

**08<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

## Devi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport Ranked 4th Best In India

Indore's Devi Ahilyabai Holkar International Airport has become the fourth best airport in India.



### Key Points

- ❖ The airport remained in 12th position for two quarters of the year 2024, however, in the third one it made a place among top 5 airports in the country.
- ❖ According to the report issued by Airport Authority of India (AAI), Goa's airport has bagged the first position.
- ❖ Chennai comes in second and Kolkata in third position.
- ❖ The survey evaluated 31 key factors, out of which Indore Airport showed improvements in 29 areas as compared to the previous quarter.
- ❖ The two areas in which the airport fell short were – the ease of locating the check-in area and the ease in screening processes.

## Rohini Nayyar Prize

Anil Pradhan, a 28-year-old engineer from Odisha, was awarded the third Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contribution to Rural Development.



Anil Pradhan Honored with Rohini Nayyar Prize

### Key Points

- ❖ The Rohini Nayyar Prize honors young leaders under 40 making notable contributions to rural development in India.
- ❖ It was established in memory of Rohini Nayyar, an economist and former IAS officer in Uttar Pradesh who served with the Planning Commission of India.
- ❖ Anil Pradhan, co-founder of the Young Tinker Foundation, received the Rohini Nayyar Prize for his work in STEM education for underserved communities.

## Asmi

In a major boost to the country's self-reliance initiative, the Indian Army has inducted 550 "Asmi" machine pistols into its Northern Command.



### Key Points

- ❖ India's first indigenous 9mm Machine Pistol has been jointly developed by Infantry School, Mhow and DRDO's Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune.
- ❖ 3D Printing process has been used in designing and prototyping of various parts including trigger components made by metal 3D printing.
- ❖ The 'Asmi machine pistol is specifically designed for close-quarter combat and specialized operations.
- ❖ This induction marks a significant step towards the country's defense manufacturing sector, reinforcing the Indian Army's resolve to achieve self-sufficiency and drive Indigenous innovation.

### Protected Planet Report 2024

Recently, the **Protected Planet Report 2024** was launched at COP16.



### Key Point

- ❖ This report is launched by UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- ❖ **Key Findings of the Protected Planet Report 2024**

- Currently, 17.6% of land and 8.4% of marine areas are protected. To achieve the 30x30 target by 2030, substantial acceleration and quality improvements in protected areas are needed.
- Since 2020, an additional 629,000 km<sup>2</sup> of land and 1.77 million km<sup>2</sup> of marine areas have been protected. However, 12.4% more land and 21.6% more marine areas must still be secured.
- While 68% of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) are protected, 32% remain unprotected. Efforts are needed to cover critical ecosystems and ensure ecological representation.
- Only 8.52% of land is both protected and ecologically connected, showing a gap in the connectivity essential for biodiversity conservation.

### First Female White House Chief of Staff

US President-elect Donald Trump has appointed his campaign manager, Susie Wiles, as his Chief of Staff, making her the first woman to hold this influential cabinet position, heading the White House executive office.



### Key Point

- ❖ The appointment marks the first of several expected staffing announcements as Trump prepares for his return to the White House on January 20.
- ❖ The Chief of Staff serves as the gatekeeper for the President, the liaison to Congress and government departments, and plays a key role in steering policy decisions.

### Poorvi Prahaar

India has begun a major tri-services military drill called 'Poorvi Prahaar' in eastern sector of the country.



### Key Points

- ❖ This exercise is being carried out at a time when there has been disengagement on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the coming days in eastern Ladakh.
- ❖ It is envisaged to boost India's synergy in operations across the eastern maritime boundary, which is also a forward operation against China.
- ❖ The Indian Army, Navy and the Air Force are set to participate in the exercise.
- ❖ The elite Indian MARCOS commandos in addition to this strategy will also participate in this exercise.

- ❖ The main idea behind "Poorvi Prahaar" exercise is to check and demonstrate the compatibility between different services of the Indian armed force.
- ❖ The exercise will focus on the operational preparedness and improve the tendency for defense along the eastern front more particularly along the Arunachal Pradesh frontier.

### 2025 QS Asia Rankings

The 2025 QS Asia Rankings by Quacquarelli



Symonds (QS) highlight India's strong academic growth. A total of 161 Indian universities were featured among 984 ranked institutions in Asia, with six Indian institutions making it into the top 100.

### Key Points

- ❖ In 2025, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) leads among Indian institutions, achieving 44th place overall in Asia.
- ❖ IIT Bombay ranks at 48th, followed by IIT Madras at 56th.
- ❖ Among 308 universities across India and Pakistan, IIT Delhi has emerged as the top institution in the South Asian category.

### India's top 10 universities as per the QS Asia 2025 rankings:

- ❖ IIT Delhi – Rank 44
- ❖ IIT Bombay – Rank 48
- ❖ IIT Madras – Rank 56
- ❖ IIT Kharagpur – Rank 60
- ❖ Indian Institute of Science (IISc) – Rank 62
- ❖ IIT Kanpur – Rank 67
- ❖ University of Delhi – Rank 81
- ❖ IIT Guwahati – Rank 104
- ❖ IIT Roorkee – Rank 108
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) – Rank 110

### Short News

- ❖ IDFC FIRST Bank becomes the first Indian P bank to offer real-time tracking for ALLAH cross-border.
- ❖ India's professional boxer Mandeep Jangra clinched the World Boxing Federation's super featherweight world title after defeating Britain's Conor McIntosh in the Cayman Islands.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has declared the heatwave as a state-specific disaster.
- ❖ The 83rd Indian Road Congress annual session was held in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurates the conference.
- ❖ The second edition of the annual Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) is all set to begin in the national capital on 8 November<sup>4</sup>.
- ❖ India has expressed concern over the ongoing drought situation in Zambia and underscored its pledge to provide material assistance to Zambia in the form of 2,500 metric tons of maize, which is expected to reach Zambia soon.
- ❖ The Supreme Court held that recruitment rules for appointment in government jobs cannot be changed midway unless it is prescribed.
- ❖ The Australian government has announced plans to introduce legislation to ban children under the age of 16 from using social media, with penalties for platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok if they fail to enforce it.

*Important Daily Current Affairs Question*

1. Which of the following persons became the First Female White House Chief of Staff?
- A. Madeleine Albright
  - B. Susie Wiles
  - C. Condoleezza Rice
  - D. Margret alwa

Answer – B

2. Protected Planet Report 2024 is released by which of the following Organisations?
- A. UNEP-WCMC
  - B. IUCN
  - C. A and B both
  - D. WEF

Answer – C

