

(3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024)

## International

### New Chief Justice of Sri Lanka

Justice Murdu Nirupa Bindushini Fernando became the 48th Chief Justice of Sri Lanka and the second woman to hold this position. Justice Fernando succeeds Justice Jayantha Jayasuriya, who recently retired. Her appointment received approval from the Constitutional Council.

### United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

The world's largest United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification began in Riyadh on December 2, bringing together an unprecedented gathering of global leaders, policymakers, and environmental experts. This critical conference, running from December 2nd to 13th, aims to accelerate action on land restoration and drought resilience worldwide.

## National

### Extension of India-Italy bilateral cooperation

Senior Italian Minister Adolfo Urso, currently visiting India, and the Union Minister of State for the Department of Space Dr. Jitendra Singh held discussions on the extension of bilateral cooperation between India and Italy. The meeting between the two ministers focused on advancing collaborative efforts in science, technology, innovation, and space exploration.

### International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024

On the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2024, President Droupadi Murmu will confer the National Awards for Empowering Persons with Disabilities to thirty-three exemplary individuals and institutions in New Delhi on December 3, 2024.

Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar will also unveil sixteen transformative initiatives, on the occasion, aimed at enriching the lives of persons with disabilities. These initiatives span inclusivity, innovation, and

technology, reinforcing the department's commitment to empowerment. Some of the key initiatives include the launch of the 'Kadam Knee Joint', 'Pathways to Access: Part III', and the Braille Book Portal.

### Case study by Oxford's Said Business School on the PRAGATI scheme

A new case study by Oxford's Said Business School released at IIM Bangalore today revealed that since its launch in 2015, PRAGATI(Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) has helped accelerate 340 projects worth 205 billion dollars. The platform has supported unprecedented infrastructure development, including 50 thousand kilometers of new National Highways and a doubling of airports. For every rupee spent on infrastructure, the studies show a 2.5 to 3.5-rupee gain in GDP.

### Cyclone Fengal wreaks havoc

Cyclone Fengal has caused widespread devastation, bringing record rainfall and flooding to Puducherry and parts of Tamil Nadu. In Puducherry, four persons were killed in rain-related incidents while two others are still missing.

### The World Maritime Conference 2024

The World Maritime Conference 2024 will be conducted in India after 15 years, in Chennai from the 4th to the 6th of December. The Director General of Shipping, Shyam Jagannathan will be the Guest of Honour. This conference will discuss various futuristic developments and present challenges in the Maritime World. The conference will be attended by more than 300 delegates from all over the World.

### 96 ships and submarines to be inducted into the Indian Navy in the coming ten years.

Briefing media in New Delhi during the annual Navy Day press conference, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi has said that 96 ships and submarines will be inducted into the Indian Navy in the coming ten years. He said, 62 ships and one submarine are under construction and

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one ship will be inducted every month till next year. The Navy Day will be celebrated on the 4th of this month at Puri in Odisha.

### **Saras Food Festival organized by the Ministry of Rural Development**

Saras Food Festival is being organized by the Ministry of Rural Development till the 17th of December at Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place in New Delhi. As per the ministry, this festival is a unique example of women's empowerment, and this festival aims to showcase the diversity of Indian culture and food.

### **The 4th edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti**

The 4th edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti, to enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake counter-insurgency operations in jungle terrain commenced today at Bentong camp in Malaysia. Indian contingent comprising 78 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of Mahar Regiment. The Malaysian contingent is being represented by 123 personnel from the Royal Malaysian Regiment.

### **Economy/Business**

### **The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has witnessed tremendous growth in April to September 2024**

The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has witnessed a surge of 45 percent to over 29 billion dollars from April to September this year as compared to the same period last year. As per the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the main sectors of the economy that benefited from the FDI include services, computer software and hardware, telecom, automobile, pharmaceuticals and chemicals.

### **The Ayush sector has registered tremendous growth**

In the last decade, the Ayush sector has registered tremendous growth and the market of Ayush sector has surpassed 43 billion dollars in 2023 as per Union Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shripad Yesso Naik. Mr Naik said that International Yoga Day is now celebrated in most countries across the globe and it reflects the country's soft power. He said the export sector has also jumped from 1.09 billion dollars in 2014 to 2.16 billion dollars in 2023.

### **Substantial increase in the total coal production**

As per the Union Coal Ministry, the total coal production from captive and commercial mines has reached over 112 million tonnes in the last eight months, marking a substantial increase of around 35 percent in comparison to the same period last year.

### **Sports**

### **The Khelo India Talent Development programme.**

The Khelo India Scheme has identified 2781 athletes across 21 sports, including para-athletics, and is providing them essential support as part of the Khelo India Talent Development programme as per the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya. He said the support is provided in the form of coaching, equipment, medical care, and a monthly Out of Pocket Allowance (OPA).

### **The annual sports week of the Election Commission of India**

The annual sports week of the Election Commission of India took off in New Delhi's Siri Fort Sports Complex on Monday. The sports week will continue till the 7th of December. A total of six sports have been included this year, including games like badminton, chess, cricket, carrom, and table tennis. For the first time, football has been included in the event.