

11 September 2024

Randhir Singh: 1st Indian elected as Olympic Council of Asia President



Key Points:

- ❖ Former shooter and able administrator Raja Randhir Singh became the first Indian to be elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia.
- ❖ He and other office bearers of the Olympic Committee of Asia were elected at the 44th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, held in New Delhi on 8 September 2024.
- ❖ All 45 Olympic Council Committee members attended the General Assembly meeting in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Olympic Council of Asia, recognised by the International Olympic Committee, is the sports governing body in Asia.

Raja Randhir Singh elected unanimously 77-year-old

- ❖ Raja Randhir Singh has been the acting President of the Olympic Council of Asia since 2021, when the incumbent President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah of Kuwait, was

banned from sports administration for 15 years for breach of ethics.

- ❖ At the New Delhi meeting, Raja Randhir Singh was unanimously elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia.

Term of Raja Randhir Singh as President

- ❖ Raja Randhir Singh has been elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia for a four year term from 2024 to 2028.

About the Olympic Council of Asia

- ❖ The Olympic Council of Asia was established as the Asian Games Federation in 1949 in New Delhi.
- ❖ In 1981, its name was changed to the Olympic Council of Asia, and its headquarters moved from New Delhi to Kuwait.
- ❖ The Olympic Council of Asia is a non-governmental body that governs sports in Asia.
- ❖ Member: 45
- ❖ Asian National Olympic Committee
- ❖ Headquarters: Kuwait
- ❖ President: Raja Randhir Singh

5 pact signed between India and Abu Dhabi in Energy and Food Park



Key Points:

- ❖ India and Abu Dhabi Emirate signed five memorandums of understanding (MoU)/agreements to strengthen cooperation in fossil fuels, the nuclear sector, and food parks.
- ❖ These agreements were signed during the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's official visit to India.
- ❖ The Crown Prince was on his first official visit to India on September 9 and 10, 2024. He visited New Delhi on September 9 to meet Indian political leaders and Mumbai on September 10 to boost economic and business ties.
- ❖ Abu Dhabi Emirates is one of the seven emirates of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Five Agreements on Energy and Food Park

- ❖ The Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on 9 September 2024.
- ❖ During the meeting between the two leaders, five MoUs/agreements were signed between India and Abu Dhabi.

Long-term supply of LNG

- ❖ Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) will supply one million

metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) of LNG (liquefied natural gas) to the Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

- ❖ This is the third agreement between an Indian company and ADNOC in the past year.
- ❖ IOCL and GAIL had previously signed long-term agreements with ADNOC to supply 1.2 MMTPA and 0.5 MMTPA of LNG, respectively.

MoU between ADNOC and India Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited

- ❖ Currently, ADNOC has leased 0.75 million tonnes of oil storage capacity in the ISPRL's Mangalore oil cavern storage facility.
- ❖ Under the new MoU, ADNOC will explore further opportunities in oil storage with ISPRL. MoU on Nuclear Cooperation
- ❖ MoU was signed between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NNPCIL) and Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC). ■ The UAE has a 5.6 GW nuclear power plant at Barakah, Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ This MoU will facilitate cooperation in operating and maintaining nuclear power plants, sourcing nuclear goods and services from India, exploring mutual investment opportunities, and capacity building.

Concession on Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1

- ❖ An MoU was signed between the Indian company Urja Bharat and ADNOC for the Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1 oil field.
- ❖ Under the MoU, the Indian company will be able to bring oil from Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1 to India.
- ❖ This is the first time an Indian company will be allowed to bring crude oil from Abu Dhabi oil fields.
- ❖ Urja Bharat is a joint venture of IOCL and Petro Bharat Resources Limited. The company operates oil blocks in the Abu Dhabi Onshore Block 1 oil fields. MoU on Food Park
- ❖ The Government of Gujarat and Abu Dhabi Developmental Holding Company PJSC (ADQ) signed an MoU to develop food parks in Gundanpara, Bavla, and Ahmedabad.
- ❖ Abu Dhabi will invest in these food parks.
- ❖ The project is expected to start in the second quarter of 2025.

