

International Relations

21st ASEAN-India Summit

Why in the news?

The Prime Minister of India participated in the **21st ASEAN-India Summit** held in **Vientiane, Lao PDR**.

- ❖ **Agenda of the summit:** To review the progress of ASEAN-India cooperation and discuss its future direction, to advance an ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Strengthening ASEAN-India comprehensive partnership:

- ❖ At the summit, the Indian Prime Minister announced a 10-point plan to strengthen the ASEAN-India comprehensive partnership.
 - Celebrating the year **2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism** India will make available USD 5 million towards joint activities.
 - To organise an **ASEAN-India women scientists conclave** under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund.
 - Doubling the number of **scholarships at Nalanda University** and a provision of new scholarships for ASEAN students at the Agricultural Universities in India.

- Review of the **ASEAN-India Trade and Goods Agreement by 2025**.
- Enhancing disaster resilience for which India would contribute an additional USD 5 million.
- Initiating a new health ministers' track towards building health resilience.
- Initiating a regular mechanism of **ASEAN-India cyber policy dialogue** towards strengthening digital and cyber resilience.
- Organising a workshop on green hydrogen.
- Inviting all ASEAN leaders to join the **'Plant a Tree for Mother' campaign** towards building climate resilience.
- To celebrate a decade of the **Act East Policy** through several people-centric activities, including a youth summit, a start-up festival, a hackathon, a music festival, building on an **ASEAN-India network** of think tanks and the Delhi Dialogue.

ASEAN [Association of Southeast Asian Nations]

- ❖ It was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration)
- ❖ **Founding Fathers of ASEAN:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
 - Brunei Darussalam joined ASEAN on 7 January 1984, followed by Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up ten ASEAN member states.
- ❖ **Headquarters:** Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ❖ **Secretary-General of ASEAN:** Dr. Kao Kim Hourn



Science And Technology

India's fifth lunar mission: **Lupex**

Why in the news?

The National Space Commission has cleared the fifth lunar mission -- the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission or **Lupex**.

- ❖ **Objective:** It will explore the Moon for water and other resources.

About the mission:

- ❖ It is part of India's larger lunar roadmap that envisages sending an astronaut to the Moon and bringing him or her safely back.
- ❖ **Collaboration:**
 - It is a collaborative effort between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
 - The **Lupex** rover and rocket will be built by JAXA, while the lander system will be developed by ISRO.
- ❖ It will land at the exact lunar south pole (90-degree latitude) and will probe the Moon for water and other valuable resources.

- ❖ In August 2023, Chandrayaan-3's landing near the lunar south pole made India the fourth country to achieve a successful Moon landing, followed by Japan's January 2024 success with the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM), making Japan the fifth country to land on the Moon.



Defence And Security

IBSAMAR VIII

Why in the news?

Indian Navy's frontline stealth frigate, INS Talwar has participated in the eighth edition of the maritime exercise IBSAMAR at Simon's Town, South Africa.

- ❖ INS Talwar was commissioned on 18 June 2003 and is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, based in Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.

About IBSAMAR:

- ❖ It is a joint multinational maritime exercise among the Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navy.
 - The first edition of this multinational exercise was held in 2008.
- ❖ **Objective:** To enhance interoperability and strengthen cohesion between the three navies.

- The broad concept is based on Blue Water Naval Warfare, encompassing the dimensions of Surface and Anti-Air Warfare.



Awards and Honors

Nobel Prize in Literature

Why in the news?

South Korean author Han Kang won the Nobel Prize in Literature, in 2024.

- ❖ She has won the prize for "intense poetic prose" that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."
 - Her writing, which delves into themes of trauma, violence, and the human experience, has left an indelible mark on global literature, offering readers profound insights into suffering and survival.

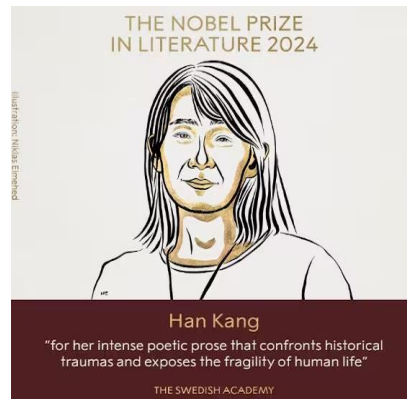
About Han Kang:

- ❖ She is the first Korean writer and the eighteenth woman to win the award.
 - She is also the first Asian woman to win this award.
 - She is the 121st winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature.

