

IACE

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

11th & 12th FEB 2024 DESCRIPTIVE

Watch Us On
You Tube

HEADLINES

- ❖ Sikkim becomes the first Northeastern state to restore old pension scheme
- ❖ Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi will be set up in Hyderabad.
- ❖ NIMHAS receives WHO Nelson Mandela Award for health promotion
- ❖ 'SWATI' Portal Launched to Empower Women in Science and Technology
- ❖ RPF will host the 67th All India Police Duty Meet in Lucknow
- ❖ AIIMS launches iOncology.ai for Early Cancer Detection
- ❖ NADA's "Road to Paris 2024" Conference: Promoting Clean and Anti-Doping Unity
- ❖ World Unani Day 2024 – Feb 11
- ❖ International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024: 11 February
- ❖ Government launched a Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination.
- ❖ The interest rate on deposits increased from 8.15% to 8.25% by EPFO.
- ❖ Telangana State Board for Wildlife approved the Tadoba-Kawal conservation reserve.

Telegram: [Click here](#)

Toll Free: 1800-270-9975, Ph: 9533200400

- ❖ Aadi Mahotsav 2024 has been inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu
- ❖ RBI gave approval to Juspay, Zoho, and Decentro for payment aggregator business
- ❖ Ajay Kumar Choudhary was appointed as non-executive chairman of NPCI
- ❖ Neeraj Chopra honoured by Swiss tourism with plaque at Jungfrau's Ice Palace
- ❖ U19 World Cup 2024 Final, Australia beats India by 79 runs
- ❖ Lebanese Judge Salam elected as President of the International Court of Justice
- ❖ Union Agri Minister launches SARATHI portal for insurance products & Krishi Rakshak Helpline

IACJEB



Old Pension

Scheme(OPS) vs

New Pension

Scheme(NPS)

Sikkim becomes the first Northeastern state to restore old pension scheme

- Sikkim Chief Minister **Prem Singh Tamang** has announced the restoration of the **Old Pension System (OPS)** for state government employees appointed on or after April 1, 2006.
- Sikkim now stands as the first state in the Northeast to implement this significant decision.
- The revival of the Old Pension System, as outlined in the **Sikkim Services (Pension) Rules, 1990**, is poised to benefit employees appointed on or before March 31, 1990.
- The announcement was made during the State Level Temporary Employees' Convention held at Public Ground Rangpo on February 9th.
- This revival marks a crucial step towards ensuring the financial security of state government employees, particularly in light of the upcoming state assembly elections.
- As part of broader welfare measures, the government has introduced amendments to **policies regarding the regularization of temporary employees**.
- The revised policies offer opportunities for **regularization to employees serving continuously for two years or more in specific posts**, reflecting the government's commitment to inclusivity and stability.

Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi will be set up in Hyderabad.

- Regional Centre of Sangeet Natak Akademi, also known as '**Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra,**' will be established in Hyderabad.
- This regional centre will be established to promote the rich cultural heritage of South India.
- This centre will promote research and documentation of **music, folk and tribal arts, theatre, and puppetry.** It would also foster cultural growth in the state.
- The foundation stone for the 'Bharat Kala Mandapam' auditorium and the inauguration of the South India Cultural Centre of the Sangeet Nataka Akademi Dakshin Bharat Sanskritik Kendra was performed by former Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, on 12 February.

Sangeet Natak Akademi:

- It is the **apex body in the field of performing arts.**
- It was **set up in 1952** for the preservation and promotion of the vast intangible heritage of India's diverse culture, expressed in forms of music, dance, and drama.
- Its **headquarters** is situated in **New Delhi.**





NIMHANS
Receives WHO **Nelson**
Mandela Award for Health
Promotion

NIMHAS receives WHO Nelson Mandela Award for health promotion

- **National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS)** has been awarded the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award (NMA) by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** for Health Promotion.
- NIMHANS stated the award acknowledges its dedication and outstanding contribution to mental health and well-being. NIMHANS has been at the forefront of mental health and neuroscience.
- NIMHANS supports innovative approaches to research, education and patient care.
- This institute has been recognized for integrating mental health care into general health care. Globally recognized for community-based strategies and digital health innovations.
- NIMHANS Director Dr. Pratima Murthy expressed pride in receiving the NMA on the institute's 50th anniversary. This award not only reflects our past and present achievements but also shares the purpose of establishing NIMHANS.

