

# IACE

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FACE

## IIT Jammu Professor developed a sound-based anti-drone system

- IIT Jammu Electrical Engineering Department Professor developed an anti-drone system that works mainly on sound technology.
- This drone system is cost-effective and user-friendly.
- It is the first of its kind system that is developed based on an entirely new technology called 'sound-based detection'.
- This system detects the sound emitted by drones and produces a unique signature that helps in identifying drones.
- It could easily detect drones, aircraft, multiple drones or birds flying up to 300 meters by their sound.
- The signature is compared with the system's database, and if a match is found, the drone is detected.
- The cost of this system is about 4 lakh rupees. It will help in detecting drones and birds coming from Pakistan.
- Different technologies are being developed for the security forces to deal with the increasing use of drones for sending Arms, ammunition, cash and drugs.



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी  
संस्थान जम्मू  
**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY JAMMU**



## Wholesale inflation decreased to a three-month low of 0.27% in January 2024

- January's WPI inflation decreased mostly as a result of moderate food costs, especially those of vegetables.
- In January 2023, the percentage stood at 4.8%. It was 0.73% as of December 2023.
- For January 2024, the All India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data indicates an annual rate of inflation of 0.27 per cent (provisional).
- Food inflation decreased from 9.38 per cent in December 2023 to 6.85 per cent in January 2024.
- Vegetable inflation in food articles decreased to 19.71 percent in December from 26.3% in December.
- Fruits, eggs, milk, seafood, and milk have all seen price reductions.
- In January, the fuel and power segment had (-) 0.51 percent inflation. In December 2023, the inflation percentage was (-) 2.41% in this segment.
- Inflation in manufactured products was (-) 1.13 percent in January. In the preceding month, it was (-) 0.71%.
- In January 2024, the WPI index changed by (-) 0.33 percent from December 2023 to January 2024.
- Prices of minerals increased in January 2024 over December 2023.
- On the other side, prices of crude petroleum and natural gas, non-food articles and food articles, declined in January 2024 over December 2023.



**INDIA WINS 9TH GOVERNMENT  
TECH AWARD IN DUBAI**

## India wins 9th Gov Tech award at World Government Summit in Dubai

- India was honoured with the 9th GovTech Prize at the World Government Summit 2024, held in the United Arab Emirates.
- This accolade is a testament to India's innovative use of artificial intelligence in enhancing government services, specifically under the 'AI-Powered Government Services' category.
- The award, established by the UAE government, acknowledges the creative and innovative technological solutions implemented by government entities worldwide.
- The **Ministry for Road Transport & Highways of the Government of India** has been recognized for its groundbreaking project, **iRASTE (Intelligent Solutions for Road Safety through Technology and Engineering)**. This initiative stands out as a pioneering endeavor that integrates AI technology to tackle the challenges of road safety, marking a significant evolution from traditional methods.
- The project sets ambitious goals, targeting a 50% reduction in road accidents in urban areas. It also focuses on significantly reducing black spots within city road networks, thereby improving the overall safety and efficiency of transportation systems.
- The GovTech Prize was awarded by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, the crown prince of Dubai, and was received on behalf of India by Tadu Mamu, Consul at the Consulate General of India.
- This global recognition not only highlights India's commitment to leveraging technology for public welfare but also sets a benchmark for other nations to follow in the realm of AI-powered government services.



## **Uttarakhand to launch India's first Helicopter Emergency Service**

- India is preparing to launch its first **Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS)** in Uttarakhand, according to Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.
- The **HEMS** will be stationed at **AIIMS in Rishikesh** and will be able to airlift accident victims within a 150 km radius to the medical facility.
- This will ensure timely transportation of accident victims and patients from hilly terrain to AIIMS.
- This initiative is part of the government's efforts to expand medical outreach and trauma care services, ensuring timely transportation for patients from hilly terrains to receive critical care at AIIMS during the 'golden hour' after an accident.

## Confederation of International Small Tea Holders' headquarters to shift to India

- The headquarters of the Confederation of International Small Tea Holders (CITS) will shift to India from China.
- The decision was taken recently at the 25th session of the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Tea (FAO IGG on Tea) held in Guwahati recently.
- The **Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) IGG on Tea**, which is under the United Nations, also decided to take up the issue of climate change and assess carbon footprint of tea plantations globally.
- The FAO IGG on Tea is the highest global platform for tea wherein all tea-producing and consuming nations deliberate on trends in production, consumption, trade and prices of tea, including regular appraisal of the global market situation and short-term outlook.
- It considers changes in national policies and examines their international effects as they pertain to current and prospective markets.
- India took over as the chair of the FAO IGG on Tea from the United Kingdom for the next two years and the session was presided over by Saurav Pahari, deputy chairman of Tea Board India.



