

# Current Affairs December 18, 2024

## 1. INCOIS Upgrades SARAT for Sea Rescue



The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has upgraded the SARAT (Search and Rescue Aid Tool) to improve sea rescue operations. The new version, SARAT 2, offers advanced features for more accurate predictions during rescue missions. It will enhance the efficiency of rescue efforts by agencies like the Indian Coast Guard.

## 2. Kisan Kavach: India's Anti-Pesticide Bodysuit



Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister for Science and Technology, launched "Kisan Kavach," India's first indigenous anti-pesticide bodysuit. Developed by BRIC-inStem and Sepio Health, the bodysuit protects farmers from health risks due to pesticide exposure. This initiative aligns with India's goal of leveraging technology to safeguard its agricultural community.

## 3. Israel Expands Settlements in Golan Heights



Israel has approved an \$11.13 million settlement expansion plan in the Golan Heights. This move aims to double the population in the region amidst changing political dynamics in Syria. The Golan Heights, strategically significant, remains a point of contention in the Middle East.

#### 4. Moldova Joins International Solar Alliance



Moldova has officially joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA), reinforcing its commitment to renewable energy. The signing ceremony took place in New Delhi with India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, and Moldovan Deputy PM Mihai Popșoi. ISA's aim is to mobilize over \$1,000 billion in solar energy investments by 2030.

#### 5. The Gadhimai Festival: Controversial Ritual in Nepal



The Gadhimai Festival in Nepal is known for its controversial mass animal sacrifices as part of religious rituals. This quinquennial festival attracts large crowds but has sparked debates due to the cruelty involved. Animal rights activists continue to challenge the

practice, while devotees see it as a way to seek blessings from the goddess Gadhimai.

#### 6. Uber's 'Moto Women' Bike Taxis in Bengaluru



Uber has launched the 'Moto Women' bike taxi service in Bengaluru, aimed at providing safer travel options for women riders and drivers. The initiative focuses on safety, privacy, and empowerment in urban mobility, offering flexible earning opportunities for women drivers.

#### 7. RBI Lifts Restrictions on Edelweiss Group Entities



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has lifted restrictions on ECL Finance and Edelweiss ARC, subsidiaries of the Edelweiss Group. The restrictions were initially imposed due to compliance concerns but were lifted after corrective actions were taken. These entities are now allowed to resume normal operations.

#### 8. India Promotes AYUSH Systems Globally



India has launched AYUSH Chairs in five countries: Bangladesh, Australia, Mauritius, Latvia, and Malaysia. This initiative aims to promote Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy globally. It is part of the Ministry of AYUSH's efforts to boost international cooperation and raise awareness about these traditional systems.

#### 9. International Migrants Day Observed



International Migrants Day is observed on December 18 to honor the contributions of migrants worldwide. The 2024 theme is “Honoring the contributions of migrants and respecting their rights,” emphasizing the challenges migrants face and the importance of inclusive migration policies.

#### 10. Bumrah Surpasses Kapil Dev's Record in Australia



Jasprit Bumrah became India's highest wicket-taker in Test cricket in Australia, surpassing Kapil Dev's record. He achieved this milestone during the third Test between India and Australia at The Gabba. Bumrah's performance has been key to India's success in overseas cricket.

Plutus Academy