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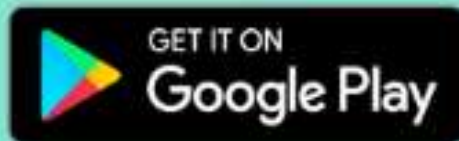
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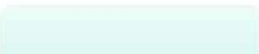


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# Important Days



➤ **On whose 162<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary did PM Narendra Modi release the 'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya'?**

- A) Swami Vivekananda
- B) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C) Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya
- D) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- E) Rabindranath Tagore

**Answer**

**C) Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya**



# Important Days



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Tribute to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya on His Birth Anniversary
- **Date:** December 25, 2023
- **Location:** Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi





# Important Days



## Mandates and Objectives:

- Recognize the monumental contributions of Pandit Malaviya as a freedom fighter and educationist.
- Commemorate his efforts in India's independence and the establishment of the Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- Promote awareness of his inspirational legacy and achievements.



# Important Days



## Key Highlights of the Release:

- PM Modi released the '**Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya,**' spanning **11 volumes** and **4,000 pages**.
- The collection features bilingual content (Hindi and English), including **speeches, articles, letters, and diaries** of Pandit Malaviya.
- Compilation led by **the Mahamana Malaviya Mission** under **Shri Ram Bahadur Rai**.
- Content includes writings from his **journalistic endeavors** like **the Abhyudaya Hindi weekly** (started in 1907).



# Important Days



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Mahamana Malaviya Mission:**
  - Dedicated to preserving and promoting the works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.
  - Led by Shri Ram Bahadur Rai.
- **Abhyudaya:**
  - A Hindi weekly launched by Pandit Malaviya in 1907.
  - Advocated for national unity, education reforms, and social justice.
- **Banaras Hindu University (BHU):**
  - Founded in 1916 by Pandit Malaviya.
  - One of India's premier educational institutions focusing on holistic education and nation-building.



# Important Days



## Static GK Information:

- **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**
  - **Founded:** 1916
  - **Motto:** "Knowledge imparts immortality"
  - **Location:** Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh





# Important Days



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Tribute to Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya on his 162 <sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary
Date	December 25, 2023
Location	Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi
Significance	Honoring Malaviya's legacy as a freedom fighter and educationist
Key Release	'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya' spanning 11 volumes and 4,000 pages



# Important Days



➤ Which festival marks the Ladakhi New Year and promotes unity, culture, and traditions?

- A) Diwali
- B) Pongal
- C) Losar
- D) Navroz
- E) Bihu

**Answer**  
**C) Losar**



# Important Days



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Losar, Ladakhi New Year Celebrations
- **Date:** December 20–31, 2024
- **Location:** Ladakh



# Important Days



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Preserve Traditions:** Strengthen and showcase Ladakhi customs and cultural values.
- **Community Connection:** Encourage reflection and unity among the people of Ladakh.
- **Tourism Promotion:** Offer tourists a rich cultural experience.





# Important Days



## Key Highlights of Losar Festivities:

### 1. Cultural Celebrations:

- Organized by LAHDC Leh with support from the Culture Academy, Leh.
- Featured cultural performances, choirs, and market promotions.
- Emphasis on traditional Ladakhi dishes and community feasts.

### 2. Eco-Friendly Practices:

- Cleaning homes, lighting butter lamps, and offering prayers.
- Encourages environmental sustainability and harmony.



# Important Days



## Key Highlights of Losar Festivities:

### 3. Cultural Documentation:

- LAHDC's initiative: Documenting the culture of 133 villages in Leh district in audio, video, and written formats.

### 4. Adapting Traditions:

- Balances modernity with cultural values.
- Encourages systematic and thoughtful preservation of Ladakhi customs.



# Important Days



## Broader Significance:

- **Symbolism:** Represents wisdom, love, and harmony through rituals and prayers.
- **Global Outreach:** Strengthens the essence of Ladakhi culture worldwide, fostering peace and kindness.
- **Unity:** Brings together diverse communities during the festive season.



# Important Days



## Static GK Information:

- **Ladakh**
  - **Capital:** Leh (Summer), Kargil (Winter)
  - **Lieutenant Governor:** Brigadier (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.)
- **LAHDC (Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council)**
  - **Established:** 1995 (Leh), 2003 (Kargil)
  - **Role:** Administrative body for district-level governance in Ladakh.





# Important Days



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Losar, Ladakhi New Year Celebrations
Date	December 20–31, 2024
Location	Ladakh
Organizers	LAHDC Leh and Culture Academy, Leh
Purpose	Preserve traditions, foster pride, and promote tourism
Key Features	Cultural performances, eco-friendly practices, community feasts, heritage documentation
Significance	Promotes unity, wisdom, love, and global appreciation of Ladakhi culture



➤ **Who did Anahat Singh defeat in the finals of the Western India Slam 2024 to win her 9<sup>th</sup> PSA Challenger title?**

- A) Veer Chotrani
- B) Viktor Byrtus
- C) Akanksha Salunkhe
- D) Ameeshenraj Chandaran
- E) Joshna Chinappa

**Answer**

**C) Akanksha Salunkhe**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Western India Slam 2024
- **Date:** December 22, 2024
- **Location:** Cricket Club of India Courts, Mumbai



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Purpose:** Showcase top-level squash talent in a PSA Challenger event featuring players from 12 countries.
- **Significance:** Highlights India's growing dominance in squash, especially through young talents like **Anahat Singh**.





