

Current Affairs December 17, 2024

1. GSI Geoscience Museum Inauguration



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the GSI Geoscience Museum in Gwalior. The museum, housed in the historic Victoria Market Building, showcases India's geological wonders. It is a tribute to the Geological Survey of India's contributions.

2. VIRAASAT Sari Festival 2024



The "VIRAASAT Sari Festival" is an exhibition dedicated to India's handloom heritage. It is being held at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi, from December 15-28. The event highlights diverse handwoven sarees from across India.

3. Visa-Free Travel to Russia for Indians



Starting in spring 2025, Russia will offer visa-free travel to Indians. This agreement follows discussions to ease travel restrictions and encourage tourism. It will enhance the bilateral relationship between India and Russia.

4. Gympie-Gympie: The Most Toxic Plant



Gympie-Gympie, a plant found in Australia and Southeast Asia, is known for its extreme toxicity. It causes excruciating pain lasting weeks due to neurotoxins in its stinging hairs. It is considered the world's most toxic plant.

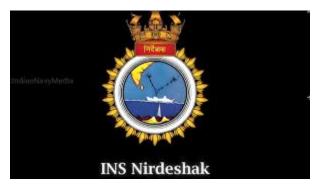
5. Italy Grants Citizenship to Argentina's President



Argentina's President Javier Milei was granted Italian citizenship based on his ancestry.

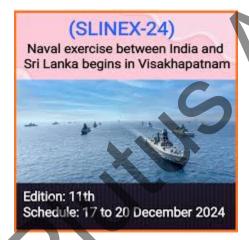
This decision sparked criticism in Argentina regarding citizenship laws. It raises concerns over the fairness of Italy's policies on descendants of Italian emigrants.

6. INS Nirdeshak Commissioned



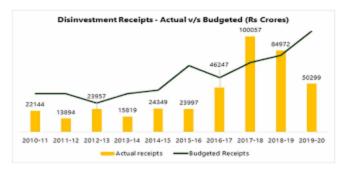
India's new survey ship, INS Nirdeshak, was commissioned on December 18, 2024. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, the ship enhances India's naval survey capabilities. It will serve primarily in the Indian Ocean Region.

7. SLINEX 2024 Naval Exercise



The India-Sri Lanka Naval Exercise (SLINEX 2024) began on December 17. It strengthens maritime cooperation between the two countries and promotes regional security. The exercise focuses on interoperability and mutual understanding.

8. Centre's Disinvestment Earnings



The Indian government earned ₹8,625 crore through disinvestment in FY 2024-25. These funds come from minority stake sales in state-owned companies. Disinvestment is part of the government's ongoing privatization and efficiency drive.

9. RBI Raises Agricultural Loan Limit



The RBI has increased the limit for collateral-free agricultural loans to ₹2 lakh from ₹1.6 lakh. This measure, effective from January 2025, aims to support small farmers amid rising input costs. It will provide easier access to credit for operational needs.

10. India Wins Women's Junior Asia Cup



India's women's junior hockey team defended their Asia Cup title by defeating China 3-2. The match ended 1-1 in regular time and was decided by a penalty shootout. This victory secures India's qualification for the 2025 Women's Junior World Cup in Chile.