

22nd November 2024

Dubai Hosts 3rd Global Freight Summit

Key Points:

- ❖ The Global Freight Summit 2024 commenced in Dubai, marking its third edition since its inception in 2022.
- ❖ The three-day event, hosted by DP World, has attracted more than 5,000 industry leaders from 155 countries, representing diverse sectors of the global supply chain industry. Theme 2024 – Acting today to reach the opportunities of tomorrow.



Morgan Stanley trims India's FY25 GDP forecast to 6.7%

Key Points:

- ❖ Morgan Stanley has lowered India's growth forecast for FY25 from 7 per cent to 6.7 per cent, on the back of weaker-than-expected high-frequency growth data for the second quarter, which is anticipated to grow at a slower pace of 6.3 per cent.
- ❖ Furthermore, the financial services company also maintained its forecast for FY26 and FY27 at a steady 6.5 per cent, noting that domestic demand will remain a key growth driver in the coming years.
- ❖ However, Morgan Stanley projected that growth may rebound to approximately 6.7-6.8 per cent in the second half of FY25, driven by improved agricultural output and increased government spending.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinches gold medal in women's Archery compound event at GT Open

Key Points:

- ❖ In Archery, Reigning Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinched the gold medal in the women's compound event at the GT Open in Luxembourg.
- ❖ Competing in the GT Open for the first time, Jyothi played brilliantly throughout the tournament and secured the title with a 147- 145 win against Sarah Prieels of Belgium.
- ❖ Meanwhile, in the men's compound event, Abhishek bagged the silver medal. He fell just short of claiming gold despite scoring a perfect 150 in the final. His opponent, the legendary Mike Schlosser of the Netherlands, secured the top spot after a perfect shot in the final.



PM Modi honoured with Guyana & Dominica's highest National Honour

Key Points:

- ❖ During his visit to Guyana Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the highest national award of Guyana and the Dominican Republic. Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the fourth foreign dignitary to receive Guyana's highest national award, "The Order of Excellence". President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana conferred the award on Narendra Modi in a ceremony at Georgetown on November 19, 2024.



- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was honoured with Dominica's highest national award, the Dominica Award of Honour, by Dominican Republic President Sylvanie Burton. Burton conferred the award on the sidelines of the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit meeting held in Georgetown, Guyana, on 20 November 2024. After Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom (1969), Prime Minister Modi was the second foreign leader to receive the award.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Georgetown, Guyana, on 19 November 2024, on the last leg of his three-nation tour of Nigeria, Brazil, and Guyana from 16-21 November 2024. The Prime Minister's visit to Guyana was bilateral, and he also attended the 2nd IndiaCARICOM summit meeting.

Arrest warrant issued against Gautam Adani in New York for alleged bribery

Key Points:

- ❖ A Reuters report said arrest warrants were issued in the United States for Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani, after a grand jury in New York indicted the business tycoon and seven others on charges of bribery of \$265 million (around Rs 2,029 crore) on Wednesday (November 20). Lisa H Miller, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Criminal Division, accused Adani and his associates of bribing Indian government officials and conspiring to obtain lucrative solar energy supply

contracts "through corruption and fraud at the expense of US investors".

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Gautam Adani indictment: No mention of wrongdoing by Solar Energy Corporation of India, says its chairman

According to the U.S. prosecutors' document, the SECI entered into the sale agreements with Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Tamil Nadu between July and December 2021.

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A US district court has found that Adani Green Energy had signed a **Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA)** with SECI, under which the Adani Group company was supposed to supply **12 GW of solar power** to SECI.

What is an indictment?

- ❖ According to Black's Law Dictionary, "An indictment is a formal written accusation" issued against a party charged with a crime, following a step-by-step process.
- ❖ After investigating an alleged offence, the police hand over the evidence to a public prosecutor — a lawyer representing either the state or federal government, depending on whether the accusations relate to state or federal offences.
- ❖ If the prosecutor believes a serious crime or a "felony" has been committed, she may then initiate the selection of a grand jury.