## Key Highlights:

### 1. Anahat Singh's Victory:

- **Category:** Women's Singles
- **Result:** Defeated top-seeded compatriot Akanksha Salunkhe 3-0 (11-8, 11-8, 11-8) in just 25 minutes.
- **Achievement:** This marks Anahat's ninth PSA Challenger title in 2024.
- **Significance:** The win is her first against Akanksha Salunkhe in a PSA event.



## Key Highlights:

### 2. Men's Singles Champion:

- **Winner:** Second-seeded Ameeshenraj Chandaran from Malaysia.
- **Result:** Defeated top seed Viktor Byrtus of the Czech Republic 3-1 (15-13, 6-11, 11-5, 11-3) in the final.
- **India's Exit:** World No. 87 Veer Chotrani lost in the semi-finals to Chandaran.

### 3. Tournament Details:

- **Event Type:** PSA Challenger (USD 9,000 prize money).
- **Participation:** Over 700 players from 12 countries competed in the event.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **PSA Challenger Event:**
  - A tier of professional squash tournaments organized by the Professional Squash Association (PSA).
  - These events help players gain rankings and professional exposure.
- **Anahat Singh:**
  - A 16-year-old Indian squash prodigy known for her dominance in PSA Challenger events.



## Static GK Information:

- **Anahat Singh**
  - **Age:** 16
  - **Titles in 2024:** 9 PSA Challenger Titles
- **Professional Squash Association (PSA):**
  - **Founded:** 1975
  - **Headquarters:** Leeds, England
  - **President:** Ziad Al-Turki
- **Cricket Club of India (CCI):**
  - **Founded:** 1933
  - **Location:** Mumbai, Maharashtra



# SPORTS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Western India Slam 2024
Date	December 22, 2024
Location	Cricket Club of India Courts, Mumbai
Women's Singles Winner	Anahat Singh (India)
Men's Singles Winner	Ameeshenraj Chandaran (Malaysia)
Participation	Over 700 players from 12 countries
Prize Money	USD 9,000



# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who has been appointed as the Governor of Manipur in the latest reshuffle?**

- A) Hari Babu Kambhampati
- B) Arif Mohammed Khan
- C) Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- D) Raghubar Das
- E) Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

**Answer**

**C) Ajay Kumar Bhalla**





# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** President Appoints Governors in Five States
- **Date:** December 24, 2024
- **Location:** India



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- To strengthen administrative governance by reassigning experienced leaders to critical state positions.
- Ensures a fresh approach and expertise in handling state matters.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Key Highlights of the Appointments:

- **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** appointed as **the Governor of Manipur**.
- **Arif Mohammed Khan**, formerly Kerala Governor, reassigned to **Bihar**.
- **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, previously Bihar Governor, shifted to **Kerala**.
- **General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.)** becomes **the Governor of Mizoram**.
- **Hari Babu Kambhampati**, earlier Governor of Mizoram, takes charge as **the Governor of Odisha**.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Governor's Role in India:**
  - The Governor is the constitutional head of a state and acts on the advice of the state's council of ministers.
  - Key responsibilities include overseeing state legislature activities and ensuring compliance with the Constitution.
- **Shah Bano Case (1985):**
  - A landmark judgment in India that addressed the rights of Muslim women to alimony post-divorce, sparking debates on personal laws and secularism.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Static GK Information:

- **Ajay Kumar Bhalla**
  - **Previous Role:** Union Home Secretary (2019–2024)
  - **State Assigned:** Manipur
- **Arif Mohammed Khan**
  - **Born:** 18 November 1951, Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh
  - **Previous State:** Kerala
  - **Current State:** Bihar
- **Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**
  - **Previous State:** Bihar
  - **Current State:** Kerala



# APPOINTMENTS



## Static GK Information:

- **General Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.)**
  - **Previous Role:** Army Chief and Union Minister
  - **State Assigned:** Mizoram
- **Hari Babu Kambhampati**
  - **Previous State:** Mizoram
  - **Current State:** Odisha





# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	President Appoints Governors in Five States
Date	December 24, 2024
Significance	Administrative reshuffle to enhance governance and leadership
Key Appointments	Ajay Bhalla (Manipur), Arif Mohammed Khan (Bihar), Rajendra Arlekar (Kerala), Hari Babu (Odisha)



# APPOINTMENTS



➤ **Who was elected as Tonga's new Prime Minister following Siaosi Sovaleni's resignation?**

- A) Viliami Latu
- B) King Tupou VI
- C) Aisake Valu Eke
- D) Siaosi Sovaleni
- E) Vava'u Tui

