

### International

#### Thai Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin removed from office by court order over an ethics violation



#### About News:-

- ❖ The country's highest constitutional court removed Srettha Thavasin, Thailand's prime minister, from office due to ethical transgressions. On August 14, 2024, the Court rendered a majority decision of 5 to 4, finding the Prime Minister guilty of transgressing ethical standards by designating Pichit Chuenban, a minister with a criminal record. Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin left her position following the decision.
- ❖ Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin is the fourth Thai prime minister to be dismissed from office in 16 years due to a decision rendered by the country's Constitutional Court.
- ❖ Following the general election held in May 2023, Srettha Thavasin was appointed prime minister in August 2023. The election saw his Pheu Thai party emerge as the second-largest party. To create the administration, he brought together eleven parties in a coalition.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ Srettha Thavasin nominated Pichit Chuenban as a minister in the prime minister's office in April 2024. However, a few weeks after his appointment generated controversy, he resigned.
- ❖ In 2008, Pichit Chuenban received a six-month jail sentence after being found guilty of contempt of court for attempting to bribe a judge in a case involving former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.
- ❖ In its decision, the Constitutional Court found that even though Pichit had already completed his prison sentence, his actions were dishonest.

- ❖ According to the Court, Srettha Thavasin selected Pichit as a minister despite being aware of his prior behavior. As a result, the Court ordered Prime Minister Srettha Thavasin to resign for breaking moral standards.
- ❖ Until a new prime minister is accepted by the Thai Parliament, the Cabinet will continue to serve as a caretaker cabinet.
- ❖ The 500-member House of Representatives (lower house) and the 250-member Senate (upper house) make up Thailand's bicameral parliament.
- ❖ A candidate for prime minister must receive the consent of both chambers of parliament.
- ❖ The Parliament can choose a new Prime Minister at any time.

#### The Thai Court System:-

- ❖ The Administrative Court, the Courts of Justice, the Constitutional Court, and the Military Court are the four categories of courts in Thailand. Each of these courts is autonomous and has distinct authority and duties.
- ❖ The Constitutional Court is in charge of defending the Constitution, preserving the rights and liberties of the populace, and upholding Thailand's democratic system of government, in which the King serves as Head of State.
- ❖ The Constitutional Court makes decisions on legislation to uphold the idea that the Constitution is the ultimate law of the state and to acknowledge and defend individual liberties and rights.

#### About Thailand:-

- ❖ Capital:- Bangkok
- ❖ Currency:- Baht
- ❖ King :- Vajiralongkorn

### National

#### 28th Central & State Statistical Organizations Conference Concludes in New Delhi



**About News:-**

- ❖ The 28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) was held on August 12 and 13, 2024, at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi, Delhi, by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- ❖ The conference was opened by Union Minister of State (MoS) (Independent Charge) Rao Inderjit Singh, MoSPI.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was "Use of Data for Decision Making: Strengthening State Statistical Systems".
- ❖ With the topic "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," the 27th COCSSO was held in Kolkata, West Bengal, in 2019.

**Important Points:-**

- ❖ There was an emphasis on the necessity of more frequent Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS) with data on jobs in rural areas and district-level statistics for key economic indicators.
- ❖ To fulfill the growing need for data, emphasis was placed on increased coordination between the Center and the States/Union Territories (UTs).
- ❖ Among MoSPI's recent initiatives are the Data Users' conferences, the Research and Analysis Unit for data-driven policy insights, the Data Innovation Lab, and the e-Sankhyiki portal as a data repository.
- ❖ It gave Central and State Statistical Organizations a forum for communication and cooperation in an effort to improve the effectiveness of the Indian Statistical System.
- ❖ The conference covered a wide range of subjects, such as data and metadata standards, infrastructure and project monitoring, data dissemination, agriculture and livestock, SDGs, sample surveys, national and regional accounts, statistical strengthening of states, internal quality assessment framework, consumer price index, social statistics, capacity building, economic census & enterprise surveys, environment statistics, etc.

**Regarding the 28th COCSSO:-**

- ❖ The purpose is to enable the sharing of concepts, best practices, and dialogues on shared problems and future directions.
- ❖ Participants: Representatives from more than 30 Central Ministries/Departments, around 29 State/UT Governments, and various organizations, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in Mumbai, Maharashtra, the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB), and UN agencies, among others.

**Economic****RBI sets up a 10-member expert committee on benchmarking its statistics****About News:-**

- ❖ A ten-member expert group led by Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was established on August 12, 2024, to compare the RBI's routinely released statistics to international norms and best practices.
- ❖ The expert committee has until the end of November 2024 to turn in its findings.
- ❖ The Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS), Balance of Payments (BoP), Foreign Trade Statistics (FTS), External Debt of India, Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy, and others are among the important statistics made public by the RBI.

