

# IACE

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## Nitin Nabin Appointed as BJP National Working President

- ✓ Nitin Nabin has been appointed as the National Working President of the Bharatiya Janata Party following a decision by the BJP Parliamentary Board.
- ✓ He is currently serving as the Road Construction Minister in the Bihar government led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.
- ✓ He represents the Bankipur Assembly constituency in Patna district and has been elected as a five-time Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA).
- ✓ He is the son of late Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha, a senior BJP leader and former MLA.
- ✓ At 45 years of age, he has become the youngest National Working President in the history of the BJP.
- ✓ He is the first BJP leader from Bihar to be appointed to this national-level organisational post.
- ✓ Earlier, he also served as the Bihar State President of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM).



## Quality Control Orders Implemented with Relaxations for MSMEs

- ✓ The government is implementing Quality Control Orders (QCOs) in a phased manner to protect domestic production.
- ✓ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) have been provided with specific exemptions and relaxations.
- ✓ The implementation and enforcement of QCOs is carried out by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) under the Department of Consumer Affairs.
- ✓ Micro enterprises have been given a six-month extension, while small enterprises have received a three-month extension to comply with QCO requirements.
- ✓ Imports made by domestic manufacturers for export-oriented production and imports up to 200 units for research and development purposes have been exempted.
- ✓ Clearance of legacy stock manufactured or imported before the implementation of QCOs has been allowed within six months.



- ✓ BIS has introduced financial and technical concessions in its certification process to support MSMEs.
- ✓ The annual minimum marking fee has been reduced by 80% for micro, 50% for small, and 20% for medium enterprises, with an additional 10% discount for MSMEs in the Northeastern region and women-owned enterprises; RBI has also advised banks to link MSME loans to external benchmarks and reduce the reset period to three months.

## India won its first-ever Squash World Cup gold medal with a spectacular victory in the final

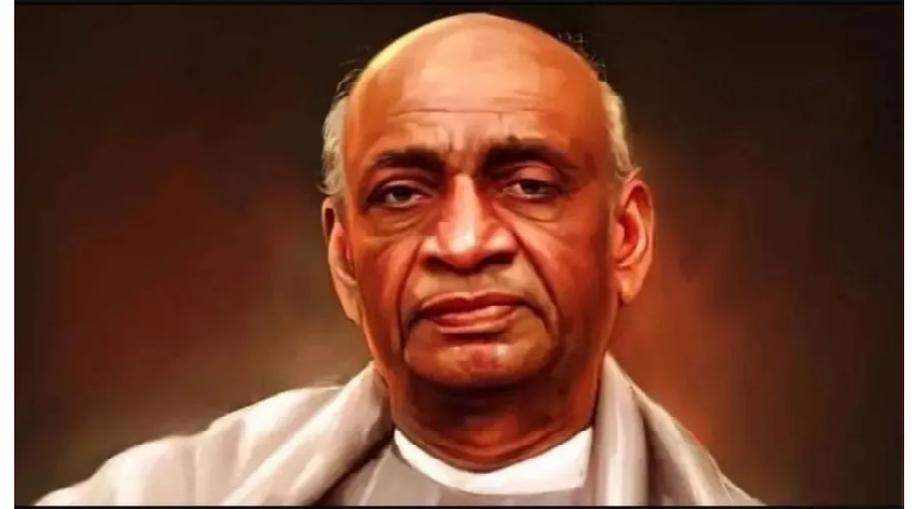
- ✓ On 14 December, India's first-ever Squash World Cup gold medal was secured with a 3-0 victory over Hong Kong in the final.
- ✓ The historic final was contested between two Asian nations for the first time in the tournament's history.
- ✓ The title wins marked India's best-ever performance at the Squash World Cup.
- ✓ Joshna Chinappa set the momentum by defeating Ka Yi Lee in a four-game contest.
- ✓ Abhay Singh followed with a commanding straight-games win over reigning Asian champion Alex Lau.
- ✓ Anahat Singh sealed the title by defeating Tomato Ho in just 16 minutes.
- ✓ The victory was described by coach Harinder Singh as a high-pressure performance delivered successfully.



- ✓ The Squash World Cup was held for the third consecutive time in India, at the SDAT Stadium in Chennai, from December 9th to December 14th.
- ✓ The Squash World Cup is an international mixed team squash tournament hosted by World Squash.
- ✓ Its first edition was held in 1996.

## 75th death anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: 15 December

- ✓ PM Modi paid tributes Iron Man, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on 75th death anniversary.
- ✓ Sardar Patel served as first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India.
- ✓ He was born on 31 October 1875. He is regarded the architect of India's national integration.
- ✓ He is also regarded as a key force behind the establishment of modern civil services, including the Indian Administrative Service (IAS).
- ✓ The Centre has announced year long celebrations in his honour to mark 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel.
- ✓ His birth anniversary (31 October) is observed as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.
- ✓ He was given the title of Sardar by women of Bardoli for leading Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928.
- ✓ He successfully worked for integration of 565 princely states into India.
- ✓ Popularly known as Iron Man of India, patron saint of India's civil servants, Unifier of India, and Bismarck of India, Sardar Patel was posthumously awarded Bharat Ratna in 1991.



## Two-Day National Conclave of Eklavya Model Residential School Principals

- ✓ A two-day Principals' Conclave will be organised by the National Education Society for Tribal Students
- ✓ The conclave will be organised on the 16th and 17th December in New Delhi.
- ✓ The conclave is a major capacity-building initiative.
- ✓ It is aimed at strengthening the academic, administrative, financial and leadership capabilities of Principals of Eklavya Model Residential Schools across India.
- ✓ Its central theme is to orient Principals on the ongoing projects, flagship initiatives and partner-supported programmes that are being implemented in Eklavya Model Residential Schools.
- ✓ The conclave will bring together 499 principals from Eklavya Model Residential Schools nationwide.



