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# Daily News Analysis

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**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

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**DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR**



# INDIA'S VAUNTED DESI ROCKET SYSTEM



Saturday, 16 November 2024

## DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight Tests of Guided Pinaka Weapon System

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed flight tests of the Guided Pinaka Weapon System during the Provisional Staff Qualitative Requirements (PSQR) Validation Trials. These tests were conducted in three phases across various field firing ranges to evaluate parameters such as range, accuracy, consistency, and the system's rate of fire in salvo mode.

### Key Features of Pinaka Weapon System:

- Pinaka Mk-I: Range of 38 km with multiple warhead options.
- Pinaka Mk-II: Enhanced range up to 60 km.
- Extended Range Pinaka: Capable of hitting targets up to 75 km.
- The system can launch a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds, covering an area of 700x500 meters.

### Development Highlights:

- The Pinaka system has undergone multiple tests, including the Extended Range variant at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur (2020 and 2021), and tests at Pokhran (2022).

**Q.** Which organization successfully conducted the flight tests of the Guided Pinaka Weapon System?  
**Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**





**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

## **Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Receive Dominica's Highest National Honour**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be conferred the Dominica Award of Honour, the highest national award of Dominica, in recognition of his contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic and his efforts to strengthen India-Dominica relations.

### **Key Highlights:**

#### **Award Presentation:**

- The award will be conferred by Dominica's President, Sylvanie Burton, during the India-CARICOM Summit in Georgetown, Guyana, scheduled from 19th to 21st November 2024.

#### **India's Support to Dominica:**

- India supplied 70,000 doses of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines to Dominica in February 2021.
- Assistance extended under PM Modi's leadership included healthcare, education, and IT support.

**Q.** How many highest civilian honours has PM Narendra Modi received from various countries? **14**





**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

## **Rajasthan Signs MoUs in AYUSH and Health Sectors for Major Investments**

- The Rajasthan government has signed Investment Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth ₹14,000 crore in the Health and Medical sector and ₹2,157 crore in the AYUSH sector.

### **MoU Details:**

- The agreements include setting up pharma units, medical colleges, nursing colleges, AYUSH Research Panchkarma Centres, and Advanced Ayurveda and Naturopathy Institutes across Jaipur, Ajmer, Jodhpur, Sikar, and other districts.
- Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma emphasized the on-ground implementation of these MoUs within the next few years.
- He highlighted that 88% of Rajasthan's population is covered under a comprehensive insurance scheme, the highest in the country.

