

Indian Olympic Association : Three-Member Ad Hoc Committee

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** formed a **three-member ad hoc committee** to run the day-to-day affairs of the **Wrestling Federation of India**

❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** is the governing body for the **Olympic Movement and the Commonwealth Games in India**.
- ❑ As an affiliated member of the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)**, **Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF)**, **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**, and **Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC)**, the IOA administers various aspects of sports governance and athletes' welfare in the country.
- ❑ IOA oversees the representation of athletes or teams participating in the **Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and other international multi-sport competitions** of the IOC, CGF, OCA, and ANOC.
- ❑ Beyond participation in the Games, the IOA has also established various **initiatives with different stakeholders** for the development of sports education and Olympic studies.
- ❑ IOA is recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❑ The members of the IOA include **National Sports Federations (NSFs)**, **State Olympic Associations**, **IOC Members**, and **other select multi-sport organisations**.
- ❑ In accordance with the Olympic Charter, the membership NSFs mostly include NSFs that govern sports featured in the sports programme of the **Summer Olympic Games, Winter Olympic Games, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games**.

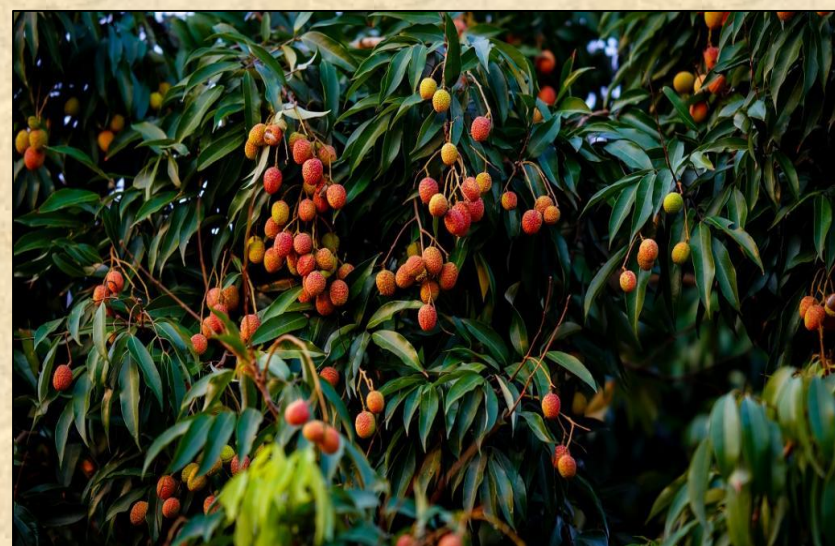


Litchi Cultivation : Expanded

- The **National Research Centre on Litchi (NRCL)**, has successfully **expanded litchi cultivation to 19 states in India**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ Litchi cultivation for commercial production has commenced in **states such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and others**.
- ❑ Litchi (*Litchi chinensis*) is a small, oval roundish fruit that is **native to Southeast Asia**.
- ❑ It is a member of the **soapberry family (Sapindaceae)** and is also known as **lychee or lichee**.
- ❑ Litchi is a **sensitive fruit**, influenced by **temperature, rainfall, humidity, and soil conditions**.
- ❑ The fruit primarily grows in the **foothills of the Himalayas**, with **Bihar alone contributing nearly 40% of India's litchi production**.



Maharishi Valmiki International Airport In Ayodhya : Inauguration

- The **Indian Prime Minister** inaugurated the **newly constructed Maharishi Valmiki International Airport** in **Ayodhya**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ Pioneering **sustainability features** including **LED lighting, rainwater harvesting, solar power, and a sewage treatment plant** ensure a **GRIHA – 5 star rating** for the terminal, **promoting environmental consciousness**.
- ❑ Maharishi Valmiki, also known as **Adi Kavi (the first poet)**, is revered as the author of the **ancient Indian epic, the Ramayana**.
- ❑ He is celebrated as a **revered sage and a significant figure in Hindu mythology and literature**.

