhi, will be the venue of the 12th World Para Athletics Championships, to be held in September /October 2025.
- ❖ This is the second major tournament to be hosted by New Delhi in 2025, as it will also host the 2025 Boxing Cup Final & 3rd World Boxing Congress for the first time.



- ❖ The World Para Athletics announced the schedule of the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships and the World Para Athletics Grand Prix calendar 2025 on 19 December 2024. The hosting of these international sporting events will showcase Indian abilities to organise major sporting events and will also strengthen India's bid to host the 2036 Summer and Paralympics Games.

#### **4th Asian City to Host World Para Athletics Championships**

- ❖ New Delhi is the fourth Asian city to host the World Para Athletics Championships. Doha, Qatar, was the first Asian city to host the World Para Athletics Championships in 2015:
- ❖ Dubai, UAE, hosted it in 2019, and Kobe, Japan, hosted the Championships in 2024.

- ❖ New Delhi will host the 12th World Para Athletics Championships from 26 September -5 October 2025 at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium.
- ❖ The World Para Athletics has also awarded the World Para Athletics Grand Prix to New Delhi. It will be held at the Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium from 11-13 March 2025.
- ❖ Indian para-athlete performance in the World Para Athletics Championships has improved considerably over a period of time. In the Doha 2015 World Para Athletics Championships, Indian para-athletes won only two silver medals.
- ❖ However, in the 2024 Kobe Championships, India para athletes finished with 17 medals, including six gold ones.
- ❖ At the Kobe Championship, China finished at the top of the medal tally with 87 medals, including 33 gold, and India was sixth in the medal tally.

#### **World Para Athletics Championships**

- ❖ The World Para Athletics, a part of the International Paralympic Committee, organises the World Para Athletics Championships.
- ❖ The International Paralympic Committee is the world's governing body of para-sports and organises the Summer and Winter Paralympics.
- ❖ The World Para Athletics organises athletics events for the para-athletes.
- ❖ It organised the first World Para Athletics Championships in Berlin, Germany 1994. It was held every four years earlier, but since 2011, it has been held every two years.
- ❖ Since 2013, an annual Grand Prix season has been organised by the World Para Athletics, in which several tournaments are held around the world.
- ❖ Headquarters of World Para Athletics: Bonn, Germany
- ❖ Head of World Para Athletics: Paul Fitzgerald

## New Delhi to host 2025 Boxing Cup Final & 3rd World Boxing Congress

### Key Points:

- ❖ For the first time, India will host the World Boxing Cup Final and the World Boxing Congress in 2025 in New Delhi. The Boxing Federation of India, the sports governing body in India, will host the World Boxing Cup Final and the 3rd World Boxing Congress in New Delhi in November 2025. India was awarded the right to these two events by World Boxing, which is seen as a recognition of India's importance in the world in the sport of boxing.



### About the World Cup Boxing Final

- ❖ World Cup Boxing Cup Final is a year-end tournament for the elite men and women boxers and is usually held in November /December of the calendar year.
- ❖ Senior male and female boxers participate in three major ranking tournaments named 'Boxing World Cups', which are organised by the World Boxing and hosted by a member of the national boxing federations.
- ❖ Based on their performance in these World Cups, boxers are awarded points. The topranked boxers are eligible for the season-ending finale- World Boxing Cup Final.
- ❖ In 2025, the three Boxing World Cups will be held in Brazil in March, followed by events in Germany and Kazakhstan.

### About World Boxing Congress

- ❖ World Boxing Congress is the annual meeting of national boxing federations of World Boxing, where the issues related to

the sports, organisation and other masters are discussed.

- ❖ The first World Boxing Congress was held in Frankfurt, Germany, on 24 and 25 November 2023.
- ❖ The second World Boxing Congress was held on 3rd November 2024 in Colorado Springs, United States of America.
- ❖ India is going to host the third World Boxing Congress in 2025.

### About World Boxing

- ❖ World Boxing is a not-for-profit, international sports federation formed to ensure that boxing remains in the Olympics. It was formed by like-minded individuals and national associations that were dissatisfied with the governance structure of the existing international boxing federations.
- ❖ Members: 55 national boxing federations.
- ❖ Headquarters: Renens, Switzerland
- ❖ President: Boris van der Vorst

### Boxing Federation of India

- ❖ The Boxing Federation of India is the sports governing body in the country.
- ❖ The Government of India recognises it and is a member of the International Boxing Federation and World Boxing.
- ❖ The Boxing Federation of India represents India in all the major international boxing championships like the Olympics, World, Commonwealth, Asian etc.
- ❖ Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- ❖ President: Ajay Singh

## \$42 million ADB loan to restore and stabilise Maharashtra's coastline

### Key Points:

- ❖ Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed an agreement with the government of India to provide a \$42 million loan for the Maharashtra Sustainable Climate-Resilient Coastal Protection and Management Project.



