

## International

### PM Modi in America for Quad summit.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will kick off his visit to the United States of America as part of which he will take part in the fourth Quad Leaders Summit in Wilmington, Delaware. The leaders at the Summit will review the progress achieved by the Quad over the last one year and set the agenda for the year ahead.

The summit is being hosted by American President Joe Biden September 21. India is expected to host the next Quad Summit in 2025.

### India achieves Tier 1 status in Global Cybersecurity Index 2024.

India has marked a significant milestone in its cybersecurity efforts by achieving top Tier i.e. Tier 1 status in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024, published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). With a remarkable score of 98.49 out of 100, India joins the ranks of 'role-modelling' countries, demonstrating a strong commitment to cybersecurity practices across the globe.

India's strong performance in cybersecurity is driven by a series of initiatives and measures undertaken by the Government of India to enhance cyber resilience and establish robust frameworks for cybercrime laws and cybersecurity standards.

## National

### Bombay High Court strikes down Centre's amended IT rules.

The Bombay High Court struck down the amended Information Technology Rules, 2023, which empowered the Centre to set up a fact check unit (FCU) to identify fake, false and misleading information about the government and its establishments on social media. The judgement stated that the revised rules violate the right to equality and freedom of speech guaranteed by Constitution.

### Third indigenous pressurised heavy water reactor attains criticality: NPCIL.

Unit 7 of the Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) at Rawatbhata in Chittorgarh district

has achieved criticality, or the start of controlled fission chain reaction.

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board had earlier cleared the reactor to make the first approach to criticality. RAPP Unit 7 is expected to start generating power later this year.

### Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh appointed as next Chief of Air Staff.

The Union government has appointed Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, PVSM, AVSM - presently serving as the Vice Chief of Air Staff - as the next Chief of the Air Staff, in the rank of Air Chief Marshal; with effect from September 30. The present Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari will retire from service on September 30, 2024.

### India's area under sustainable farming is about 3.6 mn hectares: Giriraj Singh.

With the world moving towards sustainable farming with about 110 million hectares under natural farming, in India the area under sustainable farming is about 3.6 million hectares, said Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Textiles.

However, according to the Minister, about 20% to 27% of Indian farmers currently use green and organic fertilizers which is about the same ratio as in the rest of the world.

## Business and Economy

### Post-1991, southern states emerged as leaders: EAC-PM.

A report by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister highlights that southern states have significantly outpaced others in terms of GDP and per capita income since economic liberalisation in 1991. The paper also notes a continuous decline in West Bengal's economic performance and improvement in traditionally laggard states like Odisha. In 2023-24, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu together accounted for approximately 30 per cent of India's GDP.

In contrast, the economic performances of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar regressed and worsened after bifurcation. Among the western States, Maharashtra and Gujarat consistently

performed well. Gujarat exhibited rapid growth from the beginning of the millennium. Among the northern states, Delhi and Haryana performed exceptionally well, though the latter's economic might is mostly drawn from Gurugram and its adjoining areas.

#### **U.K. debt hits 100% of GDP.**

British government debt hit 100% of economic output for the first time in recent history. Public sector net debt, excluding public sector-owned banks, rose to 100% of GDP for the first time since monthly records began in 1993, up from 99.3% in July.

#### **Tata Steel commissions 'India's largest blast furnace' at Kalinganagar.**

Tata Steel had commissioned 'India's largest blast furnace' at Kalinganagar, Odisha as part of the Phase II expansion of its plant. The company has made a total investment of ₹27,000 crore for the Phase II expansion at Kalinganagar that will take the total capacity at the site from 3 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 8 MTPA.

#### **Sports**

#### **India secures 2-2 draw against Uzbekistan in 9th round of Chess Olympiad.**

In the ongoing 45th Chess Olympiad Budapest in Hungary, the Indian team continued their

unbeaten streak, securing a 2-2 draw against Uzbekistan in the ninth round of the open section. With this, India remained at the top of the standings with 17 points. Meanwhile, in the women's section, India slipped to the second place with 15 points after a 2-2 draw against the USA.

#### **China Open 2024: Malvika Bansod loses to Akane Yamaguchi in quarterfinals.**

Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod's campaign at the China Open in Changzhou came to end. Bansod lost to two-time World Champion Akane Yamaguchi of Japan 10-21, 16-21 in the quarterfinals of the Women's Singles. Malvika Bansod, ranked 43rd, became the third Indian woman after PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal to reach a quarterfinals of Super 1000 tournament.

#### **Gurbaz and Rashid lead Afghanistan to first ODI series win over South Africa**

Afghanistan has won a one-day international series against South Africa for the first time with a game to spare. The thumping 177-run victory, Afghanistan's biggest in ODIs by runs — came just two days after Afghanistan beat South Africa for the first time.

Batting first, Afghanistan made a strong total of 311-4 in 50 overs was followed by South Africa being all out for 134 in the 35th over.