

Global Soil Conference 2024 Inaugurated in New Delhi**Key Points:**

- ❖ The four-day Global Soils Conference 2024 was inaugurated in New Delhi on 19 November 2024 and will be held from 19 to 22 November 2024.
- ❖ The conference, which is the apex global platform for world soil scientists and stakeholders, provides a platform for the stakeholders- government, scientists, industry leaders, farmers, etc. to discuss various issues regarding the importance of soils and to find a solution to concerns about the issue of soil degradation and its sustainable management.

**Organizer of the Global Soil Conference 2024**

- ❖ The Global Soils Conference is being organised by the Indian Society of Soil Science, New Delhi, under the aegis of the International Union of Soil Sciences, Italy, with the collaboration of the New Delhi-based Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the National Academy of Agricultural Science.

Who inaugurated the Global Soils Conference?

- ❖ Professor Ramesh Chand, a Member of the NITI Aayog, was the chief guest, and he inaugurated the Global Soil Conference.
- ❖ Later, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, virtually addressed the conference.
- ❖ Prof. Ramesh Chand, Dr. Himashu Pathak, Director General of the Indian Council of

Agricultural Research, and Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra, chairperson of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, were present on the occasion.

Theme of the 2024 Global Soils Conference

- ❖ "Caring Soils Beyond Food Security: Climate Change Mitigation and Ecosystem Services" was the 2024 Global Soils Conference theme.

Agenda of the Conference

- ❖ The Global Soils Conference will deliberate on managing Soils, which directly or indirectly produce 95 % of the global food.
- ❖ With the human population expected to reach 9 billion by 2050, sustainable management of soil resources worldwide will be key to feeding the population and addressing the global problems related to food insecurity, food shortage, malnutrition, and poverty. The Conference will aim to find a solution to these problems.

About International Union of Soil Sciences

- ❖ The International Union of Soil Sciences is the global body of soil scientists.
- ❖ It promotes scientific research in all branches of soil sciences and its application.
- ❖ The International Union of Soil Sciences was founded as the International Society of Soil Science on 19 May 1924,
- ❖ Headquarters: Rome, Italy

Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR)

- ❖ It was established by the British as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on 16 July 1929.
- ❖ Later, it was renamed the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and made an autonomous body under the Union Ministry for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

- ❖ ICAR is the Apex national body for research and education in agriculture, fisheries, horticulture, and animal sciences.
- ❖ Headquarters: New Delhi

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)

Key Points:

- ❖ The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) was established in 1990 by the government of India.
- ❖ The Academy focuses on crop farming, animal husbandry, fisheries, agroforestry, and the interface between agriculture and agroindustry.
- ❖ It provides a forum for Agricultural Scientists to deliberate on important agricultural research, education, and extension issues.
- ❖ It also presents the scientific community's views as policy inputs to planners and decision/opinion makers at various levels.
- ❖ Headquarters: New Delhi

Punit Goenka's Resignation as MD and CEO of Zee Entertainment

Key Points:

- ❖ Punit Goenka, the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zee Entertainment Enterprises, resigned from his position as MD but will continue to serve as CEO of the company.
- ❖ This decision comes just days before a shareholders' meeting. Punit Goenka, the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zee Entertainment Enterprises, resigned from his position as MD but will continue to serve as CEO of the company.
- ❖ This decision comes just days before a shareholders' meeting where Goenka was set to seek approval for a new five-year

term as MD and CEO, from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2029.



Gabon Approves New Constitution in Historic Referendum

Key Points:

- ❖ Gabon held a landmark referendum, where 91% of voters approved a new constitution, marking a significant political shift in the country. The constitution aims to end 55 years of dynastic rule and reintroduce a democratic civilian government.
- ❖ The ruling military junta, which took power in August 2023, Gabon held a landmark referendum, where 91% of voters approved a new constitution, marking a significant political shift in the country.
- ❖ The constitution aims to end 55 years of dynastic rule and reintroduce a democratic civilian government. The ruling military junta, which took power in August 2023 through a coup, orchestrated the referendum, signaling a new era of governance.

Mithali Raj Appointed Mentor for ACA Women's Cricket Operations

Key Points:

- ❖ Mithali Raj, the former captain of India's women's cricket team, has been appointed as the mentor for Women's Cricket Operations by the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA). In her new role, she will focus on scouting and nurturing young cricket talent across the state.

