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India receives final C-295 military aircraft from Spain



- Indian Ambassador to Spain, Dinesh K Patnaik alongwith other senior officials received the last of the 16 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft at the Airbus Defence and Space assembly line in Seville.
- It is the world's most versatile and efficient multi-role tactical airlifter.
- With more than 300 aircraft under contract, the C295 has an outstanding reliability record and proves itself to be a highly efficient aircraft every day.
- The procurement of 56 C295 aircraft from Airbus Spain in a USD 2.5 billion contract, 40 of which will be made in India by Tata Advanced Systems, represents the first Make in India project in the defence aircraft sector.
- The Chief of Indian Air Force ACM VR Chaudhari presided the handing over of the first C295 Aircraft to Indian government on September 13, 2023 in Seville

India's C-295 Procurement Deal

- India signed a deal with Airbus in September 2021 to acquire 56 C-295 aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Total Cost: Rs. 21,935 crore (~\$2.5 billion).
- First 16 aircraft were to be delivered in flyaway condition from Spain.
- Remaining 40 aircraft are to be manufactured in India by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) under a Make in India initiative.
- The remaining 40 C-295s will be indigenously manufactured at Vadodara, Gujarat, by Tata-Airbus.
- Replaces aging Avro-748 aircraft of the IAF
- This facility becomes the first private sector Final Assembly Line (FAL) for military aircraft in India.

Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda addresses the 15th Indian Organ Donation Day Ceremony

- Manipur was awarded the Best North-Eastern State at the 15th Indian Organ Donation Day celebrations held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.
- Tamil Nadu won Best State, Puducherry was awarded Best Union Territory
- Odisha, Punjab, and Rajasthan were recognized as Emerging States, with Rajasthan, Karnataka, and Gujarat receiving awards for Promotion of Organ Donation.
- Telangana had the Highest Deceased Organ Donation Rate.
- “India ranks third globally in the total number of organ transplants, behind only the United States of America and China”
- organized by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under the aegis of Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

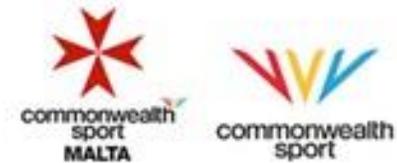


Malta to Host 8th Commonwealth Youth Games in 2027

- Commonwealth Sport has announced that Malta will host the 8th Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) to be held in late 2027.
- Location: An island country in Southern Europe
- Position: In the Mediterranean Sea, between Sicily (Italy) and North Africa
- Features: Hosting the CYG for the first time
- Age range of participants: 14 to 18 years
- Total number of competitive sports: 8 sports

Commonwealth Youth Games:

- The Commonwealth Youth Games (CYG) is an international multi-sport event in which young athletes aged 14–18 years from Commonwealth countries participate.
- It started in the year 2000 in Edinburgh (Scotland).
- This event is also held every four years and aims to provide a global platform to young talents.
- India had hosted the third edition of the CYG in Pune in 2008.



Malta 2027
commonwealth
youth games

Know Your Weaves Campaign 2025 Launched Ahead of National Handloom Day

- The Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, launched the "Know Your Weaves Campaign 2025" from 1st August to 7th August 2025, as a week-long awareness drive ahead of National Handloom Day (7th August).
- The campaign is being held at the National Crafts Museum and Hastkala Academy in New Delhi.
- The main objective of the campaign is to raise awareness and promote India's rich and diverse handloom weaving tradition.
- The campaign was inaugurated by Neela Shammi Rao, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, with participation from weavers, designers, students, and fashion experts.
- The campaign showcased various traditional textile arts such as Banarasi, Chanderi, Pochampally, Ikat, Kanjivaram, and Bhujodi.
- The program includes live weaving demonstrations, interactive workshops, quiz competitions, and storytelling installations.



Western Railway Resumes Heritage Train on This 155-Year-Old Line

- Recently, the famous Patalpani–Kalakund heritage train has resumed operation in Madhya Pradesh.
- This historic meter-gauge railway line is part of the heritage conservation project of Indian Railways.
- 9.5 km metre-gauge heritage train
- Historical importance of Patalpani–Kalakund rail line
- This line was built in 1870 with the efforts of King Tukoji Rao Holkar II of the then Holkar state.
- Construction: The project was completed in 1878 and in 1881–82 it was connected to the Rajputana-Malwa Railway.
- This route was under the Bombay, Baroda & Central India Railway (BB&CI).
- Uniqueness: The route covers deep gorges, high embankments, tunnels, and natural springs, including the famous Patalpani waterfall (on the Choral River, a tributary of the Narmada).
- The primary difference between meter gauge and broad gauge railways lies in the distance between the rails, which is the gauge of the track.
- Broad gauge railways have a wider track (1.676 meters) than meter gauge railways (1 meter)
- Indian Railways preserves four UNESCO accorded World Heritage Sites namely Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (1999), Nilgiri Mountain Railway (2005), Kalka Shimla Railway (2008) and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai (2004).
- There are two more in waiting or in the tentative list namely Matheran Light Railway and Kangra Valley Railway.