ହିନ୍ଦୁସ୍ତାନୀୟ ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ଆକ୍ରମଣକୁ ସାମ୍ନା କରିବାର କିଛି ମାସ ବିତି ନଥିବା ବେଳେ ଶିଳ୍ପପତି ଗୌତମ ଆଦାନୀଙ୍କ ବିରୋଧରେ ଆମେରିକା ୨୧୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କାର ଲାଞ୍ଚ କାରବାର ଭଳି ସାଂଘାତିକ ଅଭିଯୋଗ ଆଣିଛନ୍ତି। ନିଜ ପୁତୁରା ସାଗର ଆଦାନୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ କିଛି ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଧରି ଆଦାନୀ ଏହି ଲାଞ୍ଚ ଦେଇଥିଲେ। ଅନେକ ମାମଲାରେ ଆଦାନୀ ନିଜେ ସରକାରୀ ଅଧିକାରୀମାନଙ୍କ ସହ କଥାବାର୍ତ୍ତା କରିଥିବା ଅଭିଯୋଗ ହୋଇଛି।

ଏହି ମାମଲାରେ ଆମେରିକାରେ ଗୌତମ ଆଦାନୀ ଓ ସାଗର ଆଦାନୀଙ୍କ ବିରୋଧରେ ଗିରଫ ପରଖାମା କାରି କରାଯାଇଛି। ଏହି ଗିରଫା ଆଦାନୀଙ୍କ ବ୍ୟବସାୟ ସାମ୍ବାଦ୍ୟକୁ ସମ୍ପୂର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଦୋହଲାଇ ଦେଇଛି। ଗୋଟିଏ ଦିନରେ ଆଦାନୀ ଗୁପ୍ତର ୨ ଲକ୍ଷ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା ଉଡ଼ିଯାଇଛି। କେବଳ ସେତିକି ନୁହେଁ, ଏହାକୁ ନେଇ ରାଜନୈତିକ ମହଲରେ ତୀବ୍ର ପ୍ରତିକ୍ରିୟା ପ୍ରକାଶ ପାଇଛି। ଆଦାନୀଙ୍କୁ ତୁରନ୍ତ ଗିରଫ କରିବାକୁ ବିରୋଧୀ ଦଳ ନେତା ରାହୁଲ ଗାନ୍ଧୀ ଦାବି କରିଛନ୍ତି।

ଆମେରିକାର ନ୍ୟୁୟାର୍କ ଟ୍ରଷ୍ଟି କୋର୍ଟ ଆଦାନୀ ଓ କିଛି ବରିଷ୍ଠ ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କ ବିରୋଧରେ ଲାଞ୍ଚ କାରବାର ଓ ଆମେରିକାର ନିବେଶକମାନଙ୍କୁ ଠକିବା ଲାଗି ଡିଏମ୍ ଆଣିଥିବା ଭଳି ଗମ୍ଭୀର ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଅଭିଯୋଗରେ ଆଦାନୀଙ୍କ ସମେତ ତାଙ୍କ ପୁତୁରା ସାଗର ଆଦାନୀ, ବିନୀତ ଏସ୍ ଜେନ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ନାମ ରହିଛି। ସାଗର ହେଉଛନ୍ତି ଆଦାନୀ ଗ୍ରିନ୍ ଏନର୍ଜିର କାର୍ଯ୍ୟନିର୍ବାହୀ ନିର୍ଦ୍ଦେଶକ।

