

# IACE

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**PM Modi dedicated to the nation five AIIMS at Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal) and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh)**

- In a significant stride towards bolstering India's healthcare infrastructure and services, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated Five All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to the nation.
- The AIIMS facilities located in Rajkot (Gujarat), Bathinda (Punjab), Raebareli (Uttar Pradesh), Kalyani (West Bengal), and Mangalagiri (Andhra Pradesh) mark a pivotal moment in the country's journey towards enhancing tertiary healthcare access and quality.



- Each of the five AIIMS inaugurated holds strategic importance in expanding healthcare access across different regions of India. These institutions, along with the 202 healthcare infrastructure projects, represent a comprehensive effort to enhance medical services and facilities nationwide.
- **AIIMS Mangalagiri:** A 960-bed hospital complex built at a cost of Rs. 1618.23 crores, with a sprawling campus spanning 183.11 acres and a medical college offering 125 seats.
- **AIIMS Raebareli:** A 610-bed hospital complex with specialized facilities including Emergency & Trauma and ICU & Super Specialty beds. It houses a Medical College with 100 seats and 12 Operation Theatres, with a project cost of Rs. 823 crores.
- **AIIMS Rajkot:** Built at a cost of Rs. 1195 crores, this 750-bed hospital complex includes a 50-seat medical college and covers an area of 201 acres.
- **AIIMS Bathinda:** A 750-bed medical institute spread across 177 acres, equipped with 10 Specialty departments, 11 Super-Specialty departments, and 6 Operation Theatres. It hosts a Medical College with 100 seats and a Nursing College with 60 seats, with a total project cost of Rs. 925 crores.
- **AIIMS Kalyani:** A 960-bed hospital with a Medical College offering 125 seats, a Nursing College with 60 seats, and an AYUSH block with 30 beds. The project, costing Rs. 1754 crores, is built on 179.82 acres of land.
- The inauguration of five AIIMS facilities and the launch of numerous healthcare projects symbolize a monumental step towards realizing India's vision of accessible and quality healthcare for all.

## **S P Singh Baghel, inaugurated the first National Public Health India Conference (NPHICON2024)**

- Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, SP Singh Baghel, inaugurated the first National Public Health India Conference (NPHICON-2024) .
- The three-day conference, organised by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) under the Directorate General of Health Services, aims to foster discussions on health research, policies, and interventions.
- NITI Aayog member, Dr VK Paul, joined the inauguration ceremony, emphasizing the importance of the conference in aligning policies with the Prime Minister's vision for a developed India, known as Viksit Bharat.
- Baghel highlighted the Ayushman Bharat Scheme as a cornerstone of the Government of India's efforts. He attributed the reduction of diseases like Kala-azar, Japanese fever, and dengue to various initiatives, including the construction of 4 crore toilets in rural areas, providing smokeless gas cylinders to 12 crore people, and ensuring 24-hour electricity supply.
- The event also saw the launch of a revamped NCDC website, a new e-journal, Epi-Dis-Phere Public Health Resilience, and an e-techno-doc comprising oral and poster abstracts of conference presentations.



## India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' at IIM, Shillong

- The country's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair' will be established at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong.
- **The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)** has collaborated with IIM-Shillong to set up India's first 'Gati Shakti Research Chair'.
- This initiative aims to discuss the multimodal logistics development strategy focused on connecting the North Eastern Region (NER) with wider national and international regions to fortify the local economy.
- Over the past eight years, numerous long-standing projects have been successfully completed, with a particular emphasis on enhancing connectivity through waterways in addition to road, rail, and air routes.
- Through an MoA, IIM Shillong aims to contribute significantly to comprehensive research efforts, envisioning a significant impact not only within the Northeast region but also on a national scale.



## Chola's Subbiah bags 2023 EY Entrepreneur of Year Award

- Vellayan Subbiah, Chairman of Cholamandalam Finance and Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India, has been awarded the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2023 (EOY).
- The nine-member independent jury led by K V Kamath, Former Chairman of ICICI Bank, selected Vellayan Subbiah as the EOY 2023 winner for his bold strategies to transform existing businesses while seizing new opportunities through acquisitions and diversification.
- Vellayan Subbiah will represent India at the **EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo** from 4-7 June 2024.
- **Natarajan Chandrasekaran**, Chairman of Tata Sons, was conferred the **Special Jury Award** for outstanding leadership of the Tata Group and contributions to nation-building.
- The **2023 Lifetime Achievement Award winner, Venu Srinivasan**, Chairman Emeritus of TVS Motor Company, was recognized for his decades of entrepreneurial excellence in revolutionizing the two-wheeler industry in India.
- Venu Srinivasan has won several global and Indian awards including the prestigious **Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan** in 2010 and 2020 respectively.