- ❖ Mithali Raj, the former captain of India's women's cricket team, has been appointed as the mentor for Women's Cricket Operations by the Andhra Cricket Association (ACA).
- ❖ In her new role, she will focus on scouting and nurturing young cricket talent across the state, contributing significantly to the development of women's cricket in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ New Role: Mentor of Women's Cricket Operations in ACA.
- ❖ Contract Duration: Mithali Raj has signed a three-year contract.
- ❖ Objective: To scout and groom young female cricket talent across Andhra Pradesh. ▪
- ❖ Responsibility: Mithali will be involved in identifying and mentoring cricketers, providing guidance, and helping them develop their skills.

Odisha Wins Maiden Gold in 14th Senior National Hockey Championship

Key Points:

- ❖ Odisha emerged victorious in a spectacular fashion at the 14th Hockey India Senior National Championship, defeating two-time champion Haryana 5-1 in the final held at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai.
- ❖ Odisha emerged victorious in a spectacular fashion at the 14th Hockey India Senior National Championship, defeating two-time champion Haryana 5-1 in the final held at the SDAT-Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai.
- ❖ This historic win marked Odisha's maiden gold medal in the tournament, with Shilanand Lakra stealing the show with an incredible hat-trick.



Magnus Carlsen Dominates Tata Steel Chess India Blitz Title

- ❖ Magnus Carlsen, the World No. 1 chess player, completed an impressive double at the Tata Steel Chess India tournament, securing the blitz title just days after winning the rapid event. Held in Kolkata, the blitz tournament showcased Carlsen's brilliance.
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Meghalaya hosts Helicopter and Small Aircraft Summit 2024

Key Points:

- ❖ The 6th Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit 2024 was inaugurated in Shillong, Meghalaya. The event, held at Courtyard by Marriott, was organized by Pawan Hans Ltd in collaboration with FICCI, with support from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Meghalaya government.
- ❖ The summit aims to enhance the use of helicopters and small aircraft across India, with a particular focus on addressing the challenges of connectivity in regions like the Northeast.

- ❖ The summit brought together various industry participants, including operators, original equipment manufacturers, maintenance providers, regulators, and financing companies, alongside representatives from state governments.
- ❖ Capital – Shillong
- ❖ Chief Minister – Conrad Kongkal Sangma
- ❖ Governor – Phagu Chauhan

24 coastal villages in Odisha recognised by UNESCO as 'Tsunami Ready'

Key Points:

- ❖ 24 coastal villages in Odisha were recognised by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO as 'Tsunami Ready'.
- ❖ The recognition was given during the 2nd Global Tsunami Symposium held in Indonesia. These villages are located in Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Puri and Ganjam districts.
- ❖ Besides, the Tsunami Ready Recognition Certificates were renewed for two villages in the state. These villages are Noliashahi in Jagatsinghpur district and Venkatraipur in Ganjam district. They were recognised as Tsunami Ready in 2020.

UAE Launches Global Energy Efficiency Alliance at COP29

Key Points:

- ❖ The UAE has unveiled an ambitious initiative to establish the 'Global Energy Efficiency Alliance' during COP29, hosted in Azerbaijan. This move aims to double global energy efficiency rates by 2030 and contribute to significant emission reductions.
- ❖ The initiative builds on the 'UAE Consequence' from COP28, a commitment that brought together countries, organizations, and corporations to reduce

carbon emissions and promote sustainable resource management.

- ❖ The UAE plans to lead the alliance by sharing its expertise in energy efficiency, fostering knowledge transfer, and building effective partnership models with the private sector.
- ❖ The alliance is designed to support the reduction of carbon emissions and the sustainable use of natural resources through knowledge sharing, capacity building, and standardization efforts.

18 – 24 November – World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week

Key Points:

- ❖ World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW) is celebrated every year from November 18-24. Objective – To increase awareness of global antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to encourage best practices.
- ❖ Theme 2024 – Advocate. Act now As per the WHO, an estimated 1.27 million global deaths in 2019 were directly the result of bacterial AMR, and it also contributed to 4.95 million deaths.

Russia and Ukraine reaches its 1,000th day

Key Points:

- ❖ As the conflict between Russia and Ukraine reaches its 1,000th day, the war stands as Europe's deadliest since World War II, leaving human and economic scars on both sides.
- ❖ Civilians have borne the brunt of the war, with the United Nations reporting at least 11,743 deaths and over 24,600 injuries as of August 2024.
- ❖ Ukrainian prosecutors say of the casualties, 589 children. Officials warn the true toll is likely much higher due to limited access to areas under Russian control.