ଆମେରିକାର ଆଇନ ବିଭାଗ ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରିଛି ଯେ ଭାରତରେ ସୌର ଶକ୍ତି ତୁଳି ହାସଲ କରିବା ଲାଗି ସରକାରୀ ଅଧିକାରୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆଦାନୀ ୨୧୦୦ କୋଟି ଟଙ୍କା (୨୬୫ ନିୟୁତ ଡଲାର) ଲାଞ୍ଚ ଦେଇଛନ୍ତି। ଆଦାନୀ ଗୁପ୍ତର ଅକ୍ଷୟ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂସ୍ଥା ଆଦାନୀ ଗ୍ରିନ୍ ଏନର୍ଜି ଲିମିଟେଡ୍ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟ ସଂସ୍ଥା ଦ୍ଵାରା ଭାରତ ସରକାରଙ୍କୁ ୧୨ ଗିଗାଓର୍ ସୌରଶକ୍ତି ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ କରିବା ଲାଗି ଏହି ଲାଞ୍ଚ କାରବାର ହୋଇଥିଲା। ଏହି ରାଜନୀତିଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଦ୍ଵାରା କମ୍ପାନୀକୁ ୨୦ ବର୍ଷ ପାଇଁ ୨୦୦ କୋଟି ଡଲାରର ଅଧିକ ଟିକସ ପରବର୍ତ୍ତୀ ଲାଭ (ପିଏଟି) ମିଳିବ ବୋଲି ଆକଳନ କରାଯାଇଛି।

ଅନ୍ୟ ପକ୍ଷରେ ଆମେରିକାର ସିବିଲ୍ ଡିଭିଜନ୍ ଆଣ୍ଡ ଏକ୍ସଟ୍ରାଜୁଡିସନାରି (ଏସ୍ଏସ୍ଡି) ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଆଦାନୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କ ବିରୋଧରେ ଆମେରିକାର ପ୍ରତିରୁଦ୍ଧ ନିୟମ ଉଲ୍ଲଙ୍ଘନ କରିଥିବା ଅଭିଯୋଗ ହୋଇଛି। କମ୍ପାନୀ ଉପରେ ବରିମାନା ଓ ଅନ୍ୟାନ୍ୟ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାନୁଷ୍ଠାନ ଗ୍ରହଣ କରିବା ଉପରେ କମ୍ପାନୀଙ୍କୁ ବିଚାର କରୁଛନ୍ତି। ଉଭୟ ମାମଲାକୁ ବ୍ରୁକ୍ଲିନ୍ ଫେଡେରାଲ କୋର୍ଟରେ ଦାଖଲ କରାଯାଇଛି। ଆମେରିକାର ଆଇନ ବିଭାଗ ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରିଛି ଯେ ଆଦାନୀ ଓ ଅନ୍ୟମାନେ ନିଜେ ଭାରତ ଡକ୍ଟ୍ରାଲ କରି ଆମେରିକା ନିବେଶକଙ୍କଠାରୁ ପାଣି ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରିବାକୁ ଏହି ଡିଏମ୍ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରିଥିଲେ।

ଲାଞ୍ଚ କାରବାର କରି ପାଇଥିବା ସୌରଶକ୍ତି ଯୋଗାଣ ତୁଳି ପାଇଁ ମଧ୍ୟ ସମ୍ଭାବନେ ପାଣି ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରିବାକୁ ଚାହୁଁଥିଲେ। ଖାଲି ଷ୍ଟିଭର ନିବେଶକଙ୍କ ସାମ୍ବାଦରେ ଗୋଲାପି ତିନୁ ଉପସ୍ଥାପନ କରି ରତ ପାଞ୍ଚ ବର୍ଷ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଏହି ପ୍ରକଳ୍ପଗୁଡ଼ିକ ଲାଗି ଆଦାନୀ କୋଟି କୋଟି ଡଲାର ପାଣି ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରିଥିଲେ।