- ❖ The loan amount will be utilised to restore and stabilise Maharashtra's coastline. The Project encourages the involvement of the local communities- women, youth, and vulnerable groups in coastal zone management and to enhance their ability to prepare for and respond effectively to disasters.



- ❖ The coastal erosion protection project aims to protect the livelihood of fishermen and those in the tourism sector who are adversely affected by poor coastal management, coastal erosion, and flooding.

#### Who signed the Loan Agreement?

- ❖ The loan agreement was signed in New Delhi on 19 December 2024. From India, the agreement was signed by Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance. From the ADB, the loan agreement was signed by the Country Director of ADB's India Resident Mission, Ms. Mio Oka.

#### Utilisation of the Loan Amount

- ❖ The loan amount will be used to control coastal erosion, protect offshore reefs, and protect rock in identified coastal stretches of Maharashtra.
- ❖ It will also fund projects using flexible nature-based solutions like beach and dune nourishment to protect the coastal areas.
- ❖ It will fund the use of advanced technologies to predict climate change impacts, such as rising sea levels and extreme weather phenomena like torrential rains, cyclones, etc.

- ❖ Strengthen the Maharashtra Maritime Board's capacity in shore management planning and in the establishment of a coastal infrastructure management unit across the state.
- ❖ The coastal management information system will be strengthened with the use of remote sensing satellite imagery to improve shoreline management.
- ❖ Capacity building of stakeholders on coastal management, gender equality and social inclusion, and livelihood activities.

#### ADB \$100 Million loan to SK Finance Limited

- ❖ ADB has signed an agreement with SK Finance Limited, a non-banking finance company (NBFC), to provide a \$100 million loan. SK Finance will use 20% of ADB's \$100 million loan to provide loans to customers for buying electric vehicles (EVs). 80% of the \$100 million loan will be used by the company to provide loans, mainly to women-owned micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). SK Finance Limited is a Delhi-based NBFC that mainly provides loans for vehicles and MSME loans. Asian Development Bank is a multilateral bank owned by 69 countries. It was set up as a regional development bank in 1966 to provide loans to the Asia Pacific countries for development purposes.
- ❖ Headquarters : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- ❖ President: Masatsugu Asakawa

#### Tansen Samaroh 2024: Swapan Chaudhuri, Sanand Nyas Honored

##### Key Points:

- ❖ The 100th Tansen Sangeet Samaroh in Gwalior celebrated Hindustani classical music with the Rashtriya Tansen Samman 2023 awarded to tabla maestro Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri and the Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman 2023 given to Indore's Sanand Nyas Sanstha.

- ❖ The 100th edition of the Tansen Sangeet Samaroh, one of India's most celebrated classical music festivals, concluded with grandeur in Gwalior (Dec 15-19, 2024). Organized by Madhya Pradesh's Culture Department, the festival honored eminent tabla maestro Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri with the Rashtriya Tansen Samman 2023 and Indore-based Sanand Nyas Sanstha with the Raja Mansingh Tomar Samman 2023.



#### Rashtriya Tansen Samman for Swapan Chaudhuri

- ❖ Pandit Swapan Chaudhuri, a Padma Shri recipient and tabla virtuoso from Kolkata, received the festival's highest honor. Instituted in 1980, the award includes a cash prize of ₹5 lakh and a citation plaque. Known for his mastery of the Farukhabad gharana, Chaudhuri expressed gratitude, calling it a crowning moment in his illustrious career. A global icon, he has performed at prestigious venues, collaborated with international artists like Stevie Wonder, and mentored students at the Ali Akbar College of Music.
- ❖ This event symbolizes the end of 451 years of colonial rule and commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of the freedom fighters. Goa became an integral part of India on this day, and the celebration continues to honor the historic struggle for independence.

#### India Ranks 39th in Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024

##### Key Points:

- ❖ India has climbed to 39th place in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024, up from 54th in 2021.
- ❖ This improvement reflects a recovery in global tourism and India's growing role in medical and cultural tourism. India has significantly improved its position in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) 2024, ranking 39th among 119 countries.
- ❖ This marks a sharp rise from its 54th place in the previous 2021 index, which was later adjusted to 38th after a revision in WEF's methodology.
- ❖ The boost in India's ranking reflects a strong recovery in global tourism, following the pandemic, and the country's growing role as a hub for medical and cultural tourism.