**Answer**

**C) Aisake Valu Eke**



# APPOINTMENTS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Tonga Elects Aisake Valu Eke as New Prime Minister
- **Date:** December 2024
- **Location:** Tonga



# APPOINTMENTS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** Provide stable governance until the 2025 elections amidst political and socio-economic challenges.
- **Key Focus:** Economic recovery, debt management, addressing the monarchy-government power struggle, and rebuilding after natural disasters.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Key Highlights of Eke's Election:

### 1. Election Outcome:

- Eke secured 16 votes in a parliamentary secret ballot.
- Opponent Viliami Latu received 8 votes, with 2 abstentions.
- He will officially assume office in February 2025 and govern until the elections in November 2025.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Key Highlights of Eke's Election:

### 2. Parliamentary Composition:

- **Tonga's Legislative Assembly consists of 26 members:** 17 elected members and 9 nobles chosen by hereditary chiefs.
- The monarchy retains significant influence, including powers to dissolve parliament and veto legislation.





## Key Highlights of Eke's Election:

### 3. Backdrop of Sovaleni's Resignation:

- Siaso Sovaleni resigned before facing a no-confidence vote led by Eke.
- His tenure was marked by tensions with King Tupou VI, reflecting recurring friction since the 2010 constitutional reforms that shifted power toward elected representatives.



## Key Highlights of Eke's Election:

### 4. Challenges for Eke:

- **Economic Recovery:** The 2022 volcanic eruption and tsunami devastated infrastructure, while COVID-19 severely impacted tourism.
- **Debt Crisis:** Tonga owes \$130 million to China's export bank, approximately one-third of its GDP.
- **Climate Change Threats:** Rising sea levels and frequent natural disasters require urgent attention.



# APPOINTMENTS



## Static GK Information:

- **Tonga**
  - **Capital:** Nuku'alofa
  - **Currency:** Pa'anga (TOP)
  - **Monarch:** King Tupou VI
  - **Prime Minister:** Aisake Valu Eke



# APPOINTMENTS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Tonga Elects Aisake Valu Eke as New Prime Minister
Date	December 2024
Location	Tonga
Predecessor	Siaosi Sovaleni
Significance	Eke's leadership amid economic challenges, debt crisis, and strained monarchy relations
Key Challenges	Economic recovery, climate change, and governance stability
Term Duration	February 2025 to November 2025



# AWARDS



➤ **Who conferred the 69<sup>th</sup> Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2024 to Railway officials and best-performing zones?**

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Nitin Gadkari
- C) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- D) Satish Kumar
- E) S. Jaishankar

**Answer**

**C) Ashwini Vaishnaw**



# AWARDS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** 69<sup>th</sup> Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2024
- **Date:** December 21, 2024
- **Location:** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi



# AWARDS



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** Recognize and reward exceptional contributions by Railway personnel and zones in improving safety, maintenance, quality, and training (**SMQT**).
- **Vision:** Promote modernization, teamwork, and a world-class commuter experience.





# AWARDS



## Key Highlights:

- **Awards Conferred:**
  - **Individual Awards:** 101 Railway officials recognized for dedication and outstanding contributions.
  - **Shields:** 22 shields presented to best-performing Railway Zones in various categories.



# AWARDS



## Key Highlights:

- **Focus Areas Highlighted by Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw:**
  - Emphasized safety, maintenance, quality, and training (SMQT) as core principles.
  - Encouraged tripling efforts to modernize infrastructure and improve commuter experiences.
  - Announced financial rewards along with shields from next year to incentivize excellence in SMQT practices.



# AWARDS



## Key Highlights:

- **Railway Achievements:**
  - **Safety Progress:** Reduction in consequential accidents from 345 to 90.
  - **Modernization:** Implementation of Kavach Safety System and Amrit Bharat Station projects for world-class station facilities.
  - **Electrification Goal:** 100% electrification by 2025.
  - **Recruitment:** Efficient, transparent recruitment process filling 1.5 lakh positions.



## Key Highlights:

- **Technological Advancements:**
  - Introduction of a Super App to enhance passenger convenience.
  - Collaboration with industries for maintenance innovations.
- **Railway Board Chairman's Address (Shri Satish Kumar):**
  - Emphasized excellence in speed, comfort, and safety (गति, आराम एवं सुरक्षा) as top priorities.
  - Praised teamwork and leadership for achieving modernization and safety benchmarks.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **SMQT (Safety, Maintenance, Quality, Training):**
  - A framework to ensure excellence in railway operations and services.
- **Amrit Bharat Station Project:**
  - A mission to transform Indian railway stations with world-class facilities, including escalators, lifts, and Divyangjan-friendly infrastructure.
- **Kavach Safety System:**
  - A Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS) implemented to enhance safety across railway networks.