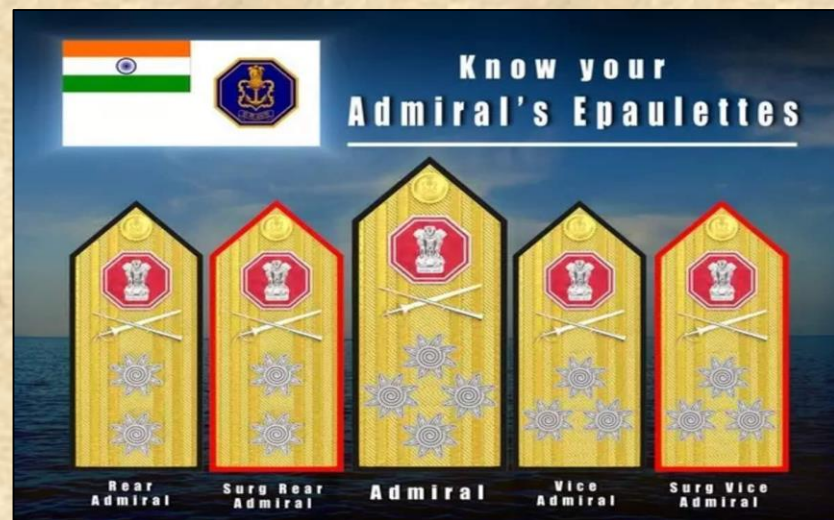


New Epaulettes For Admirals : Indian Navy

- The **Indian Navy** has unveiled **new epaulettes for Admirals**, inspired by the **naval ensign** and **Chhatrapati Shivaji's rajmudra**, as part of an initiative to reflect **India's rich maritime heritage** and move away from **British nomenclature**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ The design features an **octagon**, a **golden navy button top**, an **Indian sword**, a **crossed telescope**, and stars denoting ranks.
- ❑ The earlier epaulettes for the same ranks did have a red backing for the **national emblem**, but not an octagonal one. Moreover, the button at the top of the epaulette reflected the **old crest of the Navy** which had a fouled anchor a **colonial era vestige**.
- ❑ The **old epaulettes** carried a **baton and a sword**, but new ones carry an **Indian sword and a telescope**.
- ❑ The stars on the **new epaulettes** are also designed differently than the older ones.
- ❑ The new Navy button reflects the new crest, sans the fouled anchor which was a **colonial era vestige**.
- ❑ As per the Navy, the **red octagon** reflects the **eight cardinal directions** indicative of an **all-round long-term vision**.
- ❑ It is inspired by the **new naval ensign** that was unveiled last year and inspired from the **Rajmudra of Maratha ruler Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** who had built the **massive Maratha Navy** which has a **rich maritime legacy**.



Argentina Rejects BRICS Membership

- Argentina has **formally rejected the invitation to join the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) group of major emerging economies**.

❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ New **Argentinian President Milei**, during his election campaign, Milei had expressed a **geopolitical alignment** with the **United States and Israel**, emphasizing a reluctance to ally with communists.
- ❑ The **decision aligns** with his **campaign promises** and reflects a **shift in foreign policy** from the **previous administration**.
- ❑ The **membership of Argentina, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates** was due to take effect from **January 1, 2024**.



Japan's Kuril Islands : Earthquake

- An earthquake of magnitude **6.3 on the Richter Scale** jolted **Japan's Kuril Islands**, the **National Centre for Seismology (NCS)** informed.

❖ Key Highlights:

- ❑ The **Kuril Islands** stretch from **Japan's Hokkaido** to **Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula**, separating the **Okhotsk Sea** from the **North Pacific Ocean**.
- ❑ They are part of the **Pacific's Ring of Fire**, with over **100 volcanoes**, **35 active**, and **numerous hot springs**. The **Southern Kuril Islands** are **disputed between Russia and Japan**.
- ❑ The islands have been under **Russian administration** since their **1945 invasion by the Soviet Union** near the end of **World War II**.
- ❑ Japan claims the four southernmost islands, including two of the three largest (**Iturup and Kunashir**), as part of its territory, as well as **Shikotan** and the **unpopulated Habomai islets**, which has led to the ongoing **Kuril Islands dispute**.
- ❑ The disputed islands are known in Japan as the country's "**Northern Territories**"

