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India's Position maintained at 42nd on International IP Index 2024

- India has retained its **42nd position** on the International IP Index in 2024, which indicates consistency in its intellectual property regime score at 38.64%, the same as in 2022.
- This information was revealed in a comprehensive report by the US Chamber of Commerce, which evaluated the intellectual property infrastructures of 55 countries.
- The report highlights the strengths and weaknesses of India's IP landscape, indicating that the USA, UK, France, Germany, and Sweden are leading the pack. The report also highlights critical areas where India needs significant improvement.
- There are concerns about India's intellectual property (IP) regime due to the dissolution of the Intellectual Property Appellate Board in 2021 and an under-resourced judiciary. This has raised alarms about the enforcement of IP rights and the resolution of IP-related disputes in the country.
- However, there have been some positive developments, including the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill 2023, which aims to curb film piracy, and streamlined processes introduced in 2020.
- These steps highlight India's commitment to improving its IP framework, despite the challenges it currently faces.

INDIA'S
Position Maintained at
42nd on International
IP Index 2024



India got 18 medals in the Asia Track Cycling Championship 2024 held in New Delhi



- India ended its campaign by winning a total of 18 medals at the Asian Track Cycling Championships 2024 that concluded on 26 February 2024. This competition was organized from 21 to 26 February at Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, New Delhi.
- 500 riders from 18 countries competed in New Delhi, including junior and para track cycling events.

- This was the **43rd edition** of the 'Asian Track Cycling Championships'.
- The championship was also the final qualifying event for the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- India's 20-member junior and para teams performed well and won 18 medals. There are **nine gold, six silver and three bronze medals** in total.
- In this competition, para players performed best and contributed eight gold and four silver medals to India's medal tally. In this way, **para players won a total of 14 medals for India.**
- The remaining medals for India were won by junior players. Sarita Kumari, Niya Sebastian, Sabina Kumari and Zaina Mohammed Ali Peerkhan won gold for India in the junior women's team sprint.

The three top-ranked countries in the championship were:

Malaysia – topped with 37 (19 gold, 11 silver and 7 bronze medals).

Japan – 24 (17 gold, 5 silver and 2 bronze medals).

Korea – 23 (9 gold, 8 silver and 6 bronze medals).

Homosep Atom: India's first septic tank cleaning robot

- Recently, **India's first septic tank/manhole cleaning robot- Homosep Atom** has been developed which helps to eliminate manual scavenging.
- Developed by **Solinas**, a startup incubated in the Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of IIT Madras, backed by the **Ministry of Science and Technology**.

Features:

- It performs extensive blade cleanings, Solid waste desilting, suction and Storage at one device; thereby reducing the cost of owning multiple assets.
- It strengthens the **Swachhata Abhiyan** in different corners of the country.
- Provides Easy Operation for Municipalities by Targeting septic tanks associated with large apartments, housing boards, and individual houses.
- It empowers the sanitation workers by helping them to clean the manholes from outside and avoid going inside the toxic environment.



INDIAN-AMERICAN ENGINEER HONoured

OneIndia English



WHO IS ASHOK VEERARAGHAVAN?

Indian-American computer engineer honoured with Texas' highest academic award

- The Texas Academy of Medicine, Engineering, Science, and Technology (TAMEST), bestows this award on emerging researchers in the state.
- Veeraraghavan received this year's engineering prize, which recognised his group's "revolutionary imaging technology that seeks to make the invisible visible.
- His study aims to create solutions for imaging settings in which the visualisation objective is unreachable by present imaging technologies due to light scattering in participating medium.

- **Ashok Veeraraghavan**, an Indian-origin computer engineer and professor, has received the Edith and Peter O'Donnell Engineering Award, one of Texas' top academic accolades.
- The prize is granted annually to outstanding researchers in the state who have made groundbreaking contributions in medicine, engineering, biological sciences, physical sciences, and technological innovation.

NIA Jaipur and Thai Traditional Medicine

Department sign MoU

- The National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA) signed an MoU with the Department of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine of the Government of Thailand.
- This agreement was signed on behalf of India by the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur under the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India in New Delhi.
- The agreement aims to foster academic collaboration in Ayurveda and Thai traditional medicine.
- The 10th meeting of the India-Thailand Joint Commission was held at Hyderabad House, New Delhi .
- **BK Singh**, Ministry of AYUSH and **Dr.Taweesin Visanuyothin**, DG of Thai Traditional and Alternative Medicine signed the MoU.

