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Uttarakhand CM Launches 'Himalayan Basket' to Empowering Local Economy

- **Uttarakhand** Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami unveiled the '**Himalayan Basket**' initiative from his residence. The 'Himalayan Basket' initiative is designed to boost local employment by capitalizing on the district's abundant agricultural resources.
- This innovative project, started in 2018 by local entrepreneurs **Sumit** and **Sneha Thapilyal**, aims to boost local employment by leveraging the rich agricultural resources of the district. They have already employed over 200 individuals.
- The initiative focuses on purchasing milk, turmeric, and mint from local farmers to produce and export high-demand products like '**Chhurpi**' and ghee. The demand for milk products 'Chhurpi' and 'Ghee' is high in the state. Chhurpi is a special hard cheese made from cow' milk.
- The 'Himalayan Basket' initiative represents more than just an agricultural project and is a vision for economic empowerment and sustainability in the Himalayan region.

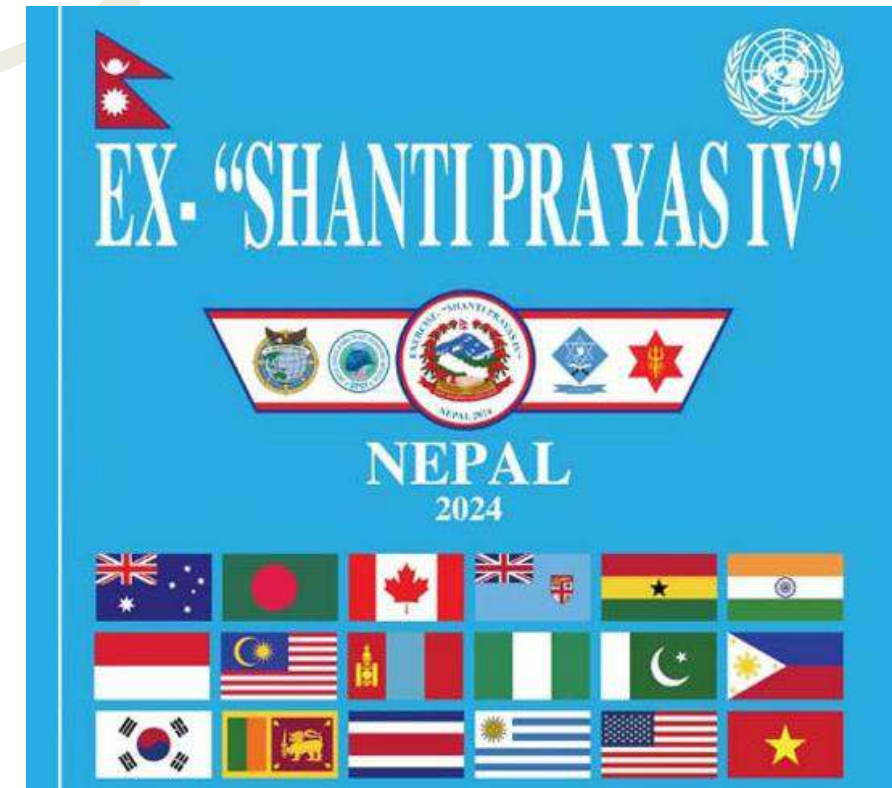


Multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV' commences in Kathmandu

- **Kathmandu** recently hosted the multinational military exercise 'Shanti Prayas IV,' becoming a hub for global peacekeeping efforts. The event involved army representatives from 19 nations engaged in UN Peacekeeping missions, emphasizing collaborative dedication to global peace and security.
- The Shanti Prayas Exercise is co-hosted by the **Nepali Army** and the **U.S. Indo-Pacific Command**, reflecting the strong military cooperation between Nepal and the United States. The exercise was inaugurated by Prime Minister **Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda** in a ceremony held at the Nepali Army Headquarters in Bhadrakali, Kathmandu.
- The primary objective of Shanti Prayas IV is to showcase Nepal's proficiency in peacekeeping operations and to highlight the United States' support for the Nepali Army's contributions to global peacekeeping efforts.

Nepal:

- **Capital:** Kathmandu
- **Currency:** Nepalese Rupee
- **President:** Ram Chandra Paudel
- **Prime Minister:** Pushpa Kamal Dahal



Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024

- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024 were held in Mumbai on February 20, 2024. Around 40 individuals were honoured for their exemplary contributions towards the growth and development of Indian cinema.

