

### Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)-USA

#### Key Points:

- ❖ US President-elect Donald Trump has announced that X owner Elon Musk and Indian-origin entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy will head a new body called **Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)**. The acronym DOGE seems a nod to dogecoin, the cryptocurrency Musk has long promoted.



- ❖ In effect, DOGE will be the USA's version of '**Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**'. The Republican Party has for long advocated a leaner government, with fewer red tape regulations and fewer taxes. However, Trump's initiative of hiring two super-wealthy men to trim government expenses is unprecedented.
- ❖ According to the statement the President-elect put out, Musk and Ramaswamy will restructure government departments as well as finances.
- ❖ "Together, these two wonderful Americans will pave the way for my Administration to dismantle Government Bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures, and restructure Federal

Agencies – Essential to the "Save America" Movement.

- ❖ "This will send shockwaves through the system, and anyone involved in Government waste, which is a lot of people!" his statement said.

#### How will the Department of Government Efficiency work?

- ❖ Trump's statement makes it clear that DOGE will not be a government department. "The Department of Government Efficiency will provide advice and guidance from outside of Government, and will partner with the White House and Office of Management & Budget to drive large scale structural reform, and create an entrepreneurial approach to Government never seen before," he said.
- ❖ This is seen as a way to ensure that Musk and Ramaswamy can continue in their current roles in their business ventures.
- ❖ If they had become federal employees, rules governing their appointment would have kicked in. The department is supposed to finish its work by July 4, 2026, the 250th Anniversary of The Declaration of Independence.
- ❖ While Trump has called DOGE "The Manhattan Project of our time" — the programme that developed the USA's first nuclear bomb — many others are less enthused.

### Odisha Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Odisha Cabinet which met under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Majhi approved a bill to curb cheating in each and every examination conducted by the State government.
- ❖ The Odisha Cabinet approved the Odisha Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair

Means) Act, 2024 to curb cheating in examinations and any person involved in such an act shall be punished with imprisonment ranging three to five years and with fine up to ten lakh rupees.

- ❖ This apart, the service provider shall also be liable to be punished with imposition of a fine up to Rs 1 crore and proportionate cost of examination shall also be recovered from such service provider.



- ❖ କ୍ୟାବିନେଟ୍ ବୈଠକ ପରେ ମୁଖ୍ୟ ଶାସନ ସଚିବ ମନୋଜ ଆହୁଜା ଗଣମାଧ୍ୟମର ପ୍ରତିନିଧିଙ୍କୁ ସୂଚନା ଦେଇ କହିଛନ୍ତି, ସରକାରୀ ଚାକିରି ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ପରୀକ୍ଷାରେ ଅନିୟମିତତା କଲେ ଡେର ଓ ଜରିମାନା ହେବ ଦୋଷୀଙ୍କୁ ଓ ବର୍ଷ ପାଇଁ ଡେର ପଠାଯିବ। ସେହିପରି ଦୋଷୀଙ୍କୁ ୧୦ ଲକ୍ଷ ଟଙ୍କା ଜରିମାନା ଦେବାକୁ ହେବା ଅନ୍ୟପଦରେ ପରୀକ୍ଷା କରୁଥିବା ସର୍ଭିସ ପ୍ରୋଭାଇଡରଙ୍କୁ ବି ଜରିମାନା ହେବ ସର୍ଭିସ ପ୍ରୋଭାଇଡରଙ୍କୁ ୯ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ଜରିମାନା କରାଯିବ । ଏହି ନିୟମ ଓପିଏସ୍‌ସି, ଓଏସ୍‌ଏସ୍‌ସି, ଓଏସ୍‌ଏସ୍‌ସ୍‌ସି ଆଦି ପରୀକ୍ଷା ପାଇଁ ଲାଗୁ ହେବ
- ❖ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ବିଭିନ୍ନ ବିଭାଗରେ ହଜାଳ ହଜାଲ ପଦ୍ଧତି ଖାଲି ପଡ଼ିଛି। ଏହି ପଦ୍ଧତିକୁ ପୂରା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ସରକାର ପର୍ଯ୍ୟାୟ କ୍ରମେ ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ସୁଯୋଗ ସୃଷ୍ଟି କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ସରକାରୀ ଚାକିରି ପାଇବା ପାଇଁ ରଞ୍ଜଳସ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥୀ ମଧ୍ୟ ଅପେକ୍ଷା କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଜାକିରି ଆଶାରୀମାନେ ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରନ୍ତି ଯେ, ନିଯୁକ୍ତି ପରୀକ୍ଷାରେ ବ୍ୟାପକ ଅନିୟମିତତା ହେଉଛି । ଯୋଗ୍ୟ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥୀଙ୍କୁ