Benefits from this agreement:

- This initiative will enhance cooperation between the two on the basis of equality and mutual benefit of the participants.
- It will promote academic cooperation in the field of Ayurveda and Thai traditional medicine.
- This will help in exchange of experts for research and training programmes, educational and technical activities.
- It will facilitate the conduct of research, exchange of information technologies and best practices for traditional medicine.



Mauritius government has amended the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with India

- For OCED's proposal on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, the Mauritius government has decided to amend the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with India.
- These amendments will create more challenging norms for multinationals investing in India.
- The Mauritius Cabinet has decided to amend the agreement to comply with the minimum standards of multilateral instruments (MLI) under Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) rules.
- The main aim of this amendment is to forestall opportunities for tax avoidance or minimisation through exploitative tactics.
- This will elevate the **India-Mauritius** tax treaty to a covered tax agreement under the BEPS Multilateral Instrument.
- The Cumulative FDI from Mauritius to India between 2000 – 2022 was \$161 billion.
- Mauritius was initially the preferred channel for foreign portfolios and foreign direct investors due to the tax advantage that accrued to them due to the DTAA between both countries.



21st edition of BioAsia started in Hyderabad



- Asia's premier biotechnology and life sciences convention, BioAsia 2024, started in Hyderabad on 27th February.
- In the last two years, the life sciences sector has grown rapidly in Telangana.
- This convention has been inaugurated by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.
- 'Data & AI: Redefining Possibilities' is the theme of the conclave.
- Biotech & biopharma companies, research institutions, academia, investors, service providers, and policymakers are participating in the summit.

Government is organising 'Mera Pehla Vote Desh Ke Liye' initiative



- Government is organising it in Higher Educational institutions across the country from 28 February 2024.
- Government is organising this initiative to ensure universal enlightened participation of youth in elections.
- This initiative's key objective is to engage and encourage young voters to come out and vote.
- The initiative will be continued till 6th of March, 2024.
- The initiative symbolizes the importance of Elections in the largest democracy in the world.
- It also symbolizes the pride of voting in the largest democracy in the world.
- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had directed all Higher Educational institutions in India to carry out comprehensive voter awareness activities at their campuses.



Shafiqur Rahman Barq passed away at the age of 94

- He was India's oldest MP in Parliament and Samajwadi Party leader.
- Barq was a four-time MLA. He was elected MP from Sambhal in 2019.
- He was elected from Moradabad to the Lok Sabha on several occasions.
- He was elected 5 times as Lok Sabha MP. He died after suffering from a prolonged illness.

PM Modi lays the foundation stone of ISRO's new launch complex in Tamil Nadu



- The ISRO's new launch complex will be established in Tamil Nadu's Thoothukudi district.
- This facility will accommodate 24 launches per year and will be built at Rs 986 crore.
- This launch complex is being built for launching SSLV-type rockets.
- PM Modi launched projects worth Rs 17,300 crore in Tamil Nadu. He also flagged off India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel as part of the Harit Nauka initiative.

- He laid the foundation stone for the Outer Harbor Container Terminal at V. O. Chidambaranar Port.
- Prime Minister laid foundation of rail projects for doubling the Vanchi Maniyachchi - Nagercoil rail line and the Melappalayam - Aralvaymoli section.
- Four road projects in Tamil Nadu developed at a total cost of about 4,586 crore rupees were also inaugurated.

Namibia's John Nicol scored the fastest century in T20 International in 33 balls



- Namibia's Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton scripted history by scoring the fastest century in T20 International (T20I) history during a bilateral match against Nepal.
- Achieving this monumental feat off just 33 balls, Loftie-Eaton shattered the previous record held by Nepal's Kushal Malla, who had set the benchmark at 34 balls against Mongolia during the Asian Games in 2023.
- This remarkable innings came during a match against Nepal, adding a layer of poetic justice as Malla himself was present on the field, witnessing his record being surpassed.

