

19 December 2024

## India sets up its first diabetes biobank in Chennai

### Key Points:

- ❖ Aimed at facilitating advanced research on diabetes, the variations of the Indian type and other related disorders, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) in collaboration with the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF) has set up the country's first diabetes biobank.
- ❖ This repository of population-based biological samples established in Chennai will gather, process, store and distribute biospecimens to assist scientific studies. A plethora of blood samples of different types of diabetes in the young, such as Type 1, Type 2 and gestational diabetes, have been stored for future studies and research.



## India, Sri Lanka joint naval exercise SLINEX 2024 begins

### Key Points:

- ❖ The bilateral naval exercise SLINEX 2024 (Sri Lanka–India Exercise) will be conducted from 17 to 20 Dec 24 at Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command.
- ❖ The exercise will be held in two phases – the Harbour Phase from 17 to 18 December and the Sea Phase from 19 to 20 December. Initiated in 2005, SLINEX is a significant series of bilateral naval exercises that have strengthened maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka over the years.



- ❖ Indian Naval Ship INS Sumitra, a naval offshore patrol vessel of the Eastern Fleet, along with a Special Forces team will participate on behalf of India, while SLNS Sayura, an offshore patrol vessel, with an embarked Special Forces team will join on behalf of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ During the harbour phase, participants will engage in professional and social exchanges to strengthen mutual understanding. The Sea Phase will feature joint exercises, including Special Forces operations, gun firings, communication drills, seamanship practices, navigation evolutions, and helicopter operations.

## Indore Becomes The First Indian City to Ban Begging



## Indore to criminalise begging from 1 January 2025

### Key Points:

- ❖ India's cleanest city, Indore of Madhya Pradesh, will file a first information report (FIR) against a person for giving money and alms to beggars from 1st January 2025. The district administration issued the order to criminalise giving alms and money to beggars under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS). Indore is one of the 10 cities in India where the government has launched the Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat pilot project.

### Pilot Project for Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a pilot project named “Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in the Act of Begging” in 10 cities in India. These cities are Indore, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Ahmedabad.
- ❖ The aim of the scheme is to make India beggar-free (Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat).

### Beggar Free Indore

- ❖ The Indore district administration launched a beggar-free campaign in the city in February 2024. In the first phase, the beggars caught begging were sent to an ashram in Ujjain, where they were counselled and pledged not to beg again.
- ❖ In the second phase of the campaign, the administration has made giving alms and money to beggars a criminal offence from 1st January 2025, invoking section 163 of the BNSS.
- ❖ Section 163 of the BNSS is similar to section 144 of the old Indian Penal Code (IPC) where the competent district authorities can issue prohibitory orders in cases of nuisance or apprehended danger.
- ❖ People who violate orders issued under Section 163 can be punished by a maximum jail term of six months and a fine of Rs 1000.

### Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched an ambitious Bhiksha Vriti Mukta Bharat campaign to make 30 cities of India beggar-free by 2026 under the “Central Sector Scheme for Comprehensive Rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of Begging.
- ❖ The Scheme is a sub-scheme of the broader central government scheme SMILE - Support for Marginalized

Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise”. The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the SMILE scheme in February 2022.

### Feature of the Bhiksha-Vritti Mukta Bharat Campaign

- ❖ Under the ‘Bhiksha-Vritti Mukta Bharat’ (begging-free) campaign, persons engaged in begging will be rehabilitated by the government through counselling, provision of basic facilities like shelter, rehabilitation, substance abuse prevention, hygiene, food, clothing, bedding, medical facilities, education and skill development of the beggars.
- ❖ The initiative will involve the Central and State Governments, local bodies, NGOs working in the field, social activists and the public.
- ❖ According to the government of India, as of 4 December 2024, the scheme is being implemented in 81 cities/towns of religious, historical and tourist importance.

