

**International**

**Defence Minister Rajnath Singh concludes US visit, describes Indian diaspora in US as 'living bridge' between both nations**

**About News:-**

During Defense Minister Rajnath Singh's official visit to the USA from August 23 to 26, 2024, two new defense agreements were signed between India and the USA: a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison and a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA).



**Having a meeting with senior US officials:**

- ❖ He met Lloyd Austin, the US Secretary of Defense, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., during his tour. The defense ministry of the United States government is housed in the Pentagon, the second-largest office complex in the world. The world's largest office complex is located in Surat, Gujarat, and is called Surat Diamond Bourse.
- ❖ Additionally, he met Jake Sullivan, the National Security Advisor for the United States.
- ❖ Two agreements to strengthen defense connections between the two nations were inked before he met with Lloyd Austin: a Memorandum of Agreement about the Assignment of Liaison and a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA).

**Arrangement for Security of Supply (SOSA):-**

- ❖ India is the eighteenth nation with whom the United States of America has a Security of Supply Agreement. The non-binding agreement allows the USA to demand priority delivery of defense equipment from Indian companies and India to request the same from American enterprises
- ❖ This means that both nations can ask each other for weapons and ammunition during a war or other emergency, and the other nations will respond to requests for supplies

promptly. The SOSA pact is not legally binding, nevertheless. It implies that a nation may decline to provide weapons and ammo in such a circumstance.

- ❖ The accord holds importance as it represents the initial phase in fostering confidence between the two nations. Subsequently, the legally binding Reciprocal Defence Procurement Agreement (RDP) will be signed by both nations.
- ❖ It is anticipated that the SOSA will improve supply chain resilience and foster closer collaboration between the defense industry ecosystems of both nations.

**Agreement Memorandum on the Assignment of Liaison Officers:**

- ❖ India will station its Indian armed forces personnel in important strategic US commands by the Memorandum of Agreement for the Assignment of Liaison personnel.
- ❖ A senior military official from India is anticipated to be posted to the US Special Operations Command's (SOCOM/USSOCOM) headquarters in Florida as the Liaison official.

**Additional Agreements Executed:**

- ❖ Both nations committed to advancing priority co-production projects, such as jet engines, unmanned platforms, ammunition, and ground mobility systems, under the terms of the 2023 US-India Roadmap for Defence Industrial Cooperation.
- ❖ The RDP Agreement and the conclusion of SOSA were anticipated in the defense industry cooperation roadmap.
- ❖ To establish an Indo-Pacific regional hub for ship and aircraft repair and maintenance, the US supported the integration of India's defense industry into international supply chains and provided support for the development of India's naval and maritime infrastructure.

### National

#### MeitY signs MoUs with industry partners to enhance collaboration with C-DAC



#### About News:-

- ❖ At its Vellayambalam Campus in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)'s Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) has signed several Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with different industrial partners.
- ❖ to encourage the development of domestic technologies and to sustain the infrastructure needed for the charging of electric vehicles (EVs).
- ❖ The MeitY Secretary, S. Krishnan, was present when the agreements were formalized.

#### The MoU was signed by C-DAC with:

- ❖ L&T (Larsen & Turbo) Semiconductor Technologies Limited (LTSCT) for the creation of Security Operation Centers (SOC) with VEGA processors for a range of applications.
- ❖ Aheesa Digital Innovations Private Limited (ADIPL) for the creation of CDAC Rakshak and Darpan Virtual Network Solutions, two examples of network security solutions.
- ❖ The development of network security technologies to identify breaches and assist with cyber forensics is the main goal of the MoU.
- ❖ Vehicle-to-grid (V2G), vehicle-to-home (V2H), and vehicle-to-building (V2B) technologies are being developed and implemented by Hykon India Limited (HIL).
- ❖ Vehicle-to-grid technology will be advanced and implemented by Tata Power Electric Mobility Limited (TPEML).
- ❖ For the creation, implementation, and expansion of Smart Meter technologies for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), JMV LPS Limited.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, Karnataka, and Reliamotive Labs collaborated to transfer high voltage, high-frequency planar magnetics technology.



