

### Indian Men & Women's team wins Bronze at Asian TT Championships 2024



#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian men's and women's teams won bronze medals in their respective events at the 27th Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024, held in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ This was the first medal for the women's team in the championships after 1960, when they won bronze at Bombay, while for the men's team, it was their third consecutive bronze medal.

#### Historic Bronze Medal for Indian Women

- ❖ The Indian women's Table Tennis team of Ayhika Mukherjee, Manika Batra, and Sutirtha Mukherjee lost their semi-final match against the eventual winner, Japan, 3-1.
- ❖ In the Asian Table Tennis Championships, the losing semi-finalists are awarded the bronze medal.
- ❖ This was the first medal for the Indian women's team at the Asian Table Tennis Championships since the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) started organising the competition in 1972.
- ❖ The Asian Table Tennis Championships were earlier organised by the Table Tennis Federation of Asia (TTFA).
- ❖ The Indian team won a bronze medal at the 1960 Championships organised by TTFA. The Japanese team won the gold medal in the women's team event by defeating China in the final.

#### Bronze for the Indian Men's Team

- ❖ The India men's team of Sharath Kamal, Manav Thakkar and Harmeet Desai lost

their semi-final match against the Chinese Taipei (Taiwan) 3-0 to settle for a bronze medal in the Championships.

- ❖ This was the third consecutive bronze medal for the India team in the Championships. The Indian team won a bronze medal at the 2021 (Doha, Qatar) and 2023 (Pyeongchang, South Korea) editions of the Asian Table Tennis Championship.
- ❖ Earlier, the Indian team defeated host Kazakhstan's team 3-1 in the quarter-finals to reach the semi-finals

#### Asian Table Tennis Championships

- ❖ The Asian Table Tennis Championships is organised by the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) and hosted by a member country.
- ❖ The 27th Asian Table Tennis Championships was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 7-13 October 2024. The Astana event is also a qualifying event for the 2025 World Table Tennis Championships, which will be held in Doha, Qatar.
- ❖ Around 210 top Asian table tennis players from 26 countries participated in the 27th Asian Table Tennis Championships.
- ❖ At the Astana event, the medals are offered at seven different events: men's team, women's team, men's singles, women's singles, men's doubles, women's doubles, and mixed doubles.

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi concludes his visit to Lao PDR



#### Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his twoday official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) on 11 October 2024.

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi was in Lao PDR on 10 and 11 October 2024 to participate in the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia Summit meeting.
- ❖ Lao PDR, being the chairman of the 10-member ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), hosted the 44&45th ASEAN Summit meeting, the 27th ASEAN Plus Three Summit (ASEANChina, Japan, and the Republic of Korea), and the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia Summit meeting.
- ❖ All these meetings were held in the Lao PDR capital city of Vientiane.
- ❖ The Lao PDR Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone invited Prime Minister Modi to visit LAO PDR and attend the relevant summit meeting.

**PM Modi's witness Lao's Ramayana Phra Lak Phra Ram**



**Key Points:**

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi attended Lao's version of Ramanaya, enacted by the prestigious Royal Theatre of Luang Prabang in Vientiane.
- ❖ Ramayana in Lao is called as Phalak Phalam or Phra Lak Phra Ram.
- ❖ Indian culture strongly influences Southeast Asian countries, and the Ramayana is part of local culture in Indonesia and Malaysia.

**India &Lao PDR to Strengthen Bilateral Relations**

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi met with Lao PDR Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone and held bilateral talks. Both leaders agreed to strengthen their bilateral relationships, and a number of agreements/MoUs were signed between India and the Lao PDR to strengthen these relationships.

- ❖ India will provide USD 1 million to Lao PDR through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to improve nutrition security in Lao PDR through food fortification.
- ❖ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two countries to promote Defence Cooperation.
- ❖ MoU between Prasar Bharti and Lao National Television,
- ❖ An agreement was signed between the two countries to promote Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between the two countries.
- ❖ Agreement on Preservation of the heritage of performing art of Phalak-Phalam.
- ❖ Renovation of Wat Phakea Temple in Luang Prabang Province of Lao PDR.
- ❖ Preservation of Shadow Puppet Theater's Performance in Champasak Province of Lao PDR.

