



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**NOVEMBER, 2024**

**Week-2**

**8-14 Nov., 2024**

★★ Useful for ★★

**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Services Exams,  
SSC and Banking Exams**

8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## Australia to Ban Social Media for Children

- **Context:** The Australian government has announced plans to introduce legislation restricting social media access for children under 16, aiming to mitigate potential harms associated with online platforms.

## Social Media Regulation in India

- In India, social media regulation is governed by the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 and Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA) 2023.

## About IT Rules 2021

- A three-level grievance redressal system has been established, allowing users to report concerns. Each platform must respond to complaints within a specified time frame.
- Social media platforms are required to reveal the first originator of a controversial or harmful message when requested by a court or authorized government agency. This rule helps track the spread of misinformation or harmful content.
- All social media intermediaries must appoint a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), a resident of India, to ensure the platform's adherence to local laws and respond to legal requirements.
- Significant social media platforms must provide an option for users to voluntarily verify their accounts, promoting trustworthiness on the platform.

## Chabahar Port

- **Context:** In a significant move, an Indian delegation met Afghanistan's Defence Minister, offering the use of Chabahar Port in Iran to business groups in Afghanistan.
  - Earlier this year, India signed a 10-year contract with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar Port which was built with its assistance.

## About Chabahar Port

- Chabahar is made of Persian words Chahar meaning four; and bahar meaning spring.
- **Location:** On the Makran Coast of Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province, next to the Gulf of Oman and at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.
  - It is only about 170 kilometers west of Pakistan's Gwadar Port.
  - In India's context, Kandla Port in Gujarat is the closest port at around 550 nautical miles, while the distance between Chabahar and Mumbai is about 786 nautical miles.
- It comprises two terminals, i.e. Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
- The port is also part of International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), a multimodal transport project to connect the Indian Ocean to Northern Europe.

## One Rank One Pension (OROP) Scheme

- **Context:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme.

## About OROP

- The OROP scheme guarantees that personnel retiring at the same rank with identical service durations receive uniform pensions, irrespective of their retirement date.
- The scheme was approved in 2015, with its benefits applied retroactively from July 1, 2014.
- Under OROP, pensions are adjusted based on the average of the minimum and maximum pensions given to those who retired in 2013 with the same rank and service length.
- Arrears of pension were to be paid in equal half-yearly installments, although the arrears for family pensioners and gallantry awardees were paid in a single installment.

- The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, which is part of the Ministry of Defence is the administering agency and Pension amounts are revised every five years under this scheme.

## 9<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

### World's First CO<sub>2</sub> to Methanol Plant

- **Context:** At its Vindhyachal plant, NTPC achieved the first-ever synthesis of CO<sub>2</sub> (captured from flue gas) and hydrogen (from a PEM electrolyzer) into methanol.

#### Key Highlights

- CO<sub>2</sub> is captured from industrial sources like power plants or directly from the atmosphere.
- Renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, are used to produce hydrogen through electrolysis of water.
- The captured CO<sub>2</sub> is combined with hydrogen in the presence of a catalyst to produce methanol. This process typically occurs at high pressure and temperature.

#### Benefits of CO<sub>2</sub>-to-Methanol Conversion

- It provides a way to utilize CO<sub>2</sub>, reducing its impact on the atmosphere.
- Methanol can be used as a fuel for transportation, power generation, or as a feedstock for chemicals.
- Methanol can be stored and transported more easily than hydrogen, making it a potential energy storage solution and supporting a transition to hydrogen-based energy systems.
- Methanol is widely used in producing chemicals, solvents, and plastics, supporting diverse industrial applications.

#### About Methanol

- Methanol, also known as methyl alcohol or wood alcohol, is the simplest alcohol. It's a clear, colorless, and flammable liquid with a distinctive odor.

- **Key Properties:** Colorless, Miscibility (mixes completely with water), Toxic if ingested, Flammability.

### Exercise AUSTRAHIND

- **Context:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of joint military Exercise AUSTRAHIND commenced at Foreign Training Node, Maharashtra (India).

#### Key Facts

- Started in 2022, is an annual exercise conducted alternatively in India and Australia.
- Aim of Exercise AUSTRAHIND is to promote military cooperation between India and Australia through enhancement of interoperability in conduct of joint sub conventional operations in semi-urban environments in semi-desert terrain under Chapter VII of the UN mandate.

## 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

### Adaptation Gap Report 2024

- **Context:** The "Adaptation Gap Report 2024: Come Hell and High Water" was recently released by the United Nations Environment Programme.

#### Key Highlights

- Although international public adaptation finance for developing countries increased to \$28 billion in 2022, the overall gap remains substantial. Even doubling adaptation finance from 2019 levels, as targeted by 2025 under the Glasgow Climate Pact, would only reduce the finance gap by about 5%.
- 87% of countries now have at least one national adaptation planning instrument. Of these, 51 per cent have a second, and 20 per cent have a third. Aligning National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is crucial for strategic implementation.
- Progress towards UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (FGCR) targets, agreed at COP 28, is mixed, with thematic areas like poverty reduction and cultural heritage protection needing more focus.