### Reasons For Begging in India

- ❖ **Economic Aspects:** Economic considerations often lead to individuals begging. Poverty, unemployment, underemployment, as well as income loss are all significant causes. It is often viewed as easy money by some beggars. Rapid urbanisation and migration also contribute to begging menace. People from rural areas may migrate to cities in search of better opportunities, but if those opportunities are scarce, they may end up begging.
- ❖ **Natural Tragedies:** Famines, earthquakes, droughts, tornadoes, or floods may inflict major damage to property or farmland, forcing people to flee their homes or resort to begging to alleviate hunger pains.

- ❖ **Physical Issues:** There are no suitable provisions in India for the treatment or social rehabilitation of the blind, deaf, dumb, or physically disabled. In the lack of any other option, such people are forced to beg.
- ❖ **Religious Aspects:** Numerous religions in India recommend a life of poverty for their followers.

**Massive breakthrough Russia develops cancer vaccine, will distribute it for free from 2025**

**Key Points:**

- ❖ Cancer is a disease in which some of the body's cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body.
- ❖ World Cancer Day is organized by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and celebrated each year on 4 February.
- ❖ Russia has announced a groundbreaking development in cancer treatment with the creation of an mRNA-based vaccine designed to treat cancer patients. This revolutionary vaccine, set to be launched in early 2025, will be distributed free of cost to Russian citizens, according to state-run media reports.
- ❖ The personalized vaccine, which uses genetic material derived from a patient's tumour, will cost the state approximately 300,000 rubles (USD 2,869) per dose. The announcement was made by Andrey Kaprin, head of the Radiology Medical Research Centre of the Ministry of Health.
- ❖ "This vaccine aims to treat cancer patients rather than prevent tumour formation," Kaprin stated. The vaccine's pre-clinical trials had shown that it suppresses tumor development and potential metastases, Director of the Gamaleya National Research Center for Epidemiology and

Microbiology Alexander Gintsburg told TASS.

**What Is An mRNA Vaccine?**

- ❖ mRNA or messenger-RNA vaccines use specific parts of the infectious agent like its protein, sugar, or coating. mRNA vaccine gives a message to our cells to make a protein or even just a piece of a protein which are like those of the virus. The protein then triggers an immune response inside our bodies.
- ❖ ରୁଷୀୟ ବ୍ୟାକ୍ ଏଜେନ୍ସି ଦାସ ଅନୁଯାୟୀ, ଏହି ବିକା କର୍କଟ ଚିକିତ୍ସାରେ ଏକ ମାଇଲଖୁଣ୍ଟ ସାବ୍ୟସ୍ତ ହୋଇପାରେ । ରାମ୍ମାଲେୟା ବ୍ୟାସନାଲ ରିସର୍ଚ୍ଚ ସେଣ୍ଟର ଫର ଏପିଡେମି ଓଇନ୍ଫେକ୍ସ ଆଣ୍ଡ ମାଇକ୍ରୋବାୟୋଲୋଜିର ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ ଆଜେକଜାଣ୍ଡର ଗଣ୍ଡସବର୍ଗ କହିଛନ୍ତି ବିକାର ପ୍ର-ବିନିକାଲ ପରୀକ୍ଷଣ ସମୟରେ ଏହା ଦେଖାଯାଇଛି ଯେ ଏହା ଟ୍ୟୁମର ବୃଦ୍ଧି ଏବଂ ମେଟାଷ୍ଟାସିସ୍ ବା କର୍କଟ ବ୍ୟାପିବା ଲୋକିବାରେ ପ୍ରଭାବଶାଳୀ ।
- ❖ ଉଷ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ରାଘିନିର ପୁତ୍ର ମଧ୍ୟ ଚଳିତ ବର୍ଷ ପ୍ରାରମ୍ଭରେ ଜଳିଥିଲେ ଆମେ ଏକ ନୂତନ ପିଢ଼ିର ଜର୍କଟ ଚିକା ଏବଂ ଇମ୍ୟୁନୋମୋଡୁଲେଟରୀ ଔଷଧର ବିକାଶର ଅତି ନିକଟରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଛୁ । ରୁଷ୍ଆର ଚିର୍ଜା ବିଶେଷଜ୍ଞ ସିଣ୍ଡବର୍ଗ କହିଛନ୍ତି ଯେ ଆର୍ଟିଫିସିଆଲ ଇଲେକ୍ଟେଡ୍ ବା ଏଆଇ ସହାୟତାରେ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତିଗତ ଜ୍ୟାନସର ବିକା ତିଆରି ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଘଣ୍ଟା ଘଣ୍ଟା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଶେଷ ହୋଇପାରିବ । ବର୍ତ୍ତମାନ ସମୟରେ, ଏହି ପ୍ରକ୍ରିୟା ଲମ୍ବା ଏବଂ ଜଟିଳ, କାରଣ ଏଥିରେ ଗାଣିତିକ ପଦ୍ଧତି ବ୍ୟବହାର କରାଯାଏ । କିନ୍ତୁ ଏଆଇ ଏବଂ ବ୍ୟୁଲାଇ ନେହୁର୍ଗାକ କମ୍ପ୍ୟୁଟି ସାହାଯ୍ୟରେ ଏହାକୁ ମାତ୍ର ୩୦ ମିନିଟରୁ ୧ ଘଣ୍ଟା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ କରାଯାଇପାରିବ ।