Nelson Mandela Award (NMA):

- The World Health Organization started giving the Nelson Mandela Award in the year **2019**.
- The NMA recognizes contributions in health promotion by individuals, institutions and organizations.
- Every year **18th July is celebrated as Nelson Mandela International Day**. On 18 July 2010, it was decided by the United Nation to celebrate it every year.

‘SWATI’ Portal Launched to Empower Women in Science and Technology

- A single online portal on Indian women in **Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine (STEMM)** was launched which could help in policy-making to address the challenges of gender gap in sciences.
- The "**Science for Women- A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)**" Portal is a complete interactive database and the first-of-its-kind in India which is developed, hosted and maintained by the **National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR)**.
- This is a dynamically growing portal and the endeavour is to have data of all women scientists of the country available at a click of a button.
- The portal was launched by Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government **Prof Ajay Kumar Sood** at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) .
- The event was organized with a view to focusing on the importance of "Science for Women & Women in Science" as well as emerging opportunities and inclusiveness of women in S&T endeavours.
- The objectives of the SWATI portal include to scale up the effort exponentially to include each and every Indian woman in science, across all career stages and subjects, spanning both academia and the industry.

International Day of
**WOMEN
& GIRLS**
in Science



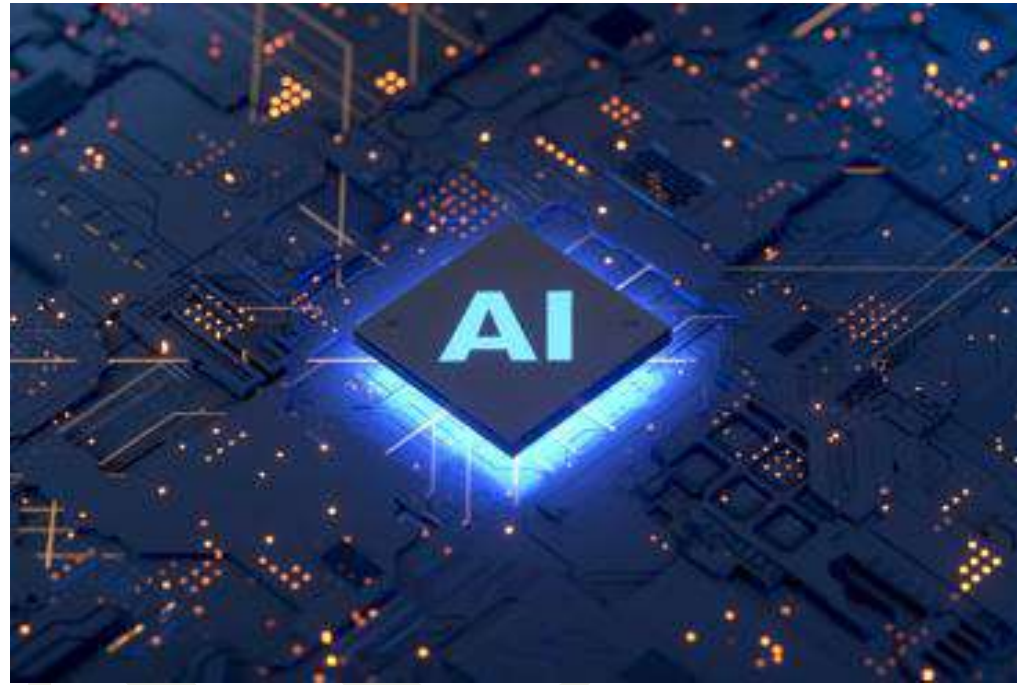
RPF will host the 67th All India Police Duty Meet in Lucknow

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) is hosting the 67th All India Police Duty Meet (AIPDM) from 12th February to 16th, 2024.
- This event aims to promote collaboration and excellence among police officers for scientific detection and investigation of crimes.
- The Director General of RPF launched the dedicated Mobile application and website for the 67th All India Police Duty Meet.
- 67th AIPDM calls law enforcement professionals to come together, learn, and strengthen their collective pursuit of investigative excellence.
- It serves as a platform for the law enforcement personnel to exchange best practices and refine their abilities.