Crown Prince's Visit to Mumbai

- ❖ During his visit to Mumbai on 10th September 2024, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al also initiated work on the India -UAE virtual trade corridor and MAITRI interface to facilitate the virtual trade corridor.

- ❖ The virtual trade corridor facility will enable online customs clearance for goods to be traded between the two countries.
- ❖ It will increase the ease of trading between the two countries by cutting the red tape and will also help reduce the cost of exports and imports.
- ❖ The virtual trade corridor will complement the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), which became effective on 1 May 2022.
- ❖ CEPA aims to promote free trade in goods and services between India and UAE and set a target of \$100 Nahyan participated in the India-UAE Business Forum meeting.
- ❖ He billion in non-oil trade between the two countries by 2030

India UAE Relationships

- ❖ India has a very close political, economic and defence relationship with the UAE.
- ❖ Around 3.5 million Indian expatriates live in the UAE, the largest expatriate population.
- ❖ In 2023-24, the UAE was India's third-largest trading partner after China and the United States of America.
- ❖ The total trade between the two countries in 2023-24 was \$ 83.6 billion.

- ❖ To promote trade between the two countries, India and UAE signed a Local Currency Settlement System in July 2023 to promote the use of the Indian Rupee and United Arab Emirates Dirham for bilateral trade transactions.
- ❖ In defence, the first India-UAE bilateral army exercise, 'Desert Cyclone,' was held in Rajasthan in January 2024.

Syria wins the 4th Intercontinental Cup Men's Football Tournament



Key Points:

- ❖ Syria defeated India 3-0 in the last round-robin match to win the 4th Intercontinental Cup men's football championship.
 - ❖ India, the defending champions, could not score a single goal in the match. The Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, presented the winners' trophy to Syrian captain Mahmoud Al-Mawas, also named the Syed Abdul Rahim Player of the Tournament.
 - ❖ The best player of the tournament is given the Syed Abdul Rahim trophy.
- ❖ The All India Football Federation organised the 4th Intercontinental Cup football championship from 3 to 9 September 2024 at the GMC Balayogi Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Teams and format of the 4th Intercontinental Cup Football Tournament

- ❖ In the 4th Intercontinental Cup Football championship, three teams- India, Syria and Mauritius participated.
- ❖ Syria, ranked 93rd in the latest FIFA ranking, was the highest-ranked team in the tournament, followed by host India, ranked 124th, and Mauritius, ranked 179th.
- ❖ The tournament was played in a round-robin format, with each team playing against each other once.
- ❖ Syria remained unbeaten in the tournament, defeating Mauritius 2-0 and India 3-0 and emerged the winner.
- ❖ India played a goalless draw with Mauritius. The Indian football team, under new coach Manolo Márquez, failed to score a single goal in the tournament

**Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
host 2024 Swachh Vayu Diwas**



Key Points:

- ❖ The Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board hosted the 5th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies or Swachh Vayu Diwas on 7 September 2024 in the pink city of Jaipur.
- ❖ Along with the 5th International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies or Swachh Vayu Diwas, the 4th meeting of the Apex Committee of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was also held in Jaipur on 7 September.
- ❖ It was chaired by Bhupendra Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Who attended the 2024 Swachh Vayu Diwas function?

- ❖ The 2024 Swachh Vayu Diwas function in Jaipur was attended by Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Bhajan Lal Sharma, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Sanjay Sharma, the Minister of State for Forest, Environment & Climate Change of the Government of Rajasthan, and other dignitaries. On

the occasion, the Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award was presented to the winners of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

Winners of 2024 Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award

- ❖ Bhupender Yadav and Bhajan Lal Sharma conferred the prizes to the winner of the 2024 Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award for cities under NCAP.
- ❖ The Municipal Commissioners of the winning cities were awarded cash prizes, trophies, and a certificate.
- ❖ This award was given to cities participating in the National Clean Air Programme for their performance in reducing air pollution and improving air quality in their cities.
- ❖ Category 1 Award (for cities with a population of over 10 lakhs)
- ❖ Winner Cities- Surat (Gujarat), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), and Agra (Uttar Pradesh); Category-2 (population between 3 and 10 Lakhs)
- ❖ Winner cities -Firozabad (Uttar Pradesh), Amravati(Maharashtra), and Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh); and
- ❖ Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs)
- ❖ Winner cities - Raebareli(Uttar Pradesh), Nalgonda (Telangana), and Nalagarh(Himachal Pradesh)

About NACP

- ❖ The government of India launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to reduce air pollution in identified cities.
- ❖ It includes 131 non-attainment and million-plus population cities in 24 States and Union Territories.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change administers the NCAP.