କିନ୍ତୁ ଭାରତରେ ବସି ସେମାନେ ସରକାରୀ ଅଧିକାରୀଙ୍କୁ ଲାଞ୍ଚ ଦେଇ ସୌରଶକ୍ତି ଯୋଗାଣ ବୃଦ୍ଧି ହାସଲ କରିବାକୁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରୁଥିଲେ ବୋଲି ଆମେରିକାର ଡେପୁଟି ଆସିଷ୍ଟାଣ୍ଟ ଆଟର୍ଣ୍ଣ ଜେନେରାଲ୍ ଲିଭା ମିଲର ଅଭିଯୋଗ କରିଛନ୍ତି। ଆବାନୀ ଗ୍ରୁପ୍ ବିରୋଧରେ ଏଭଳି ଏକ ସମୟରେ ଏହି ଅଭିଯୋଗ ଆସିଛି ଯେତେବେଳେ କମ୍ପାନି ଆମେରିକାରୁ ୬୦୦ ନିୟୁତ ଡଲାର ପାଣ୍ଠି ସଂଗ୍ରହ କରିବାକୁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରୁଥିଲା। ଆମେରିକାରୁ ଗନ୍ଧାର ଅଭିଯୋଗ ଆସିବା ପରେ କମ୍ପାନି ଏହାର ବଣ୍ଟକୁ ବାଟିଲ କରିଛି। ଏଥି ସହିତ ସମସ୍ତ ଅଭିଯୋଗକୁ ଭିତ୍ତିହୀନ ବୋଲି କହିଛି। କମ୍ପାନି ସଫୋଟଗା ଓ ଆଇନ ପାଳନର ସର୍ବୋଚ୍ଚ ମାନଦଣ୍ଡ ଆଧାରରେ ପରିଚାଳିତ ହେଉଛି। ଏହି ଅଭିଯୋଗର ମୁକାବିଲା କରିବା ଲାଗି ସମସ୍ତ ସମ୍ଭାବ୍ୟ ଆଇନଗତ ବିଗଳ ଅନୁସନ୍ଧାନ କରାଯାଉଛି ବୋଲି କମ୍ପାନି ପକ୍ଷରୁ କୁହାଯାଇଛି।

What happens now?

- ❖ In Adani's case, following the indictment, the trial will likely move to the "arraignment" stage. The judge will communicate the charges and decide whether to grant bail to the accused persons, who will, in turn, decide whether to plead guilty or not guilty in response to the charges. If they plead not guilty, the case will proceed to a jury trial.

ICC issues arrest warrant against Israel's Netanyahu

Key Points:

- ❖ The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defence minister Yoav Gallant for "crimes against humanity and war crimes". A warrant has also been issued against Hamas leader Ibrahim Al-Masri, better known as Mohammed Deif. Gallant was sacked by Netanyahu earlier in November, amid reports that the defence minister advocated an end to fighting and a deal to bring back Israeli hostages captured by Hamas. Deif, Israel claims, has been killed in an airstrike, but Hamas has neither confirmed nor denied this.

ଇସ୍ରାଏଲ ଓ ହମାସ ମଧ୍ୟରେ ଚାଲିଥିବା ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଏକ ଆଞ୍ଚଳିକ ସଂଘର୍ଷର ରୂପ ନେଇଛି। ଗତ ବର୍ଷ ଅକ୍ଟୋବରରେ ହମାସ ଲକ୍ଷ୍ମୀନଗର ଇସ୍ରାଏଲରେ ପ୍ରବେଶ କରି ୧୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକଙ୍କୁ ନିର୍ମମ ଭାବେ ହତ୍ୟା କରିବା ସହ ୨୫୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଇସ୍ରାଏଲ ନାଗରିକଙ୍କୁ ଅପହରଣ କରିଥିଲେ। ଏହାପରେ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ବେନାମିନ ନେତାନ୍ୟାହୁ ପ୍ରତିଶୋଧ ନେବାକୁ କହିଥିଲେ। ପ୍ରତିଶୋଧର ଏହି ନିଆଁରେ ଏପର୍ଯ୍ୟନ୍ତ ୪୦ ହଜାରରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକ ପ୍ରାଣ ହରାଇଥିବା ବେଳେ ୧ ଲକ୍ଷରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକ ଆହତ ହୋଇଛନ୍ତି। ଲକ୍ଷ ଲକ୍ଷ ଲୋକ ବିହୀନ ହୋଇ ଶରଣାର୍ଥୀ ବାବନ ଯାପନ କରିବାକୁ ବାଧ୍ୟ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି। ଏହି ମାମଲା ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ଅପରାଧିକ ଅଦାଲତ (ଆଇସିସି)ରେ ପହଞ୍ଚିଥିଲା।

