



# Daily News Analysis

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**Thursday, 12 September 2024**

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





**Thursday, 12 September 2024**

## Odisha Assembly passes Appropriation Bill of Rs 2.65 lakh cr for 2024-25

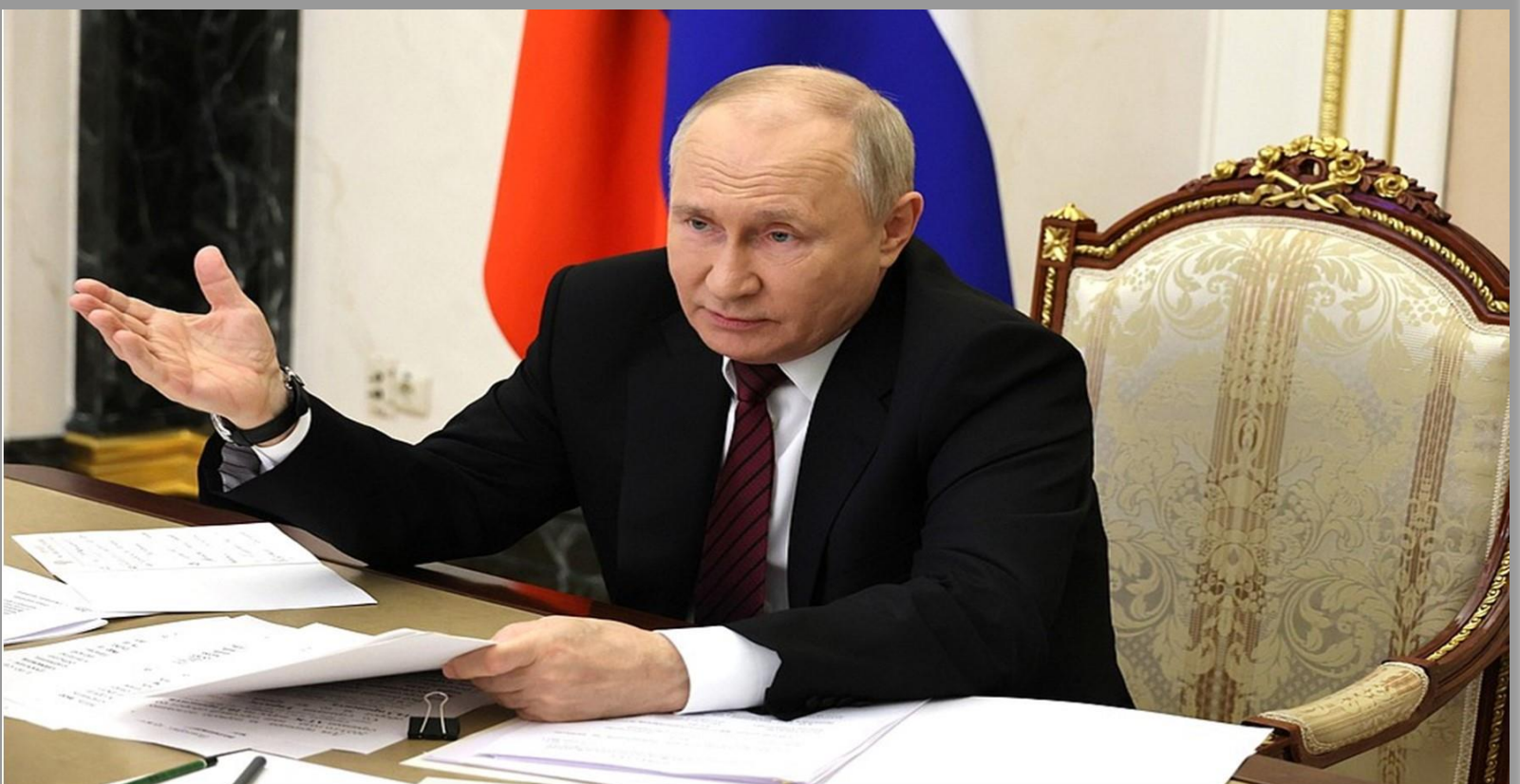
- The Odisha Assembly approved the Appropriation Bill, 2024.
- This bill permits the state government to utilise Rs 2.65 lakh crore from its consolidated fund for the financial year 2024-25.
- **Budget Utilisation:** The Odisha Assembly approved the Appropriation Bill, 2024, allowing the state government to use Rs 2.65 lakh crore from its consolidated fund for the financial year 2024-25.
- **Budget Increase:** The budget estimate for 2024-25 is Rs 2.65 lakh crore, a 15% increase from the previous year's budget.
- **Programme Budget:** The programme budget is projected at Rs 1.55 lakh crore, marking a 24% rise from last year.
- **Capital Outlay:** The capital outlay stands at Rs 58,195 crore, which is 6.3% of the GSDP.

### Healthcare and Women's Welfare

- **Healthcare Allocation:** Rs 21,200 crore has been allocated for healthcare, reflecting a 32% increase from last year, and constituting 8% of the total budget.
- **Women's Welfare:** Rs 75,622 crore has been earmarked for women's welfare.
- The Subhadra Scheme, to be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, will provide Rs 50,000 to over one crore women in the state.

