

Award

National Sports Awards



The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports recently announced the National Sports Awards 2024.

Key point

- ❖ The awardees will receive their awards from the President of India at a specially organized function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on **17th January, 2025 (Friday)**.
- ❖ These are given every year to recognize and reward excellence in sports.
- ❖ **Allocation:** Awards are allocated annually by India's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Nominated sportspersons receive their awards from the President of India at the Presidential Palace.
- ❖ **Categories of Awards:** Considered the pinnacle of sporting honours in India, the National Sports Awards are a collection of six different awards given out to sportspersons, coaches or organisations for their achievements and contribution towards the growth of Indian sports.
- ❖ **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award**
 - Considered India's highest sporting honour, the Khel Ratna was established in 1991-92.
 - It was renamed after hockey wizard Major Dhyan Chand in 2021. The renamed Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award comes with a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh.
 - **2024 Winners:** Gukesh D (Chess), Harmanpreet Singh (Hockey), Praveen Kumar (Para-Athletics), and Manu Bhaker (Shooting).
- ❖ **Arjuna Award (Lifetime)**
 - Honors and motivates retired sportspersons who have contributed significantly to sports during their careers and continue to promote sports after retirement.

- **2024 Winners:** Shri Sucha Singh (Athletics) and Shri Murlikant Rajaram Petkar (Para-Swimming).

Report\Index

Biennial Update Report (BUR)



India's 4th Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was submitted on 30th December, 2024.

Key point

- ❖ The report contains the national GHG inventory for the year 2020, and has submitted that India is on track to meet its climate commitment
- ❖ **India's Commitment to Emission Intensity Reduction:** India has committed to reduce its GDP emission intensity by 45% compared to 2005 levels by 2030.
- ❖ BUR-4 has submitted that between 2005 and 2020, India's emissions intensity of GDP reduced by 36%.
- ❖ The biggest highlight of BUR-4 is that in 2020, India's total GHG emissions were 2,959 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent.
- ❖ After counting the absorption by forestry sector and land resources, the country's net emissions were 2,437 million tonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- ❖ The total national emissions (including land use, land-use change, and forestry) fell 7.93% compared to 2019, although it has increased by 98.34% since 1994, as per BUR-4.
- ❖ **Sector wise Emissions:** Energy (75.66%) > Agriculture(13.72%) > Industrial Process and Product Use (8.06%) > Waste (2.56%)
- ❖ **Generation of Carbon Sinks:** An additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO₂ have been created through forest and tree cover (2005 to 2021).
- ❖ Currently stands at 25.17% of the country's total geographical area and has consistently increased.

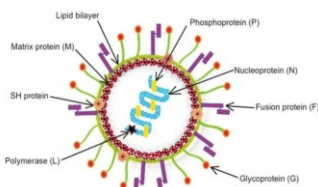
- ❖ Main contributors to the total GHG emission are CO₂ emissions generated from Burning fossil fuels, methane emissions from livestock, and increasing aluminium and cement production.
- ❖ A breakdown of the emissions based on the GHGs revealed that CO₂ accounted for 80.53% of emissions, followed by methane (13.32%), nitrous oxide (5.13%) and others 1.02%.

About UNFCCC

- ❖ It is a primary multilateral treaty governing actions to combat climate change through adaptation and mitigation efforts directed at control of emission of GHGs that cause global warming.
- ❖ It was signed at the Conference on Environment & Development.
- ❖ **Headquartered:** Bonn, Germany
- ❖ It came into force on 21st March 1994.
- ❖ **Focus:** To stabilise Greenhouse Gas (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would stop dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.
- ❖ The nodal agency for the UNFCCC in India is Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

Science and Technology

Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV)



China is observing an outbreak of the Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in its northern provinces particularly in children under 14 years of age.

Key point

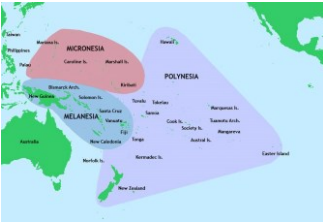
- ❖ Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) is a respiratory tract virus of the *Pneumoviridae* family causing mild infections similar to that caused by a common cold.



