

12th December 2024: Current Affairs

1. National News

1.1 Lok Sabha Passes Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024



The Lok Sabha passed the **Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024** during the Winter Session despite disruptions. The bill aims to simplify the legal framework of the Railways, subsuming the **Railway Board Act, 1905**, into the **Railways Act, 1989**, and empowering the Railway Board with statutory powers. Opposition raised concerns over privatisation and centralisation, which were dismissed by the Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**.

1.2 India to Triple Atomic Power Capacity by 2031



India's atomic power capacity has grown from **4,780 MW** in 2014 to **8,081 MW** in 2024. The government aims to **triple** this capacity to **22,480 MW** by **2031-32**, reinforcing India's leadership in nuclear energy. Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh** highlighted the accelerated progress in the sector.

2. State News

2.1 Bhopal and Kurukshetra Set Historic Records on Gita Jayanti 2024



On **Gita Jayanti 2024**, **Bhopal** set a **Guinness World Record** with over 5,000 Acharyas reciting verses from the **Bhagavad Gita**. Meanwhile, **Kurukshetra** hosted a virtual participation of **1.5 crore people** globally, making it a landmark event in religious and cultural history.

3. Economy News

3.1 ADB Revises India's GDP Growth Forecast



The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** revised **India's GDP growth forecast** for **FY25** to **6.5%** (from 7%) and **FY26** to **7%** (from 7.2%) due to weaker industrial output, subdued public capital spending, and tight monetary policies.

4. Business News

4.1 Coca-Cola Sells 40% Stake in India Bottling Business to Jubilant Bhartia Group



Coca-Cola announced a strategic partnership with **Jubilant Bhartia Group**, selling a **40% stake** in **Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings (HCCH)** for **₹12,500 crore**. This strengthens Coca-Cola's presence in India, and Jubilant Bhartia will bring its operational expertise to boost **Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB)**.

5. Science and Technology News

5.1 OpenAI Launches Sora Turbo for AI Video Generation



OpenAI launched the **Sora Turbo** AI video generation model, enabling users to create **20-second videos** in **1080p resolution** from text prompts. The model was initially delayed for enhancement but is now available to **ChatGPT Plus** and **Pro** users, marking a significant development in AI video generation.

5.2 Google's Quantum Leap: Unveiling the Revolutionary 'Willow' Chip



Google introduced **Willow**, a groundbreaking quantum chip that achieves exponential error reduction and performs computations that would take current supercomputers **10 septillion years** in just **five minutes**.

6. Health News

6.1 What is 'Disease X'?



A new and deadly illness, **Disease X**, is emerging in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**. The disease presents **flu-like symptoms** and has a high mortality rate. The **World Health Organization (WHO)** is investigating its origins and working to contain its spread.

7. Sports News

7.1 Shaheen Shah Afridi Becomes Youngest to Achieve 100 Wickets in All Formats



Shaheen Shah Afridi, the Pakistani fast bowler, became the **youngest player** to take **100 wickets** across all three formats of international cricket. He achieved this milestone during the first T20I against **South Africa**.

7.2 FIFA World Cup Hosts Unveiled for 2030 and 2034



FIFA confirmed that the **2030 Men's World Cup** will be hosted jointly by **Spain, Portugal, and Morocco**, with additional matches in **Argentina, Paraguay, and Uruguay**. The **2034 FIFA World Cup** will be hosted by **Saudi Arabia**.

8. Awards News

8.1 National Panchayat Awards 2024



The **National Panchayat Awards 2024** honored **45 Panchayats** for their exceptional contributions to **sustainable and inclusive growth** in rural areas. The event was attended by **President Droupadi Murmu** and **Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh**.

8.2 Indian Heritage Conservation Projects Shine at UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards 2024



Two Indian heritage conservation projects, the **Abathsayeswarar Temple Conservation Project** (Tamil Nadu) and the **BJPCI Conservation Project** (Maharashtra), won the **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2024**.

9. Obituaries News

9.1 Nikki Giovanni, Black Arts Icon, Dies at 81



Nikki Giovanni, a prominent poet and key figure in the **Black Arts movement**, passed away at the age of **81**. Her poetry and activism profoundly impacted American culture, especially the African American community.

Plutus Academy