Dadasaheb Phalke Awards 2024 full winners List:

- **Best Film:** Jawan
- **Best Film (Critics):** 12th Fail
- **Best International Feature Film:** Oppenheimer
- **Best Actor:** Shahrukh Khan (Jawan)
- **Best Actor (Critics):** Vicky Kaushal (Sam Bahadur) Best
- **Best Director:** Sandeep Reddy Vanga (Animal)
- **Best Short Film:** Good morning
- **Best Actress:** Rani Mukerji (Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway)
- **Outstanding Contribution to the Film Industry:** Moushumi Chatterjee

- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival (DPIFF) is the only independent international film festival in India. It was instituted in 2012 and established in 2016 to honour the legacy of the late Dadasaheb Phalke, also referred to as the Father of Indian Cinema



Prof. Aditi Sen De became 1st woman to be honoured with GD Birla Award for scientific research

- Prof. Aditi Sen De been awarded the 32nd Ghanshyam Das (GD) Birla Award for Scientific Research 2023 for her outstanding contributions to the field of Physics. Aditi Sen De is the first female scientist to receive this award.
- The award was given by **KK Birla Foundation**. Her research is based on the manipulation of quantum states and their nonclassical applications.
- She was also the first female to receive the **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** for Science and Technology in 2018. She currently working as professor at **Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad**.

About GD Birla Award:

- The award was institutionalised in 1991. It recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 years for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science. The award consists of cash prize or Rs 5 lakh.



Asia's largest tribal festival 'Sammakka-Saralamma Jatara' started in Telangana

- **Sammakka Sarakka Medaram Jathara**, Asia's largest tribal fair, started in Telangana's **Mulugu district** witnessed thousands of devotees who paid obeisance to tribal deities.
- Sammakka Saralamma Jathara, also known as **Medaram Jathara**, is a festival celebrated in the state of Telangana, India in honor of the Gods and Goddesses. The Jathara takes place in Medaram, Tadvai Mandal, in Mulugu district. It commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, against an unjust law imposed by the reigning rulers.
- It is believed to attract the largest number of devotees in the country after **Kumbh Mela**. The Jathara is celebrated during the time when the tribals' goddesses are believed to visit them. Medaram is a remote place located in the **Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary**, which is a part of Dandakaranya, the largest surviving forest belt in Mulugu.

LARGEST TRIBAL FESTIVAL

**Sammakka-Sarakka
Medaram Jatara**

Started



A composite image featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the right side, wearing his signature orange vest and white shirt. The background is a scenic view of a lake in Jammu, with a traditional boat and mountains in the distance. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a large text block in white and blue, with some words highlighted in orange boxes.

PM Modi Unveils

**DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Worth Rs 32,000 Crore**

in Jammu

PM Modi launches projects worth over 32000 crore rupees in Jammu

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Jammu on 20th February, 2024 and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 32,000 crore. The projects relate to several sectors including health, education, rail, road, aviation, petroleum, civic infrastructure, among others.
- A highlight of the Prime Minister's visit is the inauguration of the world's highest railway bridge over the **Chenab River**. Towering at 359 metres above the riverbed, this engineering marvel surpasses the height of the Eiffel Tower by 35 metres. Spanning 1.3 km, the bridge is a critical component of the 111-km Katra–Banihal stretch of the **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Line (USBRL)** Project.
- Another significant initiative is the inauguration of the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Vijaypur (Samba), Jammu**. This state-of-the-art facility, established under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana at a cost of over Rs 1,660 crore, sprawls over 227 acres.
- The foundation stone for a new terminal at **Jammu Airport** will also be laid by the Prime Minister. Envisioned on a 40,000 sqm area, the terminal aims to cater to 2,000 passengers during peak hours, embodying modern facilities while reflecting the local culture.
- Prime minister also inaugurated the 48.1-km-long **Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangaldan** section. This longest tunnel, which is 12.77-km long and known as **T-50**. T-50 is supposed to be the most challenging of the 11 tunnels in the Banihal-Khari-Sumber-Sangadal section.

Malta becomes 119th member of International Solar Alliance

- According to the Ministry of External Affairs, a European Country, Malta, became the **119th Country** to join the International Solar Alliance. India welcomed Malta for joining ISA.
- Malta is an island-state located in the **Mediterranean Sea**, to the south of Sicily (Italy). It consists of three islands: Comino, Gozo and Malta, Malta is the largest island. The country became a member of the European Union in May 2004. The **capital city of Malta is Valletta**. The languages spoken in the country are Maltese and English.