Railway Protection Force

- The Railway Protection Force has been playing a vital role in protecting railway property and ensuring the safety of passengers and their belongings since 2004.
- RPF has the **highest percentage of female representation**, accounting for **9%**, among all the **Armed Forces in India**.





AIIMS launches iOncology.ai for Early Cancer Detection

- In a groundbreaking collaboration between AIIMS, New Delhi, and the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), Pune, a cutting-edge AI platform called iOncology.ai has been launched.
- The platform focuses on early detection of cancer, addressing a crucial need given the alarming rise in cancer cases globally.
- Cancer is globally estimated to be more fatal than cardiovascular diseases in high-income and middle-income countries.
- The **Global Cancer Observatory** (GLOBOCAN) estimates for 2020 reported 19.3 million incident cancer cases worldwide, with India ranking third after China and the United States.

About iOncology.ai

- The iOncology.ai platform addresses the challenge of late detection by utilizing AI to reduce false negatives in manual cancer diagnosis.
- The platform, developed through collaboration between AIIMS, CDAC, and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, features a sophisticated AI system capable of analyzing complex medical data with unprecedented accuracy and efficiency.
- It utilizes deep learning models and has a self-learning capability to constantly improve outcomes as the data volume increases.
- Given the prevalence of breast and ovarian cancers among women in India, the initial application of iOncology.ai is focused on early detection of these cancers.
- The platform's learning models have been tailored for early detection in these domains, leveraging a dataset of approximately half a million radiological and histopathological images collected during the examination and diagnosis of breast and ovarian cancer cases at AIIMS.
- iOncology.ai has already been implemented in five district hospitals, showcasing its potential for widespread impact.

NADA's "Road to Paris 2024" Conference: Promoting Clean and Anti-Doping Unity

- **National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)** unveiled "The Paris Pinnacle: NADA's Guide to Ethical Sporting," a comprehensive resource providing guidelines for athletes preparing for the Paris Olympics 2024.
- The event aimed to educate Indian athletes about the dangers of prohibited substances while emphasizing ethical competition.
- The guide aims to empower athletes to compete ethically and uphold fair play principles.
- Anurag Singh Thakur virtually inaugurated the **Centre of Excellence for Nutritional Supplements Testing (CoE-NSTS)** at the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)**, known for its expertise in forensic and cyber sciences, now houses a cutting-edge facility dedicated to testing nutritional supplements for athletes.
- As athletes worldwide gear up for the 2024 Olympics, India reaffirms its dedication to championing clean sports and combating doping.
- Through collaborative efforts, India asserts its role as a leader in fair play, integrity, and ethical competition in sports.