**Sahitya Akademi Award 2024**

**Key Points:**

- ❖ The Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honour in India, which the Sahitya

Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, annually confers on writers of the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule to the Indian constitution as well as in English and Rajasthani language.

- ❖ Established in 1954, the award comprises a plaque and a cash prize of ₹ 1,00,000. The award's purpose is to recognise and promote excellence in Indian writing and also acknowledge new trends.
- ❖ The annual process of selecting awardees runs for the preceding twelve months. The plaque awarded by the Sahitya Akademi was designed by the Indian film-maker Satyajit Ray. Prior to this, the plaque occasionally was made of marble, but this practice was discontinued because of the excessive weight. During the Indo-Pakistan War of 1965, the plaque was substituted with national savings bonds.

The press release announces the Sahitya Akademi Award 2024. Languages:

- ❖ Awards were given in 21 Indian languages.
- ❖ Categories: 8 books of poetry
- ❖ 3 novels 2 short stories
- ❖ 3 essays
- ❖ 3 literary criticisms
- ❖ 1 play
- ❖ 1 research work Awards in Bengali, Dogri, and Urdu will be declared at a later stage.
- ❖ The awards were recommended by jury members and approved by the Sahitya Akademi Executive Board under the **Chairmanship of Sri Madhav Kaushik**, the President of Sahitya Akademi.

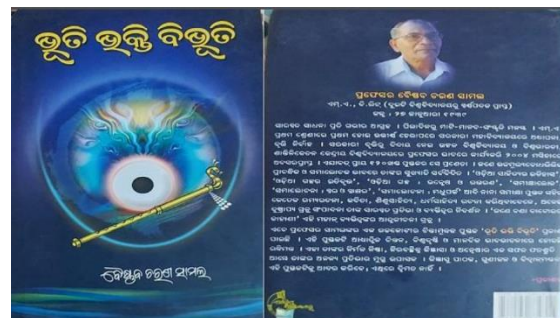
1. Assamese: Pharingbore Bator Katha Jane (Poetry) - Sameer Tanti
2. Bodo: Swrni Thakhai (Novel) - Aron Raja
3. **English: Spirit Nights (Novel) - Easterine Kire**



