

## Current Affairs

29 August, 2024

### Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar Takes Over as Director General Project Seabird



#### 1. Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar Takes Over as Director General Project Seabird

Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, NM, assumed duties as the Director General of Project Seabird, taking over from Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti. He is now responsible for overseeing India's largest defense infrastructure project at the Karwar Naval Base. The change of guard took place at the Headquarters of Project Seabird in New Delhi.



#### Foot Note:

- Vice Admiral Dhankhar joined the Indian Navy on July 1, 1990.
- He is a specialist in Navigation and Direction.
- He is an alumnus of the Naval Academy, Defence Services Staff College, and completed the Higher Command Course in Japan.
- His 34-year career includes key roles on warships like Pondicherry, Godavari, Kora, and Mysore.

#### 2. Pakistani Christian Becomes First Goan to Obtain Indian Citizenship Under CAA

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant awarded Indian citizenship to Joseph Francis Pereira, a 78-year-old Pakistani Christian, under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). This marks the first instance of a Goan receiving citizenship through this amendment.



#### Foot Note:

- Joseph Pereira, from Paroda village in South Goa, moved to Pakistan for studies before India's liberation.

- He secured a job in Pakistan, obtained citizenship, and lived in Karachi.
- After retiring, he returned to India in 2013 and struggled to obtain Indian citizenship until the CAA was enacted.

**About Pakistani:**

**Capital:** Islamabad

**President:** Asif Ali Zardari

**Prime Minister:** Shehbaz Sharif

**3. Telangana to Host First Global AI Summit and Unveil AI City Plans**

Telangana is set to host its first Global AI Summit on September 5-6, 2024. The summit aims to bring together industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators to explore AI's potential societal impact.



**Foot Note:**

- Telangana plans to develop a 200-acre AI City at Mucherla.
- The project is expected to follow a public-private partnership (PPP) model.
- The concept will be unveiled during the summit, with more details after October 2024.
- The summit and AI City aim to establish Hyderabad as a global AI hub.

**4. ESAF Small Finance Bank Launches Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card**

ESAF Small Finance Bank, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has introduced the Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card. This premium financial product offers cardholders exclusive benefits and privileges.



**Foot Note:**

- RuPay is poised to lead in debit card issuance, especially with small finance banks.
- By March 30, 178 million RuPay debit cards were issued under Jan Dhan Yojana.
- These cards represent a significant portion of the 662 million total debit cards in the market.
- NPCI is collaborating with small finance banks to promote RuPay for its cost-efficiency and quick launch.

**About ESAF Small Finance Bank:**

**Headquarters:** Thrissur

**Founded:** 2017

**CEO :** Kadambelil Paul Thomas

### 5. Cabinet accords approval for progressive expansion of Central Sector Scheme of 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund'.

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi approved the progressive expansion in the Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund' to make it more attractive, impactful, and inclusive. In a significant move to enhance and strengthen the agricultural infrastructure in the country and support the farming community.



#### Foot Note:

- The government announced measures to expand the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme.
- These initiatives aim to broaden the range of eligible projects.
- Additional supportive measures are being integrated to strengthen the agricultural infrastructure ecosystem.

### 6. Karthik Venkataraman Clinches Second Indian National Title

Karthik Venkataraman won the 61st edition of the Indian National Championship after scoring 9/11 points at the event organised by the Haryana Chess Association. This is the second victory in a national championship for Karthik, who had also won the tournament in 2022. Surya Ganguly and Neelash Saha scored as many points as the champion, but finished in second and third place on tiebreaks.



#### Foot Note:

- Karthik's tie-break score was 78, narrowly beating Ganguly's 77.5.
- Ganguly needed a win over Himel Gusain for his seventh National championship but settled for a fourth consecutive draw.
- Ganguly had won his first seven games and was the sole leader before the final round.

### 7. India's 2nd Nuclear Missile Submarine Commissioned by Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to commission India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Arighat (S-3), at a quiet event in Visakhapatnam, marking a significant boost to India's nuclear deterrence and second-strike capability. This submarine, armed with 750-km range K-15 nuclear ballistic missiles, will patrol the Indo-Pacific under India's strategic command.



#### Foot Note:

- India now has two SSBNs: INS Arihant (S-2) and INS Arighat.
- This strengthens India's nuclear triad.
- The SSBNs can stay submerged for long durations.
- They enhance strategic leverage and deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region.

### 8. Iran Appoints Fatemeh Mohajerani As First Female Government Spokesperson

In Iran, for the first time, a woman will be the government spokesperson. At the suggestion of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, Fatemeh Mohajerani was appointed as the first female government spokesperson.



#### Foot Note:

- Dr. Fatemeh Mohajerani was the former head of Technical and Vocational Training University of Shariati (for women) in Iran during the 11th government.
- She previously served as chief of the Center for Brilliant Talents under Education Minister Seyyed Mohammad Bat'hai in 2017.
- Mohajerani is a respected academic and administrator with various roles in Iran's Education Ministry.

#### About Iran:

**Capital:** Tehran

**President:** Masoud Pezeshkian

### 9. Satish Kumar Appointed as Railway Board Chairman and CEO

In a significant development for Indian Railways, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a change in leadership at the highest level. This decision marks a new chapter in the administration of one of the world's largest railway networks.



#### Foot Note:

- Satish Kumar has been appointed as the new Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board by the ACC.
- This decision is pivotal for the future direction and operations of Indian Railways.
- Previously served as Member (Traction and Rolling Stock) on the Railway Board.
- Belongs to the 1986 batch of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineering (IRSME).
- Formerly held the position of General Manager, North Central Railway, Prayagraj.

### 10. International Day against Nuclear Tests 2024 Observed on 29th August

Every year on August 29, the world observes the International Day Against Nuclear Tests. This significant day serves as a global reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing and the urgent need for a world free from the threat of nuclear destruction. Since the dawn of the nuclear age in 1945, over 2,000 nuclear tests have been conducted, leaving a legacy of environmental damage and human suffering.




**Foot Note:**

- The nuclear age began on July 16, 1945, with the U.S. detonation of the 20-kiloton "Trinity" atomic bomb in New Mexico.
- This event marked a new and alarming chapter in history.
- Soon after, the U.S. dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945.

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