

**08<sup>TH</sup> January 2024**

## Award

*First footballer to be awarded the US Presidential Medal*



Captain of Argentina men's football team Lionel Messi was among the 19 people to be honored with the United States of America's highest civilian award 'The Presidential Medal of Freedom' in a ceremony at the White House.

### Key Point

- ❖ Messi became the first men's football player and the second from the sport after female football player Megan Rapinoe, who won it in 2022.
- ❖ Presently Messi is playing for the Inter Miami football club in the Major League of the United States of America.
- ❖ The award was conferred to the 19 distinguished persons by the American President Joe Biden whose term as the 46th President of the United States ends on 19 January 2024.
- ❖ Donald Trump is expected to be sworn in as the 47th President of the country on 20 January 2025.

## Index

**LEADS 2024' Report**



The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry has released the "Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2024" report.

### Key Point

- ❖ The LEADS 2024 Report is the 6th edition of the report. The LEADS Report was conceived on the lines of Logistics Performance Index (LPI) of the World Bank.
- ❖ Released By: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ Objective: The Report gives an insight into improvement of logistics performance at State/UT level.

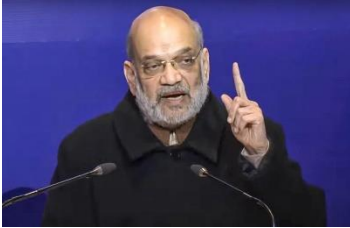
- ❖ **Pillars:** The report evaluates logistics performance across four key pillars,
- Logistics Infrastructure
  - Logistics Services
  - Operating and Regulatory Environment
  - Sustainable Logistics

**Performance Highlights of LEADS 2024**

Groups	Achievers	Fast Movers	Aspirers
Coastal Group	Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Tamil Nadu	Andhra Pradesh, Goa	Kerala, West Bengal
Landlocked Group	Haryana, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand	Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan	Aspirers: Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
North-Eastern Group	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh	Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura	Manipur
Union Territories	Chandigarh, Delhi	Fast Movers: Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Puducherry	Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Ladakh

### Important Days

#### BHARATPOL portal



Home Minister Amit Shah launched BHARATPOL portal developed by Central Bureau of Investigation in New Delhi on 7 January.

#### Key Point

- ❖ The BHARATPOL portal will streamline the processing of all requests for international assistance through INTERPOL, including the issuance of Red Notices and other colour-coded INTERPOL notices.
- ❖ The growing footprint of transnational crimes including cyber-crime, financial crimes, online radicalization, organized crimes, drug trafficking, and human trafficking, necessitates rapid and real-time international assistance in criminal investigations.
- ❖ To address this challenge, CBI has developed BHARATPOL Portal, which will bring all the stakeholders on a common platform.
- ❖ By facilitating easier and faster access to international assistance, it will strengthen India's efforts in combating transnational crimes.

### Place in News

#### 69th Railway Division of Indian Railways




The Union Ministry of Railways will set up its 69 railway division at Jammu under the Northern Railway Zone.

#### Key Point

- ❖ Currently, the Indian Railways has 68 divisions and when the notification is issued by the Indian Railways, Jammu will be the 69th division of the Indian Railways.
- ❖ India has the fourth largest rail network in the world after the United States of America, China, and Russia.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ However, the Indian railways is the world's largest railway system under single management and the largest employer with around 1.25 million employees.</li> <li>❖ To manage the vast network the Indian Railway has divided its operation into 17 Zones and within the Zones the network is divided into divisions. Northern Zone is the largest zone of the Indian railways.</li> <li>❖ The proposed Jammu division will include five sections: Pathankot-Jammu-Udhampur (now martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan), Srinagar-Baramulla, Bhogpur Sirwal-Pathankot, Batala (excluding)-Pathankot, and Pathankot-Joginder Nagar.</li> </ul>
--	---

### Miscellaneous

<p><b>India's first Coastline-Waders Bird Census</b></p> 	<p>Gujarat government and Bird Conservation Society of Gujarat (BCSG) conducted India's first coastal and wader bird census from January 3 to 5, 2025, at the Marine National Park and Marine Sanctuary in Jamnagar.</p> <p><b>Key Point</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Jamnagar district in Gujarat hosts 300+ bird species, including 50+ wader bird species.</li> <li>❖ The three-day event includes expert talks on Day 1, bird counting on Day 2, and a closing ceremony with knowledge sharing on Day 3.</li> <li>❖ The census will focus on wader and coastal bird species in the Marine National Park and Marine Sanctuary.</li> </ul>
<p><b>India's First Organic Fisheries Cluster in Sikkim</b></p>	<p>Union Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh inaugurated the country's first organic fisheries cluster in Soreng District, Sikkim on January 6, 2024.</p>



### Key Point

- ❖ Its main objectives are to increase the income of farmers and ensure the environmentally friendly methods of aquaculture production.
- ❖ The project will strive to bring to market fresh fish that is not contaminated by antibiotics, chemicals or pesticides for green markets around the globe.
- ❖ Sikkim has further built a reputation of sustainable agriculture over the state through the programme of organic farming.
- ❖ The introduction of organic fisheries can be regarded as being in harmony with furthering the vision of eco-friendly & sustainable Sikkim in different fields.

### Short News

- ❖ Devajit Saikia, a former Assam cricketer, is set to become the new secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- ❖ IPS Neeru Garg has been appointed as the Director General of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D).
- ❖ India ranked as the second most targeted nation globally for cyberattacks in 2024, with 95 reported incidents.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav inaugurated a Drone Training Centre at the Arts and Commerce College in Indore.
- ❖ Ashutosh Agnihotri, Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry, has been appointed as CMD of FCI.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh has become the first state in India to introduce a pioneering initiative linking the ecosystem services of forests to the Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP).

**Important Daily Current Affairs Question**

1. Which state in India has become the first to introduce a pioneering initiative linking the ecosystem services of forests to the Green Gross Domestic Product (Green GDP)?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Maharashtra

Answer -C

2. Who is the first footballer to be awarded the US Presidential Medal of Freedom?

- A. Cristiano Ronaldo
- B. Pelé
- C. Lionel Messi
- D. Diego Maradona

Answer -C

