

Olympian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar retires from sport



Key Points:

- ❖ Olympian and Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Dipa Karmakar has announced her retirement from Gymnastics.
- ❖ Dipa Karmakar, nicknamed 'Small Wonder', was the first female Indian gymnast to establish India's name at the international level in the sport. Born in Agartala, Tripura, Dipa Karmakar has flat feet, which is considered a big disadvantage in gymnastics.
- ❖ However, with sheer determination and talent, Dipa became the most successful Indian gymnast.

First Indian female Gymnast to participate in Olympics

- ❖ Dipa Karmakar is the first Indian female gymnast to compete in a Summer Olympics. She narrowly missed a medal at the vault event at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- ❖ She is amongst the few gymnasts in the world who have successfully landed the famous Produnova vault, which she performed at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- ❖ She also has the distinction of being the first Indian woman to win a gymnastics medal at the Commonwealth Games. She won a bronze medal at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

Awards and Biography

- ❖ Dipa Karmakar was honoured with India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 2017.

- ❖ In 2016, she was awarded the country's highest sports award, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (then the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award).
- ❖ In 2015, Dipa Karmakar was awarded the Arjuna Award.

Biography of Dipa Karmakar *Dipa Karmakar: The Small Wonder*, co-authored by Digvijay Singh Deo, Vimal Mohan and Dipa Karmakar Coach, Bishweshwar Nandi.

NOBEL PRIZE

ABOUT ALFRED NOBEL:



Key Points:

- ❖ The Nobel Prize was set up when businessman and entrepreneur Alfred Nobel died and left the majority of his fortune to the establishment of prizes in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature, and peace. Alfred Nobel's will stated that the prizes should be awarded to "those who, during the preceding year, shall have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind." Alfred Nobel was an inventor, entrepreneur, scientist, and businessman who also wrote poetry and drama.
- ❖ The Nobel Prizes, which he established in 1895 through his last will and testament, are a reflection of his wide-ranging interests.
- ❖ He is known for inventing dynamite and is a holder of 355 patents. The first Prizes were awarded in 1901 and they have been awarded annually since then.



External Affairs Minister Jaishankar to go to Pakistan for SCO meet



Key Points:

- ❖ In the first such visit since 2015, the External Affairs Minister will attend the SCO's Heads of Government meeting in Islamabad this month; no bilateral meetings fixed yet, says MEA
- ❖ In August this year, Pakistan, which holds the rotating chairmanship of the SCO CHG, said it had extended invitations to all heads of government of the SCO member states, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, for the meeting in Islamabad.
- ❖ This will be the first visit to Pakistan by an External Affairs Minister in nine years – Sushma Swaraj led the Indian delegation to the Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference on Afghanistan that was held in Islamabad on December 8-9, 2015.
- ❖ Swaraj also met Nawaz Sharif, who was then the Pakistan Prime Minister, and held discussions with her counterpart Sartaj Aziz. In May 2023, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, who was then the Pakistan Foreign Minister, visited India to attend the inperson two-day meeting of the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers in Goa.
- ❖ He was the first Pakistani Foreign Minister to visit India in almost 12 years.

WHAT IS SCO?



- ❖ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a permanent inter-governmental, Eurasian organisation, established in 2001, in Shanghai by China, Russia and 5 CARs (Central Asian Republics)- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. SCO membership has been expanded to include 10 Member countries- China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran, Belarus.
- ❖ SCO has 2 standing bodies: A) Secretariat in Beijing B) Executive Committee of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent.
- ❖ **SCO is headquartered in Beijing, China.**
- ❖ **Heart of Asia (HoA) Conference is a regional initiative of Afghanistan and Turkey, founded in 2011 in Istanbul.**
- ❖ **HoA aims to promote regional security, economic and political cooperation, with focus on Afghanistan, through dialogue and confidence building measures.**
- ❖ **HoA's membership comprises of 15 countries, including India.**

Agenda of the 2024 SCO Summit

Combating Terrorism: A primary agenda item will be addressing cross-border terrorism and enhancing security cooperation among member states. This includes initiatives to isolate countries that harbour terrorists and strengthen the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS).

Economic Cooperation: The summit will emphasise economic collaboration, including trade and investment initiatives. The "Make in India" initiative is expected to be highlighted as a potential engine for global economic growth, promoting partnerships, particularly with nations in the Global South.