**Purpose:-**

- ❖ The committee has been charged with the duty of evaluating the quality of other routine data in fields (like national security) that lack benchmarks.
- ❖ The group will offer recommendations regarding possible areas for more data improvement.

**Members:-**

- ❖ The remaining nine members of the expert committee, except the chairman, are:
- ❖ The RBI's Executive Director (ED), Dr. O.P. Mall, has been designated as the committee convener.
- ❖ Former National Statistical Commission (NSC) Chairman R.B. Barman,
- ❖ Sonalde Desai, a professor and the director of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) at the National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC) in New Delhi,

- ❖ Dr. Partha Ray, Director of the National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM) located in Pune, Maharashtra,
- ❖ Professor Bimal Roy, the former director of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata, West Bengal (WB), and chairman of the NSC,
- ❖ Former statistician Dr. Paul Schreyer of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and former RBI Executive Director Sudarshan Sen
- ❖ Muneesh Kapur, the ED of the RBI, and Dr. Bruno Tissot, head of statistics and research assistance of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS), located in Basel, Switzerland.

#### About the Reserve Bank of India (RBI):-

- ❖ Established :- 1 April, 1935
- ❖ Headquarter:- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ❖ Governor :- Shaktikanta Das (25th Governor of RBI)

#### Appointment

#### Senior IRS Officer Rahul Navin was appointed Director of the Enforcement Directorate

##### About News:-

Rahul Navin, the acting head of the Enforcement Directorate, was named by the government on Wednesday as the full-time director of the anti-money laundering organization for a two-year term.



##### Key Points:-

- ❖ His appointment as the new Director of Enforcement in the Directorate of Enforcement was confirmed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet in a statement dated August 14.
- ❖ His appointment is effective from the day he takes over as head of the position and is valid for two years, or until additional directives are given.
- ❖ Currently holding the position of acting Director at the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Navin is a 1993-batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer.

- ❖ Navin, 57, has been the Special Director of ED from November 2019 until being appointed director. On September 15, 2023, he was designated as acting director following the departure of Sanjay Kumar Mishra.
- ❖ Mishra was given a two-year appointment by the government to become the ED director in 2018, however with the help of procedural tweaks, the administration continued to extend his term. He resigned in September 2023, as required by the Supreme Court, at the end of his term.

#### Science & Technology

#### India to begin production of LCA Mark2 jets by 2029 & 5th gen fighter AMCA by 2035

##### About News:-

Full-scale manufacture of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 2 fighter fighters, which are part of the 4.5 generation plus, is anticipated to start in 2029, with flight testing scheduled for March 2026. It was revealed at the LCA MK-II Development program's high-level review meeting, which took place at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi (Delhi).

##### Key Points:-

- ❖ Dr. Samir V. Kamat, Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), and Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Deputy Chief of Staff (DCAS) of the Indian Air Force (IAF), presided over the meeting.
- ❖ Furthermore, it is projected that by 2035, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), a fifth-generation fighter, will begin to be produced in large quantities.
- ❖ The engines of every LCA aircraft will be produced by American General Electric (GE). The GE-414 engine, which will be produced in India by an American company with indigenous content, will power the LCA Mark 2, while the GE-404 engine will power the LCA Mark 1 and Mark 1A.
- ❖ 180 LCA Mark 1A aircraft have been ordered by the IAF, and production is scheduled to end in 2032. It will be stationed at the Nal Airbase in Rajasthan's Bikaner.



- ❖ Native armaments like as the air-to-air missile Astra and the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons (SAAWs) will be fitted to the LCA Mark 2.
- ❖ Over the next ten to fifteen years, fleets of Jaguar, Mirage 2000, and MiG-29 are expected to be replaced with LCA Mark 2 aircraft. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) are now working on it.

### Award

#### TIAL Wins Greentech Award for Zero Waste to Landfill



#### About News:-

- ❖ In the category of waste management and processing, Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Limited (TIAL) has been bestowed with the esteemed 'Pollution Control Waste Management & Recycling (PCWR) Award 2024' by the Greentech Foundation.
- ❖ The prize was given to the airport authorities at the Greentech PCWR 2024 Summit, Awards, and Expo in Guwahati, Assam.

#### Key Points:-

- ❖ The airport's excellence in implementing 'zero trash to landfill' through TIAL is recognized by this award.
- ❖ The cradle-to-cradle idea serves as the foundation for TIAL's waste creation patterns and management procedures.
- ❖ Due to the implementation of sustainable waste management techniques such as trash reduction, reuse, recycling, and recovery, the airport's landfill diversion rate has reached 99.50%. The airport handles all solid and plastic garbage.
- ❖ It features a waste management system certified by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14001:2015, which includes special procedures for gathering segregated waste at the airport and transferring it to the recycling yard.

