

12 December 2024

### Assam Movement

**Context:** On the occasion of Swahid Diwas (Martyrs' Day), Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, paid respectful homage to the martyrs of the historic Assam Movement at his official residence in Guwahati, Assam.

- The solemn ceremony featured Sonowal offering floral tributes to those who laid down their lives in the struggle to preserve the cultural identity and political integrity of Assam.

#### History of the Assam Movement:

- The Assam Movement began in 1979 and lasted until 1985, driven by concerns about the growing illegal immigration from Bangladesh into Assam, a region with a rich cultural heritage. The migration, especially after the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971, led to fears among the indigenous Assamese community that their identity, resources, and political power would be undermined.
- This period of intense social and political unrest was marked by strikes, civil disobedience campaigns, and protests, all calling for the detection and deportation of illegal immigrants. The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) led the charge, particularly among the youth of Assam, who felt their very identity was at risk.
- The movement was against the illegal migration of Bengali Muslims and other groups from Bangladesh, and it demanded a revision of voter lists to exclude these migrants.
- The movement saw widespread violence and protests, including the Assam Agitation that lasted for several years, paralyzing state administration and affecting the daily lives of the people.
- The agitators faced strong opposition from the authorities, leading to numerous deaths, injuries, and hardships, especially among the younger population.
- The AASU, in its pursuit of justice, strongly advocated for the protection of Assam's cultural heritage and the preservation of the indigenous Assamese identity.

#### The Accord and Resolution:

- The movement culminated in 1985 with the signing of the Assam Accord between the government of India and the AASU. This agreement led to a commitment

by the government to identify and deport illegal immigrants who had entered Assam after 1971, the year of Bangladesh's independence.



- The Accord also outlined provisions for the protection of the Assamese language and the cultural identity of the region.
- While the Accord ended the violence and unrest, the issue of illegal immigration remained a subject of ongoing debate and concern for the state. Nonetheless, it marked the beginning of a new political phase, with the AASU transforming into the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), a political party that went on to form the government in Assam in the subsequent years.

### INS Tushil

**Context:** On December 9, 2024, India's latest stealth missile frigate, INS Tushil, was officially commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia, symbolizing the growing defense collaboration between India and Russia.

#### About INS Tushil:

- INS Tushil is a multi-role stealth guided missile frigate,

### Face to Face Centres



**12 December 2024**

designed for a variety of naval operations such as anti-surface, anti-air, and anti-submarine warfare.

- It is part of the Krivak III class (Project 1135.6), an upgraded series of frigates with enhanced capabilities.

### Position in the Series:

- It is the seventh ship in the Krivak III series, following the Talwar-class ships (three built at Baltiysky Shipyard in St. Petersburg) and Teg-class ships (three built at Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad).

### Development and Construction:

- Built at Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia.
- The contract for its construction was signed in October 2016 between the Indian Navy, JSC Rosoboronexport, and the Government of India.
- A team of Indian specialists from the Warship Overseeing Team closely monitored the construction process.
- Extensive trials, including Factory Sea Trials, State Committee Trials, and Delivery Acceptance Trials, were successfully conducted in 2024.



### Special Features:

- The ship can reach a speed of over 30 knots, ensuring agility in critical maritime operations.
- It boasts a stealth design, incorporating advanced radar-absorbing features, reducing its detectability by enemy sensors.
- INS Tushil is equipped with guided missiles, advanced weapon systems, and radars, enhancing its combat effectiveness.
- Its combat capabilities are focused on anti-surface and anti-air warfare, making it versatile in protecting maritime interests.
- The ship is equipped with a helicopter deck, allowing for aerial operations with naval helicopters.

### Significance of this ship:

- INS Tushil significantly boosts India's naval capabilities in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), enhancing India's ability to maintain maritime security.
- It is part of India's ongoing fleet modernization efforts, integrating advanced technologies to improve the country's naval prowess.
- The ship strengthens India-Russia defense ties, reflecting the continued strategic partnership between the two nations.
- INS Tushil will be crucial in ensuring maritime security and regional defense, especially in contested waters, where India seeks to safeguard key sea routes and territorial interests.