- Beyond the battlefield, the war has upended Ukraine's demographics. More than 6 million Ukrainians have fled abroad, while nearly 4 million remain internally displaced. The United Nations estimates Ukraine's population has shrunk by 10 million—a quarter of its pre-war total.



Territorial Shifts

- Russia now occupies roughly a fifth of Ukraine, an area comparable to Greece. This includes much of the Donbas region and the entire Sea of Azov coastline.
- Early in the conflict, Russian forces captured swathes of territory, but Ukrainian counteroffensives have since slowed the advance.
- Frontline cities such as Mariupol have been devastated, with many rendered uninhabitable. In the past year, Russia has consolidated gains in the Donbas, while Ukraine launched limited attacks, including

a cross-border operation into Russia's Kursk region.

Economic Fallout

- The war has significantly weakened Ukraine's economy, which contracted by a third in 2022 and remains 22% below pre-war levels despite modest recovery.
- Damage to infrastructure reached \$152 billion by late 2023, according to assessments by the World Bank and other organisations, with total recovery costs estimated at \$486 billion.
- Ukraine's energy infrastructure has suffered repeated attacks, straining its capacity to meet civilian and industrial needs. Meanwhile, the disruption of Ukraine's grain exports early in the war exacerbated global food insecurity, though exports have since partially recovered.

ଯୁକ୍ତେନ-ରୁଷିଆ ଯୁଦ୍ଧର ୧୦୦୦ ଦିନ ଆସି ପୁରିଛି ଏବଂ ଏହା ସହ ଯୁଦ୍ଧର ଏକ ନୂଆ ଅଧ୍ୟାୟ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଛି । ଆମେରିକା ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ଡୋ ବାଇଡେନଙ୍କ ଅନୁମୋଦନ ଦ୍ୱାରା ଦିନ ପରେ ଯୁକ୍ତେନ ପ୍ରଥମ ଥର ପାଇଁ ରୁଷ୍ ଉପରକୁ ଆମେରିକା ନିର୍ମିତ ଦୂରଗାମୀ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ନିକ୍ଷେପ କରିଛି ।

ଆମେରିକାର ଶକ୍ତିଶାଳୀ 'ଏଟି-ଏସିଏମ୍-ଏସି' ଦୂରଗାମୀ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ଯୁକ୍ତେନ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିଥିବା ବେଳେ ରୁଷ୍ ଏହାକୁ ଅତି ଗମ୍ଭୀରତାର ସହ ନେଇଛି । ଲୁଗ୍ନାୟା ସେନାର ମୁଖ୍ୟ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ଏବଂ ଆର୍ଟିଲାରୀ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶାବଳୀର ସାମରିକ ଘାତିକୁ ଚାର୍ଜେଟ କରି ଆମେରିକା ନିର୍ମିତ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ରରେ ଯୁକ୍ତେନ ଆକ୍ରମଣ କରିଥିବା ଗିରଫ ନିହିଛି ।

ସୂଚନାଯୋଗ୍ୟ, ପୂର୍ବରୁ ରୁଷ୍ ଆମେରିକା ନିର୍ମିତ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ବ୍ୟବହାର ନ କରିବାକୁ ଯୁକ୍ତେନକୁ ଚେତାବନୀ ଦେଇଥିଲା । ତେବେ ଯୁକ୍ତେନ ଏହାକୁ ଭୁଲେଇ ନକରି ଏବେ ଦୂରଗାମୀ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିଥିବାରୁ ଏହା ଯୁଦ୍ଧର ନିଆଁକୁ ଆହୁରି ଉଜ୍ଜ୍ୱଳ ରୂପ ଦେଇଛି । ଗତ ଚାର୍ ମାସରୁ ଯୁକ୍ତେନାତିର ପରିବର୍ତ୍ତନ ଆଣି ନିଜର ମହାଶକ୍ତିଶାଳୀ ହାଇପରସୋନିକ ଓ ସୁପରସୋନିକ ରେଞ୍ଜର କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବାକୁ ନିଶ୍ଚିତ ନେଇଛି । ଏଭଳି ପରିସ୍ଥିତିରେ ବିଶ୍ୱ ତୃତୀୟ ବିଶ୍ୱଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଆଡ଼କୁ ମୁହାଁଇବା ବୋଲି ଆଶଙ୍କା ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇଛି ।