4. Gujarati: Bhagwan-ni Vato (Poetry) - Dileep Jhaveri
5. **Hindi: Main Jab Tak Aai Bahar (Poetry) - Gagan Gill**



6. Kannada: Nudigala Alivu (Literary Criticism) - K.V. Narayana
7. Kashmiri: Psychiatric Ward (Novel) - Sohan Koul
8. Konkani: Rangtarang (Essays) - Mukesh Thali
9. Maithili: Prabandh Sangrah (Essays) - Mahendra Malangia
10. Malayalam: Pingalakeshini (Poetry) - K. Jayakumar
11. Manipuri: Mainu Bora Nugshi Sheirol (Poetry) - Haobam Satyabati Devi
12. Marathi: Vindanche Gadyaroop (Criticism) - Sudhir Rasal
13. Nepali: Chhichimira (Short Stories) - Yuva Baral
14. **Odia: Bhuti Bhakti Bibhuti (Essays) - Baishnab Charan Samal**





### List of Sahitya Akademi Award winners for Odia

1955	Gopinath Mohanty	Amrutara Santana	Novel
1958	Kanhu Charan Mohanty	Ka	Novel
1961	Godabarish Misra	Ardhasatabdir Odisha O Tanhire Mo Sthan	Autobiography
1962	Sachidananda Routray	Kabita-1962	Poetry
2020	Yashodhara Mishra	Samudrakula Ghara	Short stories
2021	Hrushikesh Mallick	Sarijaitiba Apera	Poetry
2022	Gayatribala Panda	Dayanadi	Poetry
2024	Baishnab Charan Samal	Bhuti Bhakti Bibhuti	Essays

### Brazilian Vinicius Jr wins FIFA Best Male Awards 2024

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Brazilian and Real Madrid football player Vinicius Junior won the 2024 FIFA Best Male Footballer of the Year award. Spain and Barcelona midfielder Aitana Bonmati won the FIFA Best Female Player award.
- ❖ The winners of the 2024 FIFA Awards were announced and felicitated at a function held in Doha, Qatar, on 17 December 2024. FIFA President Gianni Infantino gave the awards to the winners. FIFA awards honours male and female players and coaches for their performance in the current football season. FIFA is the world governing body of football.



#### How are the award winners elected?

- ❖ The award winners are decided by the votes of football fans registered on the FIFA Fans site, coaches of all men's/women's national teams and accredited football journalists.
- ❖ The winners of the FIFA Marta Award and the FIFA Puskás Award, which honour the best goal scored in women's and men's football, respectively, are decided by votes of the fans and a panel of FIFA Legends.

### Second consecutive FIFA Award for Aitana Bonmati

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Spanish midfielder Aitana Bonmati won the Best FIFA Female Award for the second consecutive time. She was part of the Spanish team which won the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.
- ❖ She also was part of the Spanish national team that won the 2024 UEFA Women's Nations League. She also led her Barcelona football club to the 2024 UEFA Women's Champions League title.

#### 2024 FIFA Award Winners

- ❖ Following is the list of all the winners of the 2024 Best FIFA awards •Best FIFA Women's Player
- ❖ Aitana Bonmati of Spain and Barcelona football club of Spain.
- ❖ Best FIFA Men's Player – Vinicius Junior of Spain and Real Madrid football club of Spain
- ❖ Best FIFA Women's Goalkeeper – Alyssa Naeher of the United States of America
- ❖ Best FIFA Men's Goalkeeper – Emiliano Martínez of Argentina and English club Aston Villa.
- ❖ Best FIFA Women's Coach – Emma Hayes, coach of the United States women's team.
- ❖ Best FIFA Men's Coach – Carlo Ancelotti, coach of the Real Madrid football club of Spain.
- ❖ 1st Marta Award – Marta of Brazil. FIFA has instituted the award in honour of the legendary Brazilian women's footballer Marta, and it is given to the best goal scored in a season. The first winner was Marta herself.
- ❖ Puskas Award - Alejandro Garnacho of English football club Manchester United. The Puskas Award was instituted by FIFA in 2009 in honour of Ferenc Puskas of Hungary. It is given to the best goal scored by a male football player in a football season.

- ❖ FIFA Fair Play Award- Thiago Maia of Brazil. He was chosen by a panel of experts. He was honoured for his efforts to help people affected by floods in the Rio Grande do Sul region of Brazil in 2024.