## UN Talks in Riyadh

**Context:** In December 2024, the 16th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP16) was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, focusing on the environmental challenges of drought and desertification.

- A key report presented at the summit outlined the severe impact of human-induced climate change, water scarcity, and deforestation on ecosystems globally.

### Key Findings:

- Global Water Scarcity:** The report highlighted the intensification of drying conditions, with heat-driven evaporation worsening water scarcity. This impacts ecosystems and makes it difficult for humans and animals to access sufficient water.
- Agricultural Impact:** Drought and land degradation threaten food security by reducing crop yields and grazing land. This exacerbates hunger and malnutrition, especially in vulnerable regions.
- Migration and Economic Challenges:** The report noted that desertification and drought are driving migration, particularly in regions like southern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Asia. These areas face economic instability due to erratic rainfall and land degradation.
- Future Projections:** If current climate trends continue, nearly five billion people could be affected by worsening droughts by the end of the century,

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12 December 2024

significantly increasing the current number of affected individuals.

### UNCCD's Role:

- The UNCCD aims to combat desertification through sustainable land practices and land restoration efforts. It focuses on regions suffering from severe droughts, especially in Africa, and promotes long-term strategies for sustainable development.

### International Response:

- At the Riyadh summit, Saudi Arabia pledged \$2.15 billion, while the Arab Coordination Group committed \$10 billion by 2030 to fight desertification.
- These funds will help vulnerable countries enhance their drought resilience, improve water management, and build infrastructure like reservoirs.

### Strategies to reduce land degradation:

- **Sustainable Land Use:** Practices such as water-efficient irrigation and reducing deforestation can mitigate land degradation.
- **Reforestation:** Large-scale reforestation efforts can restore soil moisture, prevent desertification, and stimulate local economies.
- **Early Warning Systems:** Strengthening monitoring systems for drought and land degradation can help communities better prepare and respond.

### Challenges:

- Despite financial pledges, critics argue that the summit failed to address the root cause: climate change. Saudi Arabia, as the host nation, faced criticism for not reducing its reliance on fossil fuels, which exacerbate climate-related crises.
- The urgency for action is clear, with the report stressing the need for immediate and comprehensive measures to restore ecosystems and combat land degradation.

### About the UNCCD:

- The UNCCD, which entered into force in 1996, is the only legally binding international framework addressing desertification.
- It encourages international cooperation and national action programs focused on sustainable development, with 197 parties, making it near universal in reach.

## India Skills Report 2025

**Context:** The India Skills Report 2025 reveals a significant improvement in employability among Indian graduates, with the rate rising to 54.81%, up from 51.25% the previous year. This reflects India's growing ability to equip its youth with the necessary skills for the global workforce.

### Key findings from the Report:

- **Improved Employability:** Employability among Indian graduates has increased by 17% over the past decade, from 33% in 2014 to over 50% in 2025. This indicates India's commitment to developing a workforce that can thrive in a globalized economy.
- **Global Talent Mobility:** It was highlighted that India's growing capacity to supply skilled talent gives it a significant advantage in global talent mobility. The importance of enhancing skill training quality was a to further improve India's competitive edge in the international job market.
- **Certified Skill Programs:** It was emphasized that long-term, certified skill programs, especially those that integrate language training, will be key to improving employability and providing early work opportunities for India's youth.
- **Data-Driven Insights:** The report is based on data from over 6.5 lakh candidates who participated in the 2024 Global Employability Test and insights from more than 1,000 corporations across 15 industries.



## INDIA SKILLS REPORT 2025

CHECK OUT HOW EMPLOYABILITY HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS



### Factors Driving Employability Growth:

- **Emerging Technologies:** The rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud computing, and automation is reshaping job roles and creating new employment opportunities. As businesses integrate these technologies, there is an increasing demand for skilled

## Face to Face Centres



12 December 2024

professionals.

- **Digital Nomadism and Hybrid Work:** The report highlights how digital nomadism and hybrid work models have enabled Indian talent to work globally, expanding employment opportunities for skilled professionals in international markets.

