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**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

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





**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

## India's First Bio-Bitumen National Highway Inaugurated

- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first bio-bitumen-based National Highway stretch on NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra. The innovative stretch is part of the Nagpur-Mansar Bypass project and represents a milestone in sustainable road construction. The importance of unconventional energy sources like bio-CNG and urged farmers to produce bio-CNG from agricultural waste and bamboo.

### Use of Lignin-Based Bio-Bitumen

- This highway is constructed using lignin-based bio-bitumen, a material derived from crop residues, which addresses the challenge of bitumen scarcity in India. By mixing 15% bio-bitumen with asphalt, a 1-kilometre stretch was developed. The road is 40% stronger than traditional asphalt roads, offering enhanced durability and eco-friendliness.

### Collaboration for Sustainability

- The project was executed through a joint effort by the Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), Praj Industries, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and Oriental.

**Q.** Which national highway in India is the first to be constructed using bio-bitumen material? **NH-44 in Mansar, Nagpur, Maharashtra.**





**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

## **India and Kuwait Sign Key Bilateral Agreements**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, to discuss cooperation in sectors such as pharmaceuticals, IT, FinTech, infrastructure, and security. Both leaders agreed to elevate bilateral relations to a "Strategic Partnership," reaffirming their commitment to deepen ties and recalling the historical friendship between the two nations.

### **Indian Community's Contribution**

- Prime Minister Modi expressed gratitude for Kuwait's efforts in ensuring the welfare of over one million Indians residing in the country. The Amir of Kuwait appreciated the vibrant Indian community's significant contributions to Kuwait's development.

### **Cooperation on Development Goals**

- Prime Minister Modi lauded Kuwait's Vision 2035 initiatives and congratulated the Amir on successfully hosting the GCC Summit. He also expressed gratitude for being invited as the Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony of the Arabian Gulf Cup.

**Q.** Which country recently elevated its bilateral relationship with India to a 'Strategic Partnership'?  
**Kuwait**





**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

# Government to Launch Consumer-Centric Apps and Dashboard on National Consumer Day

- On the occasion of National Consumer Day 2024, the Department of Consumer Affairs will launch the Jago Grahak Jago App, Jagriti App, and Jagriti Dashboard to enhance consumer protection in the digital marketplace. These initiatives aim to strengthen the Central Consumer Protection Authority's (CCPA) efforts to combat dark patterns and ensure a safer online experience for users.

## Features of the Apps

- **Jago Grahak Jago App:** Alerts users about potentially unsafe URLs during online activities, helping them avoid risky websites.
- **Jagriti App:** Enables users to report URLs suspected of employing dark patterns, which are declared illegal. These reports will be registered as complaints with the CCPA for further action.
- **Jagriti Dashboard:** Allows the CCPA to generate real-time reports on e-commerce sites, ensuring quicker identification and resolution of consumer complaints.

**Q. Which apps and dashboard are being launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs on National Consumer Day 2024? *Jago Grahak Jago App, Jagriti App, and Jagriti Dashboard.***





**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

## India Lifts Inaugural Under-19 Women's T20 Asia Cup Title

- India's Under-19 Women's Cricket team clinched the inaugural ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup title by defeating Bangladesh by 41 runs in the final held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### Match Highlights

- India's Innings: Batting first, India scored 117 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs. Gongadi Trisha top-scored with a solid 52 runs off 47 balls.
- Bangladesh's Innings: Chasing 118, Bangladesh was bowled out for 76 runs in 18.3 overs.
- Bowling Contributions: India's Aayyushi Shukla claimed 3 wickets, while Parunika Sisodia and Sonam Yadav took 2 wickets each.
- Tournament Overview
- The tournament, which began on 15th December, featured six top teams from Asia. Under the leadership of Niki Prasad, the Indian team remained unbeaten throughout the competition.

**Q.** Which team won the inaugural Under-19 ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup title? **India.**



## ISSF Junior World Cup 2025



Tuesday, 24 December 2024

### India to Host ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup for the First Time in 2025

- India has been awarded the rights to host the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup for the first time in the second half of 2025. The event, featuring competitions in Rifle, Pistol, and Shotgun, will be organized by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI), marking a significant achievement in the country's shooting sports history.

### India's Growing Influence in Shooting Sports

- This will be the third major ISSF-level event to be hosted in India, following the senior World Cup in Bhopal (2023) and the ISSF World Cup Final held earlier this year. These events highlight India's growing stature as a global destination for shooting sports.

### Previous Hosting Records

- India has hosted nine top-level shooting championships in the past decade, including six ISSF competitions such as two World Cup Finals and four senior World Cups. The upcoming ISSF Junior World Cup will be the first of its kind in the country.

**Q.** In which year will India host the ISSF Junior Shooting World Cup for the first time? **2025.**





**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

## **Joao Fonseca Wins 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals**

- Joao Fonseca from Brazil defeated Learner Tien of the United States in a four-set match to win the 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals title in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

### **Record-Breaking Achievement**

- At just 18 years old, Fonseca was the youngest participant in this year's tournament. His victory makes him the second-youngest champion in the tournament's history, following Jannik Sinner's win in 2019.