#### **India Moldova signs Migration and Mobility Partnership Pact**

- ❖ The Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Moldova, Mihail Popsoi, was on an official visit to India on 15-16 December 2024.
- ❖ During his visit, India and Moldova signed three agreements, including a Migration and Mobility Partnership agreement, to strengthen the bilateral ties. Moldova, a small European country, was earlier a part of the Soviet Union.
- ❖ It gained its independence in August 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union. During his visit to India, he met External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar.



#### **Inauguration of the Moldavian Embassy in New Delhi**

- ❖ India established diplomatic relations with Moldova in March 1992, but neither of the countries opened a diplomatic mission in each other's countries.
- ❖ The Indian ambassador in Bucharest, Hungary, was also the ambassador to Moldova. Moldova's Ambassador to Azerbaijan also acted as the Ambassador to India. In 2023, Moldova decided to open an embassy in New Delhi. The Moldovan Embassy in New Delhi was inaugurated jointly by Dr S Jaishankar and Mihail Popsoi.

#### **Three Agreements Signed between India and Moldova**

- ❖ During the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Moldova, Mihail Popsoi, to India, three agreements were signed between the two countries.
- ❖ Declaration of Intent on a Migration and Mobility Partnership.
- ❖ Moldova signed a Framework Agreement to join the International Solar Alliance.
- ❖ Memorandum of Understanding between the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service, Ministry of External Affairs of India, and the Diplomatic Institute, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Moldova, to enhance cooperation in diplomatic training.

#### **India Moldova Relations**

- ❖ India and Moldova enjoy friendly and cordial ties.
- ❖ The total trade between the two countries in 2022-23 was \$15.89 million. India's export to Moldova was \$11.96 million, and imports were \$ 3.93 million.
- ❖ India mainly exports pharma products, fabrics impregnated, coated or covered with plastics or laminated with plastics & textiles, etc, to Moldova.
- ❖ India's main imports from Moldova are edible vegetable oil seeds, fruits, miscellaneous grains; c fruit and Vegetable juices, animal blood & amino Compos; mineral water, machinery and mechanical appliances and parts thereof; and fruit jams.
- ❖ There are around 2000 Indians in Moldova, most of whom are students who have gone to Moldova to study medicine.

#### **About the Republic of Moldova**

- ❖ Capital: Chisinau
- ❖ Currency: Moldovan leu
- ❖ Prime Minister: Dorin Recean



## International Migrants Day 2024

### Key Points:

- ❖ International Migrants Day, observed on December 18, highlights migrants' contributions and the challenges they face.
- ❖ In 2024, the theme is "Honouring the contributions of migrants and respecting their rights," focusing on fair policies, integration, and combating exploitation.
- ❖ International Migrants Day, observed annually on December 18, serves as an important reminder to honor the contributions of migrants around the world and the role they play in shaping societies. In 2024, the day will be observed under the theme, "Honouring the contributions of migrants and respecting their rights."
- ❖ This day also sheds light on the challenges migrants face, including their rights, integration, and exploitation, while emphasizing the need for fair and inclusive migration policies.



## Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw Wins Jamsetji Tata Award for Biosciences Leadership

### Key Points:

- ❖ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Biocon, was honoured with the Jamsetji Tata Award by the Indian Society for

Quality (ISQ) for her groundbreaking work in the biosciences sector. The award recognizes her leadership in establishing Biocon as a global biotech leader and her commitment to quality.

- ❖ Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson of Biocon Group, was awarded the prestigious Jamsetji Tata Award by the Indian Society for Quality (ISQ) for her exceptional contributions to the biosciences sector in India.
- ❖ The award recognises her role in leading Biocon to a global position while maintaining an unwavering focus on quality.
- ❖ This recognition highlights her pioneering efforts since 1978 in establishing Biocon as a world leader in the biotechnology industry, and her impact on patients worldwide.