#### Additional Launches:

- ❖ Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala's C-DAC campus had the official opening of a Hardware Emulation Facility by Secretary of MeitY S. Krishnan.
- ❖ The purpose of this facility is to promote domestic hardware design development, testing, and validation, with a focus on Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) and System on Chip (SoC) technologies.
- ❖ Additionally, he introduced Hykon India Ltd.'s Hybrid Power Conditioning Systems for Microgrids. The National Mission on Power Electronics Technology (NaMPET) program has led to the development of the Hybrid power Conditioning System for robust industrial microgrids.
- ❖ Redundancy and fault tolerance were ensured through design and control, which led to the achievement of resilience. The design also takes into account powerful converter cooling systems and robust hardware.
- ❖ Additionally, he opened the Model Indigenous Electric Vehicle Charging Station, which will provide rapid chargers for both direct current (DC) and alternating current (AC) for cars ranging in power from 2W to heavy.

#### About the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC):

- ❖ Establishment:- 1988
- ❖ Headquarters:- Pune, Maharashtra
- ❖ Director General (DG):- Magesh Ethirajan

### State

#### Himachal govt allocates Rs 53.21 cr to 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana'



### About News:-

The government of Himachal Pradesh (HP) has initiated the 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana,' allocating an annual sum of Rs. 53.21 crores to help widows, impoverished women, divorced women, and parents with disabilities with the costs of their children's education and upbringing.

### About Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana:-

- ❖ The program is designed to help two distinct age groups. To pay for their education, health care, and nourishment, qualifying mothers and parents with disabilities would receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 1000 for children under the age of 18.
- ❖ Children enrolled in Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate (PG), Diploma, and Vocational programs are also eligible for financial aid under this initiative, which covers course fees and housing costs.
- ❖ The program seeks to stop drug misuse, teenage marriages, child maltreatment, and people trafficking by bolstering family-level child protection.
- ❖ The programme would help qualifying women's households and children whose yearly income does not exceed Rs 1 lakh.
- ❖ You can submit the applications to the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) in your community.

### About Himachal Pradesh (HP):-

- ❖ Chief Minister (CM) :- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- ❖ Governor :- Shiv Pratap Shukla
- ❖ Capitals:- Shimla

### Maharashtra

### Maharashtra becomes first state to approve Unified Pension Scheme



### About News:-

Just one day after the Modi government's announcement, the Maharashtra Cabinet on Sunday accepted the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) of the national government, making Maharashtra the first state to do so.

### Key Points:-

- ❖ The Maharashtra government's action follows hours after labor unions urged states to execute the recently authorized Modi government plan, which would go into force on April 1, 2025.
- ❖ workers of recognized and grant-supported educational institutions, non-agricultural universities and the aided non-government colleges they are affiliated with, agricultural universities, and zilla parishad workers are all covered by this judgment.
- ❖ If state governments accept the program, the number of beneficiaries under UPS will increase to nine million.

### Concerning UPS

- ❖ The UPS programme, which aims to significantly benefit 23 lakh central government employees, was authorized by the Union cabinet on August 24.
- ❖ For those who joined the service after January 1, 2004, the UPS promises a pension under the National Pension System (NPS) of 50% of the base wage.
- ❖ After the new pension scheme (NPS) took its place in 2004, opposition parties have been advocating for the return of the previous pension scheme (OPS).
- ❖ Employers' and workers' defined contributions, which are invested in particular portfolios, are the foundation of the NPS. The NPS pension amount is dependent on the performance of these investments. In contrast, a set pension sum is provided by the recently proposed UPS.
- ❖ The new scheme will offer a minimum pension of ₹10,000 a month and will be inflation-adjusted.

### Economic

#### **Piramal Finance and Central Bank of India announce co-lending partnership**

##### **About News:-**

A wholly owned subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited (PEL), Mumbai, India-based Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited (PCHFL) (Piramal Finance) has established a strategic agreement with the Central Bank of India (CBI) to grow their co-lending business.

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

- ❖ With an emphasis on semi-urban and rural areas, the partnership will provide loans to borrowers with middle-class and lower-class incomes.
- ❖ This relationship combines the financial knowledge and vast branch network of the Central Bank of India with the 'High Tech + High Touch' strategy of Piramal Finance, which employs technology to provide a seamless customer experience.
- ❖ Customers in the unorganized sector, such as salaried and self-employed individuals, who find it difficult to receive traditional credit since their income is not verified, profit from it.
- ❖ With an emphasis on building a varied, multi-product loan book, this alliance will provide competitive interest rates and tailored lending solutions to clients who are either new to credit or underserved by larger financial institutions.
- ❖ Focusing on building a varied, multi-product loan book, it will offer attractive interest rates and tailored credit solutions to customers who are underserved or new to larger financial institutions.
- ❖ The Indian Public Sector Bank (PSB) Central Bank of India is based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### Award