## Feleti Teo is named the new prime minister of Tuvalu

- Feleti Teo is former attorney general of Tuvalu. He was the first attorney general of Tuvalu.
- Following a general election that resulted in the removal of the Tuvalu's pro-Taiwan leader, Feleti Teo was named as the new prime minister.
- Teo was the sole candidate nominated by his 15 lawmaker colleagues. He was announced elected without a vote.
- In the election held on January 26, Kausea Natano, his predecessor who supported Taiwan, was defeated.
- Tuvalu is one of just 12 nations that maintain formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan.
- Recently, Nauru, Tuvalu's neighbor, ended diplomatic ties with Taipei in favor of Beijing.
- It is the first time that a prime minister has been selected without opposition, according to Tuvalu lawmaker Simon Kofe.
- Tuvalu is an island country in the Pacific Ocean. It is composed of three reef islands and six atolls. **Funafuti is its capital.**



## Maryam Nawaz has become 1st woman Chief Minister (CM) of West Punjab in Pakistan

- Maryam Nawaz is the daughter of three-time Pakistan Prime Minister **Nawaz Sharif**.
- She said she would now not only represent a political party. She would be a Wazir-e-Ala of the entire Punjab.
- In the elections, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) won 137 seats in the Punjab Assembly.
- Independents backed by former PM Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) won 113 seats.
- In 2017, she was featured in the **BBC's 100 Women list**.
- Additionally, she was included in **The New York Times list of 11 Powerful Women Around the World for the year 2017**.



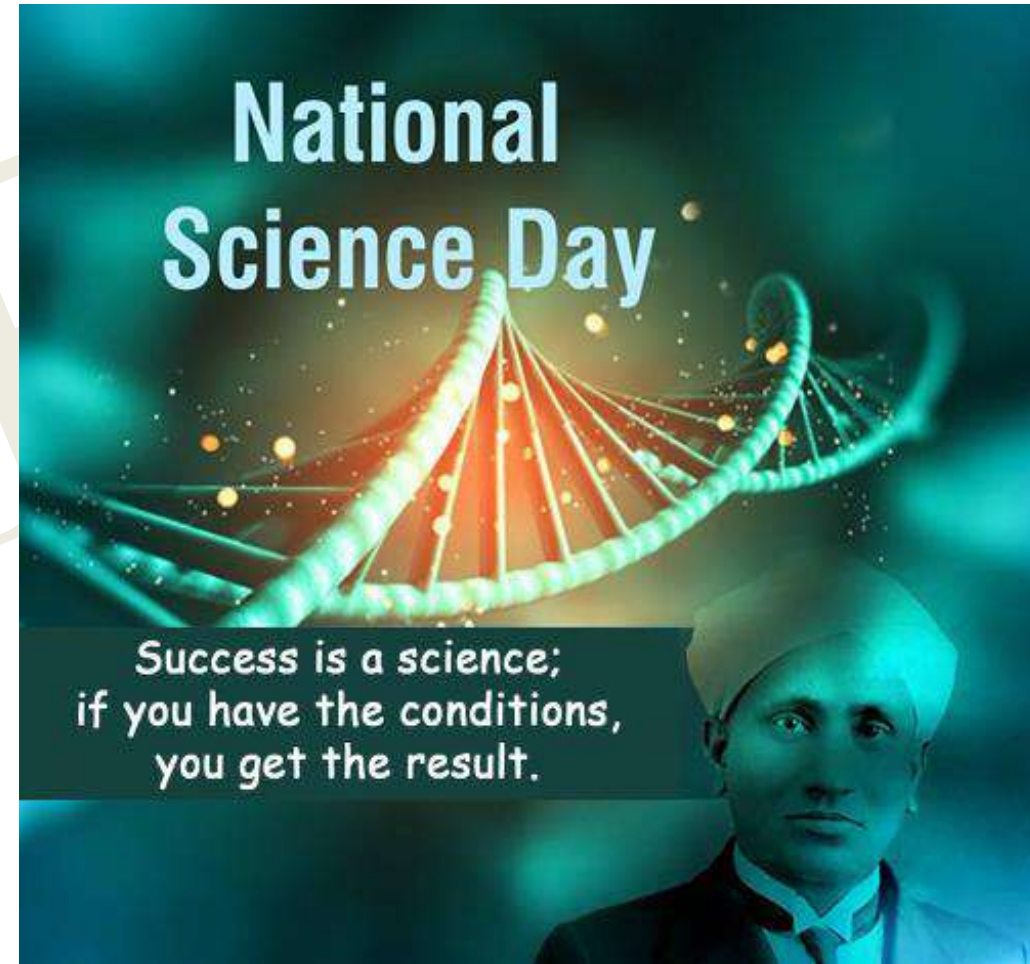
## Sikkim's first railway station foundation stone has been laid by PM Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of **Rangpo railway station**.
- Sikkim will now be connected with a railway line. The railway will become the third mode of transportation for residents.
- The government will develop this project in three phases. In the first phase, Sevoke to the Rangpo rail project will be developed.
- In the other phase, the railway line from Rangpo to Gangtok; and in the third phase, from Gangtok to Nathula will be developed.
- The design of the Rangpo railway station will be inspired from the rich culture, heritage and architecture of Sikkim.
- The station will be a part of the under-construction 45-km rail line from Sevoke near Siliguri in West Bengal to Rangpo in Sikkim
- The Sevoke-Rangpo section of the Northeast Frontier Railway will have the capacity to handle 25 tons and trains can run at a maximum speed of 110 kmph.