**Q.** How much has been earmarked for women's welfare in Odisha's 2024-25 budget? **Rs 75,622 crore**





Thursday, 12 September 2024

## Russia launches biggest strategic naval drills in decades involving all five fleets

- Russia launched "Okean-2024", its biggest naval drill in recent times, to be held simultaneously in the Pacific, Arctic, Mediterranean, Caspian, and Baltic Seas.

### Purpose of the Drill

- **Combat Readiness:** The drill aims to assess the combat readiness of the Russian Navy and Air Force, as well as test their interoperability amid growing geopolitical tensions.
- **Scale of the Exercise:** The manoeuvres involve over 400 battleships and submarines, 120 aircraft, and more than 90,000 personnel. The exercises will include high-precision weapons launch simulations and complex operations.
- **International Participation:** China is taking part with four vessels and 15 aircraft from the People's Liberation Army.
- **Observer Nations:** Representatives from 15 other nations were invited as observers, with a focus on strengthening military cooperation with friendly nations.

**Q.** In which year did China first participate in Russia's "Vostok" exercises? **2018**





**Thursday, 12 September 2024**

## **Yotta, Nasscom & Telangana AI Mission launch Shambho Accelerator Programme for startups**

- Yotta Data Services launched the Shambho accelerator program for Cloud and AI startups.
- The program is supported by Nasscom AI and Telangana AI Mission.

### **Key Benefits for Startups**

- **Infrastructure and Mentorship:** Startups will receive world-class AI and cloud infrastructure, mentorship, and technological support.
- **Fostering Innovation:** The program aims to encourage innovation and the development of solutions in Cloud, AI, data science, and high-performance computing.
- **Access to Supercomputer Credits:** Startups identified by Nasscom's GenAI Foundry will receive up to \$200,000 in credits for Shakti Cloud, India's fastest AI-HPC supercomputer.
- **Customized Mentorship:** Startups will receive customized mentorship sessions based on their needs, as well as training and technical support throughout their growth stages.

**Q.** What is the value of credits offered to startups for Shakti Cloud under the Shambho program? **\$200,000**





AFP

**Thursday, 12 September 2024**

## SpaceX's Polaris Dawn launches crew for 1st-ever 'all-civilian' spacewalk

- SpaceX launched the Polaris Dawn mission, marking a historic venture with civilians into space.
- **Objective:** The mission aims to achieve the first-ever spacewalk by non-professional astronauts and travel farther into space than any manned mission since the Apollo era.
- **Mission Leader:** The mission is led by Jared Isaacman, CEO of Shift4 Payments, with a four-member crew.
- **Spacecraft and Launch:** The Crew Dragon capsule launched atop a Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- **Altitude and Radiation:** The mission will reach altitudes where the capsule will enter the Van Allen radiation belt, a high-radiation region with charged particles that pose health risks over time.
- **Orbit and Distance:** The crew will orbit nearly three times higher than the International Space Station but will not surpass the 248,000 miles distance achieved by the Apollo 13 crew in 1970.
- **Spacewalk Details:** The mission involves a 15-minute spacewalk where two crew members will venture outside the capsule, exposed to the vacuum of space for the duration, as the Crew Dragon lacks an airlock.

**Q.** What high-radiation region will the Polaris Dawn mission enter? **Van Allen radiation belt.**





Thursday, 12 September 2024

## **Bharat Biotech partners with Alopexx to develop anti-microbial vaccine**

- Bharat Biotech is collaborating with Alopexx Inc. to develop and commercialize AV0328, a broad-spectrum anti-microbial vaccine.
- **Geographic Focus:** The vaccine will be introduced in India and other low-income countries.
- **Compensation:** Alopexx will receive an upfront payment, milestone payments, and royalties from future sales of AV0328 in the licensed regions.
- **Objective:** The collaboration aims to combat anti-microbial resistance through vaccination.
- **Mission:** The project aligns with Bharat Biotech's mission to offer affordable, high-quality vaccines worldwide.
- **Clinical Trials:** AV0328 has successfully completed Phase I trials, demonstrating safety with no serious adverse effects.

### **AV0328 Vaccine:**

- The AV0328 vaccine, represents a significant step in the field of anti-microbial resistance (AMR) and vaccine development.
- The vaccine was designed to offer broad-spectrum protection against various microbial pathogens, potentially reducing the reliance on antibiotics and addressing AMR.

**Q.** How does the collaboration between Bharat Biotech and Alopexx Inc. align with Bharat Biotech's mission? **By providing affordable, high-quality vaccines to combat infectious diseases globally.**





**Thursday, 12 September 2024**

## **Pakistan gets second woman Foreign Secretary as Amna Baloch takes charge**

- Amna Baloch has been appointed as Pakistan's second woman Foreign Secretary, succeeding Syrus Sajjad Qazi.
- She is the 33rd Foreign Secretary and the second woman to hold the post after Tehmina Janjua (2017-2019).
- Baloch is a Grade-22 Foreign Service officer who joined in 1991.