## Static GK Information:

- **Indian Railways:**
  - **Founded:** 16 April 1853
  - **Chairman & CEO (Railway Board):** Shri Satish Kumar
  - **Motto:** "Rashtra Pratham, Sadaiv Pratham"  
(Nation First, Always First)
- **Union Minister of Railways:**
  - **Name:** Ashwini Vaishnaw
  - **Ministries:** Railways, Electronics and IT, Information and Broadcasting



## Static GK Information:

- **Bharat Mandapam:**
  - **Location:** New Delhi
  - **Significance:** International Convention and Exhibition Centre inaugurated in 2023.



# AWARDS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	69th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2024
Date	December 21, 2024
Location	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
Key Awards	101 Individual Awards, 22 Shields to best-performing zones
Focus Areas	Safety, Maintenance, Quality, Training (SMQT)
Major Announcements	Financial rewards for SMQT practices from next year
Technological Advancements	Kavach Safety System, Super App, 100% Electrification by 2025





➤ **What is the primary objective of ISRO's SpaDeX mission?**

- A) Launching satellites for global navigation
- B) Demonstrating in-space docking technology
- C) Testing lunar landing technology
- D) Establishing communication links in low Earth orbit
- E) Growing plants in microgravity



**Answer**

**B) Demonstrating in-space docking technology**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** ISRO to Launch SpaDeX Mission
- **Date:** December 30, 2024
- **Location:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** Develop and demonstrate cost-effective in-space docking technology, crucial for:
  - Lunar exploration and future missions to the Moon.
  - Establishing an Indian space station.
  - Multi-launch missions requiring spacecraft docking.
- **Significance:**
  - Paves the way for India to become the fourth country globally to achieve in-space docking capability.
  - Strengthens India's position in advanced space exploration technologies.



## Key Highlights of SpaDeX Mission:

- **Mission Overview:**
  - **Rocket Used:** PSLV-C60.
  - **Payload:** Two small spacecraft weighing 220 kg each launched into a 470 km circular orbit.
  - These spacecraft will dock and separate in orbit to test docking technologies.
- **Additional Payload:**
  - **POEM-4 Module:**
    - Hosts 24 experiments from ISRO labs and private universities.
    - Includes an experiment on growing cowpea seeds in space to study germination in microgravity.



## Key Highlights of SpaDeX Mission:

- **Launch Preparations:**
  - PSLV-C60 Rocket: Ready and moved to the launch pad as of December 21.
  - ISRO has shared a time-lapse video of the rocket's transportation.
- **Public Engagement:**
  - **Viewing Gallery:** Registration opened on December 18 for visitors to watch the live launch.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **In-Space Docking Technology:**
  - The ability of spacecraft to meet, connect, and separate in orbit, crucial for assembling space stations and refueling missions.
- **PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle):**
  - One of ISRO's most reliable launch vehicles, often used for low-Earth and polar orbit missions.
- **POEM (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module):**
  - A platform used by ISRO to host scientific experiments in space, providing insights into areas like microgravity and space biology.



## Static GK Information:

- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation):**
  - **Established:** 1969
  - **Headquarters:** Bengaluru, Karnataka
  - **Chairman:** S. Somanath
- **Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC):**
  - **Location:** Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
  - **Role:** Primary launch site for ISRO's missions.



# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	ISRO's SpaDeX Mission for Space Docking
Date	December 30, 2024
Location	Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota
Rocket Used	PSLV-C60
Mission Objective	Demonstrate in-space docking technology for future lunar and space station missions
Additional Payload	POEM-4 module with 24 experiments, including cowpea seed germination in space
Orbit Details	Circular orbit, 470 km above Earth





➤ **What is significant about INS Tushil's maiden operational deployment?**

- A) It is the first Indian stealth frigate to patrol the Arctic
- B) It includes joint patrolling with the Russian Navy
- C) It made its first port call in London, strengthening India-UK maritime ties
- D) It was built entirely in India under the Make in India initiative
- E) It was the first ship commissioned under Project 17A



**Answer**

**C) It made its first port call in London, strengthening India-UK maritime ties**



# DEFENCE



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** INS Tushil's First Port Call in London
- **Date:** December 21, 2024
- **Location:** London, United Kingdom



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Strengthen India-UK Relations:** The port call aligns with the India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to advance bilateral cooperation in defence and security.
- **Operational Readiness:** To enhance maritime collaboration through joint exercises and patrolling with navies of friendly nations.
- **Regional Stability:** Promote peace and security in **the Indo-Pacific region**, including anti-piracy operations.



## Key Highlights:

- **INS Tushil Overview:**
  - The latest Krivak III-class multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate under Project 1135.6.
  - Commissioned on December 9, 2024, in Russia in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
  - Seventh in the series and the first of two upgraded follow-on ships from the 2016 contract.



## Key Highlights:

- **Construction Details:**
  - Built at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia.
  - Monitored by an Indian Warship Overseeing Team stationed in Kaliningrad under the Indian Embassy in Moscow.
- **Maiden Deployment Details:**
  - Departed from Kaliningrad on December 17, 2024, for India.
  - The voyage includes joint patrolling, maritime exercises, and transit through piracy hotspots.