#### Goa Liberation Day 2024

##### Key Points:

- ❖ Goa Liberation Day, celebrated annually on December 19, marks the end of 451 years of Portuguese colonial rule in 1961.
- ❖ This historic day commemorates the bravery and sacrifices of freedom fighters and the integration of Goa into India, honoring the struggle for independence. Goa Liberation Day is celebrated on December 19 every year to mark the freedom of Goa from Portuguese rule in 1961.

#### Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Raising Day

##### Key Points:

- ❖ The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) will celebrate its 61st Raising Day on December 20, 2024, in Ranidanga, Siliguri. The event will highlight the force's achievements, cultural heritage, and contributions to border security.
- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been invited. The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is to celebrate its 61st Raising Day on December 20, 2024, in Ranidanga, Siliguri.

- ❖ This milestone event will showcase the force's achievements, cultural heritage, and contributions to border security.



- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been invited to attend the celebrations. The event will feature a blend of cultural programs, sports demonstrations, and traditional performances, reflecting the vibrant diversity of the region.

#### **Masali: India's First Border Solar Village**

- ❖ Masali, a village in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, has become India's first border solar village, located 40 km from the Pakistan border. The village, with a population of 800, now generates 100% of its electricity through solar power, with solar panels installed on 199 rooftops.
- ❖ Masali, a village in Gujarat's Banaskantha district, has become India's first 'solar village' located near the border, marking a significant achievement in the country's renewable energy initiatives. Situated 40 kilometers from the Pakistan border, this milestone follows India's broader efforts to make border areas more energy-efficient and self-sustaining.
- ❖ The project, with an investment of ₹1.16 crore, involves the installation of solar panels on 199 rooftops, ensuring 100% solar power generation for the village. The development highlights India's commitment to renewable energy and rural electrification.

#### **Govt appoints Ram Mohan Rao Amara as MD of SBI**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ The union government has appointed Ram Mohan Rao Amara as one of the Managing Directors of State Bank of India (SBI) for three years. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Rao's name for the position in September this year. One of the MD positions in SBI fell vacant after CS Setty assumed charge as chairman in August. Rao held the post of deputy managing director and chief risk officer of the country's largest bank until his appointment as MD. Rao started his banking career with SBI in 1991 as a probationary officer. He has gained expertise in the field of credit, risk, retail and international banking. He managed key assignments for SBI in markets like, Singapore and US, and has served as CEO of Chicago branch and then as President and CEO, SBI California.



#### **Recent Appointment in Banking & Insurance Sector**

- ❖ Chairman of Indian REITs Association – Alok Aggarwal
- ❖ MD & CEO of RBL Bank – R Subramaniakumar
- ❖ Executive Director of YES Bank – Manish Jain
- ❖ MD & CEO of TransUnion CIBIL – Bhavesh Jain (replace Rajesh Kumar)
- ❖ Governor of RBI – Sanjay Malhotra; 26th (replace Shaktikanta Das)



### Japan, India startups to study laser-equipped satellite to tackle space debris

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Space startups in Japan and India had agreed to jointly study using laser-equipped satellites to remove debris from orbit, an experimental approach to the increasingly imminent problem of orbital congestion.
- ❖ Tokyo-based Orbital Lasers and Indian robotics company InspeCity said they would study business opportunities for in-space services, such as de-orbiting a defunct satellite and extending a spacecraft's life.



- ❖ The project is the latest example of collaboration between Japan and India, whose governments are working together on the joint Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission, which could launch as early as 2026. Indian rocket maker Skyroot and satellite builder HEX20 are also working with Japanese moon exploration firm Ispace on a future lunar orbiter mission.

### 18 December – World Arabic Language Day

#### Key Points:

- ❖ World Arabic Language Day has been celebrated every year on 18 December since 2012. The date coincides with the day in 1973 when the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Arabic as the sixth official language of the Organization.
- ❖ Theme 2024— **Arabic Language and AI: Advancing Innovation while Preserving**

**Cultural Heritage.** Arabic plays a major role in promoting social cohesion, knowledge production and spreading the values of peace and mutual understanding. Its contribution to humanity cannot be reduced to one person, as it is a civilization's legacy for the entire world.



### Kiran Ankush Jadhav clinches Men's 50m Rifle 3P title at 67th National Shooting Championship

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Indian Navy's Kiran Ankush Jadhav beat Paris Olympic bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale and another Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar to clinch the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) title at the 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions in Bhopal. Jadhav shot 465.8 in the final to leave Aishwary Pratap (463.1) of the home state in second place at the M.P. State Academy Shooting range.
- ❖ Swapnil of Railways led the 45-shot final till the 40th shot but bowed out in third ahead of the final gold-deciding shot, with a tally of 451.8. Jadhav was in third place till the 40-shot stage, before finishing to strike gold.



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