Many NAPs reference UAE FGCR targets but lack comprehensive data and planning for all sectors.

- Enhancing capacity and technology transfer in developing countries is vital but currently lacks effectiveness due to uncoordinated, short-term efforts.

### About Adaptation Gap Report (AGR)

- Adaptation Gap Report is an annual publication by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- Its purpose is to assess global progress on climate change adaptation, i.e. the efforts made by countries to adjust and prepare for current and future climate impacts.
- Adaptation gap refers to the difference between the actual adaptation efforts being implemented and the adaptation needs required to mitigate the risks posed by climate change.

### 4B Movement

- **Context:** After Donald Trump's victory, social media in the US is seeing the rise of the '4B' movement, where women reject sex and marriage with men to protest patriarchal and often misogynist institutions and practices.

### About 4B Movement

- It was started in South Korea after the 'MeToo' and 'escape the corset' movements.
- 4B stands for the four "Nos", B is a shorthand for no in Korean, and these are "biyeonae" (no dating men); "bisekseu" (no sex with men); "bihon" (no marrying men); and "bichulsan" (no having children).
- 4B is sometimes expanded to 6B4T, which advocates staying away from firms perceived as misogynist, rejecting the fandom culture, rejecting beauty standards that conform to the male gaze, etc.

### QS World University Rankings

- **Context:** The QS World University Rankings: Asia (2025) has recently been released, highlighting the top universities across Asia.

### Key Highlights

- Compiled by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), an organization known for offering data, expertise, and solutions in the global higher education sector, these rankings highlight key indicators that reflect institutional quality.
- The rankings focus on key indicators: Academic Reputation, Employer Reputation, Faculty-Student Ratio, and International Research Network to assess university quality and global impact.

### Indian Universities Ranking

- India has 2 institutions in the top 50 and 7 in the top 100.
- Top Institutions: Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD) leads at 44th, followed by IIT Bombay at 48th.
- Other top 100 institutions include IIT Madras (56), IIT Kharagpur (60), Indian Institute of Science (62), IIT Kanpur (67), and University of Delhi (81).

11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

### CJI Sanjiv Khanna

- **Context:** Supreme Court (SC) judge Justice Sanjiv Khanna was sworn in as the 51<sup>st</sup> Chief Justice of India (CJI), and his term will last until May 13, 2025. He succeeded CJI D.Y. Chandrachud.

### Key Facts

- The Constitution of India does not mention any procedure for appointment of the CJI.
- Article 124 (1) of the Constitution merely says, "there shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India".
- Clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution says that every Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President. Thus, in the absence of a constitutional provision, the procedure to appoint CJI relies on convention.

## Landmark Judgements by CJI Sanjiv Khanna

- Justice Khanna has been part of several landmark Supreme Court judgements such as upholding the sanctity of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), scrapping the electoral bonds scheme, upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and the granting of interim bail to former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

## Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launch (MBRL) System

- Context:** France is considering India's Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launch (MBRL) system for its requirements and is soon going to carry out a detailed evaluation of the system.

### Key Highlights

- The Pinaka MBRL system was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The system is named after "Pinaka," a mythical weapon used by Lord Shiva.
- It has the capability to hit targets at 75 kilometers and beyond.
- The Pinaka MBRL is capable of launching a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds, which makes it an effective weapon for quickly overwhelming enemy defenses.
- Armenia became the first export customer for the indigenously developed Pinaka with interest expressed by several countries in the system.

12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA) 2024 Report

- Context:** Recently, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations has released 'The State of Food and Agriculture 2024' (SOFA 2024).

## Key Findings

- The report highlights the importance of true cost accounting in agrifood systems. It helps to uncover the hidden costs and benefits associated with food production and consumption, including environmental degradation, health impacts, and social inequalities.
- Overall, the hidden costs of agrifood systems amounted to approximately \$12 trillion annually, the analysis involving 156 countries found.
- In fact, globally, the dominant quantified hidden costs were those arising from unhealthy dietary patterns that lead to diseases and lower labour productivity.
- India's hidden costs are the third largest globally, following China and the United States, which have hidden costs of \$1.8 trillion and \$1.4 trillion, respectively.
- Unhealthy diets are a major contributor to global hidden costs, accounting for approximately 70% (\$8.1 trillion) of these costs.
- The report emphasises the critical role of both consumers and producers in transforming agrifood systems.
- It calls for greater consumer awareness and engagement, as well as equitable roles for producers in the supply chain.

### About State of Food and Agriculture (SOFA)

- It is an annual flagship report published by the FAO of the United Nations that provides in-depth analysis and insights into key issues affecting global food and agriculture systems.
- SOFA 2024 delves into the true cost of food, emphasising the need for agrifood systems to be more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable.

## Inter-State Council

- Context:** The Inter-State Council, which works for Centre-State and interstate coordination and cooperation, has been reconstituted with the Prime Minister as its Chairman.