## Key Highlights:

- **India-UK Relations:**
  - The port call occurred weeks after the India-UK 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue on December 3, 2024, held in New Delhi.
  - The visit highlights India and the UK's shared vision for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Krivak III Class Frigate:**
  - A class of guided-missile frigates originally developed by Russia and enhanced with stealth features and modern weapons systems.
- **India-UK Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:**
  - Established in May 2021 with a 10-year roadmap, focusing on trade, defence, science, and technology collaborations.
- **2+2 Dialogue:**
  - A diplomatic mechanism involving foreign and defence ministers from both countries to address strategic and regional issues.



## Static GK Information:

- **INS Tushil**
  - **Type:** Stealth-guided missile frigate
  - **Class:** Krivak III
  - **Project:** 1135.6 (Follow-on Talwar Class)
  - **Builder:** Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia
- **Indian Navy**
  - **Founded:** 1612
  - **Chief of Naval Staff (CNS):** Admiral R. Hari Kumar
  - **Motto:** "Sam no Varunah" (May the Ocean Gods be auspicious unto us)





## Static GK Information:

- **United Kingdom**
  - **Capital:** London
  - **Currency:** Pound Sterling
  - **Prime Minister:** Rishi Sunak



# DEFENCE



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	INS Tushil's First Port Call in London
Date	December 21, 2024
Location	London, United Kingdom
Ship Overview	Krivak III-class multi-role stealth-guided missile frigate commissioned in Russia
Significance	Strengthens India-UK maritime defence ties
India-UK Dialogue	Comprehensive Strategic Partnership focusing on Indo-Pacific stability and defence cooperation



➤ **Where was the SLINEX 24 bilateral naval exercise between India and Sri Lanka conducted?**

- A) Colombo
- B) Chennai
- C) Visakhapatnam
- D) Trincomalee
- E) Kochi

**Answer**

**C) Visakhapatnam**



# DEFENCE



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** SLINEX 24 Naval Exercise
- **Date:** December 17–20, 2024
- **Location:** Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** Enhance interoperability, mutual understanding, and collaboration between the Indian and Sri Lankan Navies.
- **Significance:** Strengthens maritime security and aligns with India's **Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)** vision.



## Key Highlights:

- **Exercise Phases:**
  - **Harbour Phase (December 17–18):**
    - Professional and social exchanges were conducted.
    - Aimed at building camaraderie and mutual trust.
  - **Sea Phase (December 19–20):**
    - Included joint exercises such as:
      - Special Forces operations.
      - Gun firings and helicopter operations.
      - Navigation and communication drills.



## Key Highlights:

- **Participants:**
  - **India:**
    - INS Sumitra, an offshore patrol vessel from the Eastern Fleet.
    - Special Forces team.
  - **Sri Lanka:**
    - SLNS Sayura, an offshore patrol vessel.
    - Special Forces team.
- **SLINEX Background:**
  - Initiated in 2005, the SLINEX series aims to foster maritime cooperation.
  - Regularly conducted to ensure a rule-based maritime domain in the Indian Ocean region.



## Key Highlights:

- **Strategic Importance:**
  - Reinforces India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).
  - Promotes safety and security in the Indo-Pacific region.





## Important Terms Explained:

- **SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region):**
  - An initiative by India focusing on maritime cooperation and economic growth in the Indian Ocean region.
- **INS Sumitra:**
  - An offshore patrol vessel used by the Indian Navy for surveillance, reconnaissance, and Special Forces operations.
- **SLNS Sayura:**
  - A flagship offshore patrol vessel of the Sri Lankan Navy.



## Static GK Information:

- **India**
  - **Capital:** New Delhi
  - **Currency:** Indian Rupee (INR)
  - **Navy Chief:** Admiral R. Hari Kumar
- **Sri Lanka**
  - **Capital:** Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (Administrative), Colombo (Commercial)
  - **Currency:** Sri Lankan Rupee (LKR)
  - **President:** Ranil Wickremesinghe



# DEFENCE



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Sri Lanka-India Naval Exercise 2024 (SLINEX 24)
Date	December 17–20, 2024
Location	Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
Participants	INS Sumitra (India) and SLNS Sayura (Sri Lanka), along with Special Forces teams
Phases	Harbour Phase (17–18 Dec), Sea Phase (19–20 Dec)
Objective	Enhance interoperability and maritime security
Strategic Significance	Aligned with India's SAGAR vision for a secure Indo-Pacific



➤ Which scheme was launched by AAP to support Dalit students pursuing higher education abroad?

- A) PM Scholarship Scheme
- B) Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana
- C) Samajik Nyay Abhiyan
- D) Atal Scholarship Yojana
- E) Dalit Empowerment Scholarship



**Answer**

**B) Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana**



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana Launch
- **Date:** December 2024
- **Location:** Delhi



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** Empower Dalit students by covering all educational expenses for higher education abroad.
- **Expenses Covered:** Tuition fees, travel costs, and other essential expenditures.
- **Vision:** Aligns with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's philosophy of eliminating barriers to education for marginalized communities.