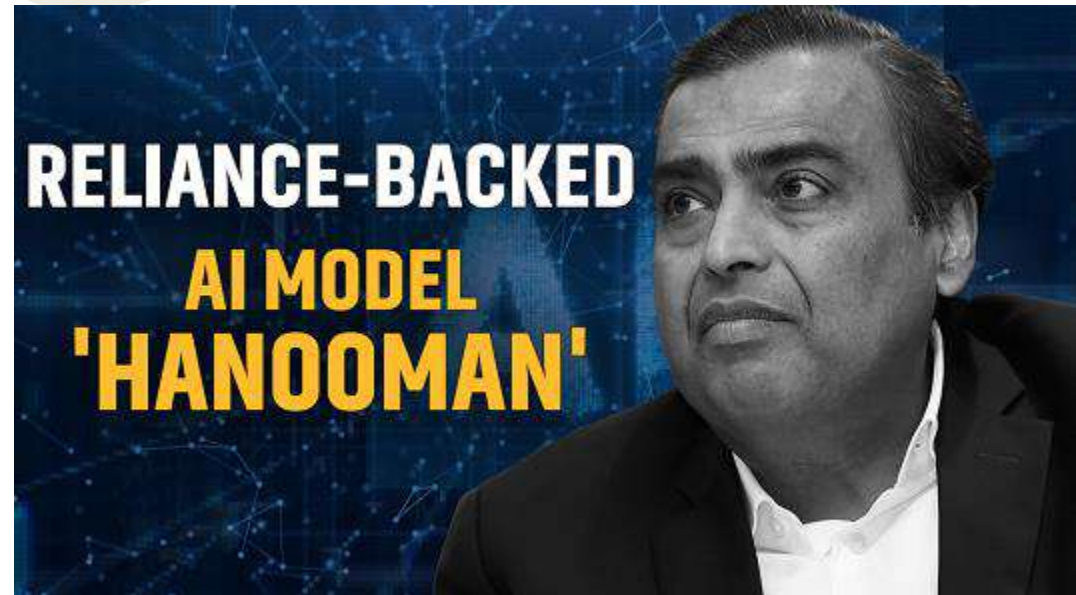
About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- On November 30, 2015 during the COP-21 of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Paris the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was announced by PM Modi and former French President Hollande.
- This initiative was launched in support of India's proposal to create a common platform for cooperation among solar resource-rich countries located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
- The ISA aims to deploy 1000 GW of solar capacity by 2030. However, achieving this goal will require an estimated investment of US\$1 trillion by 2030.
- **Headquarters:** Gurgaon
- **Director General:** Dr Ajay Mathur