Climate Change and Environmental Protection: Addressing climate change through sustainable practices and climate-resilient infrastructure will be a

significant focus. This aligns with the SCO's broader goals of environmental protection and sustainable development. **Strengthening**

Multilateral Dialogue: The overarching theme of the summit will be "Strengthening Multilateral Dialogue—Striving Towards a Sustainable Peace and Prosperity."

- ❖ This reflects a commitment to fostering cooperation among member states amidst rising global tensions.
- ❖ **Regional Stability and Security:** Discussions will also centre on enhancing regional stability, addressing ongoing conflicts, and promoting a multipolar world order. This includes reviewing the organisation's activities over the past two decades and strategising for future cooperation.

92nd Indian Air Force Day Celebration at Marina Beach, Chennai



Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Air Force celebrated its 92nd foundation day on 8 October 2024 with a grand show at Marina Beach in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Indian Air Force Chief Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, and other dignitaries witnessed the grand air show.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force was founded by the British on 8 October 1932. Air Force Day is observed to honour the sacrifice of Indian Air Force personnel, celebrate the Indian Air Force's achievements, and acknowledge its role in protecting and safeguarding the nation's skies from enemies.

- ❖ The Union Defence Ministry traditionally celebrated Air Force Day at the Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ However, in 2022, the Narendra Modi government decided that the celebration would be rotated across the country every year.
- ❖ In 2022, the Air Force Day Celebration was held at Chandigarh Air Base.
- ❖ The 2023 Air Force Day was held at the Prayagraj Air Base, Uttar Pradesh

Theme of the Indian Air Force Day 2024 : 'Bhartiya Vayu Sena: Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar' (potent, powerful, and self-reliant).

History of the Indian Air Force

- ❖ The Indian Air Force is currently the fourth-largest Air Force in the world in terms of personnel and aircraft after the United States, Russia, and China.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force was set up as the Royal Indian Air Force on 8 October 1932 by the British.
- ❖ In January 1950, after independence, the Royal was dropped, and the force was renamed the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ After independence, the government appointed a British Air Marshal, Sir Thomas Elmhirst (15 Aug 1947-22 February 1950), as the chief of the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The first Indian to be appointed as the head of the Indian Air Force was Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee(01 April 1954- 8 November 1960).

Command Structure of the Indian Air Force

- ❖ The Indian Air Force is one of the three armed forces of India, along with the Indian Army and the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The President of India is the Commander in Chief of the armed forces, including the Indian Air Force.

- ❖ The headquarters of all three wings of the Indian armed forces, including the Indian Air Force, is in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force has five operational commands located at strategic positions nationwide.
- ❖ It also has one Training command and one Maintenance command, which are headed by an officer of the rank of Air Marshal.

Serial No	Indian Air Force Command's	Headquarters
1	Western Air Command	Delhi
2	South-Western Air Command	Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
3	Central Air Command	Prayagraj (Uttar Pradesh)
4	Eastern Air Command	Shillong (Meghalaya)
5	Southern Air Command	Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
6	Training Command	Bengaluru (Karnataka)
7	Maintenance Command	Nagpur (Maharashtra)

Tragedy at the Marina Beach

- ❖ A tragedy occurred at the marina beach on 6 October 2024 during the air show held by the Indian Air Force on the eve of its 92nd Air Force Day.
- ❖ Five people died, and many were hospitalised due to suffocation as around 12 lakh people turned out to witness the grand Air Force show on 6 October.
- ❖ The tragedy occurred when people started leaving the area after the end of the show. Due to its narrow exit route, a stampede occurred, which led to the death of five people.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced a compensation of Rs 5 Lakhs to the families of the person killed during the stampede.

Himachal Pradesh CM launches Sankalp Initiative to tackle drug menace



Key Points:

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has launched a state government initiative, 'Sankalp', to tackle drug trafficking and support the rehabilitation of drug addicts in the state.
- ❖ The Sankalp initiative was announced by the chief minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, at an event organised by Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan in the state capital, Shimla, on 6 October 2024.

About the Sankalp Initiative

- ❖ The state government will set up a state-level model of de-addiction and rehabilitation center under the Sankalp initiative at Kotla Barog in the Pachhad subdivision of the Sirmaur district.
- ❖ The model center will assist drug addicts in de-addiction and help them reintegrate into mainstream society.