## Key Highlights:

- **Launched By:** AAP under the leadership of Arvind Kejriwal.
- **Budgetary Allocation:** Atishi (Delhi CM) emphasized that 25% of Delhi's budget has been allocated to education in the past decade.
- **Political Context:**
  - Launched ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections to honor Dr. Ambedkar's legacy.
  - BJP criticized the scheme, labeling it as a rebranding of the 2019 initiative, which saw limited implementation.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana:**
  - A scholarship program aimed at providing financial support to Dalit students for pursuing higher education abroad.
- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:**
  - A renowned Indian jurist, principal architect of the Indian Constitution, and a prominent social reformer advocating for Dalit and women's rights.
- **AAP (Aam Aadmi Party):**
  - A political party founded in 2012, originating from the anti-corruption movement led by Arvind Kejriwal.





## Static GK Information:

- **Delhi**
  - **Capital:** New Delhi
  - **CM:** Atishi
  - **Governor:** Vinai Kumar Saxena
- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**
  - **Known For:** Architect of the Indian Constitution, champion of Dalit and women's rights
- **Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)**
  - **Founded:** 2012
  - **Leader:** Arvind Kejriwal



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana Launch
Date	December 2024
Location	Delhi
Significance	Supports Dalit students' higher education abroad; honors Ambedkar's legacy
Political Context	Launched ahead of Delhi Assembly elections; faces BJP criticism
Key Provisions	Covers tuition, travel, and essential expenses for Dalit students abroad



➤ **What strategy forms the basis of the Zero Waste Airport Project launched at Indore Airport?**

- A) 3R Strategy: Reduce, Recycle, Renew
- B) 4R Strategy: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover
- C) 5S Strategy: Sort, Sustain, Support, Simplify, Save
- D) Green Grid Strategy: Minimize, Maximize, Neutralize
- E) Zero Waste Strategy: Eliminate, Convert, Compost



**Answer**

**B) 4R Strategy: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Indore Airport Launches Waste Processing Unit
- **Date:** December 2024
- **Location:** Indore Airport, Madhya Pradesh



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Objective:** Reduce the environmental impact of airport operations through sustainable waste management practices.
- **Focus Areas:** Behavioral change, stakeholder engagement, and waste segregation training for airport staff and passengers.



## Key Highlights of the Zero Waste Airport Project:

- 1. Partnership:** A collaborative effort between IndiGo, the Airports Authority of India (AAI), and AAS Foundation, Indore.
- 2. 4R Strategy:** Implements Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Recover to manage airport waste sustainably.



## Features of the Project:

- **Material Recovery Facility (MRF):**
  - Sorts dry waste into 10 categories for recycling.
  - Includes guided tours to educate stakeholders about recycling processes.
- **Wet Waste Processing Unit:**
  - Converts organic waste into nutrient-rich compost.
  - Compost is utilized for landscaping purposes at the airport.
- **Waste Processing Capacity:** Handles 750 kgs of waste daily on-site, reducing landfill dependency.



## Features of the Project:

- **Self-Sustaining Model:**
  - Income generated from compost and recycled materials will fund salaries of green workers from the third year onward.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Encourage responsible waste disposal among passengers and airport staff.





## Benefits of the Initiative:

- **Environmental Impact:** Significant reduction in landfill use and carbon footprint.
- **Community Development:** Creates job opportunities for local green workers.
- **Aviation Sector Precedent:** Sets an example for sustainable practices across Indian airports.



## Static GK Information:

- **IndiGo**
  - **Headquarters:** Gurgaon, Haryana
  - **CEO:** Pieter Elbers
  - **Founded:** 2006
- **Indore Airport (Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport)**
  - **Location:** Indore, Madhya Pradesh
  - **Managed By:** Airports Authority of India



## Static GK Information:

- **Madhya Pradesh**
  - **Capital:** Bhopal
  - **CM:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan
  - **Governor:** Mangubhai C. Patel
- **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**
  - **Founded:** 1995
  - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
  - **Chairman:** Sanjeev Kumar



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Indore Airport Launches Waste Processing Unit
Date	December 2024
Location	Indore Airport, Madhya Pradesh
Objective	Minimize environmental impact and implement sustainable waste management
Key Features	4R Strategy, Material Recovery Facility, Wet Waste Processing Unit, Public Engagement
Capacity	Processes 750 kgs of waste daily
Significance	Job creation, reduced landfill use, sets a precedent for aviation sustainability



➤ **What is the primary objective of the newly launched Association of NPS Intermediaries (ANI)?**

- A) Reduce taxation on NPS contributions
- B) Promote NPS as a reliable retirement product and enhance subscriber welfare
- C) Create a new investment scheme for pension funds
- D) Collaborate exclusively with private entities for retirement solutions
- E) Manage pension disbursements directly for all subscribers



**Answer**

**B) Promote NPS as a reliable retirement product and enhance subscriber welfare**



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** Launch of the Association of NPS Intermediaries (ANI)
- **Date:** December 21, 2024
- **Location:** Insurance Institute of India, Mumbai



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **ANI's Formation:**
  - ANI is a unified platform bringing together all stakeholders in the NPS ecosystem.
  - Includes Points of Presence, Pension Fund Managers, Central Recordkeeping Agencies, and others.



## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Primary Goals:**
  - **Promote NPS:** Highlighting NPS as a flexible, tax-efficient, and reliable retirement solution.
  - **Enhance Subscriber Welfare:** Streamlining processes, ensuring transparency, and safeguarding investments.
  - **Collaborate:** Work with policymakers and regulators to refine the NPS framework and expand its reach.





## Key Highlights:

### 1. Event Overview:

- Conference Theme: “Securing Tomorrow, With Pension.”
- Inauguration: ANI's logo unveiled by Dr. Deepak Mohanty, Chairperson of PFRDA.
- Keynote addresses by stakeholders from LIC, SBI, Axis Bank, and EPFO highlighted the importance of expanding pension penetration in India.



## Key Highlights:

### 2. Role of ANI:

- Serve as a feedback mechanism for regulators and policymakers.
- Foster subscriber-centric growth while addressing market gaps.

### 3. NPS Growth Metrics:

- Assets Under Management (AUM): Over ₹13.8 lakh crore.
- Subscribers: 8 crore across NPS and APY, emphasizing widespread adoption.



## Key Highlights:

### 4. Insights from the Conference:

- Panel discussion on “**Pension Society in Viksit Bharat@2047**” explored challenges like financial literacy, the role of HR in corporates, and the need for sustainable pension solutions.
- Experts underscored long-term investment horizons for pension funds and emphasized tax efficiency as a key feature of NPS.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **National Pension System (NPS):**
  - A voluntary, long-term retirement savings plan that provides flexibility, low costs, and tax benefits.
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY):**
  - A government-backed pension scheme aimed at providing income security for workers in the unorganized sector.
- **PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority):**
  - The regulatory body overseeing pension products and ensuring subscriber protection.



## Static GK Information:

- **PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority)**
  - **Established:** 2003
  - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
  - **Chairperson:** Dr. Deepak Mohanty
- **NPS Trust:**
  - **Established:** 2008
  - **Function:** Custodian of NPS assets and ensures efficient fund management.



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	Launch of Association of NPS Intermediaries (ANI)
Date	December 21, 2024
Location	Insurance Institute of India, Mumbai
Significance	Strengthen NPS ecosystem, promote pension awareness, enhance subscriber welfare
Stakeholders Involved	Points of Presence, Pension Fund Managers, Annuity Providers, Regulators
NPS Growth Metrics	₹13.8 lakh crore AUM, 8 crore subscribers



➤ Which key scheme was reviewed by the PM during the 45<sup>th</sup> PRAGATI interaction?

- A) PM Ujjwala Yojana
- B) PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
- C) PM Awas Yojana
- D) PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
- E) PM Vande Bharat Initiative

**Answer**

**B) PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana**



## Event and Location:

- **Event:** 45th PRAGATI Interaction Chaired by PM Modi
- **Date:** December 26, 2024
- **Platform: PRAGATI** (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is an ICT-based platform involving the Centre and State governments.





## Mandates and Objectives:

- **Review Progress:** Focus on significant projects and schemes for timely completion and implementation.
- **Resolve Grievances:** Address public grievances related to banking, insurance, and project rehabilitation.
- **Optimize Project Management:** Prevent delays, cost escalations, and ensure benefits reach the public.



## Key Highlights:

### 1. Reviewed Projects:

- **Total Projects:** Eight significant projects reviewed worth over ₹1 lakh crore.
- **Sectors Covered:**
  - **Metro Projects:** Six Urban Transport Metro Projects.
  - **Road Connectivity & Thermal Power:** One project each.



## Key Highlights:

### 2. Key Schemes Reviewed:

- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:**
  - Directed states/UTs to enhance rooftop solar installation capacity.
  - Emphasis on creating a robust vendor ecosystem and reducing process timelines.
  - Adopt a saturation approach for phased implementation across villages, towns, and cities.



## Key Highlights:

### 3. Workshops on Metro Projects:

- PM advised conducting workshops for cities with ongoing or planned metro projects.
- **Objective:** Share best practices and learnings to enhance efficiency.

### 4. Rehabilitation & Resettlement:

- Emphasized timely relocation of project-affected families.
- Ensured ease of living with quality amenities at new sites.



## Key Highlights:

### 5. Public Grievances:

- Focused on grievances related to the Banking and Insurance Sector.
- Stressed on quality disposal of complaints alongside speed.

### 6. PRAGATI Impact:

- Up to the 45th edition, 363 projects worth ₹19.12 lakh crore have been reviewed.