- ❖ Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), a division of Adani Enterprises, the principal business of the internationally diversified Adani Group, is in charge of managing TIAL. It is situated in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram.

### MOU

#### India & US Sign MoU to Promote Cooperation on Small & Medium Enterprises

#### About News:-

- ❖ To foster collaboration on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the Small Business Administration (SBA) of the United States of America (USA) and the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME) of the Government of India (GOI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ❖ The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) offers a forum for debating MSMEs-related matters and looks into potential areas of mutual assistance in this field.
- ❖ This MoU complies with the guidelines provided in the June 2023 India-USA Joint Statement.
- ❖ Subhas Chandra Lal Das, Secretary of the MoMSME, Gol, and Isabel Casillas Guzman, Administrator, SBA, Government of the USA, signed the Memorandum of Understanding.



#### Key Points:-

- ❖ The purpose of the MoU is to increase MSME participation in the international market using workshops, webinars, and reciprocal visits.
- ❖ The green economy, trade facilitation, technology and digital commerce, and access to trade and export finance are among the main subjects.
- ❖ Additionally, it offers cooperative initiatives to strengthen commercial ties and promote women-owned small businesses (WOSBs) in the USA and India.

- ❖ A "Business Matching Digital Platform" will be investigated, as the two countries acknowledge the significance of MSMEs in fostering inclusive growth, growing exports, and boosting employment in both nations.

#### About the United States of America (USA):-

- ❖ Capital:- Washington, D.C.
- ❖ Currency:- United States Dollar (USD)
- ❖ President :- Joe Biden

#### Sport

#### Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat suspended for breaching anti-doping regulations



#### About News:-

The Badminton World Federation has suspended para shuttler Pramod Bhagat for a full year due to his violation of anti-doping rules. Pramod will therefore miss the Paralympic Games in Paris in 2024. The Federation declared that Pramod Bhagat, the gold medallist at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, has been suspended due to his failure.

#### What rules apply to anti-doping?

Global anti-doping laws are standardized by the World Anti-Doping Code (Code), which applies to all sports and nations worldwide. To ensure that all athletes receive the same anti-doping policies and procedures, it offers a framework for anti-doping programs and activities.

#### Concerning Pramod Bhagat:-

Bihar's Vaishali district is home to prominent Indian badminton player Pramod Bhagat, who was born on June 4, 1988. He earned a gold medal in the men's singles SL3 parabadminton competition at the 2020 Summer Paralympics and is presently ranked second in the world.

#### Miscellaneous

#### Three Indian Ocean structures named Ashoka, Chandragupta, and Kalpataru

##### About News:-

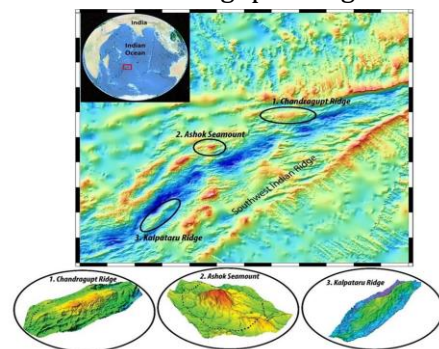
- ❖ Three underwater geographical structures in the Indian Ocean have been identified as the Ashoka Seamount, the Chandragupta

Ridge, and the Kalpataru Ridge by the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization).

- ❖ India suggested the names of the structure to IHO and IOC.
- ❖ The rulers of the Mauryan dynasty, Ashoka and Chandragupta Maurya, are honored with the names Ashoka Seamount and Chandragupta Ridge, respectively.
- ❖ The General Bathymetric Chart of Oceans, which operates under the IOC and IHO, is responsible for maintaining and providing global ocean data.

#### Finding of the New Structures:-

- ❖ Oceanographers from the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), Goa, discovered these three structures.
- ❖ During the Indian Southern Ocean Research Programme, these formations were found along the Southwest Indian Ridge area of the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ With the assistance of the Russian Sea vessel Akademik Nikolay Strakhov, an Indian research team identified the Ashok seamount and Kalpataru ridge in 2012.
- ❖ 2020 saw the Indian Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) MGS Sagar, flying the Vanuatuan flag, discover Chandragupta Ridge.



#### Concerning the New Structures:-

- ❖ Ashok Seamount is an oblong-shaped object 180 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>) in size.
- ❖ The Kalpataru Ridge covers 430 square kilometers. This might have provided food, shelter, and habitat for aquatic life to support a variety of species.

- ❖ The Sanskrit word "Kalpataru" means "wish-fulfilling tree." It is sometimes connected to a heavenly tree in Hindu mythology that bestows blessings on those who approach it with wishes and wants.
- ❖ The Chandragupt ridge is an oval-shaped, elongated body covering 675 square kilometers.