## National Science Day – Feb 28<sup>th</sup>

- National Science Day is celebrated annually on 28th February in India to commemorate the discovery of the '**Raman Effect**' by Indian physicist Sir **Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman**.
- This day serves as a reminder of the pivotal role science plays in shaping our lives and society.
- The theme for National Science Day 2024 is '**Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat**', emphasizing the importance of promoting scientific, technological, and innovation skills.
- The theme underscores the achievements of Indian scientists in addressing the country's challenges through home-grown technologies. It also advocates for collaboration between the public and scientific community to contribute to India's well-being and global welfare.
- The Raman Effect refers to the phenomenon of light scattering when passing through a transparent material, leading to a change in its wavelength and energy.



## RBI's Financial Literacy Week 2024 (February 26 – March 01, 2024)

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been observing Financial Literacy Week (FLW) every year since **2016** to propagate financial education messages to public at large to empower them to engage in responsible financial behaviour and take informed financial decisions.
- The theme for this year's Financial Literacy Week to be observed during February 26 – March 01, 2024 is "**Make a Right Start: Become Financially Smart**", with emphasis on "Saving and Power of Compounding", "Banking Essentials for Students" and "Digital and Cyber Hygiene" which aligns with overall strategic objectives of the National Strategy for Financial Education: 2020-2025.
- The theme for this year is targeted towards young adults, mainly students. The objective is to increase awareness on the advantage of inculcating discipline from an early age.
- On the occasion, Reserve Bank of India, Ahmedabad Regional Office (ARO) organised the inaugural function of FLW at RBI, ARO wherein Shri Ashok Parikh, General Manager (Officer-In-Charge), inaugurated the Financial Literacy Week.
- As part of FLW campaign of 2024, RBI is pleased to announce a Financial Literacy Ideathon, which is aimed at soliciting innovative ideas from postgraduate students, on creative strategies to propagate financial literacy among the youth so as to empower them to engage in responsible financial behaviour and take informed financial decisions.



## Algeria inaugurates World's third-largest mosque



- Algeria has inaugurated a gigantic mosque on its Mediterranean coastline .
- Built by a Chinese construction firm throughout the 2010s, the Great Mosque of Algiers features the **world's tallest minaret, measuring 265 metres (869ft)**.
- **The third-largest mosque in the world, the biggest in Africa, and largest outside Islam's holiest cities**, its prayer room accommodates 120,000 people.
- Its modernist design contains Arab and north African flourishes to honour Algerian tradition and culture, as well as a helicopter landing pad and a library that can house up to 1m books.
- The Algerian president, **Abdelmadjid Tebboune**, inaugurated the mosque in an event that was largely ceremonial as the mosque has been open to tourists and state visitors to Algeria for about five years.

## Four astronauts have been named for India's first manned space mission

- The four astronauts- Prashanth Nair, Angad Prathap, Ajit Krishnan, and Shubhanshu Shukla have been named for India's first manned space mission.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the name of the four astronauts for the Gaganyaan Mission.
- The astronauts have undergone a year-long training course in **Russia's Zvyozdny Gorodok city**.



- The **Gaganyaan Mission is India's first human space flight program.**
- Under the Gaganyaan project, **crew members will sent into an orbit of 400 km for a three-day mission.**
- ISRO has set up an Astronaut Training Facility in Bengaluru to train astronauts for the manned mission.
- ISRO completed the acceptance tests of the flight engine identified for the first unmanned Gaganyaan (G1) mission.