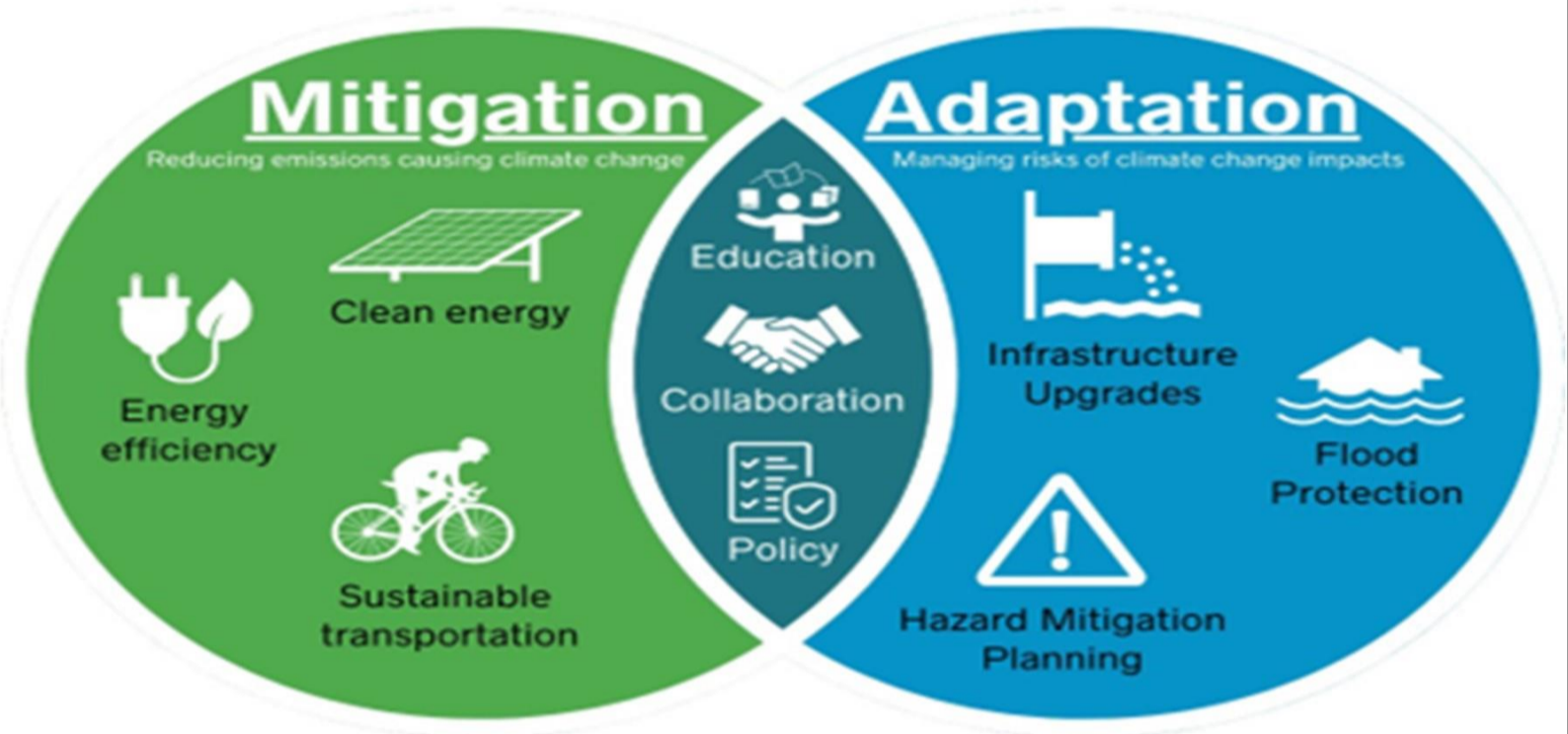
### **Budgetary Support:**

- The 2024-25 state budget allocated ₹28,000 crore for healthcare, constituting 8.26% of the overall budget.

**Q.** Who is the Chief Minister of Rajasthan who recently announced the MoUs in AYUSH and Health sectors? **Bhajan Lal Sharma.**



## **Building Climate Resilience**



**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

### **Asian Development Bank Approves Over \$285 Million in Loans and Grants to Nepal for Climate Resilience**

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved over \$285 million in financing to support Nepal's efforts in climate resilience and sustainable development. This includes funds for two major projects aimed at addressing climate change risks and geophysical hazards.

#### **Funding Components:**

- \$100 million policy-based loan for Subprogram 1 of the Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID) Program to aid Nepal's GRID approach, which integrates development with environmental resilience.
- \$170 million concessional loan and \$15 million grant from the Asian Development Fund, which assists ADB's poorest member countries.

**Q.** How much loan and grant has the Asian Development Bank approved for Nepal to address climate change risks and geophysical events? **Over \$285 million**





**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

## **Hyundai Motor Appoints Jose Munoz as CEO in Major Personnel Reshuffle**

- Hyundai Motor has appointed Jose Munoz, its Global Chief Operating Officer (COO), as the company's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). This marks the first time in Hyundai's more than 50-year history that a foreign national has been promoted to the CEO position.

### **Munoz's Background:**

- Prior to his appointment, Munoz served as the President and CEO of Hyundai and Genesis Motor North America.
- He was also the Chief Performance Officer at Nissan Motor Corp and Chairman of Nissan China before joining Hyundai.

### **Other Personnel Changes:**

- Chang Jae-hoon, the current CEO, has been promoted to Vice Chairman of Hyundai Motor Group.
- Sung Kim, former U.S. State Department official, has been appointed President overseeing global external affairs.

**Q.** Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Hyundai Motor? **Jose Munoz**





**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

## India Poised to Surpass Japan in GDP Ranking by 2025

- India is set to overtake Japan's GDP, becoming the world's fourth-largest economy by 2025, according to a Japan Times report. This marks a significant shift in the global economic landscape, driven by India's growing economic potential.