#### **Jana Small Finance Bank Sweeps 4 Awards at ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave**



##### **About News:-**

- ❖ At the 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards (2024), held in New Delhi, Delhi on August 22–23, organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB) Limited, located in Bengaluru (Karnataka), was honored with four awards: Best Small Finance Bank (India), Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management.
- ❖ This demonstrates Jana SFB's exceptional performance on several important measures as well as their devotion to offering creative financial solutions.
- ❖ Gopal Tripathi, Head of Treasury and Capital Markets at Jana SFB was present at the awards ceremony.

##### **Concerning Jana SFB:**

- ❖ The fourth-largest Small Finance Bank (SFB) in India is Jana Small Finance Bank, a scheduled commercial bank that was formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited.
- ❖ It was first registered in March 2008 as a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) and subsequently designated as an NBFC-Micro Finance Institution (NBFC-MFI).
- ❖ It started conducting banking business in March 2018 and has since expanded to 24 states and Union Territories (UTs) in India.

#### **The 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2024 presented J&K Bank with the "Best Performance on Profitability" award.**

At the 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2024, Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (J&K Bank), a Scheduled Commercial Bank (SCB) and one of the oldest private sector banks in India, won the "Best Performance on Profitability" award in the Private Sector Bank (Mid-Size) category.

##### **Important Points:**

- ❖ The Bank's outstanding profitability among India's mid-sized private sector banks is highlighted by this award. On behalf of the Bank, General Manager Rajesh Gupta accepted the prize.

- ❖ In the fiscal year 2024, J&K Bank registered its highest-ever net profit of Rs 1767 crore, setting a new record profit for the second year in a row.
- ❖ J&K Bank, with its headquarters in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, was established in 1938.

### Concerning the 2024 ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards

- ❖ Regulators, bank professionals, and other stakeholders from the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) region came together for the 2024 conclave.
- ❖ The conclave in 2024 has "Leading in the Digital Paradigm" as its topic.
- ❖ It included talks about how technology developments are affecting the financial sector.
- ❖ In addition, it offers a forum for regulators and delegates taking part in the conclave to exchange best practices and knowledge.
- ❖ Several banks from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka took part in the 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards in 2024.

### Sport

### Indian Women Wrestlers Shine at U17 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan



#### About News:-

At the U17 World Wrestling Championships in 2024, the young Indian women wrestlers put on a fantastic display, taking home the team title and ending the Japanese stranglehold in the division. Outperforming the male wrestlers, the Indian women's delegation took home eight of the ten

medals earned by the Indian wrestlers in the Championships.

### Ten medals were won by the Indian team: five gold, one silver, and four bronze.

- ❖ Three bronze, seven silver, and one gold medal were won by Turkiye, India at the U17 World Wrestling Championships in Istanbul, Turkey in 2023.
- ❖ United Global Wrestling, the organization that oversees global wrestling, hosted the U17 World Wrestling Championships 2024 in Amman, Jordan, from August 19-25, 2024.

### The Amman Event included Indian Wrestlers

- ❖ Three disciplines were contested at the U17 World Wrestling Championships in 2024: women's freestyle, men's freestyle, and Greco-Roman. The Indian delegation took part in 29 out of the 30 medal events that were held. In the men's freestyle competition, the Indian was unable to secure any medals.

### The Team Event was won by an Indian women's wrestler

- ❖ The Indian women's wrestlers won the team title for the first time in the history of the U-17 World Wrestling Championships.
- ❖ They scored 185 points to take first place as a team, winning five gold, one silver, and two bronze medals. With 146 points, Kazakhstan finished third while Japan came in second.
- ❖ Throughout the last five tournament editions, the Indian women's team has consistently finished in the top five spots. They finished second in 2022, after Japan, and second behind the USA squad in 2021.
- ❖ Only two medals were won by the Indian men's team at the 2024 Championship.

### Medal Winners of India

Following is the list of the Indian medal winners at the U17 World Wrestling Championships 2024.