Other Announcement made by Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

- ❖ Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced that the state government has set a goal of making Himachal Pradesh a Green Energy State by 31 March 2026.
- ❖ A green hydrogen plant with a capacity of one megawatt is being set up in Nalagarh, which is expected to be operational by July 2025.
- ❖ The state government is also setting up a Center of Excellence at Kandaghat in Solan district to provide higher education to 9,000 specially-abled children in the state.
- ❖ Under the Ekal Nari scheme of the state government, free education is being provided to 23,000 children of widows and single women.

Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana

- ❖ In August 2024, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana' to provide nutritious foods to schoolchildren.

- ❖ He also launched a scheme to provide free Tablets to primary school teachers to boost digitalisation in the state educational and administrative system.

India tops the 4th ISSF Junior World Championships 2024 Medal Tally



Key Points:

- ❖ India finished at the top of the medal tally at the 4th ISSF Junior World Championships 2024 with 24 medals -13 golds, three silvers, and eight bronzes. Italy, with 13 medals-five gold, four silver and five bronze, came second, while Norway came third with 10 medals-four gold, three silver and three bronze.
- ❖ Five hundred fifty-three shooters from 53 countries participated in the 2024 ISSF Junior World Championships. The 2024 ISSF Junior World Championships, organised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) and hosted by Peru, was held in Lima, the capital of Peru, from 26 September to 7 October 2024.

Medal winner for India

- ❖ The Indian medal account at the 2024 ISSF Junior World Championship was opened by Kanak, who won the bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol individual event.
- ❖ Mane Parth Prakash won India's first individual gold medal in the Championships. He won the gold medal in the men's 10m Air Rifle event.
- ❖ Mukesh Nelavalli won six medals at the Championships: one individual gold, three golds in team events, and two individual bronze medals.

- ❖ The Indian shooter won 15 medals in the individual event: 5 gold,3 silver, and 5 bronze.
- ❖ In the team event, they won 11 medals: 8 gold and 3 bronze. Following is the list of the medal winners and the events in which they competed.

About the ISSF Junior World Championships

- ❖ The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) organised the first Junior World Championships in 2017 at two places.
- ❖ Suhi, Germany, hosted the Rifle and Pistol event, while in the same year, Moscow, Russia hosted the Shotgun event.
- ❖ The second Junior World Championship was held at Lima, where all three -Rifle, Pistol and Shotgun events were held in 2021.
- ❖ The third junior World Championship was held at Changwon, South Korea in 2023 ▪ Headquarters of the ISSF: Munich, Germany.

Kais Saied reelected President of Tunisia for a second five year term



Key Points:

- ❖ Tunisian President Kais Saied has been reelected for the second time for a five-year term. The Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia (ISIE) announced the election result on 7 October 2024, with President Saied securing 90.7 per cent of the votes polled.
- ❖ The election to elect a new President was held on 6 October 2024.

Low Voter Turnout at the Presidential Poll

- ❖ The Presidential election was marked by a very low voter turnout of 28.8 per cent. This was the lowest voter turnout in an election since the Jasmine Revolution of 2011, which overthrew the dictator Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali's government and introduced democracy.
- ❖ In the 2019 Presidential election, which Kais Saied won, the voter turnout was 55 per cent.
- ❖ However, President Kais Saied, who came to power in 2019, has been accused by critics of being dictatorial and reversing the gains of the Jasmine Revolution.
- ❖ He has imprisoned senior figures from the biggest opposition parties, and they were largely absent from the recent Presidential election.
- ❖ The prominent opposition leader Rached Ghannouchi, head of the Islamist-inspired opposition party Ennahda, and Abir Moussi, head of the Free Constitutional Party, have been imprisoned by President Kais Saied regime.
- ❖ In the recent Presidential election, two other candidates were Chaab Party leader Zouhair Maghzaoui and businessman Ayachi Zammel.
- ❖ Ayachi Zammel, who was considered a serious rival, was sentenced to 12 years in prison just before the polling.

Nagaland gears up for spectacular silver jubilee Hornbill Festival 2024



Key Points:

- ❖ The Department of Tourism, Nagaland, will celebrate the silver jubilee of the Hornbill Festival, scheduled from December 1 to 10 at the Heritage Village, Kisama.