**21st ASEAN-India Summit Meeting at Vientiane**

- ❖ The 21st ASEAN-India Summit meeting was held in Vientiane on October 10, 2024.
- ❖ The summit meeting also marked the 10th year of the Modi government's Act East Policy. The meeting was attended by the leaders of the 10 ASEAN countries and the ASEAN observer country, Timor Leste.
- ❖ The first India-ASEAN summit meeting was held in Phnom Phen, Cambodia, in 2022, and since then, it has been held every year.
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was 'Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience.'
- ❖ During the meeting, the leaders agreed on a new ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026-2030) that will guide both sides in realising the full potential of the ASEAN-India partnership.
- ❖ The relationships between India and ASEAN were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership level.

**During his speech, the Prime Minister announced a 10-point plan to further the relationship between the ASEAN and India.**

- ❖ Some of the important ones are:
- ❖ Celebrate 2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, for which India will contribute USD 5 million.
- ❖ Number of scholarships for ASEAN students to study at Nalanda University, Bihar to be doubled. ▪ India will offer scholarships for ASEAN students at Indian Agricultural Universities.
- ❖ India will provide USD 5 million to enhance disaster resilience in the ASEAN countries.
- ❖ India -ASEAN to start a regular mechanism of ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue to strengthen Digital and Cyber Resilience.

### 19th East Asia Summit Meeting

- ❖ The 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) Meeting was held in Vientiane on 11 October 2024. It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leaders of the 18 members of the East Asian Summit group.
- ❖ The United States was represented by the Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. EAS members are the 10 member countries of ASEAN and the partner countries of Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States of America.
- ❖ The East Asia Summit was established by ASEAN in 2005 to further strategic and economic cooperation between ASEAN, the regional power, and the resident power—the United States of America and Russia.

### India- ASEAN Relation

- ❖ The Narasimha Rao government initiated the Look East Policy in 1992, which sought to increase trade and investment with ASEAN countries.
- ❖ In 2014, Prime Minister Modi's government launched the Act East Policy, which expanded the scope of the previous Look East Policy.

- ❖ The Act East Policy focused on the entire Indo-Pacific area, with ASEAN at its centre. It aims to enhance commerce, culture, and connectivity with the region.
- ❖ Since 1992, the India-ASEAN relationship has evolved from being ASEAN's sectoral partner to ASEAN's dialogue partner in 1996.
- ❖ In 1996, India was made a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
- ❖ The relationship was further upgraded to the Summit level in 2002, and in 2012, it was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership.
- ❖ In 2024, the relationship was upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- ❖ In 2010, India became a founding member of the ADMM (ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting) Plus Forum.

### Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- ❖ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), along with the European Union, is considered one of the most successful regional organisations in the world.
- ❖ It consists of 10 members of the Southeast Asian nations and was founded in 1967.
- ❖ Members: Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam and Singapore.
- ❖ Observer Status- Timor Leste
- ❖ Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia

### 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature to South Korean Han Kang

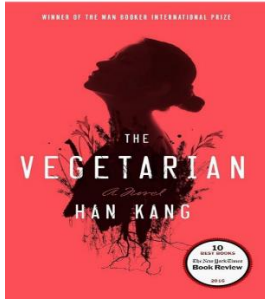


### Key Points:

- ❖ The Swedish Academy has selected South Korean novelist Han Kang for the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature. Han Kang is the first Asian woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

- ❖ She is the second South Korean to win the Nobel Prize after former President Kim DaeJung. President Kim Dae-Jung was conferred the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000.
- ❖ Han Kang will receive her 11 million Kroner prize at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on 10 December 2024, Alfred Nobel's death anniversary.