ଡାକିଲି ମିଳୁ ନାହିଁ । ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଯୁଗାନ୍ତକାରୀ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଚାକିରି ଆଶାରୀଙ୍କ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଖୁସି ଆଣିଛି ।

- ❖ “All offences under this Act, shall be cognizable, nonbailable and non-compoundable. Any person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences, shall be punished with imprisonment ranging three to five years and with fine up to ten lakh rupees. The service provider shall also be liable to be punished with imposition of a fine up to one crore rupees and proportionate cost of examination shall also be recovered from such service provider. In case of default of payment of fine, an additional punishment of imprisonment shall be imposed, as per the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023,” the note read.

## Website Launch for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas



### Key Points:

- ❖ Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi embarked on a two-day trip to New Delhi on Tuesday to launch the official website for the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.
- ❖ The event, scheduled to take place at Janata Maidan in Bhubaneswar from January 8 to 10 next year, celebrates and connects the Indian diaspora with their roots. Upon his arrival in the national capital, the Chief Minister launched the website at CB Muthamma Hall, Jawaharlal Bhawan, in the presence of External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

- ❖ The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is a collaborative effort between the Odisha government and the MEA.
- ❖ Jaishankar expressed confidence that the Indian diaspora will continue playing an important role in India's march towards Viksit Bharat.
- ❖ Minister of state for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh also joined the launch ceremony. Majhi urged the Indian diaspora to visit Odisha and hoped they would be able to appreciate the rich historical, cultural and spiritual heritage of the state.
- ❖ He encouraged them to participate in next year's convention in large numbers.
- ❖ **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated on 9 th January to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community to the development of India.**
- ❖ **9 th January was chosen as the day to celebrate PBD since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa,** led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. This day came into effect in 2003, but in 2015 it was revised and was decided to be celebrated every two years.
- ❖ It was then a theme-based conference that was set up every year during the interim period. PBD Conventions are held once every two years.

#### **First DY. Prime Minister of Russia Dennis Manturov's Visit to India**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Dennis Manturov visited India from 10 to 12 November 2024.
- ❖ Dennis Manturov first visited Mumbai, where he co-chaired the India- Russia Business Forum meeting.
- ❖ He later visited New Delhi and met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister for

Finance Nirmala Sitharaman and the National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.

- ❖ In New Delhi, on 12 November 2024, he cochaired the 25th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).



#### **India -Russia Business Forum Meeting**

- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Dennis Manturov co-chaired the India-Russia Business Forum meeting.
- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs, in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), organised it on 11 November 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Both countries have set a target to achieve a bilateral trade target of \$100 billion by 2030.
- ❖ Dr Jaishankar called for an increase in India's exports to Russia to address the huge trade imbalance between the two countries.

#### **India-Russia Trade Ties**

- ❖ The total trade between India and Russia in 2023-24 was \$ 65.70 billion.
- ❖ India's imports from Russia were \$61.44 billion, and exports to Russia were \$4.26 billion, and the trade was in favour of Russia.
- ❖ India is a major buyer of Russian crude oil, and it constitutes a major portion of Indian imports from Russia. Besides oil, India imports fertilisers, mineral resources, precious stones and metals, and vegetable oils, particularly soyabean and sunflower oil.

- ❖ India's exports to Russia mainly consist of electrical machinery and mechanical appliances, pharmaceuticals, organic chemicals and iron and steel.
- ❖ India is the second largest trading partner of Russia after China.
- ❖ Russia was India's fourth largest trading partner in 2023-24, after China the United States and the United Arab Emirates.

