

4th National Conference of Chief Secretaries

The Prime Minister of India addressed the 4th National Conference of Chief Secretaries in Delhi earlier.

Key Points

- ❖ It was a **three day Conference** held in Delhi from 13 to 15 December, 2024.
- ❖ It focuses on evolving and implementing a common development agenda **aimed at enhancing the partnership between the central and state governments.**
- ❖ The theme of the conference was **‘Promoting Entrepreneurship, Employment and Skilling – Leveraging the Demographic Dividend’.**
- ❖ Key topics of discussion included six areas of focus; manufacturing, services, rural non-farming, urban development, renewable energy, and the circular economy.



The **Conference of Chief Secretaries is driven by the vision of the Prime Minister to strengthen cooperative federalism** and ensure better coordination between the Centre and States to achieve faster growth and development.

The Conference **has been held annually for the last 3 years.**

This annual conference series began in **June 2022 at Dharamshala** with previous iterations held in January 2023 and December 2023 in New Delhi respectively.

Vijay Diwas

On 16th December, the nation celebrates Vijay Diwas.

Key Points

- ❖ It is celebrated to commemorate India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- ❖ It was on this day in 1971, that the chief of the Pakistani forces, **General AA Khan Niazi, along with 93 thousand troops,** surrendered unconditionally to the allied forces consisting of the Indian Army and Mukti Bahini.
- ❖ The end of the war also resulted in the subsequent **secession of East Pakistan into Bangladesh.**



‘Jalvahak’

On 15th December 2024, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways unveiled the cargo promotion scheme ‘Jalvahak’ for boosting cargo movement on three national waterways.

Key Points

- ❖ Jalvahak is aimed at incentivising the movement of long-haul cargo via national waterways 1 (river Ganga), National Waterways 2 (river Brahmaputra) and National Waterways 16 (river Barak).
- ❖ The cargo promotion scheme provides a direct incentive to the cargo owners to transport their goods via inland waterways for a distance of more than 300 km.

India has an extensive network of inland waterways comprising rivers, canals, backwaters, and creeks. Of the total navigable length of 20,236 km, 17,980 km consists of rivers, and 2,256 km is made up of canals, both suitable for the mechanised craft.

Green Steel

India became the first country in the world to define “green steel”.

Key Points

- ❖ India becomes **first nation to define ‘Green Steel’ with new emissions standards & star rating system.**
- ❖ **Definition of Green Steel:** “Green Steel” shall be defined in terms of percentage greenness of the steel, which is produced from the steel plant with CO₂ equivalent emission intensity less than 2.2 tonnes of CO₂e per tonne of finished steel (tfs).
- ❖ The greenness of the steel shall be expressed as a percentage, based on how much the steel plant’s emission intensity is lower compared to the 2.2 t-CO₂e/tfs threshold.

Ratings:

Based on the greenness, the Green steel shall be rated as follows:

- ❖ **Five-star green-rated steel:** Steel with emission intensity lower than 1.6 t-CO₂e/tfs.
- ❖ **Four-star green-rated steel:** Steel with emission intensity between 1.6 and 2.0 t-CO₂e/tfs.
- ❖ **Three-star green-rated steel:** Steel with emission intensity between 2.0 and 2.2 t-CO₂e/tfs.

Person In News- Worldwide

Mikheil Kavelashvili

He has been **elected as the new President of Georgia.**

Georgia is a transcontinental country in Eastern Europe and West Asia.



Person In News- Obituary

Zakir Hussain

He was a **legendary tabla maestro.**

He recently passed away at the age of 73.

He **was born on March 9, 1951, in Mumbai.**

In a career spanning six decades, Hussain **won five Grammy Awards, including three at the 66th Grammy Awards earlier this year.**

He also acted in a few movies including ‘Saaz’, ‘Heat and Dust’. His most recent film ‘Monkey Man’ was released in 2024. Hussain **received the Padma Shri**, one of the country’s highest civilian honours, in 1988, the Padma Bhushan in 2002, and the Padma Vibhushan in 2023.



Military Exercise

Desert Knight

Joint trilateral air exercise between India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- ❖ It is a trilateral air exercise between **India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).**
- ❖ It is taking place in the **Arabian Sea.**

- ❖ This marks the second Desert Knight exercise, following the first session in January this year.
- ❖ The initiative aims to strengthen mutual understanding, coordination, and operational synergy in high-pressure combat situations, fostering tactical collaboration among the participants.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ Under the guidance of the Ministry of Coal, Singrauli based Coal India arm Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) has rolled out **'CHARAK'- "Community Health: A Responsive Action for Koylanchal"**, an innovative health-centric CSR Initiative.
 - This project is **aimed at providing free treatment for the patients suffering from identified Life-Threatening diseases** belonging to Economically Weaker Sections of Singrauli region.
- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India is organizing the third edition of the Mega event **"Viraasat Sari Festival 2024"**, from 15th – 28th December 2024, at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi. It will have special focus on Handloom Saris of various parts of the nation and will bring together handloom weavers, sari designers and sari lovers and buyers across the country.
- ❖ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Deputy Prime Minister of Moldova, Mihail Popsoi jointly **inaugurated the Embassy of Moldova in New Delhi.**
- ❖ The **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Wipro GE Healthcare** to establish an AI Health Innovations Hub.
 - Wipro will be a technology partner and AIIMS will be a clinical partner for the hub. The hub will focus on developing products and solutions to enhance healthcare delivery and outcomes through precise diagnosis, innovative treatment protocols, and real-time patient data tracking.
- ❖ India has dispatched a **fresh consignment of around 60 tons of emergency medical equipment, generators, and other utilities to Jamaica** which will support the country's healthcare needs and enhance their disaster preparedness.
- ❖ **India's Rithvik Sanjeevi Satish Kumar won maiden BWF Super 100 title** after defeating compatriot Tharun Mannepilli in the men's singles final at the Odisha Masters.