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## AIIMS Conducts India's First Clinical Trial of Supernova Stent for Stroke Treatment

- ✓ India's first clinical trial of Supernova stent for stroke has been conducted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
- ✓ India's first clinical trial of Supernova Stent has been conducted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
- ✓ Supernova Stent is the name of a new and advanced stroke treatment device.
- ✓ As per All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Supernova is planned for the India's diverse patient population.
- ✓ The institute noted that strokes in India often occur at a younger age than in the Western countries.
- ✓ It is India's first stroke device cleared based on a domestic clinical trial.
- ✓ The device has already been used to treat over 3 hundred patients in Southeast Asia.
- ✓ All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi said Supernova Stent will now be manufactured in the country.
- ✓ This will offer hope to more than 17 lakhs citizens who suffer strokes each year.



# India-Oman Free Trade Agreement

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved a proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and Oman.
- ✓ The approval paves the way for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
- ✓ The Cabinet decision was taken in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The approval comes ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to Oman on December 17-18.
- ✓ This will be PM Modi second official visit to Oman, coinciding with 70 years of diplomatic relations.
- ✓ Bilateral trade between India and Oman rose from USD 8.947 billion in 2023-24 to USD 10.613 billion in 2024-25.
- ✓ Over 6,000 India-Oman joint ventures operate in Oman, with cumulative capital of about USD 7.5 billion.
- ✓ Oman's cumulative FDI equity inflows into India reached USD 605.57 million between April 2000 and March 2025.
- ✓ India-Oman ties date back centuries, with formal diplomatic relations established in 1955 and upgraded to a strategic partnership in 2008.



## Commemorative Postage Stamp Released in Honour of Emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II Suvaran Maran

- ✓ A commemorative postage stamp honouring Emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar II Suvaran Maran was released by Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan in New Delhi.
- ✓ Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan appreciated continuous support of government for Tamil culture and language.
- ✓ He also spoke about various initiatives, including Kashi Tamil Sangamam.
- ✓ The Vice-President lauded steps taken to honour Tamil kings and leaders.
- ✓ He said the stamp release is part of a process of honouring Tamil kings and leaders.
- ✓ As per Vice-President, Emperor Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar is among the most famous rulers of ancient Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ He belonged to Mutharaiyar lineage, feudatories of the Pallavas.
- ✓ This dynasty (Mutharaiyar dynasty) ruled the central regions of Tamil Nadu between 7th and 9th Centuries CE.
- ✓ Suvaran Maran was also known as Shatrubhayankar.
- ✓ Vijayālaya Chola is believed to have defeated the Mutharaiyars by capturing Thanjavur.



## Union Government has declared Kopra Reservoir as first Ramsar site of Chhattisgarh

- ✓ Kopra Reservoir is located in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said the status reflects Chhattisgarh's rich biodiversity and highlighted the area's diverse bird habitats.
- ✓ The proposal seeking Ramsar status for Kopra Reservoir was submitted by Chhattisgarh government to the Centre last month.
- ✓ The reservoir includes both natural and man-made features and is important for regional water resources.
- ✓ It also supports irrigation needs and plays a vital role in biodiversity conservation.
- ✓ The recognition aligns with Chhattisgarh Anjor Vision 2047, which aims to secure Ramsar status for 20 wetlands by 2030.
- ✓ Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.
- ✓ The Ramsar Convention's Secretariat is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland.



## UPSC Ensures Preferred Examination Centres for PwBD Candidates to Boost Accessibility

- ✓ UPSC will ensure that every Person with Benchmark Disability (PwBD) candidate is allotted the examination centre of their choice as mentioned in the application form, improving accessibility in its exams.
- ✓ The Commission will first use the existing capacity of exam centres for both PwBD and non-PwBD candidates; once a centre reaches full capacity, it will be closed for non-PwBD applicants but remain available for PwBD candidates.
- ✓ UPSC will also make additional capacity arrangements so that no PwBD applicant is denied their preferred examination centre under any circumstances.
- ✓ UPSC Chairman Dr Ajay Kumar said the move is based on an analysis of examination centre data from the last five years, which showed early saturation at centres like Delhi, Cuttack, Patna and Lucknow, ensuring greater convenience for PwBD candidates.



## **About UPSC**

- ✓ **Establishment** - 1 October 1926
- ✓ **Headquarters** - New Delhi
- ✓ **Chairman** - Ajay Kumar
- ✓ UPSC is the central recruitment agency in India for Group 'A' officer posts under the Government of India.
- ✓ It is established as a constitutional body under Article 315 of the Indian Constitution.

## Trump Launches 'Gold Card' Visa Offering Fast-Track US Residency for \$1 Million Investors

- ✓ US President Donald Trump has launched the “Trump Gold Card” scheme, offering fast-tracked US visas to wealthy foreigners who can pay at least \$1 million, promising a direct and expedited path to residency and eventual citizenship for vetted applicants.
- ✓ The scheme requires applicants to demonstrate a “substantial benefit” to the United States, with higher tiers including a \$2 million employer-sponsored option and a forthcoming \$5 million “platinum” card offering special tax benefits, alongside additional processing fees.
- ✓ The move comes amid a broader immigration crackdown, including higher visa fees, deportations and pauses on asylum and certain country-based applications, and has drawn criticism for favouring wealthy individuals over broader immigration pathways.

