

23 November 2024

Iraq Conducts First National Census in 40 Years

Key Points:

- ❖ Iraq is conducting its first nationwide census since 1987, under Saddam Hussein's regime, with a significant operation involving 120,000 researchers. This extensive demographic survey, scheduled over two days, will collect data from households across all 18 governorates of the country. Iraq is conducting its first nationwide census since 1987, under Saddam Hussein's regime, with a significant operation involving 120,000 researchers.
- ❖ This extensive demographic survey, scheduled over two days, will collect data from households across all 18 governorates of the country. To facilitate the process, the Ministry of Interior has imposed a two-day curfew.

Defense to space, India & Italy announce 5-year action plan

Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni announced a five-year strategic action plan outlining their vision for collaboration in a range of key sectors, including defense, trade, energy and space. The two leaders unveiled the Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-29 as they met on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



SECI signs MoU to promote Green Hydrogen initiatives

Key Points:

- ❖ Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI), under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, signed a MoU with H2Global Stiftung to establish a collaborative framework to promote Green Hydrogen initiatives. This aims to enhance knowledge exchange on market-based mechanisms and foster cooperation between India and importing countries, thereby contributing to the global advancement of the green hydrogen economy.



- ❖ This collaboration offers India the opportunity to work on joint tender design concepts, particularly in structuring joint tenders that aligns with India's ambition to become export hub of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

FM unveils specially minted ₹100 commemorative coin to mark centenary of SBI's Horniman Circle Branch

Key Points:

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman unveiled a specially minted ₹100 commemorative coin to mark the centenary of SBI's iconic Horniman Circle Branch. Alongside the coin launch, she also unveiled the 5th edition of The Evolution of the State Bank of India, chronicling a transformative era in the bank's journey between 1981 and 1996.



- ❖ From 100 branches at the time of the 1920 amalgamation to 22,640+ branches today, with plans to add 500 more in FY 2025, SBI continues to expand its reach.
- ❖ The bank operates 63,000+ ATMs, engages 80,300 banking correspondents, and serves over 50 crore customers. Its digital prowess is demonstrated by 132 million and 287 million internet banking, YONO, and YONO Lite app. SBI commands a 25% share in debit card spending, 22% in mobile banking transactions, and a 29% ATM footprint.

20 November – World Children's Day

Key Points:

- ❖ World Children's Day is observed every year on 20 November to encourage global solidarity, awareness among children around the world, and advancements in children's welfare. Theme 2024 – Listen to the Future. Stand Up for Children's Rights. This day, which was created by the UN in 1954, also marks the adoption of two important agreements: the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the Declaration of the Rights of the Child (1959).



Bihar to Host Khelo India Youth Games and Para Games in 2025

- ❖ Bihar will host the Khelo India Youth Games and the Khelo India Para Games in April 2025, marking a major step in the state's sports development. Following the successful Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir, the state is poised to showcase its growing sports infrastructure. In a landmark development, Bihar will host the prestigious Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) and the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG) in April 2025, showcasing the state's growing capabilities in hosting major sporting events.



- ❖ This follows the successful organization of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy in Rajgir, further cementing Bihar's reputation in the sports arena. The announcement was made by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, who emphasized the importance of sports in achieving the vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Armenia Becomes 104th Full Member of International Solar Alliance

Key Points:

- ❖ Armenia has become the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking a significant milestone for global solar energy collaboration. The ISA, established in 2015, aims to scale up solar energy adoption, reduce costs, and facilitate innovation. Armenia has become

the 104th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking a significant milestone for global solar energy collaboration. The ISA, established in 2015, aims to scale up solar energy adoption, reduce costs, and facilitate innovation.



- ❖ Under India's leadership, the ISA has launched impactful projects worldwide. Armenia's membership highlights its commitment to sustainable energy solutions, contributing to the ISA's goal of mobilizing USD 1000 billion by 2030 for solar energy deployment.