## Important Terms Explained:

- **PRAGATI Platform:**
  - A real-time ICT-based multi-modal platform for resolving governance and implementation issues through coordination between Central and State governments.
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:**
  - A scheme aimed at enhancing solar rooftop installations for providing free electricity to households.



## Static GK Information:

- **Indian Railways:**
  - **Established:** 16 April 1853
  - **Chairman & CEO (Railway Board):** Shri Satish Kumar
  - **Motto:** "Rashtra Pratham, Sadaiv Pratham"  
(Nation First, Always First)
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi:**
  - **Assumed Office:** May 26, 2014
  - **Constituency:** Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



# NATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Tabular Summary:

Aspect	Details
Event	45 <sup>th</sup> PRAGATI Interaction
Date	December 26, 2024
Platform	Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)
Projects Reviewed	Eight key projects worth over ₹1 lakh crore
Schemes Reviewed	PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
Key Directions	Enhance solar rooftop capacity; workshops for metro projects
Total PRAGATI Impact	363 projects worth ₹19.12 lakh crore reviewed so far





# QUICK RECALL



- **PM Modi released 'Collected Works of Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya' on December 25, 2023.**
- **Losar celebrates the Ladakhi New Year with cultural performances and eco-friendly traditions.**
- **Anahat Singh claimed her 9th PSA Challenger title by defeating Akanksha Salunkhe.**
- **Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as Manipur Governor, Arif Mohammed Khan shifted to Bihar.**
- **Aisake Valu Eke elected Tonga's PM, succeeding Siaosi Sovaleni amid political tensions.**
- **Ashwini Vaishnaw conferred 69th Ati Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar to Railway officials.**
- **ISRO to launch SpaDeX mission on December 30 to test in-space docking technology.**
- **INS Tushil made its first port call in London on its maiden deployment.**



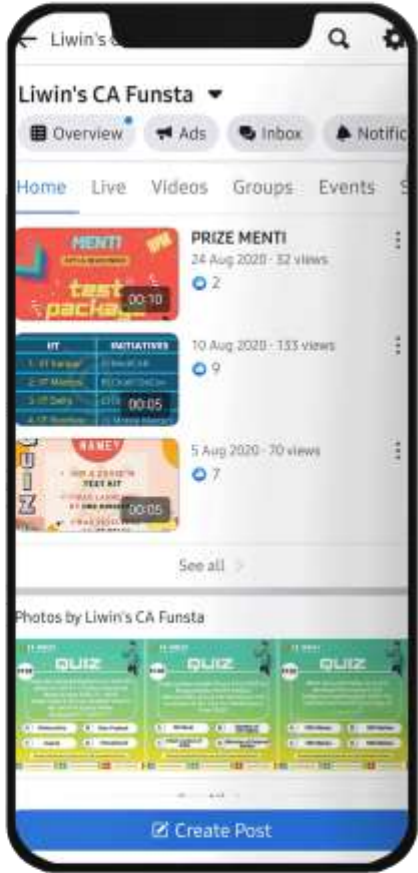
# QUICK RECALL



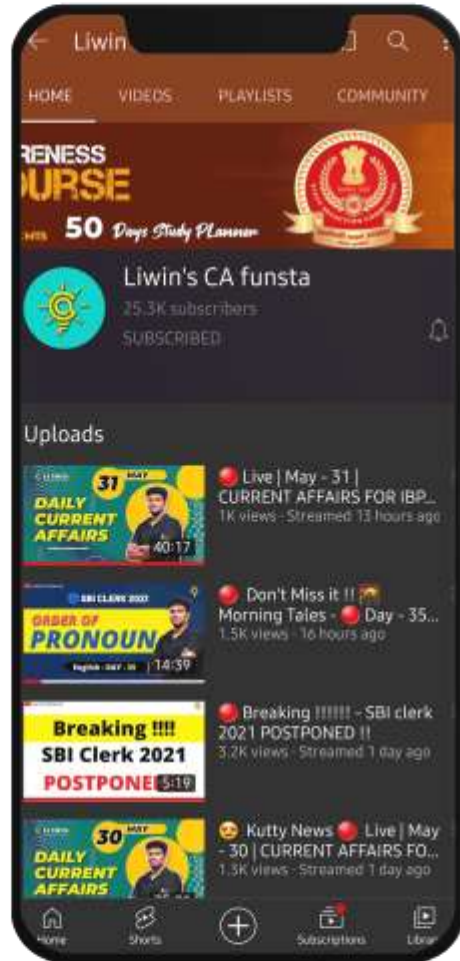
- **SLINEX 24 was conducted in Visakhapatnam to strengthen India-Sri Lanka naval cooperation.**
- **AAP launched Dr. Ambedkar Samman Yojana to fund Dalit students' higher education abroad.**
- **Indore Airport launches a Zero Waste Airport Project under IndiGoReach CSR initiative.**
- **ANI launched to unite NPS stakeholders, promote subscriber welfare, and expand pension coverage.**
- **PM chaired the 45th PRAGATI interaction, reviewing projects worth over ₹1 lakh crore.**



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