### About the Nobel Prize winner Han Kang



- ❖ The 2016 International Booker Prize-winning novelist Han Kang was selected by the Swedish Academy “for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life.” 53-year-old Han Kang, who writes in Korean, published her first poems in a magazine in 1993 and her first short story collection in 1995.
- ❖ Her novel ‘The Vegetarian’ brought her international recognition and the 2016 International Booker Prize.
- ❖ Her important works include Your Cold Hands, Greek Lessons, Human Acts, The White Book, etc

### Nobel Prize in Literature

- ❖ The Nobel Foundation instituted the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1900, as per Alfred Nobel's will, and the first prize was given in 1901.
- ❖ The first person to be honoured with the prize was Sully Prudhomme of France in 1901.
- ❖ The 2023 prize was awarded to Jon Olav Fosse of Norway.
- ❖ Between 1901 to 2024, the Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded 117 times to 121 persons.

### Indian Nobel Prize Winner in Literature

- ❖ Rabindranath Tagore was the first Asian and Indian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature (1913). He is the only Indian to receive the prize.

### Sanjeev Kr Singla appointed as India's next Ambassador to France



### Key Points:

- ❖ Diplomat Sanjeev Kumar Singla has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to France. An Indian Foreign Service officer of batch 1997, Singla presently serves as the Ambassador of India to Israel.
- ❖ His contributions to shaping India's foreign policy towards Israel have been described as significant. Singla handled sensitive matters, particularly the complex Israel-Palestine conflict, with caution and diplomacy.
- ❖ His careful approach to these issues ensured that India maintained balanced relations in the region during volatile times.

### National Space Commission approves India's Fifth Lunar Mission 'Lupex'



### Key Points:

- ❖ After the success of Chandrayaan-3 in August 2023, India's National Space Commission (NSC) has approved a new lunar mission, called the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex).
- ❖ This mission is a partnership between India's space agency ISRO and Japan's space agency JAXA, and it will focus on exploring the Moon's resources, especially water at the lunar south pole.

- ❖ The collaborative moon expedition, set to touch down at the precise southern tip of the moon (90-degree latitude), is focused on exploring the moon for water and other valuable resources.
- ❖ In this mission, JAXA (Japan) will build the rover and the rocket, while ISRO (India) will build the lander that will carry the rover to the Moon's surface.
- ❖ The Lupex rover will be about 350 kg in weight, much larger than the Pragyan rover from Chandrayaan-3, which weighed just 26 kg.
- ❖ Lupex's information will help plan future missions to the Moon, including those that may bring lunar samples back to Earth. It is also part of India's larger plan to send astronauts to the Moon by 2040.

#### Objectives of the Lupex Mission

- ❖ The main goal of the Lupex mission is to study water and other important resources on the Moon.
- ❖ Scientists want to understand how much water is present, where it is located, and whether it is just on the surface or also beneath the Moon's soil, known as regolith.

#### How long will the Mission Last?

- ❖ Lupex is designed to operate for up to 100 days on the Moon's surface. This is a longer time compared to previous lunar missions, allowing the mission to gather more information.
- ❖ It will explore areas that are permanently shadowed places that sunlight never reaches—using special tools for drilling and on-site experiments

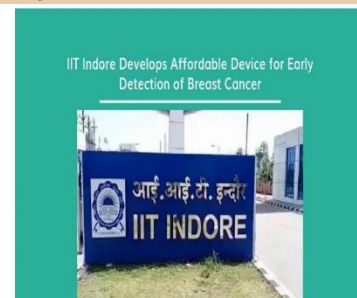
**Cabinet approves supply of fortified rice under welfare schemes till Dec 2028 at cost of Rs 17,082 cr**



#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of the universal supply of Fortified Rice under all schemes of the Government including Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) and Other Welfare Schemes etc. in its present form, from July 2024 and upto December 2028.
- ❖ The rice fortification initiative will continue as a central sector initiative with 100% funding by the Government of India as part of PMGKAY (Food Subsidy), thus providing a unified institutional mechanism for implementation.
- ❖ Food fortification has been used globally as a safe and effective measure to address anaemia and, micronutrient malnutrition in the vulnerable population.
- ❖ Rice is an ideal vehicle for supplying micronutrients in the Indian Context as 65% of India's population consumes rice as a staple food.
- ❖ Rice fortification involves the addition of Fortified Rice Kernels (FRK) enriched with micronutrients (Iron, Folic Acid, Vitamin B12) as standards prescribed by FSSAI regular rice