- ❖ In 2016, she won the International Booker Prize for her novel *The Vegetarian*.
- ❖ **Important Literary works:** *The White Book*, *Human Acts*, *Greek Lessons* etc.

Nobel Prize

- ❖ It was created in the will of Swedish dynamite inventor and businessman **Alfred Nobel**.
- ❖ The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901.
- ❖ The Nobel Prize in Economics, officially known as the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, was first awarded in 1969.
- ❖ Since 1901, the Nobel Prizes have been awarded 621 times to about 1000 individuals and organizations.
- ❖ The awards are presented during Nobel Week, culminating in a ceremony on December 10, the anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.
- ❖ The ceremonies take place at the Stockholm Concert Hall in Sweden and Oslo City Hall in Norway.
- ❖ Each Nobel Prize can be awarded to up to **three individuals** who will share the prize money.
- ❖ Winners receive a prize sum of 11 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 million).



Sports

Rafal Nadal

Why in the news?

Rafael Nadal (Spain) has announced his retirement from the tennis sport.

- ❖ The Davis Cup will be Nadal's last outing as a professional tennis player, to be held in November 2024.

Achievements in Tennis:

- ❖ Of the 22 Grand Slam titles he has won, the Spaniard clinched a record **14 French Open titles**.
- ❖ He also has a total of 92 ATP singles titles to his name, including 36 Masters titles as well as an Olympic gold medal.
- ❖ He also holds the unique record of being **one of three men** in tennis history to complete the **Career Golden Slam in singles**.
 - The other two tennis players are Novak Djokovic (Serbia) and Andre Agassi (USA).
 - Career Golden Slam means all 4 Grand Slams and Olympic gold.



Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024

Why in the news?

The Indian men's team won the **bronze medal** at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024 after losing its semi-final clash against Chinese Taipei by a 3-0 margin.

- ❖ Venue of the tournament: Astana, Kazakhstan.

India's Performance in this Championship:

- ❖ This was India's third straight medal in the men's team event at the Asian Table Tennis Championships, having clinched bronze medals at the 2021 and 2023 editions.
- ❖ Overall, this was India's seventh medal at the continental table tennis meet, with all seven being bronze.



Index and Report

Global Hunger Index 2024

Why in the news?

India has been ranked **105th** out of the **127 countries** in the latest Global Hunger Index 2024.

- ❖ With a score of **27.3** on the index, India has a level of hunger that is **serious**.
- ❖ India was ranked 111th out of 125 countries in 2023 and 107th out of 121 countries in 2022.
- ❖ **Ranking of neighboring countries in this index:**
 - Nepal is at 68, Sri Lanka at 56 and Bangladesh at 84. This means that the condition of these countries is better than ours.
 - Pakistan's ranking is 109 in this edition of the index

About the index:

- ❖ The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a peer-reviewed report, published on an annual basis by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.
- ❖ **GHI Score calculation:** The GHI Score is based on the values of four component indicators:
 - **Undernourishment:** the share of the population with insufficient caloric intake.
 - ✓ India: 13.7% of the population is undernourished

- **Child stunting:** the share of children under age five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition.
 - ✓ **India:** 35.5% of children under five are stunted
- **Child wasting:** the share of children under age five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition.
 - ✓ **India:** 18.7% of children under five are wasted
- **Child mortality:** the share of children who die before their fifth birthday, partly reflecting the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.
 - ✓ **India:** 2.9% of children die before their fifth birthday.

News in Short

- ❖ The Union Cabinet 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) 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)
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has declared Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT) a terrorist organization under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).
 - **Reason for ban:** It aims to establish Islamic state and Caliphate globally, including in India, by overthrowing democratically elected governments through jihad and terrorist activities
- ❖ Puducherry SSP, Anita Roy became the first IPS officer to win gold at Commonwealth powerlifting.
- ❖ Nepal's Nima Rinji Sherpa is the youngest person in the world to climb all 14 mountains above 8,000m



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