# The day-long 'Purple Fest' inaugurated by President Draupadi Murmu in the Amrit Udyan of Rashtrapati Bhavan on 26 February



- It was organized after the successful organization of the 'International Purple Festival, 2024' in Goa from January 8 to 13, 2024.
- A one-day 'Purple Utsav' organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

- More than 10 thousand disabled people, along with their escorts, participated in the program at this grand venue.
- The nodal agency of this festival is **Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay National Institute for Physically Disabled.**
- The major activities of 'Purple Utsav' were Amrit Udyan Yatra, Know Your Disabilities, Purple Café, Purple Kaleidoscope, Purple Live Experience Zone, Purple Sports, etc.
- The objective of the festival is to raise awareness about various disabilities and their impact on people to challenge misconceptions, stigma, and stereotypes of disability, and to promote understanding, acceptance, and inclusion of persons with disabilities in society.

# World's first Vedic clock to be inaugurated in Ujjain



- On March 1, PM Modi will virtually inaugurate the Vedic clock installed on an 85-foot high tower constructed at **Jantar Mantar in Ujjain**.
- This clock will display information about Vedic Hindu Panchang, planetary positions, Muhurat, and astrological calculations.
- It will also show the Indian Standard Time (IST) and the Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- In this clock, period between the two sunrises has been divided into 30 parts whose one hour consists of 48 minutes according to ISD.
- **Mohan Yadav** laid the foundation stone of the Vedic clock on November 6, 2022.

# Justice AM Khanwilkar has been appointed as the new Lokpal by President Droupadi Murmu

- He will take over as new Lokpal. Six other members have also been appointed along with him.
- The three judges who will serve as judicial members of the Lokpal are Justice Lingappa Narayana Swamy, Justice Sanjay Yadav, and Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi.
- Ajay Tirkey, Pankaj Kumar, and Sushil Chandra are the other members of Lokpal.



**AJAY MANIKRAO**  
**Khanwilkar As**  
**Lokpal Chairperson**  
**Appointed by President**



- These appointments will be effective from the date they assume charge of their respective offices.
- For two years, the Lokpal position remained unfilled.
- The Lokpal is running without its regular chief after Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose completed his tenure.
- He completed his tenure on May 27, 2022.
- Justice Pradeep Kumar Mohanty, the judicial member of the Lokpal, is currently the acting chairperson.
- **The Chairperson and members of the Lokpal are appointed by the President.**
- President appoints them after receiving recommendations from a selection committee, which is headed by the Prime Minister.
- Apart from a Chairman, the Lokpal can have eight members – four judicial and four non-judicial.
- **Lokpal Chairperson and members have a tenure of five years or till the age of 70 years.**

## Sachin Jain is appointed as the new CEO of World Gold Council

- The World Gold Council, a body of global gold miners, has appointed Sachin Jain as its new CEO, India from March.
- Jain joins WGC India from De Beers where he has held several senior roles for the past 13 years. As Managing Director of DeBeers India, he has led the De Beers Forevermark business in India and West Asia.
- He brings with him deep understanding of the Indian consumer and jewellery market, from strategic thinking to practical execution. He has over two decades of rich experience and understanding of the Indian consumer.
- Jain's marketing expertise will help deepen the Council's engagement not only with the gold industry but also with financial institutions and raise awareness of gold's role in every investment portfolio.
- The present India CEO **Somasundaram PR** will retain his current role and responsibilities until Jain joins and ensure a smooth transition. He will continue to be associated with World Gold Council as an advisor on the setting up of an SRO (self-regulatory organisation), an important initiative for the Indian gold industry.