ରୁଷ୍ ଓ ଯୁକ୍ତେନ ଯୁଦ୍ଧକୁ ନିୟନ୍ତ୍ରଣରେ ରଖିବାକୁ ବିଶ୍ୱ ନେତୃତ୍ୱମୟ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଗ୍ରହଣ ନକରି ଯମ୍ବୁଦ୍ଧ ବିଶ୍ୱ ଭୟାନକ ବିପତ୍ତିର ସମ୍ମୁଖୀନ ହେବା ବୋଲି ସାମରିକ ବୃତ୍ତନୀତିଜ୍ଞମାନେ ଆଶଙ୍କା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତ କରିଛନ୍ତି । ଆମେରିକା ନିର୍ମିତ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ମାତ୍ର କଲା ଯୁକ୍ତେନ, ଯୁଦ୍ଧନୀତି ବଦଳାଇବା ପ୍ରତିନା । ଗତ ବିରୋଧରେ ଆମେରିକାୟ ଅସ୍ତ୍ରଶସ୍ତ୍ର ବ୍ୟବହାରକୁ ବାଇଡେନ ଅନୁମୋଦନ ଦେବାର ଦ୍ୱାରା ଦିନ ପରେ ଯୁକ୍ତେନର ଆଗଘାଟୀ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ପୁରା ବିଶ୍ୱର ବିପଦ ବଢ଼ାଇ ଦେଇଛି ।

ଗତର କାରାଗେଟ ଉପରେ ଆମେରିକାର ଦୂରଗାମୀ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ମାତ୍ର ହୋଇଥିବା ଗଣାପଡ଼ିବା ପରେ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ଗ୍ଲାଭିନିର ପ୍ରତିନିଧି ଏକ କରୁଣା ବୈଠକରେ ସ୍ୱରାଶା ଶିତି ସମାକ୍ଷା କରିଛନ୍ତି ଏବଂ ରୁଷ୍ ନିଜର ସ୍ୱରାଶା ପାଇଁ ଅତି କଠୋର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବା ବୋଲି ଚେତାବନୀ ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି । ଆଉକୁ ଆମେରିକାରେ ଚିପିବିହାନ ପାରି ନେତା ତୋନାଲ୍ଡ ଡ୍ରମ୍ପ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ଦାୟିତ୍ୱ ନେବାକୁ ପାରୁଥିବା ବେଳେ ଏହା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ବିବାହୀ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରପତି ଡୋ ବାଇଡେନଙ୍କ ପଦକ୍ଷେପ ଏକ ନୂଆ ଯୁଦ୍ଧର ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ କରୁଛି । ବାଇଡେନଙ୍କ ଏଭଳି ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତିରେ ଯୁରୋପୀୟ ରାଷ୍ଟ୍ରମାନେ ଆତଙ୍କିତ ହୋଇ ରହିଛନ୍ତି ।

ସୂଚନାଯୋଗ୍ୟ, ଗତରେ ଭଲର ବୋରିଆର ୧୦ ହଜାରରୁ ଅଧିକ ସୈନ୍ୟ ମୃତ୍ୟୁର ହେବା ଏବଂ ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଯୁକ୍ତେନ ପୋତିବା ପରେ ଆମେରିକା ଶିତି ସମାକ୍ଷା କରିଥିଲା ଏବଂ ଦୂରଗାମୀ କ୍ଷେପଣାସ୍ତ୍ର ବ୍ୟବହାର ପାଇଁ ଅନୁମୋଦନ କରିଥିଲା ।

- Defense now consumes 26% of Ukraine's GDP, with daily military operations costing \$140 million, Roksolana Pidlasa, head of the budget committee told Reuters.
- Ukraine depends on Western financial aid, exceeding \$100 billion to date, to sustain its economy and fund social services.
- For Russia, the war's economic impact includes international sanctions, reduced exports, and mounting military costs, though Moscow continues to fund its military efforts.

Global Hunger and Poverty Alliance Launched By Brazil's President Lula

Key Points:

- ❖ On November 18, 2024, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva officially launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty during the opening of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro. This landmark initiative, involving 148 founding members, including 82 countries.
- ❖ On November 18, 2024, Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva officially launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty during the opening of the G20 Summit in Rio de Janeiro.
- ❖ This landmark initiative, involving 148 founding members, including 82 countries and a variety of international organizations, financial institutions, and NGOs, aims to accelerate efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty globally by 2030.

