



70th National Film Awards:

Honoring Excellence in Indian Cinema

On 8 October, President Droupadi Murmu presented the 70th National Film Awards for the year 2022 in New Delhi.

Key Highlights:

- ❖ Legendary actor Mithun Chakraborty was honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award, the highest recognition in Indian cinema.
- ❖ Rishab Shetty won the Best Actor award for his remarkable performance in the Kannada film Kantara.
- ❖ The Best Actress award was shared by Nithya Menen for the Tamil film Thiruchitrambalam and Manasi Parekh for the Gujarati film Kutch Express.
- ❖ The award for Best Book on Cinema was conferred to a work on Kishore Kumar.
- ❖ The Best Feature Film was awarded to the Malayalam film Aattam, while Ayena was recognized as the Best Non-Feature Film.
- ❖ In the music category, Arijit Singh won Best Male Playback Singer, and Bombay Jayashri was honored as Best Female Playback Singer.

2024 Nobel Prize in Physics

Awarded for Pioneering Work in Machine Learning

U.S. scientist John Hopfield and British-Canadian Geoffrey Hinton have been awarded the 2024 Nobel Prize in Physics for their pioneering work that laid the foundation for machine learning.

Key Points:

- ❖ Machine learning using artificial neural networks is revolutionizing science, engineering, and everyday life.
- ❖ Hopfield, a professor at Princeton University, developed an associative memory model capable of storing and reconstructing patterns in data.
- ❖ Hinton, a professor at the University of Toronto, created a method that autonomously identifies properties in data and performs tasks such as recognizing specific elements in images.

India to Host World

Telecommunication Standardization Assembly 2024 in New Delhi

India is set to host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) of the International Telecommunication Union in New Delhi from 14th to 24th October 2024.

Key Points:

- ❖ Over 3,000 world leaders and technology experts from more than 190 countries will participate.
- ❖ The event will focus on shaping future technology standards in areas such as 6G, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, big data, cybersecurity, machine-to-machine communications, and quantum technologies.
- ❖ As a part of the WSA side events, the second phase of the AI Bharat 5G/6G Hackathon was held in New Delhi, where national and international teams competed to achieve sustainable development goals (SDGs) using AI-driven telecom innovations.

Red Panda Program of Darjeeling Zoo Finalist for WAZA Conservation Award 2024

The Red Panda Program at Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has been selected as a finalist for the prestigious World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Conservation Award 2024.

Key Points:

- ❖ The zoo has led numerous habitat restoration initiatives in collaboration with various institutions and the Indian government.
- ❖ Between 2022 and 2024, nine captive-bred red pandas (seven females and two males) were released into Singalila National Park, West Bengal.
- ❖ The zoo's conservation efforts are bolstered by its Biobanking and Genetic Resource Facility, which preserves the gametes, tissues, and DNA of red pandas and other endangered species for future use.
- ❖ The winner of the WAZA Conservation Award will be announced on 7th November 2024 at the 79th WAZA Annual Conference at Taronga Zoo, Australia.

Red Panda:

- ❖ Vulnerability:
 - IUCN Red List: Endangered
 - Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
 - CITES: Appendix I
- ❖ Distribution: 50% of the red panda's habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas. In India, it is found in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling, and Kalimpong districts. It is also the state animal of Sikkim.

About WAZA:

- ❖ The World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), founded in 1935, is a global alliance committed to animal care and conservation.
- ❖ WAZA has nearly 400 leading institutions and organizations as members worldwide.

MoU Between Amazon and Department of Posts (DoP): Key Highlights

Objective:

- ❖ Strengthen logistics and e-commerce in India by leveraging DoP's extensive postal network for parcel delivery.

Key Aspects of the MoU:

- ❖ Expansion and Logistics: Explore business growth opportunities, enabling Amazon to utilize DoP's network across India.
- ❖ Cooperation: Enhance operations through coordinated logistics, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building between Amazon and DoP.
- ❖ Regular Reviews: Conduct quarterly assessments to evaluate partnership progress and identify new opportunities.

World Post Day – October 9

Overview: World Post Day 2024 is celebrated every year on October 9, marking the founding of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland. This day underscores the vital role of postal services in our everyday lives and acknowledges the significant contributions of the postal industry to global communication and commerce. Each year, the United Nations and postal organizations around the world observe this day to promote awareness of the importance of postal services.

❖ Short News Updates

- ❖ **India Joins IMDRF:** India has become an affiliate member of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF).
- ❖ **WHO Launches HLMA Tool:** The World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced the Health Labour Market Analysis (HLMA) support tool to help Africa evaluate its health workforce education capacity, supply, and demand.
- ❖ **AccessAbilities Expo 2024:** The AccessAbilities Expo 2024 began on October 8 at the Dubai World Trade Centre, featuring over 250

exhibitors from 50 countries showcasing the latest in assistive technologies and rehabilitation practices for individuals with disabilities.

- ❖ 'Nijut Moina' Scheme Launched: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the 'Nijut Moina' scheme, focusing on promoting women's education and preventing child marriages.

- ❖ Indian Air Force Raising Day: The Indian Air Force celebrated its 92nd Raising Day for the first time at the Tambaram Air Force Station near Chennai.



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