World Unani Day

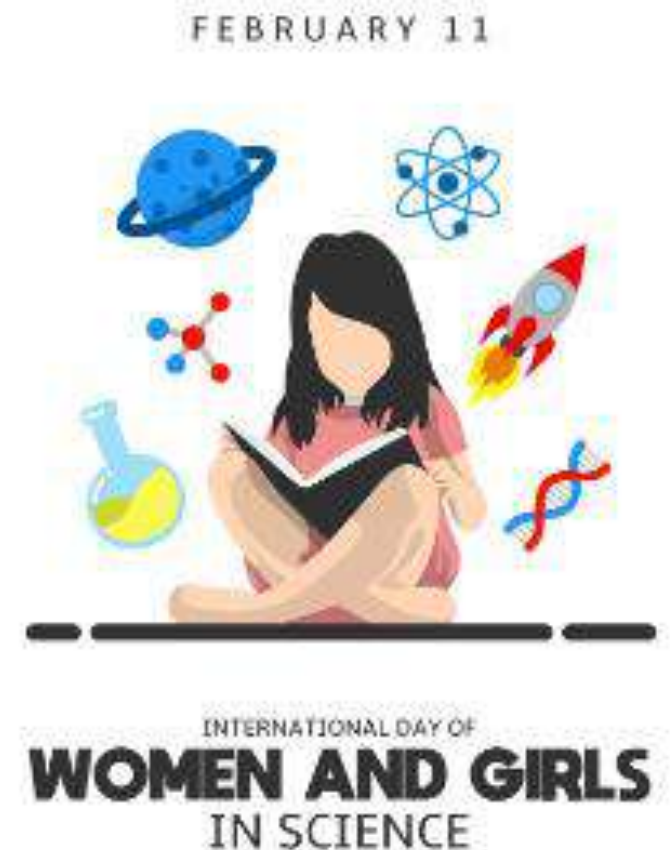
February 11

World Unani Day 2024 – Feb 11

- World Unani Day is observed every year on February 11 to commemorate the birth anniversary of social reformer and well-known Unani scholar **Hakim Ajmal Khan**, who is recognised as the man who brought Unani medicine to India.
- Unani medicine, also known as Unani Tibb, Arabian medicine, or Islamic medicine, traces its roots to ancient Greek philosophy.
- **In Arabic, "Unani" translates to "Greek,"** signifying its profound connection to the principles of ancient Greek medicine.
- This holistic healing philosophy revolves around the interplay of four fundamental elements - Fire, Water, Air, and Earth - corresponding to four humours: Phlegm, Black bile, Blood, and Yellow bile, respectively.
- The history of World Unani Day can be traced back to the year **2016** when **Ministry of AYUSH**, Government of India, announced its celebration.
- The **inaugural observance took place in 2017** at the **Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine in Hyderabad**.
- The significance of this day lies in honoring Hakim Ajmal Khan's role in revitalizing and modernizing the Unani system in India, with its origins dating back to the 10th century.
- The theme of this year's World Unani Day is **“Unani Medicine-One Earth, One Health”**.

International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024: 11 February

- Every year on 11 February, International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed.
- It is observed to raise awareness about the role of women in achieving development goals.
- This year **9th edition** of International Day of Women and Girls in Science was celebrated across the world.
- The theme of International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2024 is **“Women and Girls in Science Leadership, a New Era for Sustainability.”**
- In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 11 February as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.
- On 20 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted a resolution on science, technology, and innovation for development.
- It recognizes that full and equal access to and participation in science, technology, and innovation for women and girls of all ages is essential to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.



Government launched a Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination.

- The first phase of the Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign for Lymphatic Filariasis elimination has been launched by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare **Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel**.
- The main aim of the campaign is to control disease transmission by providing free preventive medications to people affected by this disease in rural areas.
- This campaign will cover 92 districts across 11 states in the next two weeks.
- **India is committed to eliminating Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027**, three years before the global target.
- In India, 11 states including Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal are participating in this campaign.

Lymphatic Filariasis (elephantiasis):

- It is a **parasitic disease caused by nematode worms (roundworms) of the family Filariodidea**.
- It is **transmitted by infected mosquitoes** and can cause acute and chronic symptoms.
- It is prevalent in the tropics and sub-tropics of Asia, Africa, the Western Pacific, and parts of the Caribbean and South America.





EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

The interest rate on deposits increased from 8.15% to 8.25% by EPFO.

- The interest rate on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) deposits has been **increased to 8.25% for 2023-24** by the retirement fund body EPFO, which is the highest level in three years.
- On 10 February, the decision was taken during a meeting of the EPFO's apex decision-making body, the Central Board of Trustees (CBT).
- EPFO in March 2023 marginally increased the interest rate on EPF to 8.15% for the financial year 2022-23 from 8.10% in 2021-22.
- Apart from this, in March 2022, EPFO reduced the interest rate on EPF for 2021-22 to a four-decade low of 8.1%, down from 8.5% in 2020-21.
- The 8.25% interest rate for 2023-24 is a positive development for over six crore subscribers of EPFO.
- **Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO):**EPFO is a statutory body that was established under the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, **1952**.
- The organization works under the aegis of the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**.
- It is one of the world's largest social security organizations.
- It helps the central board of trustees in the administration of the Provident Fund Scheme, Pension Scheme and Insurance scheme for the organized sector workers.

