

13th November 2024

First Space Exercise 'Antariksha Abhyas – 2024'

Key Points:

- ❖ India's first military exercise to combat space-based threats and protect the country's space assets, Antariksha Abhyas 2024, began on 11 November 2024 and will be held from 11 to 13 November 2024.
- ❖ The Indian Space assets mainly consist of over 100 satellites for communication, weather forecasting, earth observation, navigation, scientific research, defence, and the rockets through which these satellites are launched.



Who has organised the Antariksha Abhyas 2024?

- ❖ The Antariksha Abhyas 2024 was organised by the Defence Space Agency of the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.

Who Inaugurated the Antariksha Abhyas 2024?

- ❖ The Antariksha Abhyas 2024 was inaugurated by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan. Speaking on the occasion, General Anil Chauhan emphasised encouraging innovations and development of new-age technologies and state of art systems in collaboration with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Academia, to protect our national interest in space from military threats.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates SATRC-25 in New Delhi

Key Points:

- ❖ The 25th Meeting of SATRC-25 (South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council) was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Communications Jyotiraditya Scindia on 11 November 2024. The meeting is held annually to discuss and coordinate regulatory and other issues related to the telecommunication and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sectors common for the regulators of SATRC Members.



Organiser of the SATRC -25

- ❖ The 25th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council has been organised by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity. It is being hosted by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in New Delhi from 11 to 13 November 2024. The meeting is being held in hybrid- both physical and online mode.

Participants of the SATRC -25

- ❖ The Telecom sector regulators of 9 countries -Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are attending the 25th meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council.
- ❖ The Secretary General of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity, Mr Masanori Kondo and Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), Anil Kumar Lahoti, are also attending the meeting.

Aim of the SATRC -25

- ❖ The SATRC-25 provides a platform for telecommunications experts, service providers, industry representatives and international delegates of the region to discuss issues related to telecommunication regulations and policy challenges.
- ❖ The meeting will also discuss key policy and regulatory issues faced by the ATRC Member countries.
- ❖ It will discuss and explore opportunities to encourage regional collaboration amongst the telecommunication regulatory bodies.

Asia Pacific Telecommunity

- ❖ The Asia Pacific Telecommunity was established in 1979. It was jointly established by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the International Telecommunication Union. The Asia Pacific Telecommunity aims to promote the development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sectors in the Asia Pacific region.
- ❖ Membership- It has 38 member countries and 4 Associate members.
- ❖ India is the founding member of the Asia Pacific Telecommunity.
- ❖ Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand
- ❖ President: Mr. Ilyas Ahamed (Maldives)

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)

- ❖ The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a statutory body established on 20 February 1997 under the provisions of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.
- ❖ It is the regulator of the telecom sector in India and is mandated to develop the telecommunication sector in India.
- ❖ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ❖ Chairman: Arun Kumar Lahoti

Joint OIC Arab League Summit call for end to Israeli action in Gaza

Key Points:

- ❖ A joint Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and Arab League summit meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, condemned Israeli military action in Gaza and Lebanon and called for the end of Israeli military actions. The one-day joint Arab League and Organisation of Islamic Cooperation meeting was held in the Saudi Arabian capital, Riyadh, on 11 November 2024.



- ❖ The Summit meeting was addressed by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who called for an immediate end to the Israeli military action in Gaza and Lebanon and called upon the world to recognise the statehood of Palestine.

Who Attended the Meeting?

- ❖ The joint summit meeting was attended by the 22 members of the Arab League and 57 members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation. Many Muslim countries attending the summit meeting are members of these Organisations.
- ❖ Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and Nigerian President Bola Tinubu were some of the prominent leaders who attended the meeting.
- ❖ The Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian did not attend the meeting, and First Vice President Mohammad Reza Aref represented it.

About the Arab League or the League of the Arab States

- ❖ The Arab League, or the League of the Arab States, is an intergovernmental organisation founded in March 1945 by Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Transjordan, and Yemen. The Arab League aims to improve coordination among its members on matters of common interest.
- ❖ Members - 22 countries: Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan, Yemen, Libya, Sudan, Tunisia, Morocco, Kuwait, Algeria, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Mauritania, Somalia, Palestine Liberation Organization (representing Palestine), Djibouti and Comoros.
- ❖ Headquarters: Cairo, Egypt