ଏବେ ଆଇସିସିର ବଡ଼ ନିଷ୍ପତ୍ତି ସାମ୍ନାକୁ ଆସିଛି । ନେତାନ୍ୟାହୁଙ୍କ ବିରୋଧରେ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ନ୍ୟାୟାବଳ୍ପ ଭିତର ପରଖାମାନା ଲାଗି କରିଛନ୍ତି ଆଇସିସି। ତାଙ୍କ ବିରୋଧରେ ଯୁଦ୍ଧ ଅପରାଧ ଏବଂ ମାନବିକତା ବିରୋଧୀ ଅପରାଧର ଅଭିଯୋଗ ଆସିଛି । ଅନ୍ୟପକ୍ଷରେ ଅନ୍ତର୍ଜାତୀୟ ଅପରାଧିକ ଅଦାଲତର ଆଦେଶକୁ ପ୍ରଧାନମନ୍ତ୍ରୀ ବେନାମିନ ନେତାନ୍ୟାହୁ ଖାରଜ କରିବା ସହ ଏହା ଗୁଣ୍ଠ୍ୟ ବୋଲି କହିଛନ୍ତି।



- ❖ The Gaza Strip is a self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It borders Egypt on the southwest and Israel on the east and north.

What is the ICC?

- ❖ The ICC, headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands, was established under a 1998 treaty called the "Rome Statute". It "investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression."
- ❖ At present, 124 countries are party to the Rome Statute, including Britain, Japan, Afghanistan, and Germany. India is not a member, nor are China and the US. The ICC was established to prosecute the most heinous offences only when a country's own legal machinery was unable or unwilling to act. Unlike the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which deals with countries and inter-state disputes, the ICC prosecutes individuals. Additionally, the offences should be committed either in a country that ratified the agreement or by a national of a ratifying country. The ICC can also practise its jurisdiction over cases referred by the UN Security Council to it.
- ❖ Israel is not party to the Rome Statute, but Palestine is.

What have Netanyahu and Gallant been accused of

- ❖ The two are accused of “war crime of starvation as a method of warfare; and the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhumane acts.”
- ❖ “The Chamber considered that there are reasonable grounds to believe that both individuals intentionally and knowingly deprived the civilian population in Gaza of objects indispensable to their survival, including food, water, and medicine and medical supplies, as well as fuel and electricity, from at least 8 October 2023 to 20 May 2024,” the ICC said on its website.

What happens once ICC issues an arrest warrant?

- ❖ The ICC’s decisions are binding, but it depends on its members to ensure cooperation. Thus, if Netanyahu or Gallant were to travel to any of the 124 member states, its government would be obligated to arrest them and extradite them to The Hague.
- ❖ The ICC had earlier issued an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin. It had then been pointed out that this would deepen his isolation from the West, as he would not be able to travel to a number of countries without risking arrest. In the case of Netanyahu more than Putin, several of his country’s allies, like Germany, France, and the United Kingdom, are members of the ICC. These countries have all so far backed Israel and it is very unlikely they will arrest Netanyahu if he does travel to their shores.

India beat China to lift their 3rd Women’s Asian Champions Trophy

Key Points:

- ❖ The defending champion Indian women's hockey team defeated the 2024 Paris

Olympic silver medalist China to win the 8th Women’s Asian Champions Trophy 2024. With this win, India has equalled South Korea's record of winning the Trophy three times. India has previously won the title in 2016 and 2023.

- ❖ The final of the Women’s Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was played at the Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Bihar on November 20, 2024.