Karimganj District Gets New Name Sribhumi, Says CM Sarma

Key Points:

- ❖ On November 21, 2024, the Assam government officially renamed the Karimganj district to Sribhumi, along with its headquarters town, Karimganj, which will now be called Sribhumi town. This move, authorized by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, aims to honor the cultural heritage. On November 21, 2024, the Assam government officially renamed the Karimganj district to Sribhumi, along with its headquarters town, Karimganj, which will now be called Sribhumi town.
- ❖ This move, authorized by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, aims to honor the cultural heritage and historical significance of the region. The name change reflects the longstanding demand from the local people and connects the district to its spiritual roots, as described by Rabindranath Tagore over 100 years ago.

India Hosts First Global Cooperative Conference in 130 Years

Key Points:

- ❖ India will host the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Global Cooperative Conference in New Delhi from November 25 to 30, 2024. This marks the first time in the 130-year history of the ICA that the global cooperative movement's premier event will be held in India. India will host the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) Global Cooperative Conference in New Delhi from November 25 to 30, 2024.
- ❖ This marks the first time in the 130-year history of the ICA that the global cooperative movement's premier event will be held in India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the United Nations International Year of Cooperatives 2025 during this event.

International Cooperative Alliance (ICA)

- ❖ ICA was established in 1895 to promote the cooperative model.
- ❖ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ Moved from London in 1982
- ❖ It is the apex body representing cooperatives.
- ❖ More than 306 organizations from 105 countries are members of the ICA.
- ❖ The ICA unites, represents, and serves cooperatives worldwide.
- ❖ It provides a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise, and coordinated action for and about cooperatives.

World Television Day 2024, Celebrating the Power of Television

Key Points:

- ❖ World Television Day is celebrated every year on November 21 to underscore the role of television as a vital medium of communication. It highlights the profound impact of television in shaping global

awareness, influencing decision-making, and fostering education. World Television Day is celebrated every year on November 21 to underscore the role of television as a vital medium of communication.



Eden Gardens to Honour Jhulan Goswami with Stand

Key Points:

- ❖ India's legendary cricketer Jhulan Goswami is set to receive a remarkable tribute at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata. The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) has announced that a stand at the venue will be renamed in her honor, marking her as the first woman cricketer to receive this recognition. India's legendary cricketer Jhulan Goswami is set to receive a remarkable tribute at the iconic Eden Gardens in Kolkata.



Italy Clinches Fifth Billie Jean King Cup Title with Paolini's Dominance

Key Points:

- ❖ Italy secured its fifth Billie Jean King Cup title on November 20, 2024, defeating Slovakia 2-0 in the final. Jasmine Paolini dominated Rebecca Sramkova 6-2, 6-1,

following Lucia Bronzetti's 6-2, 6-4 win over Viktoria Hrucakova. Italy claimed its fifth Billie Jean King Cup title on November 20, 2024, defeating Slovakia 2-0 in the final held in Malaga, Spain. Jasmine Paolini's commanding 6-2, 6-1 victory over Rebecca Sramkova sealed the triumph for Italy, following Lucia Bronzetti's 6-2, 6-4 win over Viktoria Hrucakova.



- ❖ The victory marked redemption for Italy after their loss in the previous year's final and further solidified their standing as a dominant force in women's international tennis.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launches VISION Portal

Key Points:

- ❖ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the VISION("Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network") Portal in New Delhi on 21 November 2024. The Portal aims to empower and uplift youth from the underprivileged section of the country through education, skill development and sustainable livelihood.



Third Largest Startup Ecosystem in the World

- ❖ Dr Jitendra Singh said that India has the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world. In 2014, there were 350 start-ups, which has grown to 1.67 lakh at present.
- ❖ On 16 January 2016, the government of India launched the Startup India programme. The main aim of the start-up initiative is to build a strong startup ecosystem in the country to nurture innovation and startups.
- ❖ Under the Startup India programme, funds are made available to startups of disadvantaged populations like Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Women through banks and other financial institutions.
- ❖ The Startup India programme is being implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Who has developed the VISION Portal?

- ❖ The Gurugram, Haryana-based non-profit organisation Utsav Foundation developed the VISION("Viksit Bharat Initiative for Student Innovation and Outreach Network") Portal. The Utsav Foundation works to empower the youth by providing them with the necessary skills and resources through internship and skill development.