### Economic Potential:

- **Contribution to Global Economy:** The rise in digital nomadism and India's increasing global participation could contribute \$500 billion to the global economy by 2030, positioning India at the heart of this transformation.

- **Sector-Specific Demand:** The report points to growing demand in sectors like construction and finance. The \$2.5 trillion construction industry needs engineers and planners, while the financial sector will require 400,000 professionals for roles in fintech and green finance by 2030.

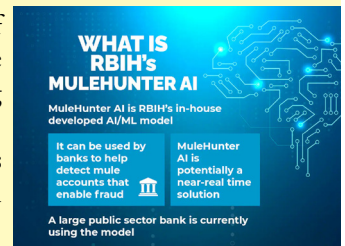
### About the Report:

- The India Skills Report 2025, is published by the talent assessment agency Wheebox in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), and the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

## Power Packed News

### MuleHunter.AI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched MuleHunter.AI, an advanced AI tool to detect and identify mule bank accounts involved in money laundering and other illicit financial activities.
- This initiative has been launched by the Reserve Bank of India due to the rising cases of cybercrime in India (67.8%). MuleHunter.AI makes the identification process of mule accounts faster and accurate by using advanced machine learning algorithms, performing better than traditional rule-based systems.
- Mule accounts are bank accounts that criminals use to transact illicit funds. These accounts are often in the name of people from low income groups or individuals with limited technical knowledge. They are involved in illegal money laundering activity under deception or pressure. Being interconnected makes these accounts difficult to trace, increasing the risk of financial fraud and cybercrime.
- This tool has been developed in cooperation with financial institutions. In the traditional system, many mule accounts were missed due to high rate of false positives and slow process. RBIH has developed this AI solution by analyzing 19 specific behaviors associated with mule accounts.



## Veteran Ecologist Madhav Gadgil Awarded 2024 UNEP 'Champion of the Earth'

- Madhav Gadgil, a distinguished ecologist, has been recognized as one of the six recipients of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2024 "Champions of the Earth" award. Honored in the "lifetime achievement" category, Gadgil's groundbreaking work has significantly influenced environmental conservation in India and beyond.
- With a scientific career spanning six decades, Gadgil is celebrated for his contributions to grassroots environmentalism, policy advocacy, and research.
- He chaired the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel in 2011, advocating for the protection of 75% of the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats, a biodiversity hotspot. Despite controversies and delays in implementation, his recommendations remain a benchmark in environmental policymaking.



## Face to Face Centres



**12 December 2024**

- Gadgil's influential "Gadgil Report" highlighted the urgency of conserving the fragile Western Ghats amidst industrial and climate threats. His efforts have inspired community-driven conservation and shaped public opinion on sustainable development.
- Expressing optimism, Gadgil emphasized the power of collective action and communication in advancing environmental causes. UNEP hailed him as a "people's scientist" for his enduring dedication to environmental protection and his advocacy for marginalized communities.

### **Indian Filmmaker Payal Kapadia Achieves Historic Recognition at the Golden Globe Awards**

- Indian filmmaker Payal Kapadia has achieved a historic milestone by earning a nomination for Best Director – Motion Picture at the 82nd Golden Globe Awards for her film *All We Imagine as Light*.
- This marks the first time in 26 years that an Indian filmmaker has been recognized in this prestigious category, following Shekhar Kapur's nomination for *Elizabeth* in 1998. The film has also secured a nomination in the Best Non-English Language Motion Picture category, highlighting its global acclaim.
- *All We Imagine as Light* is an international co-production involving France, India, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Italy. The film gained global recognition after winning the Grand Prix at the 77th Cannes Film Festival earlier this year.
- Competing against prominent global entries like *Emilia Pérez* (France) and *The Girl with the Needle* (Poland), this recognition solidifies the growing global impact of Indian cinema.



#### **About the Golden Globe:**

- The Golden Globe Awards, presented by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), are among the most prestigious honors in the entertainment industry, recognizing excellence in film and television across various categories. Founded in 1944, the awards are regarded as a precursor to the Oscars, often spotlighting significant achievements in cinema and setting trends for the awards season.

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