#### **25th IRIGC-TEC meeting in New Delhi**

- ❖ The 25th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC) was held in New Delhi on 12 November 2024
- ❖ The 25th IRIGC-TEC was co-chaired by the External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, and the visiting Russian minister Dennis Manturov.
- ❖ The IRIGC-TEC was set up under the Inter-Governmental Agreement signed between India and Russia in 1992.
- ❖ The IRIGC-TEC is the major coordinating mechanism for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade, economic ties, science and technology, and culture.
- ❖ During the meeting, both sides agreed to expedite the process for early finalisation of the Programme of Economic Cooperation 2030 to realise the bilateral trade target of USD 100 billion by 2030.

#### **India Russia Ties**

- ❖ The India-Russia relationship has been the pillar of Indian foreign policy, and Russia has been India's time-tested friend.
- ❖ The new direction to the India- Russia relationship was given during the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to India in October 2020 when the two countries signed the "Declaration on the India-Russia Strategic Partnership".

- ❖ The relationship was elevated to the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership", during President Putin's visit to India in December 2010.
- ❖ Russia is a major source of weapons for the Indian Armed Forces. To strengthen and deepen ties between the two countries, the Indian Prime Minister and the Russian President hold an annual summit-level meeting.
- ❖ The 22nd summit meeting was held in July 2024 in Moscow during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia. India and Russia have also started a 2+2 Dialogue (Foreign and Defence Ministers of both countries), and the first such dialogue was held in 2021.

#### **India ships first batch of Akash Weapon system to Armenia**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ In a significant milestone for the indigenous Indian defence sector, the first batch of the indigenously developed surface-to-air missile system Akash, was shipped to Armenia.
- ❖ The indigenously developed and manufactured Akash system is part of a deal under which India is to supply 15 Akash systems to Armenia.
- ❖ This is the second missile system to be exported from India after India sold the supersonic Brahmos cruise missile to the Philippines.



- ❖ The export of the sophisticated missile system underlines the interest of foreign buyers in the defence weapon system developed in India.



- ❖ With a record defence export of Rs 21,083 crore in 2023-24, the government has set a defence export target of Rs 35,000 crore for 2024-25. The United States of America has emerged as the largest buyer of the Indian weapon system, followed by France.

### **Akash Missile System and Pinaka for Armenia**

- ❖ Armenia is engaged in a bitter war with its neighbour Azerbaijan on the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region. After suffering major losses to the well-equipped Azerbaijan forces, the Armenian government has turned to India to bolster its defence. Russia has traditionally been a major supplier of weapons to Armenia, but it has been unable to meet Armenia's defence needs.
- ❖ In December 2020, the Union Cabinet approved selling the 15 Akash Missile system to Armenia, worth around Rs 6000 crore and the contract was signed in 2022.
- ❖ The first delivery was done in 2024.
- ❖ Recently, French Army Brigadier General Stephane Richou expressed interest in the Pinaka System already bought by Armenia.

### **About the Akash Missile System**

- ❖ The Akash is a surface-to-air missile system developed by the premier Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- ❖ Each Akash Missile system consists of four launchers. Each launcher carries three missiles. Each Akash system is equipped with an indigenously developed single Rajendra 3D passive electronically scanned array radar.
- ❖ The missile has a range of 25 km and can engage hostile aircraft, drones, missiles and other aerial assets.

- ❖ The Indian Air Force inducted the Akash missile system in 2014, and the Indian Army in 2015
- ❖ The Akash missile system being exported to Armenia differs from that used by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.

### **Pinaka Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher**

- ❖ The multi-barrel rocket launcher system Pinaka has been developed by the DRDO for the Indian Army.
- ❖ Pinaka is a long-range artillery system in which multiple rockets are fired simultaneously from a single platform. Pinaka has a range of 75 km. Each Pinaka can fire 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
- ❖ The Pinaka system is suited for attacking adversary targets before close-quarter battles involving smaller-range artillery, armoured elements, and infantry.

### **About Armenia**

- ❖ Armenia is located in the Mountainous Transcaucasian region. Geographically, it lies in Asia but has close cultural ties with Europe.
- ❖ Armenia, part of the erstwhile Soviet Union, became Independent in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.
- ❖ Nagorno Karabakh is a small enclave in Azerbaijan which is populated by ethnic Armenians and has been a source of tension and war between the two.
- ❖ Capital: Yerevan
- ❖ Currency: Dram
- ❖ Prime Minister: Nikol Pashniyan

### **Mumbai wins its second Senior Women's T20 Trophy**

- ❖ Humaira Kazi led her Mumbai team to their second Senior Women's T20 trophy title by beating Bengal in the final by 10 wickets. The final of the 16th Senior Women's T20 trophy was played at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, Maharashtra on 12 November 2024.