### **Previous Roles:**

- Served as Consul General in Chengdu, China (2014-2017).
- Held diplomatic roles in Denmark, Sri Lanka, and New Delhi.
- High Commissioner to Malaysia (2019-2023).
- Ambassador to the European Union, Belgium, and Luxembourg (2023).

### **Foreign Secretary Role:**

- The Foreign Secretary manages foreign policy, oversees diplomatic relations, represents Pakistan internationally, handles crises, and ensures embassy operations.
- As Foreign Secretary, she will promote Pakistan's national interests abroad and advise the government on international matters.

**Q.** Who is Pakistan's second woman Foreign Secretary?  
**Amna Baloch**





Thursday, 12 September 2024

## Australian Army begins trials of an uncrewed robot

- Australian Army begins trials of an uncrewed surveillance robot called Ground Uncrewed System (GUS).
- **Key Features:** Equipped with cameras and sensors for continuous surveillance over 30 days; powered by a battery and recharged by an on-board liquid fuel generator.
- **Testing:** Tested by the Australian Army's 13th Engineer Regiment, including during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2023.
- **Capabilities:** Detects and reports moving objects to a remote operator.
- **Purpose:** Intended to reduce soldiers' exposure to harsh environments and expand surveillance operations.

### What is Project GUS?

- The GUS is the land-based counterpart to unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles and unmanned surface vehicles.
- GUS was initially developed by mechatronics researchers at Victoria's largest education institution, Federation University hoping it could protect rangers from armed intruders in Africa's vast national parks.
- However, as the Australian Army took interest in it, the focus shifted from wildlife conservation to a military perspective.

**Q.** What is the main goal of deploying GUS in military operations? **To reduce soldiers' exposure to harsh environments and expand surveillance capabilities.**





Thursday, 12 September 2024

## Indian-Origin Lecturer Prasanthi Ram won Singapore Literature Prize

- Prasanthi Ram, an Indian-origin lecturer, won the Singapore Literature Prize in 2024.
- She was recognized for her contribution to literature in Singapore, which celebrates a wide range of works in multiple languages, including English, Chinese, Malayalam, and Tamil.
- Her accomplishment reflects the growing presence and contributions of the Indian-origin community in Singapore's cultural and literary landscape.
- The Singapore Literature Prize (SLP) is one of Singapore's most prestigious literary awards, celebrating outstanding works by Singaporean authors.
- Organized by the Singapore Book Council, the award aims to promote literary excellence and encourage the growth of Singapore's literary scene.
- The prize has been awarded since 1992 and recognizes works across four official languages: English, Chinese, Malayalam, and Tamil.

**Q.** Who recently won the Singapore Literature Prize in 2024? **Prasanthi Ram**





**Thursday, 12 September 2024**

## Ashok Raj Sigdel sworn in as Nepal's New Chief of Army Staff

- Ashok Raj Sigdel has been sworn in as the new Chief of Army Staff (COAS) of Nepal.
- The COAS often plays an important role in advising the government on defense matters and managing international military relations, especially given Nepal's participation in UN peacekeeping missions.
- He succeeds General Prabhuram Sharma, the outgoing Chief of Army Staff.
- The COAS is the highest-ranking military officer in Nepal, responsible for overseeing the entire Nepal Army's operations, strategic decisions, and policy implementation.

### Key Roles and Responsibilities:

- **Defense and Security:** As COAS, Sigdel will be responsible for leading the defense of Nepal's sovereignty and territorial integrity.
- His duties include ensuring the preparedness of the army to respond to external threats, managing national security, and advising the government on military strategies and policies.
- **Modernization of the Army:** The new COAS is expected to focus on modernizing the Nepalese Army in terms of equipment, technology, and operational capacity.
- This includes upgrading defense infrastructure, adopting modern military strategies, and integrating advanced technology to meet current and future security challenges.

**Q.** Who was recently sworn in as Nepal's new Chief of Army Staff? **Ashok Raj Sigdel**





**Thursday, 12 September 2024**

## **President Of India Confers National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024 To 15 Awardees At Rashtrapati Bhavan.**

- The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2024 to the nursing professionals at a function held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. In all, 15 nurses were conferred the award in recognition of their outstanding commitment to duty and service to the community.

### **The nurses who were awarded are as under:**

- Ms Sheela Mondal, Ms Iken Lollen, Ms Vidjeyacoumary V, Ms Januka Pandey, Ms Anindita Pramanik
- Ms Brahmacharimayum Amusana Devi, Major Gen Ignatius Delos Flora, Ms Prem Rose Suri, Dr Tabasum Irshad Handoo, Dr Nagarajaiah, Ms Shamshad Beegum A, Ms Asha Womanrao Bawane, Ms H Mankimi, Ms Sanjunta Sethi, Mr Radhey Lal Sharma.
- The National Florence Nightingale Awards are given by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India.
- The awards honor nurses who have made outstanding contributions to the field of nursing and healthcare.
- They are named in honor of Florence Nightingale, whose pioneering work in nursing during the Crimean War laid the foundation for modern nursing practices.

**Q.** Who conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards 2024 to the awardees at Rashtrapati Bhavan? **President of India**





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