- ❖ The 8th Women’s Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was organised by the Asian Hockey Federation and hosted by Hockey India and the Bihar government from 11- 20 November 2024.
- ❖ Incidentally, India hosted the 7th Women’s Asian Champions Trophy 2023 at Ranchi, Jharkhand, which India won.

Deepika Scores the winning goal

- ❖ The only goal in the final match was scored by the Indian player Deepika, which turned out to be the match-winning goal.
- ❖ Despite missing a penalty stroke, Deepika scored in the third quarter of the match to put India 1-0 up. The Indian defence held its ground during the remaining period of the match despite continuous counterattacks by the Chinese team.
- ❖ The win puts the India team in the same league as South Korea, the most successful team in the tournament, with three titles each.
- ❖ India defeated Japan 2-0 in the semifinal, and China defeated Malaysia 3-1.

8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 Participants

- ❖ The Women's Asian Champions Trophy is played using the same format as the Men's Asian Champions Trophy. The top six ranked Asian women's hockey teams participate in
- ❖ the Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament.
- ❖ This year, teams from India, Japan, China, Thailand, Malaysia, and South Korea participated in the tournament.

Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy

- ❖ The first Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament was held in 2010. Since the third Women's Asian Hockey Championship, the men's and women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournaments are held in the same year.
- ❖ South Korea and India are the most successful teams, having won it three times each, followed by Japan, which has won it twice. The Indian team has reached the finals of the tournament five times.

Edition Number	Year of Championship	Host Country	Winner	Runners-Up
1	2010	Busan, South Korea	South Korea	Japan
2	2011	Ordos, China	South Korea	India
3	2013	Kakamigahara, Japan	Japan	India
4	2016	Singapore	India	China
5	2018	Donghae, South Korea	South Korea	India
6	2021	Donghae, South Korea	Japan	South Korea
7	2023	Ranchi, India	India	Japan
8	2024	Rajgir, Bihar	India	China

Asian Hockey Federation

- ❖ Members: 31 Countries
- ❖ Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ❖ President: Dato Fumio Ogura

Second India-CARICOM Summit meeting

Key Points:

- ❖ The first India-CARICOM summit meeting was held on the sidelines of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly meeting on September 25, 2019,

The 2nd India-CARICOM summit meeting was held in Georgetown, Guyana, on 20 November 2024.

- ❖ Co-Host of the Summit: Narendra Modi and Dickon Mitchell, Prime Minister of Grenada and Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM.
- ❖ The meeting was attended by the leaders of the 14 CARICOM countries. No representative of Haiti was present during the Summit Meeting.
- ❖ During his speech, the Prime Minister proposed seven key pillars to strengthen the ties
- ❖ between India and CARICOM - C for Capacity Building, A for Agriculture and Food
- ❖ Security, R for Renewable Energy and Climate Change, I for Innovation, Technology and Trade, C for Cricket and Culture, O for Ocean Economy and M for Medicine and
- ❖ Healthcare. India will host the third India-CARICOM Summit meeting in 2025.

About CARICOM

- ❖ The Caribbean Community, or CARICOM, was established in 1973 under the provisions of
- ❖ the Treaty of Chaguaramas to promote economic integration and relations between Caribbean countries.
- ❖ Members: 15 Member States and six Associate Members (Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Turks and Caicos Islands).
- ❖ 15 Member Countries: Guyana, Dominica, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Jamaica, Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Haiti.
- ❖ Headquarters: Georgetown, Guyana
- ❖ Secretary General: Mrs Carla Natalie Barnett

Ten MoUs signed between India and Guyana

- ❖ Cooperation in the field of medical products
- ❖ Cooperation in sharing successful digital solutions implemented at the population scale
- ❖ for digital transformation using INDIA STACK.
- ❖ Deployment of NPCI developed UPI like system in Guyana
- ❖ MoU between Prasar Bharti and Guyana's National Communications Network for
- ❖ cooperation in broadcasting.
- ❖ Defence Cooperation between National Defence Institute, Guyana and Rashtriya
- ❖ Raksha University, Gujarat.