### **Brazilian First**

- Fonseca became the first Brazilian to win the title and the lowest-ranked player (world No. 145) to claim the championship in the seven-year history of the event.

### **About the Tournament**

- The Next Gen ATP Finals is an annual exhibition tournament that features the best men's players aged 20 and under, showcasing emerging talent in men's tennis.

**Q.** Who won the 2024 Next Gen ATP Finals title?  
**Joao Fonseca.**





**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

## **Anahat Singh Wins Western India Slam 2024, Clinches Ninth PSA Challenger Title**

- Indian squash player Anahat Singh claimed her ninth PSA Challenger title of 2024 by winning the Western India Slam 2024 women's singles title at the Cricket Club of India courts in Mumbai. The 16-year-old, seeded second, defeated fellow Indian Akanksha Salunkhe (world No. 70) 3-0 in the final, with scores of 11-8, 11-8, 11-8. This victory marked Anahat's first PSA win over Salunkhe.

### **Impressive Run in 2024**

- Anahat Singh's triumph in Mumbai added to her successful year, which includes victories at tournaments such as the JSW Willingdon Little Masters, Hamdard Squashers Northern Slam, HCL Squash Tour, Reliance PSA Challenge, and several others. She also clinched both junior and senior national titles and an Asian Games medal in 2024.

### **Tournament Performance**

- Throughout the Western India Slam, Anahat dropped only one game, in her 3-1 win over Egypt's Nour Khafagy (third seed) in the semi-finals. She had earlier defeated Anjali Semwal and Nirupama Dubey in the quarter-finals and second round, respectively, after receiving a bye in the opening round.

**Q.** Who won the Western India Slam 2024 women's singles title and claimed her ninth PSA Challenger title of the year?

**Anahat Singh**





**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

## **Bangladesh Secures \$900 Million World Bank Financing for Climate Resilience and Urban Development**

- The Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank have signed two financing agreements worth \$900 million to promote environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and inclusive urban infrastructure development.
- \$500 Million "Second Bangladesh Green and Climate Resilient Development Credit":
- Supports policies for Bangladesh's transition to green and climate-resilient development.
- Aims to reduce air pollution, strengthen environmental enforcement, expand carbon market access, improve water and sanitation services, and enhance the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 for sustainable environmental outcomes.

## **\$400 Million "Resilient Urban and Territorial Development Project":**

- Focuses on climate-resilient, gender-responsive urban infrastructure across seven city clusters along the 950-km economic corridor from Cox's Bazar to Panchagarh.
- The project aims to benefit 17 million people in the selected urban areas by improving urban management capacities.

**Q.** Which country signed financing agreements worth \$900 million with the World Bank for climate resilience and urban development? **Bangladesh**



## CHENNAI START-UP TO REFUEL SATELLITES **IN SPACE**



**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

### **Indian Startup OrbitAID Tests Satellite Refuelling Technology in Zero Gravity**

- Indian space startup OrbitAID Aerospace has successfully tested its patented Standard Interface for Docking and Refueling (SIDRP) technology on a zero-gravity flight conducted in Florida.

#### **Key Features of the SIDRP Test**

- Purpose:** Validation of on-orbit satellite servicing capabilities, including docking, refuelling, and proximity operations.
- Testing Environment:** Conducted aboard a Zero-G flight simulating weightlessness through parabolic maneuvers.
- Participants:** OrbitAID's CEO Sakthikumar R and COO Nikhil Balasubramanian supervised the test operations.
- Outcome:** The successful test confirmed SIDRP's precision and reliability under microgravity conditions.

#### **Significance of SIDRP Technology**

- Innovation:** Provides a standard interface for docking and refuelling satellites.
- Impact:** Aims to enable cost-effective and sustainable satellite operations.
- Global Positioning:** Establishes OrbitAID as a leader in space technology innovation.

**Q.** Which Indian startup successfully tested its patented Standard Interface for Docking and Refueling (SIDRP) in zero gravity conditions in Florida? **OrbitAID Aerospace.**





**Tuesday, 24 December 2024**

## **Honda and Nissan Begin Historic Merger**

- Honda and Nissan, Japan's second- and third-largest automakers, respectively, have initiated discussions about a potential merger. This move marks a significant shift in Japan's automotive industry as it faces rising competition from Chinese electric vehicle (EV) manufacturers and global players like Tesla.

### **Key Highlights**

#### **Merger Impact**

- If successful, the merger would create the world's third-largest auto group by vehicle sales, following Toyota and Volkswagen.
- The integration aims for combined sales of ¥30 trillion (\$191 billion) and an operating profit exceeding ¥3 trillion.

#### **Collaboration Goals**

- The merger would enable Honda and Nissan to share resources and scale up to compete with agile competitors like China's BYD and Tesla.
- Both companies plan to wrap up discussions by June 2025, with a holding company established by August 2026, leading to the delisting of their shares.

**Q.** Which two Japanese automakers have initiated merger to create the world's third-largest auto group? **Honda and Nissan.**





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