Highlights of the Global Alliance

- ❖ Background and Objectives Hunger Statistics: Currently, 733 million people face undernourishment globally, equivalent to the combined populations of Brazil, Mexico, Germany, the UK, South Africa, and Canada.
- ❖ Alliance Goal: Eradicate hunger and poverty by 2030, reduce inequalities, and foster sustainable development through international cooperation.
- ❖ Inspirational Programs: The Alliance draws from Brazil's successful programs like Bolsa Família, the National School Feeding Program, and the Food Acquisition Program.

Founding Members

- ❖ Countries: 82 member nations, including Brazil, India, China, the US, and European nations. International Organizations: Includes the African Union, EU, UNICEF, FAO, and WTO.

- ❖ Financial Institutions: World Bank Group, African Development Bank, and others committed to mobilizing funds. NGOs and Philanthropies: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, BRAC, and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative among others.

Indian Army Completes 'Sanyukt Vimochan 2024' A Key Disaster Relief Exercise

Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Army successfully conducted the "Sanyukt Vimochan 2024," a Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, in Ahmedabad and Porbandar, Gujarat, on November 18-19, 2024.
- ❖ The exercise showcased India's readiness and collaborative capabilities. The Indian Army successfully conducted the "Sanyukt Vimochan 2024," a Multilateral Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, in Ahmedabad and Porbandar, Gujarat, on November 18-19, 2024.
- ❖ The exercise showcased India's readiness and collaborative capabilities for disaster response and was attended by various national and international agencies, including the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi.

Participants and Attendees

- ❖ Chief of Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi
- ❖ Representatives from National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), Meteorological Department, and FICCI ➤
- ❖ Indian Armed Forces: Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard

- ❖ Other agencies: National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)
- ❖ 15 Senior Officials from Nine Friendly Foreign Countries (Gulf Cooperation Council, Indian Ocean Region, Southeast Asia)

India to Host Inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025

Key Points:

- ❖ India is all set to host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup from January 13 to 19, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor (IGI) Stadium in New Delhi.
- ❖ This historic event marks a significant step towards elevating Kho Kho, one of India's most cherished indigenous games, onto the global stage.
- ❖ India is all set to host the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup from January 13 to 19, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor (IGI) Stadium in New Delhi.



- ❖ This historic event marks a significant step towards elevating Kho Kho, one of India's most cherished indigenous games, onto the global stage. With the support of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI), the tournament promises to be a milestone in the promotion of traditional sports.

Brazil Officially Hands Over G20 Presidency to South Africa

Key Points:

- ❖ Brazil officially transferred the Group of 20 (G20) Presidency to South Africa during the closing ceremony of the annual G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- ❖ This marks a historic milestone as South Africa becomes the first African nation to lead the G20. Brazil officially transferred the Group of 20 (G20) Presidency to South Africa during the closing ceremony of the annual G20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This marks a historic milestone as South Africa becomes the first African nation to lead the G20, with a robust agenda planned for its presidency.



The Historic Handover

- ❖ The ceremonial transfer of the presidency took place in the presence of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.
- ❖ The event symbolized the handover through the striking of the ceremonial gavel and a handshake between the two leaders.
- ❖ President Ramaphosa expressed his gratitude on behalf of South Africa, stating, "It is an honour to accept, on behalf of the people of South Africa, the responsibility of the Presidency of the G20 for the next year."
- ❖ He also extended congratulations to President Lula for a successful presidency that focused on inclusivity, especially by involving social and civil society groups through the first-ever G20 Social Summit.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2023: Honouring Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad for Peace Efforts

Key Points:

- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 was awarded to Daniel Barenboim, a world-famous pianist and conductor, and Ali Abu Awwad, a Palestinian peace activist, on November 19, 2024.
- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development for 2023 was awarded to Daniel Barenboim, a world-famous pianist and conductor, and Ali Abu Awwad, a Palestinian peace activist, on November 19, 2024. This prestigious award recognizes their remarkable efforts to promote peace and nonviolence.

Who Are the Winners?

- ❖ **Daniel Barenboim: Connecting Through Music**
- ❖ Daniel Barenboim was honored for using music to bring people together. His work shows how music can create understanding and harmony across cultures, even in areas with conflict.

Ali Abu Awwad: A Voice for Non-Violence

- ❖ Ali Abu Awwad was recognized for his peace work through his organization, Roots, which encourages dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. Despite losing his brother in the conflict, Awwad chose to advocate for peace instead of revenge.