About the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

- ❖ The Co-operative Republic of Guyana, or Guyana, is located in the northeastern corner of
- ❖ South America.
- ❖ In 1969, it gained independence from the United Kingdom, and it is a member of the
- ❖ Commonwealth.
- ❖ Its population is mainly of African descent, who were brought as slaves by the British and
- ❖ the indentured Indian labourers.
- ❖ The country is a leading exporter of crude petroleum oil.
- ❖ Capital: Georgetown
- ❖ President: Mohamed Irfaan Ali
- ❖ Currency: Guyanese dollar

Outcome of Bilateral visit of PM Modi to Guyana

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the second Indian Prime Minister to visit Guyana after
- ❖ Indira Gandhi in 1968.
- ❖ Guyanese President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and Prime Minister Mark Anthony
- ❖ Phillip received him at the Georgetown Airport.

- ❖ He was handed over the "Key to the City of Georgetown" by the city Mayor.
- ❖ He offered tribute at the Mahatma Gandhi statue at the Promenade Garden in
- ❖ Georgetown.
- ❖ He also visited the Indian Arrival Monument in the Monument Garden. It
- ❖ commemorates the arrival of the first ship carrying Indian indentured labourers in
- ❖ 1838.
- ❖ He addressed the special sitting of the Country's Parliament called the National
- ❖ Assembly.
- ❖ He addressed the Indian diaspora in Georgetown. Around 40 % of the Guyana
- ❖ population are of Indian origin, who were brought to the country to work in the
- ❖ sugarcane field after the abolition of slavery.
- ❖ Prime Minister Modi held state-level talks with Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the President of Guyana, and discussed issues of mutual importance.

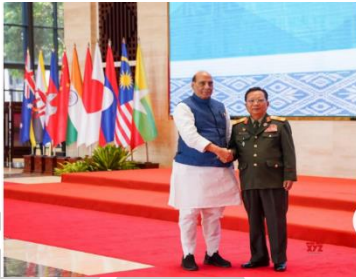
Ten MoUs signed between India and Guyana

- ❖ The two countries signed ten Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) to deepen their bilateral relationships.
- ❖ Cooperation in the Hydrocarbons Sector (Guyana is a major crude petroleum oil
- ❖ exporting country)
- ❖ Agriculture and Allied Sectors
- ❖ Cultural Exchange Programme (2024-27)
- ❖ Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia regulation by Guyana
- ❖ implementation of the Jan Aushadhi Scheme in Guyana (Mauritius is the first
- ❖ foreign
- ❖ country in the world where first Janaushadhi Kendra was set up)

Rajnath Singh attends the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting

Key Points:

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Forum meeting in the Lao People's Democratic Republic's capital, Vientiane, on 21 November 2024. Lao PDR, the Chair of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), is hosting the 18th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting and the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting in Vientiane.



- ❖ During his visit to Vientiane, Rajnath Singh also held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Lao PDR, General Chansamone Chanyalath, Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun and Malaysian Defence Minister Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Bin Nordin, on the sidelines of the 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting. India has a close partnership with ASEAN. India was made a sectoral partner in 1992 and the relationship between the two was raised to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia Summit meetings, which were held in Vientiane in October 2024.

18th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting 2024

- ❖ The 18th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting, held in Vientiane on 20 November, was attended by the defence ministers of Lao PDR, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia,

Singapore, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam.

11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting 2024

- ❖ The 11th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Meeting was held on 21 November 2024 in Vientiane. It was attended by 10 ASEAN countries and the representatives of eight Dialogue Partners. India, Japan, South Korea, China, Russia, Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

About the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus

- ❖ The ASEAN Defence Ministers' Plus Forum is an extended group of ASEAN and resident powers of the region who are also known as dialogue partners. They are Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen security and defence cooperation amongst the countries of Asia Pacific to promote peace, stability, and development in the region.
- ❖ The first ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam, in October 2010.
- ❖ From 2017 onwards, it has become an annual meeting to discuss security and other regional challenges.
- ❖ The ADMM-Plus currently focuses on seven areas: maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster management, peacekeeping operations, military medicine, humanitarian mine action and cyber security.