## India to host 71st edition of Miss World Pageant from February 18th to March 9th

- The much anticipated 71<sup>st</sup> edition of Miss World will be held in India from February 18 to March 9.
- With its latest edition, the coveted international beauty pageant is making a return to the country after nearly three decades.
- The pageant will commence with "The Opening Ceremony" and "India Welcomes the World Gala" by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) in New Delhi on February 20.
- It will conclude with a grand finale at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on March 9 and will be streamed and telecast across the world.
- The pageant will unfold across various venues, including the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi and will see 120 contestants from countries across the globe participate in various competitions and charitable initiatives.
- India last hosted the international pageant in 1996. Chhillar was the most recent Indian to win the pageant, having bagged the crown in 2017.



## Mukhyamantri Vishwakarma Pension Yojana 2024 in Rajasthan

- Chief Minister Vishwakarma Pension Scheme was started in Rajasthan by Bhajanlal government for the welfare of workers and street vendors of the state.
- Through this scheme, the government will provide a pension amount of Rs 2,000 every month to workers and street vendors.
- This pension amount will be provided by the government to the beneficiaries after the age of 60 years.
- The pension amount provided by the government will be sent to the beneficiary's bank account through DBT.
- Workers will get the benefit of this scheme only when they deposit a premium of Rs 60 to 100 under this scheme.
- A budget of Rs 350 crore has been allocated by the Rajasthan government to operate this scheme.
- The benefit of this scheme will be provided to all the laborers and street vendors of the state. Those workers will not have to face financial crisis in old age and it will make them self-reliant and empowered by providing pension every month.

**Rajasthan Mukhyamantri  
Vishwakarma  
Pension Yojana 2024**



**HAPPY  
SONAM LOSAR!**

## Tamang Community of Nepal celebrates Sonam Losar

- The Tamang community is populated in different districts of the Bagmati region.
- Sonam Losar marks the beginning of the Tamang New Year. The day is celebrated by offering prayers at monasteries and homes and visits to elders of the family to receive blessings.
- From this day, the tiger year enters after completing the cow year. Sonam Losar festival is celebrated yearly on the occasion of **Magh Shukla Pratipada**.
- **Sonam Losar is divided into 12 categories:** rat, cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon (cloud), snake, horse, sheep, monkey, bird, dog and pig.
- The Damphu is a traditional Tamang drum. Tamang Selo, a traditional dance is performed with great gusto in colourful, traditional clothes, which is meant to signify the culture, religion, and tradition of the Tamang community.
- Musical and dance performances are organised in Tundikhel of Kathmandu Valley where Tamangs wear their traditional attire and gather to celebrate Sonam Lhosar.
- The meals often include delicacies like sel roti (a traditional rice flour doughnut), various meat dishes, and homemade brews, which are enjoyed amidst tales of yore and aspirations for the year ahead.
- In contemporary times, Sonam Losar serves not just as a bridge to the Tamang's ancestral past but also as a means to showcase their rich culture to the world.
- Furthermore, Sonam Losar has transcended ethnic boundaries, becoming a celebration embraced by other communities in Nepal, fostering a sense of unity and national pride.

## Global Tourism Resilience Day 2024: 17 February

- Every year on 17 February, Global Tourism Resilience Day is celebrated.
- Global Tourism Resilience Day is an opportunity to look at and reflect on the resilience of the global tourism industry.
- The **United Nations General Assembly** established the United Nations Global Tourism Resilience Day on 17 February 2023.
- Over the past few years, the tourism industry has faced unprecedented challenges, from natural disasters to pandemics, and political instability to economic recession.
- The term "**tourism resilience**" is used to describe the ability of a tourist destination to withstand and recover from a crisis.
- According to the latest UNWTO data, an estimated 975 million tourists traveled internationally between January and September 2023, an increase of 38% compared to the same period in 2022.
- The Indian tourism sector is one of the fastest-growing economic sectors in the country.
- India's tourism and hospitality industry is projected to generate revenues of over \$59 billion by 2028.
- Apart from this, foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) are projected to reach 30.5 million by 2028.