The Ceremony and Messages of Hope

- ❖ The award ceremony, held virtually, featured speeches by prominent figures.
- ❖ Shiv Shankar Menon, former Foreign Secretary, called the winners' work "exemplary".
- ❖ Hamid Ansari highlighted how their efforts inspire young people to seek peace in regions like Palestine, where conflicts affect the lives of many. Ansari also emphasized the importance of building a future where differences are respected and celebrated.

Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development

Key Points:

About the Award

- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament, and Development is an esteemed award that has been presented annually since 1986 by the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- ❖ This award is named after Indira Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India, to honor her vision and dedication to global peace, disarmament, and sustainable development.
- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Prize recognizes outstanding individuals or organizations that have made exceptional contributions to international peace, disarmament, and development. It is one of the highest honors in the field of peace and development.

Prize Details

- ❖ The award carries a monetary reward of 25 lakh rupees.
- ❖ It is accompanied by a citation recognizing the recipient's contributions.

Categories

- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Prize is awarded in three key categories:
- ❖ 1. Peace: Recognizing efforts to promote peace and resolve conflicts globally.
- ❖ 2. Disarmament: Honoring contributions towards reducing arms and promoting nuclear disarmament.
- ❖ 3. Development: Acknowledging initiatives that contribute to the social and economic development of communities and nations.

Criteria for Recognition

- ❖ The recipients of the Indira Gandhi Prize are selected based on their exceptional and sustained efforts in addressing significant global challenges related to peace, disarmament, and development.

- ❖ Their work should have a positive impact on the international community and contribute to the betterment of human welfare. The award honors those whose initiatives demonstrate leadership, commitment, and a lasting influence on global peace and development.

UN Lists Chhattisgarh's Bastar Village as Tourism Destination

Key Points:

- ❖ The small village of Dhudmaras, located in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, has been selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for its Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme.
- ❖ This programme highlights villages with potential for sustainable tourism development. The small village of Dhudmaras, located in Chhattisgarh's Bastar district, has been selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) for its Best Tourism Village Upgrade programme.
- ❖ This programme highlights villages with potential for sustainable tourism development and aims to enhance local tourism infrastructure, promote cultural heritage, and improve residents' quality of life.

Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman" Campaign launched On World Toilet Day

Key Points:

- ❖ The Government of India has launched a three-week campaign, "Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman," on the occasion of World Toilet Day on 19 November 2024. The campaign will end on 10 December 2024, on the occasion of Human Rights Day. The end of the campaign on Human Rights Day

symbolises the powerful link between sanitation, human rights, and an individual's dignity.



Which Ministry has launched the Campaign?

- ❖ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti, has launched the three-week Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman.
- ❖ The responsibility for implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen component of the Swachh Bharat Mission lies with the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a nationwide sanitation campaign on 15 August 2014, and the Swachh Bharat Mission was formally launched on 2 October 2014. Swachh Bharat Mission is being implemented in both rural and urban areas, respectively called Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen and Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.
- ❖ Union Ministry for Housing and Urban Affairs is the nodal agency that implements the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban.

Aim of the Hamara Shauchalay: Hamara Samman Campaign

- ❖ The campaign will affirm the country's commitment to behavioural change regarding sanitation.
- ❖ Maintaining the country's Open Defecation-Free (ODF) status and achieving the Phase II goal of the Swachh Bharat Mission(Grameen).

- ❖ In 2019, Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) was launched.
- ❖ It focuses on total Sampoorn Swachhata—sustaining the ODF status, managing solid and liquid waste by 2024-25, and transforming all the villages from ODF to ODF Plus Model.
- ❖ The campaign will focus on empowering vulnerable groups, especially women and girls, and will involve all stakeholders from village panchayat to State levels.

World Toilet Day

- ❖ The first Toilet Day was observed in 2001 by the World Toilet Organisation. In 2013, the United Nations adopted 19 November as the World Toilet Day.

- ❖ World Toilet Day celebrates the importance of toilets and sanitation and seeks to raise global awareness about people without access to safely managed sanitation and the need to take action to solve this problem.
- ❖ The Day also raises awareness worldwide to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

Theme of the World Toilet Day 2024

- ❖ The United Nations agency UN Water selects the annual World Toilet Day theme. The theme for the 2024 World Toilet Day is 'Sanitation for Peace.'