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

- ❖ The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) was established on 25 September 1969 to safeguard the interests of the Muslim countries.
- ❖ Currently, it has 57 member countries-Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Algeria, Djibouti, Chad, Indonesia, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Côte d'Ivoire, Palestine, Gabon, Sudan, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Iraq, Iran, Cameroon, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Somalia, Kyrgyzstan, the Comoros, Kuwait, Libya, Lebanon, Maldives, Malaysia, Mali, Egypt, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Surinam, Syria, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Oman, Jordan, Yemen.
- ❖ Syria was suspended in 2012.
- ❖ Headquarters: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri Term Extended till 14 July 2026

Key Points:

- ❖ The government of India has extended the term of the current Foreign Secretary of

India, Vikram Misri, till 14 July 2026. The Department of Personnel and Training issued a notification to this effect on 11 November 2024. The notification was issued after the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Vikram Misri's extension.



- ❖ Vikram Misri, a member of the 1989 Indian Foreign Service batch, took over as the 35th Foreign Secretary of India on 15 July 2024. He was due to retire on 30 November 2024. The government of India has the power to extend the term of the foreign secretary beyond the due date of retirement in the public interest.

Justice BR Gavai appointed Executive Chairman of NLSA

Key Points:

- ❖ President Droupadi Murmu has appointed senior Supreme Court Judge Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Service Authority (NLSA). Justice B R Gavai succeeds Justice Sanjiv Khanna, who was appointed the 51st Chief Justice of India.
- ❖ By convention, the seniormost judge of the Supreme Court, excluding the Chief Justice of India, is appointed as the Executive Chairman of the National Legal Service Authority.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of India is ex-officio the Patron-in-Chief of the National Legal Service Authority.
- ❖ Justice B R Gavai started his judicial career as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in November 2003 and was subsequently made a permanent judge in November 2005.

- ❖ He was appointed Supreme Court Judge in 2019 and is due to retire on 23rd November 2025.

About National Legal Service Authority

- ❖ The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) is a statutory body constituted under the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- ❖ The National Legal Service Act 1987 establishes a Legal Service Authority at the National, State, and District levels to provide free legal aid to the weaker sections of society and conduct Lok Adalat for the settlement of legal disputes.

Sonu Sood Appointed as Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor for Thailand

Key Points:

- ❖ Sonu Sood, the celebrated actor, humanitarian, and philanthropist, has taken on an exciting new role as the Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor for Thailand. Sonu Sood, the celebrated actor, humanitarian, and philanthropist, has taken on an exciting new role as the Brand Ambassador and Honourary Tourism Advisor for Thailand.
- ❖ Widely recognized for his philanthropy, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, this appointment adds another feather to his cap, expanding his global reach and impact. This collaboration between Sonu Sood and Thailand's Ministry of Tourism and Sports marks an important step in promoting Thailand as a tourism destination in India.

Interpol may issue a notice against Sheikh Hasina

Key Points:

- ❖ Bangladesh's interim government on Sunday (November 10, 2024) said it will seek Interpol's assistance in repatriating deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

from India, and other "fugitives", to face trial for alleged crimes against humanity.

- ❖ Ms. Hasina and her party leaders face accusations of ordering brutal suppression of the Anti-Discrimination Students Movement, resulting in numerous casualties during the July-August protests. The movement later intensified into a large-scale uprising, forcing Ms. Hasina to flee to India on August 5.



- ❖ According to the interim government led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, at least 753 people were killed and thousands injured during the protests, which it termed crimes against humanity and genocide. Over 60 complaints of crimes against humanity and genocide have been filed against Hasina and her party leaders with the ICT and the prosecution team till mid-October.
- ❖ "A Red Notice will be issued through Interpol very soon. No matter where in the world these fugitive fascists are hiding, they will be brought back and held accountable in court," Law Affairs adviser Asif Nazrul told reporters here after inspecting the status of renovation at the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT), which is housed in the Old High Court building on the Supreme Court premises.
- ❖ Interpol serves as a vital information-sharing network for national police forces to combat transnational crimes. Interpol (General Secretariat) issues notices to member states for missing or wanted persons, which, while not mandatory for states to follow, are often treated as warrants for arrest and extradition.