## Ayodhya's Ram Temple honored with the prestigious 'Sword of Honour' for safety excellence

### Key Points:

- ❖ The 'Ram Temple project' of the Shri Ram Janmaboomi Temple in Ayodhya has been awarded the 'Sword of Honour' by the British Safety Council.
- ❖ This award was one of the highest recognitions in safety management and that the British Safety Council evaluates the safety processes, practices, and on-site activities during its audits, and only those who receive a five-star assessment were eligible for the 'Sword of Honour' award.

- ❖ Larsen and Toubro, the company responsible for the construction of the temple, was also awarded a 'Golden Trophy' by the National Safety Council for its safety measures during the construction process.



- ❖ The temple has been built under close coordination between Larsen and Toubro and Tata Consulting Engineers, with effective supervision by the Construction Committee of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust.
- ❖ The construction of the first and second floors, including the Shikhar (spire) of the temple, was in its final phase, with completion expected by June 2025.
- ❖ The temple is being built using Bansi Paharpur stone from Rajasthan, with a total of approximately 15 lakh cubic feet of stone, along with significant marble cladding.

### Delhi airport becomes India's first airport to connect 150 destinations

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The New Delhi airport has become the first airport in India to connect 150 destinations. Notably, DIAL, operates and manages the IGI Airport in New Delhi.
- ❖ As per DIAL, Thai AirAsia X launched direct flights between Delhi and Bangkok-Don Mueang (DMK), marking the 150th destination connected to Delhi Airport.
- ❖ The ongoing induction of wide-body aircraft by Indian carriers is set to transform Delhi Airport into a super-connector hub,

reinforcing its position as a leading choice for international and long-haul travel.



### Riya Shirish Thatte clinches Gold medal in Women's 25m Pistol Final of 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions

#### Key Points:

- ❖ In Shooting, Riya Shirish Thatte of Aurangabad has clinched the gold medal in the women's 25m pistol final of the 67th National Shooting Championship Competitions in New Delhi.
- ❖ She defeated Punjab's Simranpreet Kaur Brar 7-2 in a shoot-off after both had tied at 31 hits in the eight series of five-shots decider.
- ❖ This is Riya's first senior national title. Olympian and former Asian Games champion Rahi Sarnobat was third with 25 hits.
- ❖ The shotgun and pistol competitions of the National Shooting Championship are being held in New Delhi, while Bhopal is holding the rifle nationals.



### Hardik Pandya most Searched Indian Sportsperson

#### Key Points:

- ❖ According to the Google Year in Search 2024, cricketer Hardik Pandya was the most searched Indian sportsperson across the globe.



- ❖ Overall, he was ranked the seventh most searched sportsperson in the world in 2024. No other Indian sportsperson was included in the world's top 10 most searched sportspersons.
- ❖ In sports trends in India, the IPL, T20 World Cup and the Olympics occupied the top three slots.
- ❖ Five of the top 10 trending people in India were sportspersons – Vinesh Phogat (1st), Hardik Pandya (4th), Shashank Singh (6th), Abhishek Sharma (9th) and Lakshya Sen (10th). Vinesh Phogat topped the trending people list in India for 2024.
- ❖ Earlier this year, Vinesh made it to the final of the women's 50kg wrestling event at the Paris 2024 Olympics but was disqualified later for being overweight. Lakshya Sen, who narrowly missed out on an Olympic medal in badminton, also featured in the top 10.

### Most Searched Sportsperson in world

- ❖ The list was topped by the female Algerian boxer Imane Khelif, who won a gold medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics. However, she later became controversial due to questions about her gender.
- ❖ Former boxing world champion Mike Tyson was the second most searched sportsperson.
- ❖ The 17-year-old female football player Lamine Yamal of Spain and Barcelona was in third place.
- ❖ Lamine Yamal won the 2024 Ballon d'Or award for best player under the 21-year category.
- ❖ In terms of sports trends in India, the Indian Premier League (IPL), T20 World Cup 2024, and the 2024 Paris Olympics occupied the top three slots.