## 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the MILAN naval exercise will be held at Visakhapatnam

- The 12th edition of the MILAN naval exercise will be organized from February 19 to 27 in Visakhapatnam. More than 50 countries will participate in the exercise.
- The main objective of the exercise is to ensure the safety of maritime trade for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- This exercise will provide a platform for the navies of participating countries to collaborate and share ideas.
- The Harbour Phase will take place from February 19 to 23. It will witness a series of events, including the International City Parade, International Maritime Seminar, Subject Matter Expert Exchange, and Table Top Exercise.
- Participating country's navies will take part in advanced air defence, anti-submarine, and anti-surface warfare drills during the Sea phase of the exercise.
- The MILAN will provide an opportunity for navies to not only foster friendship and strengthen relationships but will also enhance interoperability.



## Indian football team slips to 117th position in FIFA rankings

- The Indian football team on dropped 15 places to 117th in the FIFA rankings, the worst in seven years, after the recent debacle in the AFC Asian Cup, where it lost all its three group matches.
- This was India's worst ranking after it was placed at 129th spot in January 2017 chart. The historical worst ranking, though, was 173 in 2015.
- The Indian team was placed at 102nd in the last FIFA rankings, issued on December 21, 2023.
- India also lost 35.63 rating points from the previous total. It now lies in between Togo (116th) and Guinea-Bissau (118th). The country is ranked 22nd among the Asian nations.



## **Nikhil Joshi appointed as Managing Director of Boeing Defence India**

- Boeing, the US-based aerospace company, has announced the appointment of Nikhil Joshi as managing director of Boeing Defense India (BDI), in a move to strengthen the company's operations and accelerate its growth strategy for India.
- Based in New Delhi, Nikhil Joshi will lead current and future programs for BDI to enhance the mission readiness and modernization of India's defence forces.
- Reporting to Salil Gupte, president, of Boeing India and South Asia, Nikhil Joshi will work in close collaboration with Boeing Defense, Space & Security (BDS) and Boeing Global Services (BGS).
- Nikhil Joshi has more than 25 years of aerospace and defence industry experience, including over two decades of service with the Indian armed forces in the aviation branch of the Indian Navy.



## India, Colombia signed an agreement on digital cooperation

- India and Colombia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions Implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
- It was signed between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Information Technologies and Communications of Colombia.
- Ministry of Electronics and IT said in a statement that both sides discussed the importance of Digital Public Infrastructures.
- These infrastructures constitute a set of shared digital systems that are secure and interoperable. They can be built on open standards to deliver and provide equitable access to public and private services.
- India Stack Solutions are DPIs developed and implemented by India at population scale to provide access and delivery of public services.



## Greece legalized same-sex marriage

- Greece has become the first Orthodox Christian country to legalize same-sex marriage.
- The Greek parliament passed the law to legalize same-sex marriage.
- 176 out of 300 lawmakers in parliament supported the resolution. 76 voted against the proposal.
- It is a milestone for human rights and this decision reflects Greece's progressive nature.
- The new law will allow same-sex couples to adopt and receive full parental recognition.
- Although Greece introduced civil partnerships for gay couples nearly a decade ago.
- Greece capital : **Athens**



## **R Ashwin became the second-fastest player to take 500 Test wickets**

- India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin achieved the major feat of taking 500 Test wickets at the Niranjan Shah Stadium.
- Ashwin became the **second Indian to take 500 wickets after Anil Kumble**, who took 619 wickets.
- While bowling in the first innings of the Test match in Rajkot, Ashwin achieved an incredible feat by taking the wicket of Jack Crawley.
- After Sri Lankan legend Muttiah Muralitharan (87 matches), Ashwin became the second bowler to take fastest 500 wickets in 98 Test matches.
- Sri Lanka's Muralitharan is also the all-time leading wicket-taker in Tests, with 800 wickets in 133 games.
- Ashwin also became India's highest wicket-taker by taking 96 wickets in Test cricket against England, surpassing BS Chandrashekhara.
- Ashwin has also become the ninth bowler to make 500 dismissals.

**ASHWIN BECOMES  
FASTEST INDIAN  
TO 500 TEST  
WICKETS**

