

(3rd January 2025)

International

4th Biennial Update Report submitted by India to the UNFCCC

According to the 4th Biennial Update Report submitted by India to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, India has progressively continued decoupling economic growth from GHG emissions. India's total Greenhouse Gas Emissions, GHG in 2020 declined by 7.93 percent as compared to 2019. Between 2005 and 2020, India's emission intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reduced by 36 percent. From 2005 to 2021, an additional carbon sink of 2.29 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent has been created.

India's relief assistance to Vanuatu

To help Vanuatu recover after an earthquake of magnitude 7.4 struck near Vanuatu's coast in the South Pacific Ocean on the 17th of last month causing major destruction and loss of life, India has extended relief assistance of five lakh dollars to support relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction efforts.

National

The country's first-ever 'Coastline-Waders Bird Census'

The country's first-ever Coastline-Waders Bird Census organised by the Department of Forest and the Bird Conservation Society began at Marine National Park and Sanctuary in Jamnagar on January 3rd. The three-day census will also host significant events focusing on counting wader and coastal bird species.

The 31st National Children's Science Congress

The 31st National Children's Science Congress will start on January 3rd in Madhya Pradesh. Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav will inaugurate the four-day Children's Science Congress in Bhopal.

New Governors take oath in Kerala and Bihar.

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar took oath as the 23rd Governor of Kerala at a function held at Raj Bhavan. Kerala High Court Chief Justice, Nitin Madhukar Jamdar administered the oath. Arif Mohammad Khan took oath as Bihar's 42nd Governor at Rajendra Mandapam, Raj Bhavan.

Patna High Court Chief Justice, Krishnan Vinod Chandran administered the oath of office and secrecy to the Governor.

Union Home Minister releases a book titled- 'Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Through the Ages.'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah released a book titled- 'Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh Through the Ages' which is a collaborative effort of the National Book Trust of India and the Indian Council of Historical Research.

K.S. Manilal no more

Padma Shri awardee K.S. Manilal who brought the ancient botanical treasure *Hortus Malabaricus* to the modern world, passed away early on January 1, 2025, in Thrissur, Kerala. *Hortus Malabaricus*, a 17th-century Latin manuscript compiled by Dutch Governor Hendrik Adrian van Rheede documented the diverse medicinal plants of Kerala, had been virtually forgotten until Dr. Manilal's extensive research revived it.

Economy/Business

Employment generation records a growth of 36 percent during the past decade.

According to the Labour and Employment Ministry, employment generation in the country witnessed a remarkable growth of 36 percent during the last ten years. The data reflects that employment opportunities in the agriculture sector grew by 19 percent, 15 percent in the manufacturing sector, and 36 percent in the service sector under the Modi government. As per the Ministry, the unemployment rate declined from 6 percent in 2017-18 to 3.2 percent in 2023-24.

Notable progress under the FAME-2 scheme.

More than 15 lakh electric vehicles have been incentivized under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles, FAME-2 scheme which includes over 14 lakh two-wheelers, 1.59 lakh three-wheelers, and over 22 thousand four-wheeler electric vehicles as per the Government. The scheme was formulated in 2015 to improve the infrastructure required for the large-scale use of electric vehicles.

Record growth in UPI transactions

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said that there was a 39 percent Year-on-Year growth in the transactions count and 28 percent Year-on-Year growth in the transaction amount. NPCI has said that the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) processed nearly 16.73 billion financial transactions in a single month in December 2024. UPI processed around 23.25 lakh crore rupees in the transactions done.

A working group to revise the base year for the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

A working group to revise the base year for the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) from the existing, 2011-12 to 2022-23 was announced by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The 18-member working group, chaired by Prof. Ramesh Chand, a member, of NITI Aayog, comprises representatives from various government departments, economic advisory bodies, and non-official experts.

Sports

The National Sports Awards 2024

The National Sports Awards 2024 have been announced. World Chess Champion D Gukesh, Double Medalist in Paris Olympics Manu Bhaker, Indian Hockey Team Captain Harmanpreet Singh and Gold Medalist in Paris Paralympics Praveen Kumar will be presented with Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

32 Sportspersons will be given Arjuna Award. They include athletes Jyothi Yarraji and Annu Rani, Boxers Nitu and Saweety, Chess player Vantika Agrawal, Hockey players Salima Tete, Abhishek, Sanjay, Jarmanpreet Singh and Sukhjeet Singh. Para-Archer Rakesh Kumar, Para Athletes Preeti Pal, Jeevanji Deepthi, Ajeet Singh and Sachin Khilari will also get Arjun Award.

Veteran Athlete Sucha Singh and veteran para swimmer Murlikant Petkar will be honoured with Arjuna Awards (Lifetime).

Para-shooting coach Subhash Rana, shooting coach Deepali Deshpande, Hockey coach Sandeep Sangwan, Badminton coach S Muralidharan and Football coach Armando Agnello Colaco will be presented with the Dronacharya Award.

Physical Education Foundation of India will be given Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar.

Chandigarh University, Lovely Professional University and Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar will get the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy.

Thulasi Murugesan, Paris Paralympics silver medalist shuttler was among the winners of the Arjuna Awards.