### Mumbai equals Railway record in defending their title

- ❖ Mumbai, which won the Senior Women's T20 trophy for the first time last year, joined Railway as the only team that successfully defended its title.
- ❖ Bengal captain Saika Ishaque won the toss in the final and decided to bat first. The Bengal team was all out for 85 runs in their allotted 20 overs, with the opener, Dhara Gujar, being the top scorer with 26 runs.
- ❖ Jagravi Pawar was Mumbai's chief wicket-taker, with a figure of 3 for 13 in her 4 overs.
- ❖ Chasing a modest target of 86 runs, Mumbai scored the necessary runs in 12.3 overs without losing a wicket.
- ❖ The opening pair of Humairaa Kaazi and Vrushali Bhagat remained unbeaten with a score of 41 and 45 not out respectively.

### Awards

- ❖ Jagravi Pawar of Mumbai was adjudged the Player of the match for her outstanding bowling effort.
- ❖ Humairaa Kaazi was the Player of the Series.

### About the 16th Senior Women's T20 trophy

- ❖ The 16th Senior Women's T20 trophy for the season 2023-24 was held in six cities: Surat, Vadodara, Mumbai, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, and Lucknow, from 17 October to 12 November 2024.
- ❖ Thirty-seven teams participated in the tournament and were divided into 5 groups.
- ❖ The iconic Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, hosted both the semi-finals and the final.
- ❖ In the first semi-final, Mumbai defeated Uttarakhand by 31 runs, and Bengal defeated Himachal Pradesh by 21 runs.

### Senior Women's T-20 Trophy

- ❖ The Senior Women's T-20 Trophy is organised by the BCCI (Board of Control for

Cricket in India) and was first held in 2008-09.

- ❖ With 11 title wins, Railway is the most successful team in the tournament. Delhi won the title in 2017-18, Punjab in 2018-19, and Mumbai in 2023 and 2024.

### Indian Navy all set to host 4th Sea Vigil Exercise 2024

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Navy is all set to host the 4th Sea Vigil exercises on 20 and 21 November 2024. The biennial Sea Vigil is a national-level coastal defence exercise that involves various other stakeholders responsible for India's coastal and maritime security. The third edition of the Sea Vigil was held in November 2022 and conducted under the overall leadership of the Indian Navy



### About the Sea Vigil Exercise

- ❖ The Sea Vigil exercise led by the Indian Navy was started in 2018, and it is held every two years.
- ❖ The Sea Vigil exercise is a precursor to the Indian Navy's own 'Theatre Level Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX)', conducted every two years.
- ❖ The Sea Vigil exercise was conceptualised in India after the Mumbai terror attack of 2008 when Pakistani terrorists used the sea routes to attack Mumbai.
- ❖ Regular exercises are conducted in the coastal states by the Indian Coast Guard under the code name Sagar Kavach to assess the coastal security in a particular coastal region of the country.

### Participants of the Sea Vigil 2024

- ❖ The Indian Navy will lead the 4th Sea Vigil exercise, which will include 6 central government ministries and 21 Organisations /Agencies related to coastal security, such as Customs, State marine police, Indian Coast Guard, etc.
- ❖ The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force are also participating in the exercise.

### Scope and Aim of the Sea Vigil Exercise 2024

- ❖ The 4th edition of the Sea Vigil exercise will be conducted across the country's 11,098-kilometer coastline and 2.4 million square kilometres of its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

### The Sea Vigil exercise aims to:

- ❖ Create awareness amongst coastal communities like fishermen, coastal populations, etc., about maritime security,
- ❖ The exercise will also involve the students of the Bharat Scouts and Guides and National Cadet Corp (NCC).
- ❖ Strengthening the security of coastal assets like Oil Rigs, Ports, Cable Landing Points, Single Landing points and other important infrastructure.
- ❖ It will test the country's preparedness regarding Maritime Security and Coastal Defence.
- ❖ The exercise will provide a realistic assessment of the nation's Maritime Security and Coastal Defence strengths and weaknesses.