## About Inter-State Council

- **Establishment:** Though Article 263 provided for the possibility of such a council, the ISC was formally established in 1990 by a presidential order based on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on center-state relations.
- **Objective:** To facilitate discussion on policies, resolve inter-state disputes, and foster a collaborative approach between the Union and states on matters of national importance.
- **Composition:** The Prime Minister serves as the Chairperson of the Council.
- **Members:** Chief Ministers of all states, Chief Ministers of Union Territories with legislatures, and Administrators of Union Territories without legislatures. Certain Union Cabinet Ministers, particularly those concerned with interstate affairs, are also part of the ISC.
- **Functions:** Policy coordination, conflict resolution Review and makes recommendations to improve administration and governance across states.

## Antariksha Abhyas

- **Context:** The first-ever space exercise, 'Antariksha Abhyas – 2024,' hosted by the Defence Space Agency (DSA), was held in New Delhi.

### Key Facts

- Exercise Antariksha Abhyas is a first of its kind exercise being conducted and is expected to help secure national strategic objectives in space and integrate India's space capability in military operations.
- Space assets are essential in modern defense but increasingly vulnerable to threats like anti-satellite weapons, cyber-attacks, and space debris.
- As space is becoming increasingly congested, contested, and competitive, the space exercise intends to identify vulnerabilities in conduct of operations in the event of denial or disruptions of space-based services.

## About Defence Space Agency (DSA)

- Created in 2018, it is an integrated tri-services agency of the Indian Armed Forces headquartered in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- It is tasked with operating the space-warfare and Satellite Intelligence assets of India.

13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## World Intellectual Property Report 2024

- **Context:** India has secured in the top 10 countries for patents, trademarks, and industrial designs, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) 2024 report.

### Key Highlights

- India recorded a 15.7% growth in patent applications in 2023, the fastest among the top 20 global Intellectual Property (IP) economies.
- Applications in industrial designs increased by 36.4%, showcasing a focus on creative and manufacturing sectors.
- India ranked 4th globally in trademark filings, with a 6.1% increase in 2023.
- Resilience in IP Filings: A total of 3.55 million patent applications were filed globally in 2023, up by 2.7% from 2022.
  - The growth was primarily driven by Asian countries, with India, China, the United States, Japan, and South Korea leading the increase.

## About Intellectual Property

- Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.
- IP is protected in law by patents, copyright and trademarks, which enable people to earn recognition or financial benefit from what they invent or create.

## Types of Intellectual Property

- A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention, which is a product or a process that provides, in general, a new way of doing something, or offers a new technical solution to a problem.
- Copyright is a legal term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary and artistic works.
- Trademark is a sign capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one enterprise from those of other enterprises.
- Industrial design constitutes the ornamental or aesthetic aspect of an article.
- Geographical indications and appellations of origin are signs used on goods that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities, a reputation or characteristics that are essentially attributable to that place of origin.
- Trade secrets are IP rights on confidential information which may be sold or licensed.

## NISAR

- **Context:** The NISAR mission is set to be launched early next year from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh, India.

## Key Facts

- It is jointly developed by NASA and ISRO named 'NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar' (NISAR).
- It will use radar imaging to produce a high-resolution map of the earth's landmasses.
- It aims to deepen understanding of dynamic Earth processes, measuring the motion of nearly all of the planet's land and ice-covered surfaces every 12 days.
- The satellite will observe movements from earthquakes, ice sheet movements, landslides and volcanic activity, track changes in forests, wetlands and farmland and even check infrastructure stability.
- It is currently expected to be launched onboard an ISRO GSLV Mk II rocket in 2025.

## 14<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## Shigeru Ishiba

- **Context:** Shigeru Ishiba has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Japan.



## Key Highlights

- Shigeru Ishiba secured the most votes in both houses of the Japanese Diet. This election marks an important moment in Japan's governance.
- The Japanese Parliament is known as the Diet. It consists of two houses: the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors. The Diet is responsible for electing the Prime Minister. It also oversees legislation and national policy. The extraordinary session was convened to address the leadership crisis.
- Following the election, Ishiba will be formally inaugurated. The ceremony will take place at the Imperial Palace. This event marks the official start of his new term. This will provide Ishiba an opportunity to outline his agenda.
- Ishiba's leadership could shape Japan's domestic and foreign policy. His approach to economic issues will be closely watched. Additionally, his stance on international relations will be very important.

## Booker Prize, 2024

- **Context:** Samantha Harvey has won the prestigious Booker Prize 2024 for her novel "Orbital".



## Key Highlights

- Harvey's book is a unique exploration of life aboard the International Space Station. It reflects on human connections and the beauty of Earth.
- The novel was inspired by the isolation experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- "Orbital" is described as a space pastoral. It features six astronauts orbiting Earth. The narrative unfolds over 16 sunrises and sunsets. The confined setting amplifies the characters' interactions.
- Harvey's writing captures the fragile beauty of the planet.

## About Booker Prize

- The Booker Prize carries a £50,000 award.
- It is open to English-language novels published in the UK or Ireland.
- Winning the prize often transforms an author's career.
- This year's prize was important for various reasons. It marked the first Booker win for a British author since 2020.