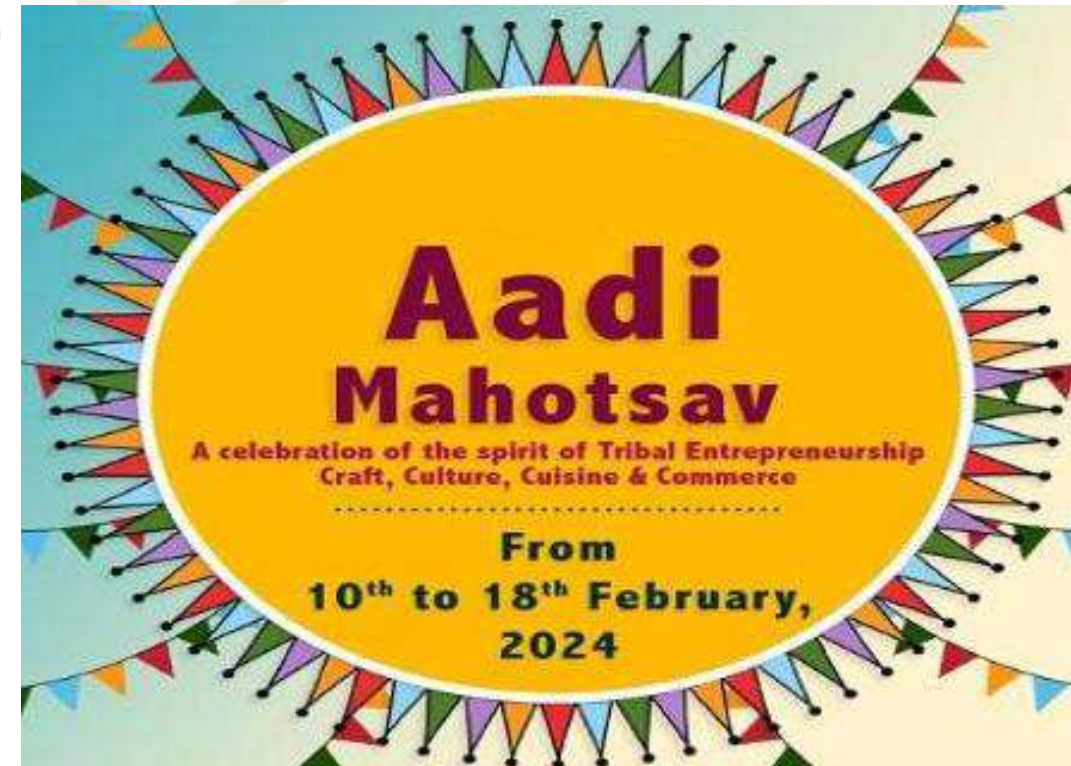
Telangana State Board for Wildlife approved the Tadoba-Kawal conservation reserve.

- The Forest Department's proposal to declare the corridor area between Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve and Kawal Tiger Reserve as a conservation reserve has been approved by the Telangana State Board for Wildlife.
- Now, the proposal will be sent to the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**.
- After the central government approves, the 1,492-square-kilometre area in Kagaznagar and Asifabad divisions will become a conservation reserve.
- During the Telangana State Board for Wildlife meeting, a proposal for a **bison sanctuary in Sathupally and Kinnerasani forests** was also discussed.
- The Telangana State Board for Wildlife also approved a proposal for increasing the compensation amount given to the kin of the persons who die in wild animal attacks from **₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh**.
- **Tadoba National Park is the largest Tiger Reserve in Chandrapur district of Maharashtra.** It is Maharashtra's oldest and largest national park.
- **Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in the Telangana.** Kawal Wildlife Sanctuary became a tiger reserve in 2012.



Aadi Mahotsav 2024 has been inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu

- On February 10, the **annual National Tribal Festival, Aadi Mahotsav 2024** was inaugurated by President Draupadi Murmu in New Delhi at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium.
- Under the aegis of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, TRIFED is organizing this event, which will showcase the rich diversity of India's tribal heritage.
- The Mahotsav will be organized from 10 to 18 February 2024.
- The Mahotsav will have an extended showcase with over 300 stalls, offering a diverse display of tribal arts, handicrafts, natural produce, and delicious tribal cuisine.
- Apart from this, one thousand artisans from across the country will also participate and showcase their work.
- A separate food court has also been set up, showcasing tribal cuisine from different parts of the country.