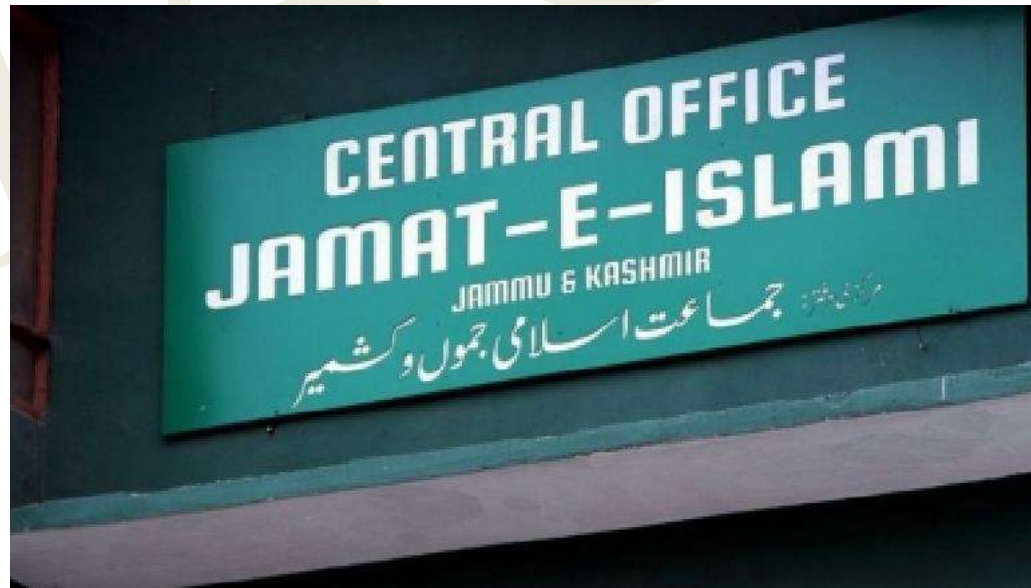
## India's 'IFFCO' got first place among the top 300 cooperative societies globally

- The **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** has been ranked again as the No. 1 cooperative among the top 300 cooperatives in the world, sustaining its position from last year.
- The ranking is based on the ratio of turnover over gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.
- The ranking affirms that IFFCO is contributing significantly to the GDP and economic growth of the nation. It relates the turnover of the enterprise to the wealth of the country, according to the 2023 edition of the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual World Cooperative Monitor (WCM) report published by the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).
- IFFCO has also stepped up to the 72<sup>nd</sup> position in the overall turnover ranking from the 97<sup>th</sup> position in the last financial year.



## GoI has declared 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu & Kashmir' as an 'unlawful association'

- Government of India has declared 'Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir' as an 'Unlawful Association' for a further period of 5 years under Section 3(1) of the **Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) 1967**.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah in his post on 'X' said that "Pursuing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and separatism the government has extended the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir for five years.
- The organisation is found continuing its activities against the security, integrity and sovereignty of the nation. The outfit was first declared an 'Unlawful Association' on 28 February 2019.
- Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu Kashmir is continuing to be involved in fomenting terrorism and anti-India propaganda for fueling secessionism in Jammu and Kashmir, which is prejudicial to the sovereignty, security and integrity of India.



## New Zealand set to scrap world's first law banning tobacco sale to youth



- New Zealand is repealing the world's first law banning tobacco sales for future generations, amid backlash from researchers and campaigners who warned that people could die as a result.
- The smoking ban was passed under former prime minister Jacinda Arden's government. However, the new coalition government led by **Prime Minister Christopher Luxon has now decided that the law will be repealed.**
- Touted as the toughest anti-tobacco rule around the world, the ban was set to come into effect from July.
- The ban restricted sales of tobacco to those born after January 1, 2009. Further, it cut nicotine content in smoked tobacco products and reduced the number of tobacco retailers in the country by over 90%.

## Adani Group unveils South Asia's largest ammunition and missile complex in UP

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday (27 February) inaugurated the Adani Ammunition & Missiles Complex alongside Chief of Army Staff, Gen Manoj Pande in Kanpur.
- The Adani ammunition center, touted as South Asia's largest ammunition manufacturing complex, is situated across 500 acres in Kanpur.



- The facility is slated to emerge as one of the most extensive integrated ammunition manufacturing complexes in the region.
- It will cater to the production of small, medium, and large calibre ammunition for the armed forces, paramilitary forces, and police.
- The complex has already commenced the production of small calibre ammunition, with initial estimates indicating a production capacity of 150 million rounds, which is approximately 25 per cent of India's annual requirement.
- Furthermore, the Adani Group is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the aerospace department of IIT Kanpur for enhancing technological collaborations in the defense sector.

## RBI imposed penalty of Rs.3 crore on SBI, CUB, Canara Bank & Ocean Capital Market



- Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of **₹2 crore on State Bank of India** for “contravention of provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 19 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (the BR Act), and sub-section (2) of Section 26A of the BR Act read with the Depositor Education Awareness Fund Scheme, 2014.”
- The Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation for FY22 revealed that SBI held shares as pledge of an amount exceeding 30 per cent of paid-up share capital of certain companies. It also failed to credit eligible amount to Depositor Education and Awareness Fund within the period prescribed in the BR Act.
- The central bank also imposed a fine of **₹32.30 lakh on Canara Bank** for non-compliance with certain directions on ‘Data Format for Furnishing of Credit Information to Credit Information Companies and other Regulatory Measures.