

# IACE

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## Top Cities for Women in India 2023 Index

- **Chennai** emerged as the top Indian city for women in 2023 in terms of inclusivity and conduciveness to working women, as per findings from diversity, equity and inclusivity consultant **Avtar Group's Top Cities for Women in India (TCWI) 2023**.
- The study covered 49 cities in the million-plus population category and 64 cities in the less than a million-population category.
- **Chennai** topped the **million plus category** and **Tiruchirappalli** came on top of the **less than a million category**. The southern state also had a total of seven cities such as Coimbatore (Million plus), Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Salem, Erode, and Tirupur (Less than a million) featuring in the lists.
- The study ranked cities based on a City Inclusion Score (CIS) -- a composite of the three pillars Social Inclusion Score (SIS) - takes into account the external social environment including how safe the city is for women, how many women in the city are employed, how good the quality of life in the city with respect to education, health, housing, water and sanitation, mobility, recreation, etc.
- Industrial Inclusion Score (IIS) - an industrial/business concept that evaluates the extent to which organizations in the city across industries are inclusive of women. Citizen Experience Score (CES) - data collated from a pan-Indian survey of working women to create a Citizen Experience Score (CES).
- **Chennai** not only bags the prize as the top city for women in India among cities with a million plus population, but also retains its **SIS rank in the first place**. Its IIS rate slipped by 1 and is second to Bengaluru on this scale.

## New Vice-Chief of Naval staff : Dinesh K.Tripathi

- Vice Admiral **Dinesh K Tripathi** officially assumed the role of **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff**.
- Previously, he served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.
- His specialization in Communication and Electronic Warfare has led to a distinguished career, including roles as Signal Communication Officer and Electronic Warfare Officer on frontline warships.
- Notably, he commanded Indian Naval Ships Vinash, Kirch, and Trishul, showcasing his leadership and operational capabilities.
- Vice Admiral Tripathi's dedication to duty earned him the **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) and Nau Sena Medal (NM)**.





## **'Prerana' learning programme**

- **Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education**, Government of India has launched **'Prerana: An Experiential Learning program'**, aiming to offer a meaningful, unique, and inspiring experience to all participants, thereby empowering them with leadership qualities.
- Prerana is driven by a strong commitment to integrate principles of Indian education system and the philosophy of value-based education which is a corner stone of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**.
- Prerana is a week-long residential program for selected students of class IX to XII. It is an experiential and inspirational learning program for students with the best-in-class technology where heritage meets innovation.
- **A batch of 20 selected students (10 boys and 10 girls)** will attend the program, every week from various parts of the country.

## India joined Square Kilometre Array Observatory Project

- India has formally signed up for the **Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO)** an ambitious multinational initiative to build the world's largest radio telescope spanning over a square kilometer.
- The SKAO is not one instrument but a vast collection of thousands of telescope antennas at sites in South Africa and Australia. These will interconnect as a single giant telescope array.
- It will enable astronomers to probe celestial phenomena out to extreme distances, advancing cosmic understanding.
- Indian scientists have participated in SKAO's development for decades via the **National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) in Pune** and other institutes.
- A key contribution is the advanced **'Telescope Manager'** software designed by NCRA on an international group. This neural network will control and optimize observations.
- The software skills leverage India's expertise running the **Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)**, the world's largest of its kind, also located near Pune.





## **Kyrgyzstan embraces Snow Leopard as National Symbol**

- **Kyrgyzstan**, a Central Asian country, **has declared the snow leopard as its national symbol**.
- **President Sadyr Japarov** has signed a decree recognizing the snow leopard as the national symbol of the Kyrgyz Republic.
- The snow leopard is not just a symbol of natural wealth and cultural well-being, but also an indicator of the stability and health of the mountain ecosystem, which occupies one-third of the global territory.
- The loss of snow leopards in nature could risk a delicate ecological balance, potentially having a detrimental effect on various animal species and humans.
- **The snow leopard is listed on the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature** and is considered a rare or endangered species in 12 countries worldwide.



**National Bird Day  
5 January**

## **National Bird Day - January 5**

- National Bird Day is celebrated to raise awareness about the various bird species that inhabit our ecosystem.
- National Bird Day 2024 motivates people to explore more about birds and to take action to protect them, especially endangered birds.
- This programme is initiated by the Avian Welfare Coalition, which raises awareness of birds captured or grabbed for financial gain or entertainment.
- **The Avian Welfare Coalition's National Bird Day campaign** is observed on **January 5** every year.
- The major aims of the awareness are to ease bird suffering by raising awareness of the devastating wild bird trade, the realities of brutal bird breeding mills, and modes to improve the bird's lives in captivity.
- **Theme of National Bird Day 2024: Right To Fight'**. It signifies the flight of a bird that represents freedom.



## **Punjab became first state to map accident-prone sites on navigation platform**

- **Punjab Police**, in collaboration with **MapMyIndia**, mapped all 784 accident black spots across the state on their navigation system Mappls App.
- With this, **Punjab becomes the first state to map accident-prone sites as part of the Road Safety.**
- Citizens navigating using Mappls App will now receive **voice alerts** in Punjabi **alerting the commuters about the black spot ahead.**
- This driving aid is designed to elevate the overall safe driving experience on Punjab's roads.



## **Randhir Jaiswal Took Charge As Spokesperson Of The MEA**

- **The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) official spokesperson**, Arindam Bagchi passed on the baton to **Randhir Jaiswal**, who assumed the charge as official MEA spokesperson.
- Earlier in October 2023, MEA Spokesperson **Arindam Bagchi was appointed India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations** and other international organisations in Geneva.
- Mr. Bagchi is an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The new MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal previously served as consul general in New York in July 2020 .
- Mr. Jaiswal has served in Portugal, Cuba, South Africa and at India's permanent mission to the UN in New York.

## Assam Government Launches 'Gunotsav 2024'

- Assam Government has launched **Gunotsav 2024**, a program to assess the performance of 40 lakh students studying in 43,498 government schools across 35 districts.
- Gunostav is an initiative by the Government of Assam to **cover all primary and secondary schools in the state**.
- It aims to increase accountability and improve education quality. It involves teachers, students, administrators and local communities.
- The four core areas viz. **Scholastic (children's learning outcomes), Co-scholastic, community participation and Infrastructure are checked in the Gunotsav exercise**.
- 18,098 external evaluators include the Chief Minister, MLAs, the Chief Secretary, college teachers, government officers and others who will visit schools as external evaluators.
- **About Gunostav:** 'Gunostav' is an initiative that began in 2017 and is currently in its 5th round.
- The exercise covers all districts of Assam and highlights the state's dedication to enhancing education quality. The program aims to provide a strong learning environment for students in the state and ensure they receive the best possible education.

