

18 Nov, 2024: Current Affairs

National News

1. ****US Returns \$10 Million Worth of Looted Antiques to India****



The United States has returned over 1,400 looted artifacts worth \$10 million to India. Among these is a celestial dancer sandstone sculpture smuggled from central India to London before being sold to a New York art patron. This move is part of an initiative to repatriate stolen cultural items from South and Southeast Asia.

International News

2. ****Typhoon Man-yi Strikes Northern Philippines****



Super Typhoon Man-yi, also called Pepito locally, has caused severe damage in the Philippines. It made its second landfall in Luzon, bringing torrential rains, strong winds, and life-threatening storm surges. The storm has uprooted trees, destroyed buildings, and disrupted power supplies, especially in Cantanduanes.

State News

3. ****University of Wollongong Opens India Campus at Gujarat's GIFT City****



Australia's University of Wollongong (UOW) has inaugurated its India campus at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Offering advanced degrees in Financial Technology, this campus aligns with India's growing fintech sector. This is the second foreign university in GIFT City after Deakin University.

4. ****Odisha's 24 Coastal Villages Recognised as 'Tsunami Ready' by UNESCO****



Odisha's 24 coastal villages have been declared 'Tsunami Ready' by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. This recognition highlights improved disaster preparedness and resilience in these regions. It was granted at the 2nd Global Tsunami Symposium in Indonesia.

Defence News

5. ****India's Hypersonic Missile Test A Leap in Defense Technology****



India has successfully tested its first long-range hypersonic missile. This test signifies a significant advancement in defense technology, placing India among the few nations with hypersonic weapons capability. This achievement strengthens India's strategic deterrence and technological prowess.

Banking News

6. ****Karnataka Bank Launches Innovative Financial Products for Students****



Karnataka Bank has introduced two products, 'KBL Peak' and 'KBL Genius', aimed at students. 'KBL Peak' offers education loans up to ₹2 crore, while 'KBL Genius' provides a savings account with free cyber insurance. These products aim to empower students financially and support their academic growth.

Business News

7. ****Moody's Optimistic About India's Economic Growth Despite Volatility****



Moody's Ratings has projected India's GDP growth at 7.2% for 2024. This forecast is backed by strong household consumption, rising rural demand, and robust investment. Despite global uncertainties, India's economic outlook remains positive due to infrastructure spending and manufacturing growth.

8. ****Tata Acquires Majority Stake in Pegatron's iPhone Plant in Tamil Nadu****



Tata Electronics has acquired a 60% stake in Pegatron's iPhone plant in Tamil Nadu. This move positions Tata as a key Apple supplier and boosts India's role in global iPhone manufacturing. The plant currently produces 5 million iPhones annually and employs 10,000 people.

Important Days News

9. ****World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week (WAAW), 18-24 November****



World AMR Awareness Week aims to raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance. Observed globally from November 18-24, it involves stakeholders from health, agriculture, and environment sectors. It emphasizes best practices to prevent drug-resistant infections.

10. ****World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence 2024****



Observed on November 18, this day highlights the need to prevent child sexual abuse and violence. It calls for global action to protect children's rights, ensure healing, and promote awareness against exploitation and abuse.

Appointments News

11. ****Harbhajan Singh & Sania Mirza Named Dubai Sports Council Ambassadors****



Harbhajan Singh and Sania Mirza have been appointed as Dubai Sports Council Ambassadors. This initiative aims to enhance Dubai's global sports reputation and attract prestigious events. It also seeks to boost sports tourism and nurture local talent.

12. ****Valdecy Urquiza Elected New Secretary General of Interpol****



Brazilian Federal Police Commissioner Valdecy Urquiza has been elected as Interpol's Secretary General. He replaces Jurgen Stock, marking a leadership transition at the world's largest police organization. Urquiza's term began after Interpol's General Assembly in Glasgow.

Awards News

13. ****Victoria Kjaer Theilvig Becomes Denmark's First Miss Universe****



Victoria Kjaer Theilvig won the 73rd Miss Universe title, becoming Denmark's first Miss Universe. She outshone 125 contestants, including India's Rhea Singha. Her victory symbolizes intelligence, elegance, and advocacy, inspiring millions globally.

Science and Technology News

14. ****NASA Partners with Microsoft to Simplify Access to Earth Science Data****



NASA and Microsoft have launched "Earth Copilot," an AI-driven chatbot to make Earth Science data accessible. This tool uses Microsoft Azure and AI for plain-language queries, helping users analyze climate impacts and other geospatial information.

Sports News

15. ****FIFA Unveils NASA-Inspired Trophy for Expanded 2025 Club World Cup****



FIFA introduced a new trophy for the 2025 Club World Cup, inspired by NASA's Voyager missions. Made by Tiffany & Co., the golden trophy symbolizes football's evolution. It will debut at the expanded 32-team tournament next year.

Plutus Academy