Reliance launches “Vantara”, a national initiative for animal welfare



- Reliance Industries and Reliance Foundation have launched the 'Vantara' (Star of the Forest) programme to support animal welfare.
- The Vantara initiative, led by **Anant Ambani**, aims to rescue, treat, care for, and rehabilitate injured, abused, and endangered animals across India and other parts of the world.
- Vantara aims to establish partnerships with the Zoo Authority of India and other relevant government organizations. This will help to improve over 150 zoos in India in terms of animal care infrastructure, training, and capacity building.
- The Vantara programme has rescued over 200 elephants and thousands of other animals, birds, reptiles from dangerous situations over the last few years.

- The programme has initiated efforts to rehabilitate key animal species such as rhinos, leopards, and crocodiles. Vantara has also participated in rescue missions in countries like Mexico and Venezuela.
- The initiative involves collaborating with renowned international universities and organizations, such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF).

Other initiatives:

- **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** is the world's largest animal rights organization, with over 9 million members and supporters across the globe.
- **Article 51 (G)** is a constitutional provision in India that mandates every Indian citizen to protect and enhance the natural environment, including forests, lakes, rivers, and wildlife. Additionally, it requires citizens to show empathy towards living creatures.
- **The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960** is an act to amend the law relating to the prevention of cruelty to animals, for the purpose of preventing the infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals.
- **The Animal Welfare Board of India** is a statutory body that advises on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country. It was established in 1962 the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and was started under the leadership of the late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, a well-known humanitarian.
- **People For Animals** is a non-profit organization dedicated to animal welfare in India. It was first founded in 1992 by Maneka Gandhi.

SJVN commissions its 100 MW Raghanesda Solar Power Station in Gujarat

- SJVN Limited has commissioned its 100 MW Raghanesda Solar Power Station located in district Banaskatha, Gujarat, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable energy solutions.
- The project will generate 252 million units of energy in the first year while the cumulative energy generation over a period of 25 years is estimated to be 5,805 million units.
- Under a long-term Power Purchase Agreement signed in January 2022, the power generated by the Raghanesda Solar Power Station will be supplied to Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited (GUVNL) for 25 years.

**SJVN Commissions
100 MW Raghanesda
Solar Power Station
in Gujarat**



- With the addition of this project, SJVN's installed capacity becomes 2,377 MW. This milestone marks the commissioning of SJVN's second solar project this month, following the commissioning of 50 MW Gujrai Solar Power Station in Uttar Pradesh on February 23, 2024.
- The construction and development cost of the project is Rs. 642 crores.
- SJVN aims to grow by setting ambitious targets to achieve the Shared Vision of 25,000 MW installed capacity by the year 2030 and 50,000 MW installed capacity by the year 2040.
- SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna- Category-I and Schedule - 'A' Central Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, Government of India, commenced its journey on May 24, 1988 as a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- A listed entity, SJVN has 55% of its shares held by the Government of India, 26.85% by the Government of Himachal Pradesh and the remaining 18.15% by the public. SJVN has diversified into almost all forms of energy i.e. Hydro, Thermal, Wind, Solar, Power trading and Transmission.



Sunil Bharti Mittal becomes first Indian citizen to be conferred an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King

- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman, Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian citizen to receive an Honorary Knighthood from United Kingdom's King Charles III.
- The award grants Mr. Mittal the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, recognising his contributions to fostering stronger business ties between India and the UK.
- The 66-year-old entrepreneur in a statement said that UK and India share historical relations, which are now entering a new era of increased cooperation and collaboration.
- An honorary Knighthood is one of the highest honours granted by the British Sovereign to civilians, conferred upon foreign nationals in recognition of their exceptional contributions.

India's first hydrogen fuel cell ferry at cochin shipyard

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated India's inaugural hydrogen fuel cell ferry, a product of indigenous development and construction built by Cochin Shipyard.
- Participating from Thoothukudi, he launched the inland waterway vessel, which is part of the Harit Nauka initiative—a pilot project aimed at showcasing the technology for the maritime sector.
- Embracing green hydrogen as a maritime fuel takes centre stage in India's dedication to a sustainable future, targeting net zero emissions by the year 2070.
- In line with the Government of India's green vision, Cochin Shipyard took up the ambitious project to design, develop and construct India's first fully indigenous hydrogen fuel cell catamaran ferry vessel to demonstrate the technology for the maritime sector.
- The fuel cell powered vessel has zero emission, zero noise and is energy efficient, which in turn reduces the effect of global warming.

