

6th January 2025

First Coastline-Waders Bird Census

On 3rd January 2025, the country's first-ever 'Coastline-Waders Bird Census' was held.

Key Points

- ❖ It was held at **Marine National Park and Sanctuary** in **Jamnagar**.
- ❖ It was a three-day census conducted from 3rd- 5th January 2025.
- ❖ It was jointly organized by the Department of Forest and the Bird Conservation Society.



Marine National Park and Sanctuary

- ❖ The Marine National Park and Marine Sanctuary is located in Gujarat. It is **India's first designated marine national park**.
- ❖ Spanning the districts of **Dwarka, Jamnagar, and Morbi**, it covers approximately 170 km of coastline and 42 islands between Okha and Navlakhi.
- ❖ Uniquely, this is the **only place in India where visitors can explore marine life on foot during low tide**, unlike other locations where scuba diving is required.
- ❖ This region lies within the **Central Asian Flyway**, contributing to its exceptional bird diversity.
- ❖ The **Central Asian Flyway** extends from the **Arctic to the Indian Ocean**, encompassing parts of Europe and Asia.
- ❖ It serves as a critical migratory route for birds, including breeding grounds in northern Siberia and wintering grounds in regions such as Southwest Asia and the Indian Ocean.

Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat

- ❖ Bird Conservation Society, Gujarat (BCSG) **was founded in 2000**.

- ❖ Its **objective is conservation of birds of the state through field research, documentation, training, awareness activities**, networking with like-minded NGOs; and lobbying for protection of birds and their habitats.
- ❖ It is the only statewide network of bird-watchers, ornithologists and conservationists of Gujarat striving to achieve the above goal. The society is an NGO registered as Trust with the charity commissioner.

Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025

On 4th January 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025 in New Delhi.

Key Points

- ❖ It is an initiative of the **Department of Financial Services (DFS) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.
- ❖ The theme of the mahaostav is 'Building a Resilient Rural India for a Viksit Bharat 2047' and motto "गांव बढ़े, तो देश बढ़े".
- ❖ It aims to **enhance rural infrastructure, create self-reliant economies, and foster innovation within rural communities**.
- ❖ Its objectives include promoting economic stability and financial security among rural populations, with a special focus on North-East India, by addressing financial inclusion and supporting sustainable agricultural practices.
- ❖ The event brings together government officials, thought leaders, rural entrepreneurs, and stakeholders from various sectors to collaborate on initiatives that foster sustainable rural growth.

Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024 Report

The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal unveils the 6th edition of 'Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024' Report.

Key Points

- ❖ In LEADS 2024, the report evaluates logistics performance across **four key pillars**:
 - Logistics Infrastructure,
 - Logistics Services,
 - Operating and Regulatory Environment, and
 - The newly introduced Sustainable Logistics.
- ❖ It further highlights **initiatives undertaken by various States and UTs across these pillars and identifies State/UT-specific opportunities** to enable informed decision-making.

Performance Highlights of LEADS 2024

- ❖ **Coastal Group**
 - Achievers: Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu
 - Fast Movers: Andhra Pradesh, Goa
 - Aspirers: Kerala, West Bengal
- ❖ **Landlocked Group**
 - Achievers: Haryana, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand
 - Fast Movers: Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan
 - Aspirers: Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
- ❖ **North-Eastern Group**
 - Achievers: Assam, Arunachal Pradesh
 - Fast Movers: Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura
 - Aspirers: Manipur
- ❖ **Union Territories**
 - Achievers: Chandigarh, Delhi

- Fast Movers: Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Puducherry
- Aspirers: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh

LEAPS 2024 Awards

- ❖ The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal also **gave Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield (LEAPS 2024) Awards**.
- ❖ These awards are given across various categories, **including core logistics services, MSMEs, startups, and institutions**.
- ❖ It showcases leadership and innovation within the logistics sector, celebrating exceptional contributions through a transparent evaluation process backed by a comprehensive and rigorous assessment.

PM GatiShakti Course of GatiShakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)

- ❖ The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal launched the **PM GatiShakti Course of GatiShakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)**.
- ❖ It is a **15-hour course on "PM GatiShakti Concept for Efficient Infrastructure Planning and National Development"**.
- ❖ The course will be hosted on the **iGOT Karmayogi platform and UGC SWAYAM portal** to ensure broad accessibility and will be integrated into the curriculum of Central Training Institutes (CTIs) and State Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) across the country.

Person In News- Obituary

Dr. Rajagopala Chidambaram

- ❖ He was an Indian physicist who is known for his integral role in India's nuclear weapons program. He coordinated test preparation for the Pokhran-I (1975) and Pokhran-II. He passed away on 4th January 2024.
- ❖ He worked as the **Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission (AEC),** and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). He was chairman of the board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency during 1994–95. Dr Chidambaram **had also been the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.**

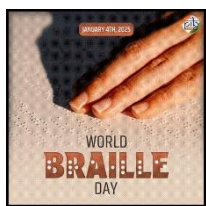


Important Days/Dates

Jan 4

World Braille Day

- ❖ **World Braille Day** is observed on January 4th.
- ❖ It commemorates the birthday of **Louis Braille**, the visionary who developed a tactile script that revolutionized communication for blind and partially sighted individuals.
- ❖ **It has been celebrated globally since 2019.**



What is Braille?

- ❖ **Braille is a tactile representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots** to represent each letter and number, and even musical, mathematical and scientific symbols.

- ❖ **Braille (named after its inventor in 19th century France, Louis Braille)** is used by blind and partially sighted people to read the same books and periodicals as those printed in a visual font.

Sports

International Championship of Handball

- ❖ The **International Championship of Handball –IHF Trophy Men's Youth and Junior (Continental Phase – Asia)** has **started in Lucknow** for the first time in the KD Singh Babu Stadium.
- ❖ Four countries: Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and India are taking part in the tournament.

Important News- Other States

Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ The **31st National Children's Science Congress (NCSC)** was held in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It is a nationwide Science Communication programme started in the year 1993.

Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Government of India, for Project VISTAAR (Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources).
- ❖ It is a pilot project which seeks to further strengthen the agricultural extension system.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ **Mumbai's Ayush Mhatre** has set a new world record as the **youngest player to score 150 and more in List A cricket during the Vijay Hazare Trophy** match against Nagaland. He surpassed Yashasvi Jaiswal's record.
- ❖ In a groundbreaking achievement for the mining industry, the CSIR-Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) has **successfully conducted the first trial blast for the Dozer Push Mining Method**, integrating advanced digital technologies, for the first time in India.

- This innovative approach developed by CSIR-CIMFR, aims to enhance safety **and operational efficiency in mining processes**.
- The trial was conducted at the Parsa East and Kanta Basan Coal Mine operated by M/s Adani Enterprises Limited in the Udaipur block of Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh.