- ❖ The tribal bodies are the core and backbone of the Hornbill Festival, and with their cooperation and collaboration, the state has successfully hosted twenty-four Hornbill Festivals so far
- ❖ Kisama Heritage Village, main venue, is undergoing renovations to welcome thousands of tourists, ensuring a grand celebration of Naga heritage.
- ❖ Naga morungs are traditional huts that were used as dormitories back in the day. These morungs play a crucial role in imparting the knowledge of customs, traditions, and warfare to young men. The festival features replicas of these morungs.

PM Modi inaugurated GAIL's first CBG Plant in Jharkhand



Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated GAIL's first CBG Plant in Jharkhand, through a virtual ceremony. The plant is built in an area of 7.86 acres at Ranchi Jharkhand, Jhir Dumping Site Mouza Jhiri.
- ❖ This 12,500 m³ per day capacity plant is designed to process 150 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste to produce 5,000 kg Bio-CNG and 25 tons of fermented bio manure per day
- ❖ The biogas generated in this facility is to be supplied to nearby CNG stations which can fuel over 600 vehicles per day in the region, contributing to the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and promoting the use of clean and green fuel.
- ❖ In March 2021, GAIL and Ranchi Municipal Corporation signed a Concession Agreement (CA) in the presence of Chief Minister of Jharkhand Hemant Soren to set up this plant.

Northeast to hold first ever India International Science Festival showcasing PM’s vision for the Region



KEY POINTS

- ❖ Dr. Jitendra Singh disclosed that the 10th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held at Guwahati, marking a significant milestone in the region’s journey towards becoming a hub for scientific and technological innovation.
- ❖ The festival, to be hosted at IIT Guwahati from November 30th to December 3rd 2024, is a testimony to the Government’s commitment to the Northeast and aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s focus on the region as a key player in India’s growth story.
- ❖ The 10th edition of IISF carries the theme “Transforming India into an S&T driven Global Manufacturing Hub” reflecting the government’s ambition to merge science and technology with industrial growth, propelling India towards self-reliance and global leadership in manufacturing.

Rajnath Singh inaugurated DefConnect 4.0 in Delhi



KEY POINTS

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated DefConnect 4.0 at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.

- ❖ The event has organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO), Department of Defence Production.
- ❖ DefConnect 4.0 marks a milestone in India’s defence innovation journey, bringing together the Armed Forces, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), industry leaders, innovators, start-ups and MSMEs, academia, incubators, investors and policymakers.
- ❖ Till date, iDEX has launched 11 editions of Defence India Start-up Challenges and has garnered over 9,000 applications.
- ❖ It is currently collaborating with more than 450 start-ups/MSMEs on important projects. Launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018, iDEX continues to provide a unified platform for various stakeholders in the defence and aerospace sectors, contributing to the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Visakhapatnam to host Malabar 2024 from October 8



KEY POINTS

- ❖ India will host the joint naval exercise of QUAD nations from October 8 to 18 in Visakhapatnam. Hosted by India, this year’s exercise will see the participation of Australia, Japan, and the United States of America.
- ❖ The exercise, named Malabar 2024, includes sea and harbor phases focusing on cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. It features various Indian naval platforms, such as guided missile destroyers, submarines, and fighter aircraft.

- ❖ The Malabar exercise started in 1992 as a US-India drill and evolved into a multilateral event to enhance interoperability and address maritime challenges.
- ❖ International Naval Exercise Malabar 2024 is scheduled to take place from October 8 to 18, beginning with the Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam, followed by the Sea Phase.
- ❖ Hosted by India, this year's exercise will see the participation of Australia, Japan, and the United States of America. Malabar Exercise, which began in 1992 as a bilateral naval drill between the United States and Indian Navy, has evolved into a key multilateral event aimed at enhancing interoperability, fostering mutual understanding, and addressing shared maritime challenges in the Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific region.

Recent Exercise

- ❖ 8th edition of Exercise KAZIND 2024 between India -Kazakhstan military in Auli, Uttrakhand.
- ❖ 7th edition of Exercise Eastern Bridge between Indian Air Force and Royal Oman Air Force – Air Force Base Masirah, Oman.
- ❖ 5th edition of Exercise Al NAJAH between Indian Army and Royal Army of Oman – Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman.
- ❖ Exercise Ulchi Freedom Shield between South Korea and USA
- ❖ Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 between Indian Air Force and Malaysia Air Force – Kuantan, Malaysia
- ❖ Ex Pitch Black 2024 between India and Australia – Darwin, Australia