### India's Growing Economic Strength

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects India's nominal GDP to reach \$4.339 trillion by 2025, surpassing Japan's \$4.310 trillion. This marks a significant leap for India, which has steadily climbed the ranks in terms of economic growth since the year 2000. The country's GDP already surpassed that of the UK in 2022, and India continues to expand its global influence through digital transactions and trade agreements. India accounts for 46% of global digital transactions and is increasingly trading with 27 countries using its currency, the rupee, instead of the dollar.

**Q.** When is India expected to surpass Japan in GDP, according to IMF projections? **2025**





**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

## **New Zealand's highest all-format wicket-taker Tim Southee to Retire from Test Cricket**

- New Zealand cricketer Tim Southee has announced his retirement from Test cricket after the upcoming home series against England. His final Test match will take place at Seddon Park in Hamilton, where the third Test of the series will be played from December 14-18, unless New Zealand qualifies for the ICC World Test Championship final in June.

### **Record Achievements**

- Southee, who is set to turn 36, is New Zealand's highest all-format wicket-taker with 770 wickets. He is second only to Richard Hadlee in Test cricket for New Zealand, having taken 385 wickets in 104 Test matches.

### **White-Ball Future**

- Southee, who made his international debut in 2008, will decide on his future in white-ball cricket after New Zealand hosts Sri Lanka in late December. He is the only pacer to have played 100 matches in all three formats and is the first bowler to take 300 Test, 200 ODI, and 100 T20I wickets.

**Q.** Name the New Zealand's highest all-format wicket-taker, who recently announced his retirement?  
**Tim Southee**





**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

## **Operation Dronagiri: A Pilot Under National Geospatial Policy**

- The Ministry of Science and Technology recently launched Operation Dronagiri, a pilot project under the National Geospatial Policy 2022, aimed at demonstrating the potential of geospatial technologies to improve citizens' quality of life and facilitate ease of business. Science and Technology Department Secretary Professor Abhay Karandikar introduced the project at the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), IIT Delhi.

### **Implementation Across States**

- In its initial phase, Operation Dronagiri will be implemented in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra, focusing on three sectors: agriculture, livelihoods, logistics, and transport. Partnerships will be established with government departments, industries, corporates, and startups, forming the foundation for a nationwide roll-out.

**Q.** Under which policy was Operation Dronagiri launched to enhance geospatial technology in India?  
**National Geospatial Policy 2022**





**Saturday, 16 November 2024**

## **Centre Launches PAIR Programme to Strengthen Research in Higher Education**

- The Government of India has launched the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) programme, aimed at enhancing research capabilities in higher education institutions (HEIs) with limited research infrastructure by fostering partnerships with premier institutions. The PAIR programme was conceptualized following discussions at the inaugural governing board meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) in September 2024, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **Mentorship-Driven Hub-and-Spoke Model**

- The PAIR programme operates under a hub-and-spoke framework, where well-established institutions ("hubs") will mentor emerging institutions ("spokes") to facilitate systematic research development. This structure allows spoke institutions access to resources and expertise, bridging the research gap and promoting a stronger research ecosystem across India.

**Q.** Under which framework will the PAIR programme operate? **Hub-and-spoke**





Saturday, 16 November 2024

## Who is Tulsi Gabbard, appointed by Donald Trump as Director of National Intelligence?

- Tulsi Gabbard has been appointed as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, marking the first time a Hindu-American will hold this key intelligence role.

### Tulsi Gabbard's Background

- A former Democratic Congresswoman, Gabbard, 43, is a US Army reservist who served four terms in Congress representing Hawaii. Notably, she was the first Hindu and Samoan-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where she took her oath on the Bhagavad Gita. She has a history of advocating against U.S. interventionist policies, often clashing with her former party's stance on foreign policy.

### Key Role and Responsibilities of DNI

- As DNI, Gabbard will lead the U.S. intelligence community, overseeing 18 intelligence agencies, including the CIA, and preparing the President's Daily Brief on national security matters.

**Q.** Who has been appointed as the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump? **Tulsi Gabbard**





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