



# WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

*Coverage of*

**13-19 Nov., 2024**

★★ *Useful for* ★★

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

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.

### Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- **Context:** The Union government has distributed 10.3 crore LPG connections through PMUY.

### About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- It was launched in 2016 to release deposit free LPG connections in the name of adult women members of poor households across the country.

- It aims to ensure access to clean cooking fuel and protect health by reducing indoor air pollution from traditional fuels.
- The scheme provides a completely free LPG connection, including the first refill and a stove.
- The scheme also offers a targeted subsidy of 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 12 refills per year (prorated for 5 kg connections) to all PMUY consumers, further easing the financial burden and promoting clean cooking fuel adoption
- **Benefits of LPG:**
  - Reduces indoor pollution, improving respiratory health, especially for women and children.
  - Alleviates the burden of gathering firewood, freeing up time for women.
  - Reduces deforestation and environmental degradation by cutting dependency on wood and biomass.

## 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.

### Exercise 'Poorvi Prahar'

- **Context:** The Indian Army is conducting a high-intensity tri-services exercise Poorvi Prahar in the forward areas of Arunachal Pradesh.

#### About

- **Objective:** To hone the combat effectiveness of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force in executing Integrated Joint Operations in the challenging mountainous terrain of the region.

- **Key Features:** Utilization of advanced fighter aircraft, reconnaissance platforms, helicopters, and M777 Ultra-Light Howitzers.
  - Employment of innovative technologies like Swarm Drones and Loitering Munitions.
- **Significance:** Demonstrates India's advancements in modern warfare technology.
  - Enhances the country's ability to execute seamless, multi-domain operations.
  - Reinforces India's strategic deterrence capabilities.

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

### New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG)

- **Context:** Countries are negotiating the draft of the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance at the ongoing UN summit on climate change (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan.

#### About NCQG

- The New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) is basically a target for finance. It will indicate the funds that should be mobilised annually to support climate action projects in the developing countries.
- It reflects the priorities and preferences of all negotiating groups among developed and developing countries — from \$100 billion to \$ 2 trillion.

#### About Climate Finance

- Climate finance refers to large-scale investments required for actions aiming to mitigate or adapt to the consequences of climate change.
- It involves anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and reducing the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) into the atmosphere so that impacts of climate change are less severe.

### Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

- **Context:** The Prime Minister launched development projects worth 6,650 crore, primarily for tribal welfare on the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Divas.

#### About Janjatiya Gaurav Divas

- It is celebrated annually on November 15 to honor the contributions of India's tribal communities.
- It commemorates the birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, a tribal leader and freedom fighter.
- It was established in 2021 during the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to mark 75 years of India's independence
- It honors sacrifices of tribal freedom fighters like the Santhals, Tamars, Kols, Bhils, Khasis, and Mizos.

### MATES Scheme

- **Context:** Australia has come up with a new scheme for Indians called Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES).

#### Key Highlights

- In 2023, Australia and India entered into a Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA).
- MMPA is a bilateral framework that supports migration and mobility between the two countries, while addressing issues pertaining to illegal and irregular migration.
- MATES has been established under the MMPA.

#### About MATES

- MATES scheme gives Indian university graduates and early career professionals a chance to work in Australia for two years.
- 3,000 spots are available for primary applicants annually during the first pilot period.
- The scheme will be available to graduates from the top 100 Indian universities according to the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) ranking for 2024.
- MATES participants are not eligible to take part in the Scheme more than once.

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

### Operation Dronagiri

- **Context:** Recently, Operation Dronagiri was launched by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

## Key Highlights

- Operation Dronagiri is a pilot project under National Geospatial Policy 2022 to demonstrate the potential applications of geospatial technologies and innovations in improving the quality of life of citizens.
- In the first phase, Operation Dronagiri will be implemented in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra.
- The pilot projects will be demonstrated to showcase the potential applications of integration of geospatial data and technology in 3 sectors –Agriculture, Livelihoods, Logistics and Transport.

## Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act

- **Context:** The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act [AFSPA] has been reimposed in six police station jurisdictions in Manipur amid escalating ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo-Hmar communities.

### About Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act [AFSPA]

- It was enacted by the Parliament and approved by the President in 1958.
- AFSPA grants extraordinary powers & immunity to the armed forces to bring back order in the “disturbed areas”.
- An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- **Provisions:**
  - **Section 3:** Empowers the Governor of the State/ Union territory to declare whole or part of the State or UT as a disturbed area.
  - **Section 4:** Gives the powers to the Army to search premises and make arrests without warrants.
  - **Section 6:** Arrested persons and seized property are handed over to the police.

- **Section 7:** Prosecution is permitted only after the sanction of the Central Government.

- **States/Areas of Imposition:**

- NE, JK & Punjab were initially, later repealed in Punjab, Tripura & Meghalaya.
- Now, Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, J&K, and parts of AP.

## Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- **Context:** As Delhi’s air quality deteriorated to ‘severe’ category, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) ordered the implementation of ‘Stage 3’ emergency measures under the GRAP to curb the city’s air pollution.

### About GRAP

- The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a set of emergency measures designed to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- Approved by the Supreme Court in 2016, GRAP was initially implemented by the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) and has been managed by the CAQM since 2021.
- GRAP is activated based on real-time AQI data and meteorological forecasts provided by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The plan is structured in stages, with each stage corresponding to specific AQI thresholds:
  - **Stage I:** Poor (AQI 201-300)
  - **Stage II:** Very Poor (AQI 301-400)
  - **Stage III:** Severe (AQI 401-450)
  - **Stage IV:** Severe Plus (AQI >450)
- **Revised GRAP (Effective October 1, 2023):** To address the recurring issue of air quality deterioration during winter months, a revised GRAP was implemented across NCR starting October 1, 2023.