- ❖ *Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), measles and mumps are also members of the Pneumoviridae family.*
- ❖ *HMPV can cause both upper and lower respiratory tract infections and is generally seen in winter and early spring.*
- ❖ *The virus was first identified by scientists in 2001 by Bernadette G. van den Hoogen in the Netherlands in the respiratory secretions of 28 young children.*
- ❖ *Children and the elderly and those with weakened immune systems (HIV) are more susceptible to the infection.*
- ❖ *An estimated 10% to 12% of respiratory illnesses in children are caused by HMPV.*
- ❖ *The Infection shows symptoms resembling the common cold including, a cough, runny or blocked nose, sore throat, fever and wheezing.*
- ❖ *Incubation Period is generally three to six days.*
- ❖ *HMPV spreads through contact with an infected person like secretions from coughs, sneezes or even via touch, through close contact with someone with infection like shaking hands, hugging, touching a doorknob or a phone or a keyboard*
- ❖ *HMPV can cause complications when it gets serious resulting in hospitalisation.*
- ❖ *Treatment: There is no vaccine as well as a specific antiviral to treat HMPV. Antibiotics will not work for HMPV.*
- ❖ *Most people require over-the-counter medications to relieve fever and pain, possibly with a decongestant.*
- ❖ *The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has detected two cases of Human Metapneumovirus (HMPV) in Karnataka. Both cases were identified through routine surveillance for multiple respiratory viral pathogens, as part of ICMR's ongoing efforts to monitor respiratory illnesses across the country.*

Place in News

Vanuatu



On 2nd January 2024, India announced assistance of USD 500,000 to the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu to help it deal with the destruction caused by a 7.4 magnitude earthquake in December 2024.

Key Point

- ❖ Vanuatu lies within the Australasia Ecozone, comprising a chain of 13 major islands and numerous smaller ones.
- ❖ Port Vila is the capital of Vanuatu.
- ❖ The region hosts several active volcanoes, including Séré'ama on Vanua Lava, Manaro on Aoba, Garet on Santa Maria, Benbow and Marum on Ambrym, Yasur on Tanna, as well as various submarine volcanoes.
- ❖ The country faces a severe existential threat from climate change, which affects its livelihoods, security, and overall well-being.
- ❖ The sea level around Vanuatu is rising at double the global average rate and is projected to continue increasing throughout the 21st century.
- ❖ Vanuatu consistently ranks as the most at-risk nation globally on the UN's World Risk Index due to its high vulnerability.

Miscellaneous


Project VISTAAR



IIT Madras and the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Project VISTAAR.

Key point

- ❖ The objective (VISTAAR) Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources is to enhance the efficiency and outreach of the agricultural extension system through digitalisation.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Key Features of the Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Integration of Agri-Startup Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Over 12,000 agri-startups are listed on IIT Madras' startup information platform. Enables farmers to easily connect with innovative solutions from startups. ➤ Comprehensive Advisory Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Covers key areas such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Crop production techniques. ▪ Marketing strategies. ▪ Value addition processes. ▪ Supply chain management. ➤ Access to Government Schemes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Farmers can easily access information about agriculture-related government schemes and rural development initiatives. ➤ Accurate and Timely Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provides farmers with precise, relevant, and timely data to aid better decision-making. ✓ Supports sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices.
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Short News

- ❖ Flagship initiative, 'Faral Sakhi,' aimed at empowering women entrepreneurs was launched by the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation (MBMC) in collaboration with NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP).
- ❖ The Lokpal of India will celebrate its inaugural **Lokpal Day on 16th January 2025**.
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) marked its **67th Foundation Day on January 2, 2025**. It was founded in 1958.
- ❖ A 13-kilometer stretch of the **Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor** was launched on January 5 by PM Narendra Modi.
- ❖ The first baby of 'Generation Beta' in India saw the day of light on January 1, 2025 in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- ❖ The **Grameen Bharat Mahotsav 2025** was inaugurated by Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi on 4th January, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which of the following individuals did NOT receive an Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2024?

- A. Gukesh D
- B. Harmanpreet Singh
- C. Praveen Kumar
- D. Neeraj Chopra

Answer-D

2. IIT Madras has partnered with which ministry for Project VISTAAR through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. Ministry of Science and Technology
- C. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
- D. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Answer-C