Gen.Upendra Dwivedi Conferred with the Nepali Army's General rank

Key Points:

- ❖ The Indian Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, was conferred with the honorary rank of the General of the Nepali Army on 21 November 2024. India and Nepal have a long tradition of honouring each other's country's chief of the army with this rank.

- ❖ General Upendra Dwivedi is on an official visit to Nepal from 20 to 24 November 2024
- ❖ at the invitation of his Nepali counterpart, General Ashok Raj Sigdel.



Nepali President Conferred the honorary rank to General Dwivedi

- ❖ General Upendra Dwivedi was conferred the rank of honorary General of the Nepali Army by the President of Nepal, Ramchandra Paudel, at a special ceremony at the
- ❖ President's House in Kathmandu on 21 November 2024. The Nepali President is the commander in chief of the Nepali Armed Forces.

Highlights of the General Upendra Dwivedi Visit

- ❖ It was General Upendra Dwivedi's first official visit to Nepal after being appointed the 30th
- ❖ Chief of the Indian Army.
- ❖ His five-member delegation includes his wife, Sunita Dwivedi. The Army Chief's wife has
- ❖ always been the Chairperson of the Army Wives Welfare Association of the Indian Army.
- ❖ He held talks with Nepal's Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Ashok Raj Sigdel, at the
- ❖ Nepali Army headquarters in Kathmandu.
- ❖ General Upendra Dwivedi gifted military horses and dogs to General Ashok Raj Sigdel.
- ❖ He also planted a Rudraksha sapling on the premises of the Nepali Army headquarters.

India Nepal Military Ties

- ❖ The East India Company recruited Nepal's Gurkha into its army and used them in its
- ❖ various campaigns.
- ❖ Even after the power transfer from the East India Company to the British Crown in 1858,
- ❖ the tradition of recruiting the Gurkhas continued under British India rule.
- ❖ This tradition was continued after India's independence in 1947. A tripartite agreement
- ❖ was signed between India, the British government, and the Nepali government in 1947.
- ❖ The agreement split the Gurkha regiment serving in British India into the Indian Army
- ❖ and the British Army.
- ❖ The recruitment of Nepali citizens in the Indian Army continued after independence.
- ❖ After the introduction of the Agniveer scheme in the Indian Army, Nepal stopped the
- ❖ recruitment of Nepali citizens in the Indian Army.
- ❖ There are around 88,000 retired Indian Army personnel living in Nepal.
- ❖ Despite the ban on recruiting Nepal's for the Indian Army, both armies have continued
- ❖ joint training.
- ❖ The Indian Army continues to provide training to Nepalese Army personnel and also
- ❖ sends its personnel to undergo training in Nepal.
- ❖ Both the countries conduct a joint military exercise code-named Surya Kiran. Nepal will
- ❖ host the 18th edition of the Surya Kiran in Nepal in December 2024.

**Prasar Bharati Launches OTT Platform
'Waves'****Key Points:**

- ❖ Prasar Bharati has launched its own OTT platform, Waves, offering a blend of classic and
- ❖ contemporary content in over 12 languages. Available on Android and iOS, it features 65 live
- ❖ TV channels, video-on-demand, free-to-play games, and online shopping.
- ❖ Prasar Bharati, India's public broadcaster, has launched its own OTT platform 'Waves' at the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). With a diverse content library, it aims to
- ❖ deliver a mix of nostalgic classics and contemporary programming, making it a hub
- ❖ for family-friendly entertainment.
- ❖ The platform is available on Android and iOS, offering content in over 12 languages and
- ❖ spanning multiple genres such as infotainment, gaming, education, shopping, and live events. This launch marks a significant step toward realizing the Digital India vision, especially for rural audiences, by bridging the digital divide.

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