### PM Modi's Three-Nation Visit: G20 Summit in Brazil, Nigeria, and Guyana (Nov 16-21)

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will undertake a three-nation visit from November 16-21, 2024, including attending the G20 summit in Brazil on November 18-19.

- ❖ India, part of the G20 troika, will actively participate in discussions on global issues like climate change and debt.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to undertake a crucial three-nation tour from November 16-21, which will include attending the G20 Summit in Brazil, visiting Nigeria, and concluding with a state visit to Guyana.
- ❖ The trip holds significant diplomatic importance as it strengthens India's strategic partnerships, enhances multilateral engagements, and continues India's active role in global affairs.

### G20 Summit in Brazil (Nov 18-19)

- ❖ PM Modi will attend the G20 Summit in Rio De Janeiro, hosted by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva. India, as part of the G20 Troika along with Brazil and South Africa, will actively contribute to the discussions on global issues. Modi is expected to present India's stance on key topics including debt, climate change, and gender equality. The summit follows India's leadership in the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration and Voice of the Global South Summits.

### Visit to Nigeria (Nov 16-17)

- ❖ PM Modi will begin his tour with a visit to Nigeria, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 17 years. During this visit, Modi will strengthen India-Nigeria relations, particularly in the areas of energy, defense, and economic collaboration. India and Nigeria have shared a strategic partnership since 2007, with Indian investments exceeding \$27 billion. Modi will also address the Indian diaspora in Nigeria.

### Guyana Visit (Nov 19-21)

- ❖ The final leg of Modi's trip will be a state visit to Guyana, where he will be the first Indian Prime Minister to visit since 1968. Modi will meet President Mohamed Irfaan

Ali and other senior leaders to discuss bilateral ties and cooperation, particularly in the energy and development sectors. He will also participate in the Second CARICOM-India Summit, strengthening India's engagement with Caribbean nations.

#### **Aravindh Chithambaram Clinches Masters Title at Chennai Grandmasters 2024**

- ❖ GM Aravindh Chithambaram made a remarkable late surge in the final rounds, winning the last two classical games to secure the Chennai Grand Masters 2024 title. Meanwhile, GM V Pranav remained unbeaten throughout the tournament to claim the Challengers title at the Anna Centenary Library. GM Aravindh Chithambaram made a remarkable late surge in the final rounds, winning the last two classical games to secure the Chennai Grand Masters 2024 title.
- ❖ Meanwhile, GM V Pranav remained unbeaten throughout the tournament to claim the Challengers title at the Anna Centenary Library on 11th November, 2024.

#### **Indian Oil Welcomes Arvindar Singh Sahney as New Chairman**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ Arvindar Singh Sahney has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, as per an order from the petroleum ministry on Wednesday. Sahney, 54, currently serves as the Executive Director of Business Development in the Petrochemicals division at IOC. Arvindar Singh Sahney has been appointed as the new chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the nation's largest oil firm, as per an order from the petroleum ministry on 13th November. Sahney, 54, currently serves as

the Executive Director of Business Development in the Petrochemicals division at IOC.

#### **Book Release on Motherhood: 'Maa-Mother' Launched by Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launched a book titled 'Maa-Mother' in New Delhi, accompanied by prominent dignitaries, including Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and West Bengal Governor Dr. C.V. Anand Bose. Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launched a book titled 'MaaMother' in New Delhi, accompanied by prominent dignitaries, including Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan and West Bengal Governor Dr. C.V. Anand Bose.
- ❖ The event not only marked the release of the book but also highlighted the profound theme of motherhood, explored through the artistic medium of poetry.

##### **Overview of the Book: 'Maa-Mother'**

- ❖ The book 'Maa-Mother' was penned by Dr. Davendra Kumar Dhodawat, the Additional Secretary to the Governor of Kerala. This literary work delves into the deep emotional and spiritual connection that defines the relationship between a mother and her child. It takes readers on a journey through the untold stories of love, sacrifice, and nurturing that mothers often embody.