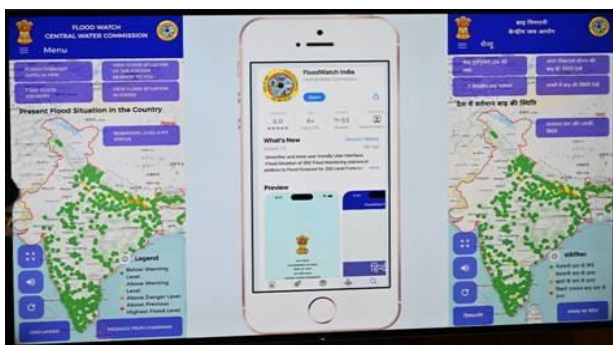
#### About International Hydrographic Organization (IHO):-

- ❖ Established:- 1921
- ❖ Secretary-General:- Dr Mathias Jonas (Germany)
- ❖ Secretariat:- Monaco
- ❖ Members state:- 100 (including India)

#### Jal Shakti minister launches version 2.0 of 'FloodWatch India' app to enhance flood monitoring

##### About News:-

Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Paatil, launched Version 2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application developed by the Central Water Commission (CWC), in New Delhi today. CWC launched the first version of the mobile application on 17th August 2023 to use mobile phones to disseminate information related to flood situations in the country and flood forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.



##### Key Points:-

- ❖ The earlier version provided information on flood forecasts at 200-level forecast stations. Version 2.0 of the app provides current information at an additional 392 flood monitoring stations, taking up the total number of stations to 592, thus imparting users with an extensive and detailed overview of flood conditions across the country. Further, this version also provides
- additional information regarding the storage positions of 150 major reservoirs in the country which shall help in better understanding of the possible flood situation in their downstream areas.
- ❖ 'FloodWatch India', developed in-house by the Central Water Commission, utilizes advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling, and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts. The user-friendly app presents all the information in 2 languages - English and Hindi - and is available in readable and audio broadcast format. The app also provides flood forecasts at the nearest location where users can check the flood situation at the station nearest to them on the home page itself.
- ❖ The 'FloodWatch India' app is available for download on both Android and iOS devices, providing widespread accessibility to users globally. The app can be downloaded free of charge from the Google Play Store (<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=in.gov.affwcw>) or Apple App Store (<https://apps.apple.com/in/app/floodwatch-india/id6478849444>).
- ❖ Other dignitaries present on the occasion included the Secretary (Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation), Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Chairman (Central Water Commission), Shri Kushvinder Vohra, and other senior officials of the Ministry of Jal Shakti and CWC

#### Important Day

#### Atal Bihari Vajpayee Death Anniversary - 16 August

##### About Day:-

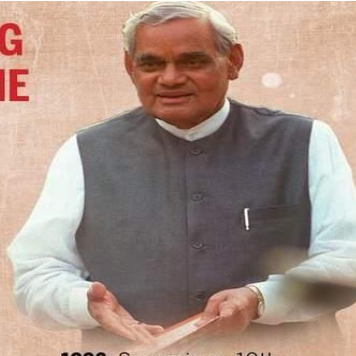
Political figures from a variety of backgrounds gathered at Delhi's "Sadaiv Atal" memorial on August 16, 2024, the sixth anniversary of the death of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



#### Leaders Gather at the "Sadaiv Atal" Memorial for the Sixth Anniversary of His Death in 2024:-

- ❖ At the "Sadaiv Atal" monument in Delhi, leaders from a variety of political backgrounds gathered to commemorate the fifth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee's death. In addition, Praful Patel, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister Anupriya Patel, Jitan Ram of HAM, and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh were there to pay tribute to the late leader.

## REMEMBERING FORMER PRIME MINISTER ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE



**December 25, 1924:** Born in Gwalior, MP

**1939:** Joined RSS as a swayamsevak

**1942:** First brush with politics when he joined the Quit India Movement

**1951:** Founder-member of the erstwhile Jana Sangh

**1957:** Elected Lok Sabha MP from Balrampur, UP

**1957-77:** Leader of Bharatiya Jana Sangh in Parliament

**1962:** Elected to the Rajya Sabha

**1975:** Detained during Emergency; placed under house arrest

**1977:** Founder-member of the Janata Party; minister of external affairs in Morarji Desai's cabinet

**1980:** First president of the Bharatiya Janata Party

**1996:** Sworn in as 10th Prime Minister of India | Resigned after 13 days when BJP failed to form a majority

**1998:** Sworn in as PM for the 2nd time | India enters select group of nations following a series of successful nuclear tests at Pokhran, Rajasthan

**1999:** Elected PM for the 3rd time | Won the Kargil War

**2001:** Initiated the Golden Quadrilateral Highway project | Pioneered Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan

**2005:** Retired from active politics

**2015:** Conferred Bharat Ratna

**Aug 16, 2018:** Passed away at 93