17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## Hypersonic Missile

- **Context:** The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight test of a long-range hypersonic missile.

### Key Highlights

- It is indigenously developed by the laboratories of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, along with various other DRDO laboratories and Industry Partners.
- **Features:**
  - **Speed:** Greater than Mach 5 (around 6,120 km/h).
  - **Range:** Over 1500kms.
- This achievement places India among a select group of nations—alongside the United States, Russia, and China—that possess advanced hypersonic technology.
  - France, Germany, Australia, Japan, Iran, and Israel, are also pursuing projects to develop hypersonic missile systems.

### About Hypersonic Missiles

- The term “Hypersonic” refers to a speed at least five times the speed of sound (also called Mach-5), i.e. around a mile per second.
- These missiles are also more maneuverable, which allows them to more easily evade air defence systems.
- The two types of hypersonic weapons systems are Hypersonic Glide Vehicles (HGV) and Hypersonic Cruise Missiles.
- The HGVs are launched from a rocket before gliding to the intended target while HCMs are powered by air-breathing high-speed engines or ‘scramjets’ after acquiring their target.

## Ayushman Vay Vandana Card

- **Context:** More than 10 lakh senior citizens have enrolled for the newly launched Ayushman Vay Vandana Card.

### About Ayushman Vay Vandana Card

- It enables all senior citizens aged 70 and above to access free healthcare benefits under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- Eligible beneficiaries covered under Private health insurance policies or Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme will also be eligible to avail benefits under PMJAY.
- Those already availing benefits of Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) and Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) may have to either choose their existing scheme or opt for PMJAY.

### About Ayushman Bharat Scheme

- It was launched in 2018, by the Government of India with the aim of achieving universal health coverage. It has two key components;
  1. Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri- Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)
  2. Ayushman Arogya Mandir
- Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri- Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)
  - AB PM-JAY is the largest publicly funded health assurance scheme in the world which provides health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
  - It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days of post – hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- **Ayushman Arogya Mandir:** It aims to provide free Comprehensive Primary Health Care, emphasizing wellness and a wider array of services at the community level.

18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## G20 Rio Summit, 2024

- **Context:** The 19th G20 Summit held in Brazil's Rio de Janeiro concluded with the adoption of the Rio Declaration, addressing critical global issues such as climate change, the Ukraine war, conflicts in West Asia, and economic inequality.

### Key Highlights

- The declaration reaffirmed the G20's commitment to the Paris Agreement and progress under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The declaration unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and stressed the importance of protecting civilians, particularly in conflict zones like Gaza and Lebanon.
- It emphasized diplomacy and dialogue to resolve ongoing wars and crises, urging comprehensive ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon to mitigate humanitarian suffering.
- Leaders called for an enlarged Security Council, advocating better representation for underrepresented regions and groups.

## K. Sanjay Murthy

- **Context:** The Union government has announced the appointment of K Sanjay Murthy as the next Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.

### Key Facts

- A 1989-batch IAS officer of the Himachal Pradesh cadre, Murthy will succeed Girish Chandra Murmu.
- He is currently serving as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education.

### About CAG

- CAG is an independent authority under the Constitution of India.

- He is the head of the Indian audit & account department and chief Guardian of public purse.
- It is the institution through which the accountability of the government and other public authorities (all those who spend public funds) to Parliament and State Legislatures and through them to the people is ensured.
- Constitutional Provisions
  - Article 148 broadly deals with the CAG appointment, oath and conditions of service.
  - Article 149 deals with Duties and Powers of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.
  - Article 150 says that the accounts of the Union and of the States shall be kept in such form as the President may, on the advice of the CAG, prescribe.
  - Article 151 says that the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the president, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.

## Miss Universe 2024

- **Context:** 21-year-old Victoria Kjaer Theilvig of Denmark won the Miss Universe 2024 crown.

### Key Highlights

- This is the first time a Danish contestant has become Miss Universe.
- India's Rhea Singha could not make it to the top 12.
- The last time an Indian won Miss Universe was in 2021, when Harnaaz Sandhu clinched the crown.

19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

## Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve

- **Context:** Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh declared as the 56th Tiger Reserve in India.

## Key Facts

- Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is located in Chhattisgarh, covering a sprawling area of 2,829.38 sq. km, making it the third-largest tiger reserve in India after Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (Andhra Pradesh) and Manas Tiger Reserve (Assam).
- It comprises a core/critical tiger habitat of 2,049.2 sq. km and a buffer zone of 780.15 sq. km. This expansive area spans across Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Korea, Surajpur, and Balrampur districts of Chhattisgarh.
- This tiger reserve is part of the Chota Nagpur Plateau and partially the Baghelkhand Plateau, known for their diverse terrains and rich biodiversity.

## Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) Award

- **Context:** Recently, Nigeria conferred its 2nd-highest national award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON), on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## Key Highlights

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi became the 2nd foreign dignitary to receive the distinction after Queen Elizabeth, who was conferred the award in 1969.



## Facts about Nigeria:

- It is often called the "Giant of Africa" and is the most populous country in Africa.
- It is the largest economy and the richest oil resource center of the African continent.
- It is located in West Africa and opens in the Atlantic Ocean.
- It is bordered by Niger, Chad, Cameroon, and Benin.

