

India: Third most Powerful Nation in the Asia

In the recently released Asia Power Index 2024, India has surpassed Japan to become the third most powerful country in the Asia Power Index.



Key Points-

- ❖ The Lowy Institute has released the 2024 Asia Power Index.
- ❖ In this, America is in first place with 81.7 points, China is in second place with 72.7 points, India is in third place with 39.1 points and Japan is in fourth place with 38.9 points.

Main factors behind the rise of India:

- ❖ **Economic Growth:** India has shown remarkable post-pandemic economic recovery, contributing to a 4.2-point rise in its Economic Capability. India's massive population and strong GDP growth reinforce its standing as the world's third-largest economy in PPP terms.
- ❖ **Future Potential:** India's Future Resources score increased by 8.2 points, signalling a potential demographic dividend. Unlike its regional competitors,

particularly China and Japan, India benefits from a youthful population that will continue to drive economic growth and labour force expansion in the coming decades.

- ❖ **Diplomatic Influence:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership has garnered greater international recognition. India's non-aligned strategic posture has allowed New Delhi to navigate complex international waters effectively. India ranked 6th in terms of diplomatic dialogues in 2023, reflecting its active engagement in multilateral forums.
- ❖ Further, India's large population and economic capabilities offer it substantial promise. India's score in Cultural Influence has also remained relatively strong, underpinned by its global diaspora and cultural exports.

About Index -

- ❖ It was first introduced by the Lowy Institute in 2018.
- ❖ The Asia Power Index evaluates 27 countries in the Asia-Pacific region based on their ability to influence and respond to external geopolitical problems.
- ❖ The index evaluates each country's strength using eight basic parameters, including diplomatic influence, military prowess, and economic capacity.

Top 10 countries in Asia Power Index:

Rank	Country	score
1	United States of America	81.7
2	China	72.7
3	India	39.1
4	Japan	38.9
5	Australia	31.9
6	Russia	31.1
7	South korea	31.0
8	Singapore	26.4
9	Indonesia	22.3
10	Thailand	19.8

Shankh Air

India's newest airline Shankh Air has received approval from the Civil Aviation Ministry to operate in the country for three years.

Key Points-

- ❖ **Location:** Uttar Pradesh's first scheduled airline Shankh Air will have its hubs in Lucknow and Noida.
- ❖ Shank Air will be headquartered at Noida International Airport (NIA), Jewar and plans to connect all major metro cities in India from Lucknow and Noida.
- ❖ **Aim:** The airline aims to connect major cities across India, offering both intrastate and interstate routes, focusing on regions with high demand and limited direct flight options.

- ❖ **Way forward:** The airline will need approval from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) before it can officially start flights.
- ❖ **Launch:** The airline will be ready for launch by the end of 2024.

Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the second edition of the 'Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show'.

Key Points -

- ❖ The second edition of UP International Trade Show is being organized from 25 to 29 September at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida.
- ❖ UP International Trade Show is working to bring artisans, craftsmen of the state and buyers from all over the world on one platform.
- ❖ 2,500 stalls of **defense, agriculture, e-commerce, IT, GI, education, infrastructure, banking, financial services, dairy industry** etc. have been set up in it.
- ❖ This year, 70 countries are expected to participate in UPITS and 4 lakh footfalls are expected. Apart from this, a **fashion show of Khadi garments and cultural programs** by artists will be performed in UPITS.

Highlights of the Vice President's address -

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh's efforts to rapidly become an '**enterprise state**' were also highlighted.

- ❖ UP is full of development and innovation activities in all sectors. In two years, the economy will surpass Germany and Japan to reach the third position.
- ❖ UP aspires to reach the **target of one trillion dollars by 2027**. The massive focus on infrastructure here makes it a powerful state.

Global Aerospace Summit

The seventh edition of the Global Aerospace Summit, a leading platform for the world's aerospace supply chain, took place in **Abu Dhabi** from 25-26 September.

Key Points -

- ❖ The Summit brings together industry leaders, government officials and academia to discuss sustainability, youth engagement and innovation in the **aerospace, space and defence sectors**.
- ❖ **Focus Topics:** Covers aerospace technology, policy, and investment, with a focus on emerging technologies such as AI, electric propulsion, and hydrogen-powered aircraft.
- ❖ The space economy is projected to reach \$1.8 trillion by 2035, growing at an average rate of 9% per year.
- ❖ **Background:** Since its inception in 2012, the Summit has played a key role in the global aerospace sector.

Important Days/Dates

25 September	World Pharmacists Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ World Pharmacist Day is organised by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), a partner of the World Health Organisation. ❖ The day is celebrated to honour and acknowledge pharmacists for their vital contributions in enhancing world health.
26 September	World Environmental Health Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ World Environmental Health Day is celebrated on 26 September, the purpose of celebrating this day is to make people aware about environmental protection. ❖ In the year 2011, the International Federation of Environmental Health started celebrating World Environmental Health Day to highlight the importance of environmental protection. ❖ This year's theme: 'Environmental Health: Building Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation'

Sports

Hangzhou Open

The pair of **Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar**

Prashanth have won the title of "Hangzhou Open" in China.



Key Points-

- ❖ In the final, the Indian pair defeated Germany's Konstantin Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens 4-6, 7-6, 10-7.
- ❖ The pair of India's Yuki Bhambri and France's Albano Olivetti lost in the final of the Chengdu Open. This pair was defeated by France's Sadio Doumbia and Fabien Reboul 4-6, 6-4, 4-10.

World Men's 6-Red Snooker Championship

- ❖ Indian veteran Kamal Chawla won his first IBSF World 6-Red title with a stunning 6-2 win over Pakistan's Asjad Iqbal in the final of the **IBSF World Men's 6-Red Snooker Championship**.
- ❖ India's Malkit Singh, Vidya Pillai and Keerthana Pandian also won three more bronze medals.

Important News- Other State

New Delhi	❖ All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Intuitive, a technology company.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The MoU is to set up a new training centre for robotic surgery. ❖ The da Vinci Robotic Surgery Training Centre at AIIMS will enable surgeons and care teams to perform robotic surgery in urology, gynaecology, general surgery and other specialties.
Tripura	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In Tripura, more than five hundred militants of two organizations National Liberation Front of Tripur (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF) surrendered along with a large number of arms and ammunition. ❖ They have given up the path of violence and returned to the mainstream.
Odisha	❖ Recently, the Mankidia community became the sixth Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) to get habitat rights over forests in Odisha.

	❖ The Mankidia are a semi-nomadic community known for their traditional skills of rope-making, trapping and eating monkeys.
Maharashtra	❖ In line with his commitment to make India self-reliant in the field of supercomputing technology, at Pune, Maharashtra, the Prime Minister dedicated to the nation three PARAM Rudra supercomputers , indigenously developed under the National Supercomputing Mission, costing about Rs 130 crore.

	❖ These supercomputers have been deployed in Pune, Delhi and Kolkata to facilitate cutting-edge scientific research.
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Miscellaneous

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in collaboration with researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has developed a **light-weight bulletproof jacket** called ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat).

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