Targets under the NACP

- ❖ The goal is to reduce the concentration of PM_{2.5}(particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less) by 20 to 30 per cent by 2024.
- ❖ Target to reduce by up to 40 per cent the concentration of PM₁₀(particulate matter of diameter between 10 and 2.5 micrometres) by 2025-26.
- ❖ The base year of the pollution level is 2017.

Non-Attainment Cities

- ❖ Non-attainment cities are those that consistently do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM₁₀ (Particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter) or NO₂ (Nitrogen Dioxide) over a period of five years.

Jannik Sinner ,Aryna Sabalenka wins 2024 US Open Singles title



Key Points:

- ❖ Jannik Sinner of Italy and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the men's and women's singles titles of the 2024 US Open Grand Slam Tennis tournament, respectively.
- ❖ It was the first US Open title for Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka. It was the second Grand Slam title for Jannik Sinner and the third Grand Slam title for Aryna Sabalenka.
- ❖ The four grand slam events in tennis are the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open.
- ❖ The 2024 US Open championship was held in Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York City, the United States of America, from 19 August to -8 September 2024.

Jannik Sinner -First Italian man to win the US Open

- ❖ World No.1 Jannik Sinner became the first Italian in the open era to win the men's singles title at the US Open.
- ❖ In the final played at the Arthur Ash stadium on 8 September 2024, Jannik Sinner defeated Taylor Fritz of the USA 6-3, 6-4, 7-5.

- ❖ This was the second Grand Slam title for Jannik Sinner. He won the 2024 Australian Open singles title.
- ❖ The 23-year-old Sinner reached the semi-finals of the 2024 French Open and the quarter-finals of the 2024 Wimbledon this season.

Event	Winner (Nationalities)	Runners-UP (Nationalities)
Men's Single	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Taylor Fritz (USA)
Women's Single	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Jessica Pegula (USA)
Men's Double	Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson (Both Australian)	Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz (Both from Germany)
Women's Double	Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine) and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)	Kristina Mladenovic (France) and Zhang Shuai (China)
Mixed Doubles	Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori (Both from Italy)	Donald Young and Taylor Townsend (Both American)

About the US Open

- ❖ The US Open is the fourth and the last Grand Slam tournament of a calendar year.
- ❖ It was first held in 1881, and since 1978, it has been played on the hard court.
- ❖ Since 1978, all the US Open matches have been played at the United States Tennis Association Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York.
- ❖ In the Open era, Roger Federer (Switzerland), American Pete Sampras and Jimmy Connors have won the men's singles title for a record five times each.
- ❖ In the open era, Serena Williams and Chris Evert (both American) hold the record for winning six titles each.

Odisha's second AIIMS will come up in Sambalpur



Key Points:

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced that the state's second AIIMS will be built in Sambalpur.
- ❖ The state got its first All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) in 2014 during the UPA regime.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Majhi also launched 'CM-KISAN Yojana' on the occasion of the Nuakhai festival at Odisha's Sambalpur
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide 925 crores financial assistance to 46 lakhs small and marginal farmers who are not covered under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) yojana.
- ❖ Eligible farmers will receive a total of Rs 4,000 in two phases. The first installment of Rs 2,000 will be distributed on Nuakhai, which begins from September 8, and the remaining Rs 2,000 will be provided on Akshaya Tritiya.

Indian Army & Indian Air Force ink MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya



Key Points:

- ❖ To enhance the skills and capability building of their personnel, the Indian Army and Indian Air Force signed an MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi.
- ❖ The MoU will enable the two Services to acquire higher expertise in logistics.
- ❖ It will ensure the development of inhouse expertise on various facets of logistics operations and contribute effectively towards the national development plans – PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and National Logistics Policy 2022.