RBI gave approval to Juspay, Zoho, and Decentro for payment aggregator business

- Two FinTech startups, Juspay and Decentro, received the license to operate as payment aggregators.
- **Juspay serves as a payment gateway**, running the technology stack for e-commerce payments.
- **Decentro is a technology company** that enables e-commerce and other consumer-facing players to provide financial services like lending, KYC, and other services.
- **Zoho, a software-as-a-service startup**, also got a payment aggregator license.
- Zoho is the first enterprise SaaS company to get payment aggregator approval from RBI.
- In December 2023, Razorpay, Cashfree, and Open Financial were the first group of players to get regulatory approval.
- Zomato, DigiO, Google, and Tata Digital are other major players to get the payments license.



**Zoho, Juspay, Decentro Secure
RBI Payment Aggregator Approval**

Ajay Kumar Choudhary was appointed as non-executive chairman of NPCI

- The appointment of Ajay Kumar Choudhary was announced by the National Payments Corporation of India as non-executive chairman of the Board and independent director.
- He has been appointed for a period of **three years**, starting from February 8, 2024.
- Choudhary has replaced Biswamohan Mahapatra, who was appointed non-executive chairman in 2018.
- With an illustrious career spanning over three decades at the RBI, Ajay Kumar Choudhary is a distinguished central banker.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI):

- NPCI is a major organization handling retail payment and settlement systems in India.
- **Dilip Asbe** is the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NPCI.
- NPCI has retail payment products such as RuPay Card, Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), etc.
- It focuses on bringing innovation in retail payment systems through the use of technology and is continuously working to transform India into a digital economy.
- **NPCI was founded in 2008**, and it is **headquartered in Mumbai**, Maharashtra.



Neeraj Chopra honoured by Swiss tourism with plaque at Jungfrau's Ice Palace

- India's Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous **Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch**, known as the **'Top of Europe', in Switzerland**.
- Acknowledging Chopra's remarkable accomplishments, Jungfrauoch welcomed the sports icon to unveil the commemorative plaque.
- Chopra donated one of his javelins to the tourist attraction, and it has been placed alongside the plaque.
- He joins stars such as **Roger Federer** and golfer **Rory McIlroy**, who also have commemorative plaques at the Ice Palace.
- The Wall of Fame at Jungfrauoch serves as a testament to the spirit of accomplishment and dedication.



U19 World Cup 2024 Final, Australia beats India by 79 runs

- Australia outclassed defending champions India by 79 runs to seal its fourth U-19 World Cup crown.
- **Mahli Beardman** picked up three wickets as India folded for 174 in 43.5 overs and stood as the **“Player of the match”**.
- **Kwena Maphaka** stood as the **“Player of the series”**.
- Oliver Peake led Australia's late charge with an unbeaten 46 off 43.
- **India have won the title six times** in 2000, 2008, 2012, 2018 and 2022.
- **Australia have won the title four times** in 1998, 2002, 2010 and 2024.



Lebanese Judge Salam elected as President of the International Court of Justice

- Lebanese Judge Nawaf Salam was elected president of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by his peers, for a term of three years.
- President Salam has been a member of the court since 6 February 2018. Before joining the court, he was ambassador and permanent representative of Lebanon to the United Nations in New York from July 2007 to December 2017.
- He follows American Judge Joan E. Donoghue, who was president from 2021 until 5 February 2024.
- Salam was among the 17 judges at the ICJ tasked with issuing the order following South Africa's genocide allegations against Israel.
- **Judge Julia Sebutinde of Uganda was elected vice-president of the ICJ** in the same ballot.



Union Agri Minister launches SARATHI portal for insurance products & Krishi Rakshak Helpline

- Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Arjun Munda launched LMS, Krishi Rakshak Portal and helpline and SARATHI initiative under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana, PMFBY in New Delhi.
- The Minister said that the Krishi Rakshak Portal and Helpline is an integrated grievance redressal mechanism having a digital portal and a call centre has been developed to enable farmers to lodge their grievances, concerns and queries.
- The innovative **SARATHI (Sandbox for Agricultural and Rural Security, Technology and Insurance)** platform harnesses technology to provide a broad spectrum of insurance products, offering coverage for health, life, property, agriculture tools, motor assets and disaster risks.
- The Learning Management System (LMS) is designed to revolutionize the training and knowledge-sharing landscape for stakeholders in implementing key agricultural schemes across the country.