#### IIT Indore launches Affordable Device for Early Breast Cancer Detection



#### Key Points:

- ❖ IIT Indore has introduced a new device for the early detection of breast cancer, specifically designed to help women in rural and remote areas.
- ❖ This device, created by Prof. Srivathsan Vasudevan, is an important step in making cancer screening more affordable and accessible.

- ❖ The device uses Photoacoustic Spectral Response (PASR) technology, which combines light and sound to detect abnormal changes in tissue. This helps identify cancer at an early stage.
- ❖ What makes this device special is its low cost. Once it is commercially produced, it will cost about one-tenth of traditional methods like MRI and CT scans, making it much more affordable for people in poor and underserved areas.
- ❖ This new cost-effective device, made in India, could change that by offering a cheaper, reliable option for early cancer detection, helping to close the gap in healthcare for rural communities.

#### International Day of the Girl Child



- ❖ The International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated annually on October 11.
  - ❖ **Objective – To raise awareness about the unique challenges girls face worldwide and promote their empowerment.**
  - ❖ **Theme 2024 – Girls’ Vision for the Future**
- International Day of the Girl Child was established by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2011 to recognise the challenges and discrimination faced by girls worldwide and to promote their rights and empowerment.**

#### PM Narendra Modi’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’ Completes 10 Years



#### Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s popular radio programme Mann Ki Baat has completed ten yearson 3 October.
- ❖ It was on this day in 2014 that Mr Modi started sharing his thoughts through the programme on Akashvani. Mann Ki Baat has become an important platform for interaction between the Prime Minister and the citizens.
- ❖ PM Narendra Modi’s ‘Mann Ki Baat’ Completes 10 Years In the ten-year journey of the programme, the Prime Minister has touched on significant social, cultural, environmental, and behavioural issues that have created a positive impact in the country

#### India launches ‘Study in India’ campaign at International Education Show in Sharjah



#### Key Points:

- ❖ India has officially launched its ‘Study in India’ campaign at the 20th International Education Show in Sharjah, marking a significant push to attract international students to its universities.
- ❖ Organized by EdCIL, a Miniratna company under the Ministry of Education, the campaign seeks to position India as a leading global education hub.
- ❖ The India Pavilion at Expo Centre Sharjah was inaugurated by Ahmed Mohamed Obaid Al Naboodah of the Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Shri Yatin Patil, Deputy Consul General of India in Dubai.
- ❖ The ‘Study in India’ programme showcases over 590 Indian universities and institutions, offering a variety of courses and exclusive benefits such as fee waivers and scholarships for international students.

**Bihar to develop Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary as tiger reserve, gets Centre's nod****Key Points:**

- ❖ The Bihar government will develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) as the state's second tiger reserve. The Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), which is the state's only national park, has reached its capacity, and now the state government was finalising modalities for translocating the big cats to KWLS.
- ❖ The Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary is spread over an area of 1,504.96 sq km.
- ❖ The KWLS is bounded in the north by Bhojpur, Buxar and parts of UP's Ghazipur, in the south by the districts of Palamu and Garhwa of Jharkhand and in the west by the districts of Sonabhadra and Varanasi of UP.

- ❖ On its east are the Aurangabad and Jehanabad districts of Bihar. The sanctuary supports sizable populations of leopard, sloth bear, chital, sambar, wild pig, nilgai, and chowsingha, besides about 70 species of birds

**About Bihar**

- ❖ Capital – Patna
- ❖ Chief Minister – Nitish Kumar (9 th time)
- ❖ Deputy CM – Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Kumar Sinha
- ❖ Governor – Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
- ❖ Rajya Sabha – 16 seats
- ❖ Lok Sabha – 40 seats