- ❖ It is the world's largest international police organization.
- ❖ It is headquartered in **Lyon, France**, with seven regional bureaus worldwide, and a National Central Bureau in all 196 member states.
- ❖ Officials said a Red Notice is not an international arrest warrant, but rather a global request for law enforcement agencies to locate and provisionally arrest a person pending extradition, surrender, or similar legal action. Interpol member countries enforce Red Notices according to their own national laws. Blue Notice: Referred to as an "enquiry notice," enables police forces in member states to exchange crucial crime-related information, including verifying a person's criminal record and location, among other details.
- ❖ Blue Corner notices are issued before the filing of criminal charges. Red Notice: Issued by a member state to apprehend a wanted criminal through extradition or other lawful means, targeting individuals sought by national jurisdictions for prosecution or to serve a sentence following an arrest warrant or court ruling.

London Leads Global City Brands Rankings Again

Key Points:

- ❖ London has topped the list of the world's top 100 "city brands" for the second consecutive year, according to Brand Finance's Global City Index.
- ❖ The ranking, released on Thursday, was based on a survey of 15,000 people across 20 countries, including Türkiye, the US, Germany, Australia, the UAE.
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20 countries, including Türkiye, the US, Germany, Australia, the UAE, Brazil, China, and others.

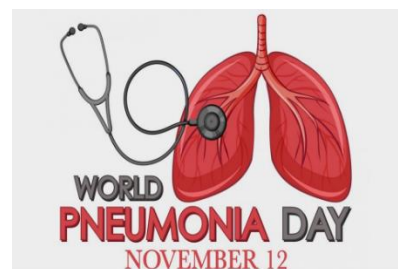
Ranking of Cities

- ❖ London ranked first, followed by other global cities in the top 10.
- ❖ 1. London
- ❖ 2. New York
- ❖ 3. Paris
- ❖ 4. Tokyo
- ❖ 5. Dubai
- ❖ 6. Singapore
- ❖ 7. Los Angeles
- ❖ 8. Sydney
- ❖ 9. San Francisco
- ❖ 10. Amsterdam

World Pneumonia Day 2024

Key Points:

- ❖ World Pneumonia Day, observed each year on **November 12**, is dedicated to raising awareness about pneumonia, a potentially life-threatening yet preventable and treatable respiratory illness. World Pneumonia Day, observed each year on November 12, is dedicated to raising awareness about pneumonia, a potentially life-threatening yet preventable and treatable respiratory illness.



Theme for World Pneumonia Day 2024

- ❖ The theme for World Pneumonia Day 2024, "Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Tracks," underlines the importance of respiratory health and the urgency of addressing pneumonia as a global health priority. It emphasizes:

- ❖ The importance of each breath as a marker of health, highlighting how essential it is to protect and preserve respiratory wellness.
- ❖ The need for timely detection and effective treatment to combat pneumonia.
- ❖ Preventative measures as a critical aspect of reducing the prevalence and impact of pneumonia worldwide.

Understanding Pneumonia and Its Impact

- ❖ Pneumonia is an inflammatory condition affecting the lungs, often caused by bacterial, viral, or fungal infections. It leads to inflammation in the air sacs (alveoli) of the lungs, causing them to fill with fluid, which hinders oxygen exchange.
- ❖ Symptoms of pneumonia include cough, fever, chills, difficulty breathing, and chest pain. If not treated promptly, pneumonia can become severe, particularly in those with weakened immune systems, young children, and elderly individuals.
- ❖ Despite being preventable and treatable, pneumonia is a leading cause of death in children under five years old worldwide, claiming over 800,000 lives annually.
- ❖ Most of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, where access to healthcare, vaccines, and nutritious food may be limited.

Canada Cancels SDS Visa Program Ended for India and 13 Other Countries

Key Points:

- ❖ The Government of Canada has officially announced the termination of its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program, which was widely popular among Indian students for expedited processing of study permits.
- ❖ Effective immediately, students from India and 13 other countries who previously benefited. The Government of Canada has

officially announced the termination of its Student Direct Stream (SDS) program, which was widely popular among Indian students for expedited processing of study permits.

- ❖ Effective immediately, students from India and 13 other countries who previously benefited from faster application handling through the SDS will now have to apply through the regular study permit system.

Veteran Filmmaker Phillip Noyce Honored with Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award

Key Points:

- ❖ Veteran Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce, renowned for his acclaimed works such as Clear and Present Danger, Salt, and Rabbit-Proof Fence, will be honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).
- ❖ Veteran Australian filmmaker Phillip Noyce, renowned for his acclaimed works such as Clear and Present Danger, Salt, and Rabbit-Proof Fence, will be honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI).



- ❖ The festival, which will be held in Goa from November 20-28, 2024, has Australia as its Country of Focus this year.