MS Dhoni joins Acko as investor and brand ambassador

- Indian cricket icon Mahendra Singh Dhoni has partnered with ACKO, a rapidly growing D2C (Direct-to-Consumer) insurance company, as an investor and brand ambassador.
- Dhoni has made a strategic investment in ACKO through his family office, Midas Deals.
- This partnership aims to make insurance simple, seamless, and accessible for urban modern Indians.
- Dhoni stated that as an automobile enthusiast, he often found the insurance process complex, while ACKO made it clear and customer-focused.
- ACKO INSURANCE: ESTABLISHED – 2016 . HEADQUARTERS : BENGALURU



FSSAI in Consultation with Ministry of Ayush

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), in consultation with the Ministry of Ayush, has released a definitive list of Ayurvedic food preparations under the category of “Ayurveda Aahara.”
- This significant step brings India’s time-honoured food wisdom into the mainstream, following the introduction of the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations in 2022.
- These regulations recognise foods based on recipes, ingredients, and processes from authoritative Ayurvedic texts, and the new list brings unprecedented clarity and confidence to consumers and businesses alike.
- The list, issued under Note (1) of Schedule B of the regulations, draws directly from classical Ayurvedic texts listed in Schedule A, ensuring the authenticity and traditional basis of these food formulations. This initiative aims to assist Food Business Operators (FBOs) by providing a clear and credible reference for the manufacture of Ayurveda Aahara products.

About Ministry of Ayush :-

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) - Prataprao Ganpatrao Jadhav.
- About FSSAI: ESTD-2008. Headquarters - New Delhi.
- Chairman - Punya Salila Srivastava
- CEO - Ganji Kamala V Rao



Kopili River (NW 57) operationalised

- In a historic step towards the revival of Assam's river-based trade and sustainable logistics, National Waterway-57 (River Kopili) was operationalized with the first-ever cargo trial run from the Govardhan Bridge in Chandrapur, Kamrup to Hatsingimari in South Samara.
- The cargo vessel MV VV Giri, equipped with self-loading capacity, carried 300 metric tonnes of cement from M/s Star Cement along the 300-kilometre route on the Kopili River (NW 57) and Brahmaputra river (NW 2)
- With this development, more than 1168 kms of National Waterways in Assam have become operational



Finance Ministry notifies 0.1% concessional rate for NaBFID government guarantees

- The Ministry of Finance has set a concessional guarantee fee of only 0.1% for borrowings by the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NABFID) from multilateral agencies, sovereign wealth funds, and other foreign institutions.
- This fee will specifically apply to loans taken for purposes approved by the central government.
- NABFID will have to pay the guarantee fee at the time of availing the guarantee and every year on April 1.
- If the institution borrows for central government objectives, the fee may be reduced even further.

About NABFID:

- NABFID (National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development) was established in April 2021.
- It is a key institution set up by the Central Government to provide loans, investments, and fundraising for long-term infrastructure projects.
- NABFID is governed by a regulatory framework established through an Act of Parliament; its shareholding may include the government, multilateral agencies, pension and insurance funds, etc.
- NABFID Headquarters – Mumbai. Chairman – K V Kamath

**0.1% Concessional
Guarantee Fee for NaBFID
Notified by Govt**

27 States Advancing PM Ekta Malls to Promote ODOP, GI, and Handicrafts Products

- The Union government has approved the establishment of PM Ekta Malls in 27 states under the ‘One District, One Product’ (ODOP) initiative.

About PM Ekta Malls initiative:

- Ministry of Finance in Budget 23-24
- Outlay Rs. 4,796 crore
- Part of Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) framework
- Launched under ‘One District, One Product’ (ODOP) initiative
- State contribution States must provide land free or cover acquisition costs
- Objective To promote indigenous products, Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged items and local handicrafts through dedicated retail spaces

India Became World's 5th Largest Aviation Market in 2024

- India has officially become the fifth-largest aviation market globally, handling over 211 million passengers in the year 2024.
- This information has been released in the latest edition of the World Air Transport Statistics (WATS) for 2024 by the International Airport Transport Association (IATA).
- Passenger traffic in India grew by 11.1% in 2024 compared to the previous year, placing it ahead of Japan.
- Japan recorded 205 million passengers with an annual rise of 18.6%, while the US retained the top spot with 876 million passengers in 2024 on the strength of its domestic market, growing 5.2% year-on-year.
- China and the UK followed as the second and third biggest markets, with 741 million and 261 million passengers, respectively.
- Spain held the fourth position, recording 241 million air passengers in the calendar year.
- All international and domestic passengers departing from or arriving in each country were included in these figures.
- Among the top 10 air routes, the Mumbai-Delhi route is the seventh busiest, carrying 5.9 million passengers in 2024.
- The Asia-Pacific region topped the ranking of the world's busiest air routes, with the Jeju-Seoul route being the most popular globally with 13.2 million passengers in 2024.



Russia has officially announced that it no longer considers itself obligated to adhere to the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty

- The treaty prohibited ground-launched missiles with ranges between 500 and 5,500 kilometers.
- The Russian Foreign Ministry stated that the treaty's terms are no longer relevant and that Russia will no longer abide by its missile deployment limits.
- Russia pointed to recent US military activities, such as placing a Typhon missile system in the Philippines and conducting missile exercises in Australia, as justification.
- The treaty had already weakened following the US withdrawal in 2019, when the US accused Russia of breaching the agreement.
- Russia denied those allegations and countered by accusing the US of developing prohibited missile systems.
- Relations between Moscow and Washington are increasingly strained, with President Trump recently deploying two nuclear submarines to undisclosed locations.

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty:

- It was an arms control treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union (now Russian Federation).
- It was signed on 8 December 1987. The treaty did not apply to air- or sea-launched missiles.