#### **British Writer Samantha Harvey Wins Booker Prize for Fiction with "Orbital"**

##### **Key Points:**

- ❖ British author Samantha Harvey has won the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction for her novel "Orbital," a thought-provoking and imaginative exploration set in the unique setting of the International Space



Station (ISS). British author Samantha Harvey has won the prestigious Booker Prize for Fiction for her novel "Orbital," a thought-provoking and imaginative exploration set in the unique setting of the International Space Station (ISS).

- ❖ The novel, which Harvey refers to as a "space pastoral," delves into the fragility of Earth and the profound connection humans have with their planet, using the perspective of astronauts in orbit.

### Indian Navy's submarine INS Vela arrives in Colombo for Operational Turnaround

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Indian Navy's submarine INS Vela, arrived in Colombo on a three-day visit. The submarine was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the Sri Lanka Navy.
- ❖ Several team-building exercises are planned between the crew of the submarine and Sri Lankan navy personnel during the visit. INS Vela, an indigenous Kalvari-class diesel-electric submarine, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in November 2021.

### Central govt approves fire services projects worth Rs 725 cr for 3 states

#### Key Points:

- ❖ A high-level committee, headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, has approved three projects worth Rs 725.62 crore for the expansion and modernisation of fire services in Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal.
- ❖ The high-level committee comprised of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Vice Chairman NITI Aayog Suman K Bery as members.
- ❖ The committee has approved Rs 376.76 crore for West Bengal, Rs 201.10 crore for

Odisha and Rs 147.76 crore for Chhattisgarh under the 'Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services' in the states.

- ❖ The central government has allocated a total of Rs 5,000 crore under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for 'Expansion and Modernisation of Fire Services' in the states.
- ❖ Proposals of 15 states with a total outlay of Rs 2,542.12 crore had already been approved. More than Rs 21,026 crore has already been released to the states during this year for various disaster-related aspects.
- ❖ This includes Rs 14,878.40 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to 26 states, Rs 4,637.66 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to 15 states, Rs 1,385.45 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 11 states and Rs 124.93 crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to three states.

### Amazon launches facility in Bengaluru to train school students in tech

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Amazon India has launched a facility in Bengaluru that will provide "underserved" school students free, hands-on learning in robotics, computing, artificial intelligence (AI) and 3D printing.
- ❖ For beginners, there are three- to four-hour programmes to learn basic robotics and coding. Students can book online sessions that will have groups of up to 40 participants.
- ❖ Six-hour programmes will over two days "dive deeper" into advanced robotics, programming, prototyping and design. For the most advanced students, there are multi-month programmes. Makerspace has

areas where students can build and test their robot.

- ❖ Makerspace has 3D printers, lathes, power tools, electronics equipment and kits for international competitions.
- ❖ Mentors and Amazon volunteers will help students develop skills in coding, problem-solving and design. Amazon Future Engineer is a philanthropic programme of the company to provide opportunities in computer science education to underprivileged students.



- ❖ In India, Amazon has partnered with 11 non-profit organisations to introduce computer science education in more than 17,000 schools. Amazon said Future Engineer in the past three years has helped more than 2.9 million students and trained 16,000 teachers across the country.

### Navin Ramgoolam elected as the PM of Mauritius

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Navin Ramgoolam has been elected as the Prime Minister of Mauritius. Prime Minister of Mauritius Pravind Jugnauth has reportedly accepted that his coalition, L'Alliance Lepep, has suffered a "huge defeat" following Sunday's parliamentary election.

- ❖ Navin Ramgoolam, 77, leader of the Alliance of Change coalition, is set to become the next leader of the Indian Ocean archipelago.

#### About Mauritius

- ❖ Capital – Port Louis
- ❖ Currency – Rupee
- ❖ Prime Minister – Navin Ramgoolam (replace Pravind Jugnauth)

### 13 November – World Kindness Day

#### Key Points:

- ❖ World Kindness Day is commemorated annually on November 13 and aims to promote several acts that inspire compassion, empathy, and goodwill around the world. This day urges people around the world to perform acts of kindness whether great or small, to help create a more peaceful world.
- ❖ World Kindness Day is a relatively new commemoration which began in 1998 following the formation of the World Kindness Movement (WKM). The World Kindness Movement (WKM) is a worldwide non-governmental organization with no political or religious affiliation.



○○○○