Arun Goel appointed ambassador to Croatia



Key Points:

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has appointed former Election Commissioner Arun Goel as India's next ambassador to Republic of Croatia.
- ❖ The retired bureaucrat earlier served as the Election Commissioner of India. He was appointed as the Election Commissioner in November 2022.
- ❖ He resigned from the post in March 2024.
- ❖ Prior to his appointment as the Election Commissioner, he had taken voluntary retirement after serving as a 1985-batch IAS officer of the Punjab cadre.

DICGC introduces Daava Soochak for depositors to track claim status

DID YOU KNOW?

DICGC LAUNCHES ONLINE TOOL TO TRACK CLAIM STATUS

The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has launched an online tool 'Daava Soochak' for depositors to track their claim status. The DICGC's mandate since its inception has been the reimbursement of insured amounts to depositors of failed banks.

Key Points:

- ❖ The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has launched an online tool Daava Soochak for depositors to track their claim status.

- ❖ The DICGC's mandate since its inception has been the reimbursement of insured amounts to depositors of failed banks.
- ❖ Daava Sookhak, a user-friendly online tool, is part of DICGC's ongoing commitment to improving the services provided for depositors.
- ❖ Depositors can now track the status of their claims by entering their mobile number (registered with their bank) on the DICGC website.
- ❖ To begin with, depositors can view the status of their claims for banks placed under All Inclusive Directions (AID) post-April 01, 2024.
- ❖ The deposit insurance coverage limit has been enhanced six times since 1962, from Rs 1,500 per depositor held in the same right and same capacity at all the branches of the insured bank to Rs 5,00,000 on February 04, 2020.

SBI Foundation launches 3rd Edition of Asha Scholarship Program



Key Points:

- ❖ The SBI Foundation has launched the 3rd edition of its Asha Scholarship

Program, supporting 10,000 meritorious students from underprivileged backgrounds.

- ❖ Scholarships ranging from 15 thousand to 2 lakh rupees are available for students from Class 6 to postgraduate level.
- ❖ The program includes categories for those in IITs, IIMs, and a special 'Study Abroad' category for SC and ST students. Applications are open until October 1, 2024.

Tuhin Kanta Pandey appointed new Finance Secretary



Key Points:

- ❖ Senior bureaucrat Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary. Pandey, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Odisha cadre, is currently the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) secretary.
- ❖ The vacancy was created following the appointment of T V Somanathan as the Cabinet secretary last month

Abdelmadjid Tebboune re-elected as Algerian President



Key Points:

- ❖ 78-year-old incumbent President Abdelmadjid Tebboune of Algeria was re-elected with a landslide victory.
- ❖ According to Mohamed Charfi, head of the National Independent Authority for Elections, President Abdelmadjid Tebboune secured 94.65 per cent of the valid votes.
- ❖ President Abdelmadjid Tebboune was elected for a second five-year term.
- ❖ President Abdelmadjid Tebboune was first elected as the President of Algeria in 2019, which was boycotted by the opposition

About Algeria

- Capital- Algiers
- Currency-Algerian Dinar
- Continent – Africa
- President – Abdelmadjid Tebboune



Moeen Ali announces retirement from international cricket



Key Points:

- ❖ Moeen Ali, the versatile England all-rounder, has officially announced his retirement from international cricket. Moeen made his international debut in 2014 against West Indies.
- ❖ He scored 6678 international runs and picked 366 wickets.
- ❖ He won the 2019 Cricket World Cup and 2022 T20 World Cup with the senior men's side.

OCA includes Yogasana as demonstration sport in 2026 Asian Games



Key Points:

- ❖ India's ancient sport, yogasana was included as a demonstration event at the 2026 Asian Games to be held in AichiNagoya, Japan.
- ❖ Yogasana's inclusion in the Asian Games calendar as a demonstration sport was unanimously passed at the 44th General Assembly of Olympic Council of Asia.