Reliance-backed AI model 'Hanooman' set to launch in March 2024

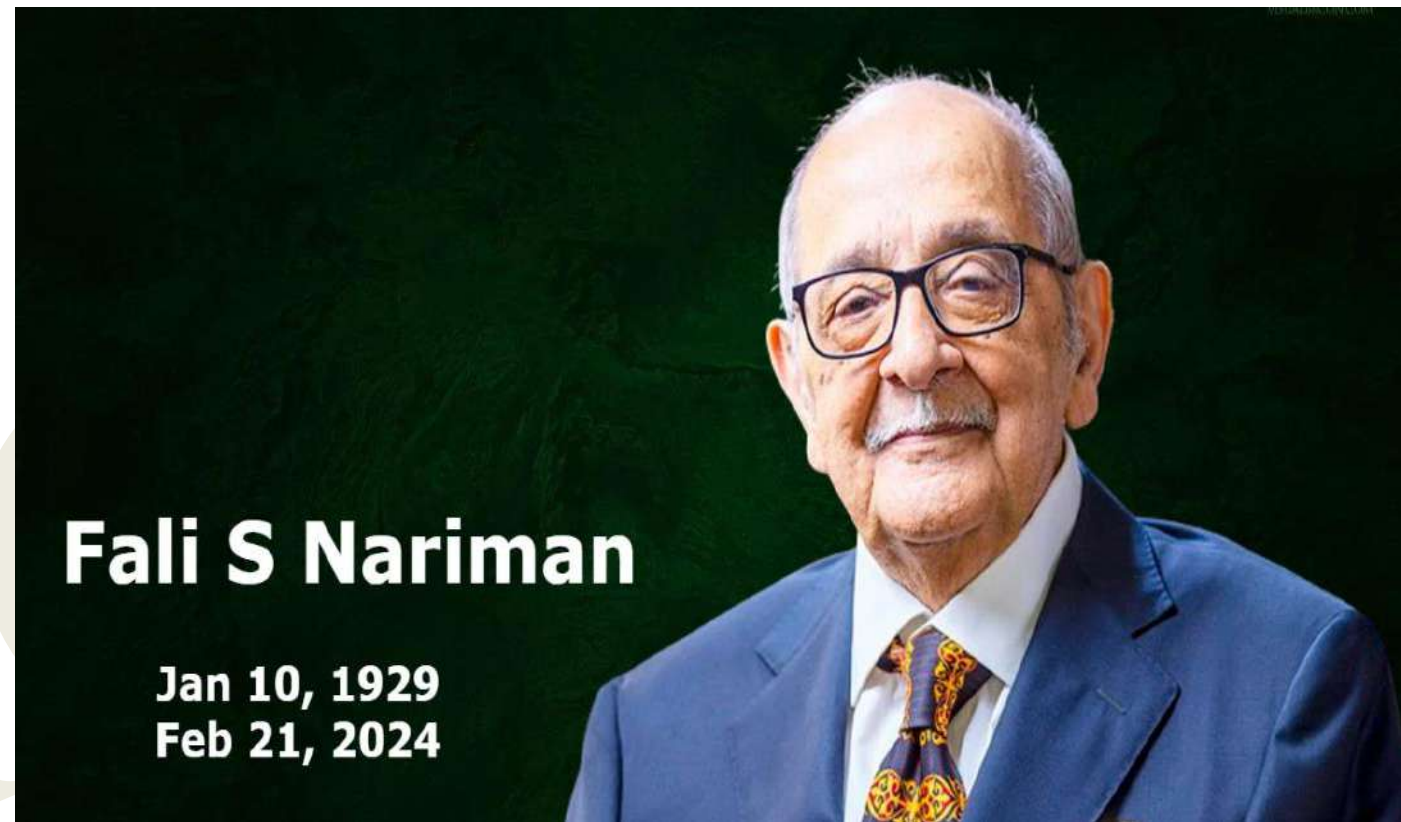
- **BharatGPT**, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology universities and backed by **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd**, has developed an AI model called **Hanooman**. This model is set to advance India's AI technology in various fields including healthcare, governance, financial services, and education.
- Hanooman is designed to work via 11 local languages and will provide speech-to-text capabilities to its users, aiming to make it more user-friendly. Reliance Jio will also build customised models specific to certain uses.
- Other startups such as **Sarvam** and **Krutrim**, backed by Lightspeed Venture Partners and Vinod Khosla's fund, are also developing open-sourced AI models for India.
- LLMs, or large language models, are systems that learn from vast quantities of data and generate natural-sounding responses. These models harness generative AI, which is a newer type of artificial intelligence made popular by the success of **OpenAI's ChatGPT**.



Renowned Indian jurist & Padma

Awardee Fali S Nariman passed away

- **Fali Sam Narima**, a renowned Indian jurist and Padma Awardee, passed away at the age of 95 in New Delhi, Delhi. He was born on 10th January 1929 in **Myanmar**.
- The Government of India honoured him with **Padma Bhushan (Field: Public Affairs) in 1991** and **Padma Vibhushan (Field: Public Affairs) in 2007** in recognition of his exceptional and distinguished services in the field of Public Affairs.
- Fali Sam Narima started his career as an **Advocate of the Bombay High Court** in 1950. He also served as Additional Solicitor General of India from 1972 to 1975. He resigned a day after the Emergency was imposed on June 26, 1975.
- He also served as Vice-Chairman of International Court of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in Paris, France (1989 to 2005), President of International Council of Commercial Arbitrator (1994 to 2002) and Chairman of Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurist (ICJ), Geneva, Switzerland (1995 to 1997).



India wins four medals (3 gold and 1 silver) in Asian Indoor Athletics Championships 2024

- India finished 5th, in the medal tally with four medals (3 gold and 1 silver) in the 11th edition of **Asian Indoor Athletics Championship 2024**, held from 17th to 19th February 2024 at the Enghelab sports complex in **Tehran, Iran**.
- **China** tops the medal tally with 16 medals (8 gold, 6 silver, 2 bronze) , Japan with 9 medals (4 gold, 4 silver, 1 bronze), and Kazakhstan with 12 medals (4 gold, 2 silver, 6 bronze) in second and third place respectively.
- In this Indian medal winners include **Jyothi Yarraji** won the gold medal in the **women's 60 meters** hurdles with a timing of 8.12 seconds. With this she broke her own national record of 8.13 seconds.
- **Tajinderpal Singh Toor** won the gold medal in the **men's shot put** with a throw of 19.72 meters. He broke the national record of 19.60 meters, which was set by Vikas Gowda in 2005.
- **Harmilan Kaur Bains** won the gold medal in the women's 1500 meters **Short Track** event with a timing of 4:29.55. **Ankita Dhyani** won the silver medal in the women's 3000 meters Short Track event with a timing of 9:26.22.