India and Sweden co chair the 6th Annual LeadIT Summit in Baku

Key Points:



- ❖ India and Sweden co-chaired the 6th Annual Summit of the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ❖ The Summit meeting was held on the sidelines of the United Nations Climate Summit, Conference of Parties 29 (COP29), which was held in the Azerbaijani capital city of Baku from 11 to 22 November 2024.
- ❖ India and Sweden jointly launched the Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in September 2019 in New York City, United States of America.
- ❖ The LeadIT2.0 was launched during the CoP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2023, and it has set a new target for 2024-26.

Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)?

- ❖ The Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT) is an initiative of India and Sweden and is supported by the World Economic Forum.
- ❖ It brings together the countries that are committed to the goal of the 2015 Paris Climate Conference.
- ❖ The Paris Climate Conference aims to hold "the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels".
- ❖ Every country has to make a commitment and plan to reduce its net carbon emissions to achieve this goal.

Kerala receives the Best Marine State award at World Fisheries Day 2024

Key Points:

- ❖ Kerala was honoured with the Best Marine State award for its contribution to the country's fisheries and aquaculture sector growth.

- ❖ On the occasion of World Fisheries Day 2024, the Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying honoured many states, districts, and individuals for their contribution in a ceremony organised in New Delhi on 21 November 2024.
- ❖ The ceremony was presided over by Rajeev Ranjan Singh, alias Lalan Singh, the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.



World Fisheries Day

Key Points:

- ❖ Since 1997, World Fisheries Day has been observed on 21 November around the world. In 1997, a "World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers" was organized in New Delhi to discuss an issue related to sustainable fishing in the world.
- ❖ Representatives of 18 countries decided to form the World Fisheries Forum and observe 21 November as World Fisheries Day.
- ❖ World Fisheries Day is observed to raise awareness about the variety of threats faced by the world fishing industry, such as overexploitation, habitat destruction, and destructive fishing practices. It champions the rights of the small fishermen.

Japan and Wales to Partner with Nagaland for Hornbill Festival 2024

- ❖ Japan has been announced as the official partner country for the 25th edition of Nagaland's renowned Hornbill Festival, alongside Wales. The festival, scheduled from December 1-10 at Kisama near Kohima, will feature Japan's contribution in areas like cultural performances, capacity building, and workshops focusing on handicrafts and bamboo products, with renowned Japanese artists and experts leading these sessions.



- ❖ The Hornbill Festival is an annual cultural event in Nagaland, celebrated from December 1 to 10 at Kisama Heritage Village near Kohima. Organized by the Government of Nagaland, it highlights the vibrant cultural heritage of the state.

OPSC WALLAH



India drops 2 places but remains among top 10 climate performers: Report

Key Points:

- ❖ India ranked 10th on a list of over 60 countries assessed for efforts to fight climate change despite dropping two spots compared to last ago, thanks to its low per capita emissions and rapid deployment of renewables. The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2025) report,

released at the annual UN climate conference in Baku, leaves the first three places empty followed by Denmark (fourth place) and the Netherlands while the largest two emitters, China and the U.S., remain very low at 55th and 57th place, respectively.

- ❖ Published by think tanks Germanwatch, New Climate Institute, and Climate Action Network International, the CCPI tracks the progress of the world's largest emitters in terms of emissions, renewables, and climate policy. The 63 countries, along with the European Union, assessed in the CCPI are responsible for 90% of global emissions. India ranks 10th in this year's CCPI, remaining among the highest performers.

Nandan Kumar Jha named president of the International Mind Sports Association

Key Points:

- ❖ India's Nandan Kumar Jha has been elected as the president of the International Mind Sports Association (IMSA), a global body for the governance and promotion of mind sports. The IMSA, which has over 200 member countries, works with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and other affiliate global sports federations to integrate mind sports into mainstream global sports.

21 November 2024 – World Philosophy Day

Key Points:

- ❖ National Philosophy Day is observed every year on the third Thursday of November, this year was observed on 21 November. The day promotes philosophical discourse and critical thinking, encouraging dialogue on global issues. It aims to foster intercultural understanding, promote the teaching of philosophy, and highlight its relevance in addressing contemporary challenges like social justice, ethics, and governance