Serial Number	Wrestler	Event	Medal
1	<b>Aditi Kumari</b>	Women's freestyle 43kg	Gold
2	<b>Neha Sangwan</b>	Women's freestyle 57 kg	Gold
3	<b>Pulkit</b>	Women's freestyle 65 kg	Gold
4	<b>Kajal</b>	Women's freestyle 69kg	Gold
5	<b>Mansi Lather</b>	Women's freestyle 73kg	Gold
6	<b>Shrutika Patil</b>	Women's freestyle 46kg	Silver
7	<b>Sainath Pardhi</b>	Greco-Roman 51kg	Bronze
8	<b>Ronak Dahiya</b>	Greco-Roman 110kg	Bronze
9	<b>Bala Raj</b>	Women's freestyle 40kg	Bronze
10	<b>Muskan</b>	Women's freestyle 53 kg	Bronze

### Miscellaneous

#### Odisha govt to cull 20,000 birds in response to avian influenza outbreak

##### About News:-

- ❖ An avian influenza outbreak has been reported from Odisha, where the H5N1 strain of the virus was discovered, leading the authorities to kill almost 11,700 hens.
- ❖ Ducks were mass-culled after bird flu was discovered in Kerala's Alappuzha district in April of 2024.
- ❖ In February 2006, a poultry farm in Navapur tehsil, Nandurbar district, Maharashtra, reported the first incidence of an outbreak of the avian influenza virus A (H5N1) in India.



#### Recent bird flu cases in Odisha

- ❖ The Puri district of Odisha's Pipili town is home to a poultry farm where a recent case of bird flu was recorded. Following news of the poultry farm's huge chicken deaths, the local government submitted the contaminated chicken carcasses to the National Institute of High-Security Animal

Disease, Bhopal, for examination. Testing revealed that the carcasses contained the H5N1 virus.

- ❖ The district officials began culling the hens in the poultry farm, neighboring houses, and the village area after receiving confirmation from the Bhopal laboratory.

#### What is Avian Influenza or Bird Flu?

- ❖ Known by most as "bird flu," avian influenza is a virus that primarily affects birds but can also occasionally infect people.
- ❖ influenza in birds Influenza A(H5N1) virus subtype is the most frequent cause of avian flu in humans. However, the H7N7 and H7N9 influenza strains have lately been linked to human cases of avian flu.
- ❖ 1997 saw the discovery of the first human case of avian flu among poultry workers in Hong Kong.
- ❖ In June 2021, Haryana announced the first human case of avian influenza A(H5N1) in India. An 18-year-old boy contracted influenza A(H5N1) from birds and died as a result.

#### Virus-carrying entity

- ❖ The virus is mostly carried by wild birds, from which it spreads to domestic poultry as well as other bird and animal species.

- ❖ Avian influenza viruses are spread by infected birds through their mucous, saliva, and feces.
- ❖ The virus can enter a person's body through their mouth, nose, or eyes, or it can infect them by inhalation.
- ❖ A person may die from severe pneumonia brought on by the illness.

### Book

**Soumya Swaminathan releases autobiography of activist Kalpana Sankar**



#### About News:-

- ❖ The autobiography 'The Scientist Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women' was issued by activist Dr. Kalpana Sankar, whose father Soumya Swaminathan was the Chief Scientist of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Chairperson of the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation.
- ❖ The book launch took place in Chennai, Tamil Nadu (TN), as part of a celebration of social entrepreneurship and women's empowerment.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ The journey of Dr. Sankar from nuclear physicist to trailblazing entrepreneur is chronicled in the book. Rupa Publications India Private Limited, New Delhi (Delhi), is the publisher of this book.
- ❖ The book launch underscores the significance of community development and women's economic empowerment through grassroots efforts.
- ❖ The first copy of the book was given to Swaady Martin-Leke, an entrepreneur, chairperson, and CEO of YSWARA in South Africa (SA).

### Obituary

**Nari Hira of Stardust dreams passes away**



#### About News:-

Nari Hira, the well-known film producer and proprietor of the Magna Publishing Company Limited (MPCL) located in Mumbai, Maharashtra, passed away at the age of 86. In 1938, he was born in what is now Pakistan's Karachi.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ In the 1960s, he started as a journalist but eventually switched to publishing, where he became known as the "King of Indian Magazines."
- ❖ His publishing company's subsidiary Magna Films, which was founded in 2007, was his vehicle for producing motion pictures.
- ❖ Hira gained notoriety for breaking new ground in the publication of well-known periodicals like Stardust, Savvy, Showtime, Society, and Health.
- ❖ In appreciation for her contributions to Indian publications, he was given the "Lifetime Achievement Award" by the Indian Magazine Congress.

