

International Seabed Authority (ISA) Marks its 30th Anniversary

- The **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** was established in **1994** with the enforcement of the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**.
 - It is unique as the only international organization created to manage a global commons, ensuring equitable resource allocation for the benefit of all humanity.
- **About ISA**
 - **Role and Responsibilities:**
 - **Management of Mineral Resources:** ISA oversees the mineral resources located on the seabed beyond national jurisdictions.
 - **Environmental Protection:** It ensures that deep-sea mining activities do not harm the marine environment.
 - **Promotion of Marine Scientific Research:** ISA encourages research activities in marine science.
 - **Geographic Scope:** The ISA's jurisdiction covers approximately 54% of the world's oceans.
 - **Headquarters:** The ISA is based in Kingston, Jamaica.
 - **Membership:** The organization comprises 168 member states, including India, and the European Union. All countries that ratify UNCLOS automatically become members of ISA.
- India is one of the **38 countries** that have permanent missions to the ISA.

India Has Now Become The World's 3rd Largest Domestic Airline Market

- According to the latest report by the **Official Airline Guide (OAG)**, This is a big jump from its 5th place in 2014. The domestic airline capacity in India has grown significantly from 7.9 million seats in April 2014 to 15.6 million seats in April 2024.
- **Key Points from the OAG Report:**
 1. **Global Rankings and Capacity:**
 - **United States:** 1st place with 86.1 million seats.
 - **China:** 2nd place with 67.8 million seats.
 - **India:** 3rd place with 15.6 million seats.
 - **Brazil:** 4th place.
 - **Indonesia:** 5th place.
 2. **Growth Rate:**
 - India is growing the fastest among the top five domestic airline markets.
 - India's seat capacity is increasing at 6.9% per year, the highest growth rate over the past ten years.
 3. **Low-Cost Carriers (LCCs):**
 - India has the highest percentage of LCCs among the top five countries. LCCs make up 78.4% of India's domestic airline capacity as of April 2024.
 - IndiGo has been a major driver of this growth, with its market share nearly doubling from 32% to 62% in the last decade.
- **Additional Information:**
 - **Record Passenger Numbers:** On November 19, 2023, Indian airlines flew almost 456,000 domestic passengers, the highest since COVID-19, exceeding pre-COVID numbers by 7.4%.
 - **Airport Expansion:** The number of airports in India has grown from 74 in 2014 to 157 in 2024.

India's First-Ever Pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification in Jharkhand

- The **Ministry of Coal** has launched **India's first pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) in Jharkhand**. This innovative project, led by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), is taking place at the **Kasta coal block in Jamtara District**. It reflects the Ministry's efforts to diversify the coal sector
- In **December 2015**, the **Ministry of Coal** approved a policy framework for **UCG** in areas with coal and lignite deposits. Following this policy, Coal India chose the Kasta coal block to test UCG technology suited to Indian geological conditions. The first phase of the project began on June 22, 2024, focusing on creating a **Technical Feasibility Report**.

Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)

- **Russia** has approved the draft **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)** with **India**.
- **About RELOS:**
 - **Mutual Access:** Allows the militaries of both countries to use each other's logistics and support facilities at bases and ports.
 - **Replenishment:** Facilitates the supply of fuel, rations, spare parts, and provides berthing for troops, warships, and aircraft during both war and peacetime missions away from home bases.
 - **Similar Agreements:** India has similar logistics agreements with the US, Japan, Australia, France, Singapore, and South Korea.

113 Countries Have Never Had Female Heads Of State Or Govt: UN Women Global Data

- A surprising **113 countries** worldwide have never had a woman as head of state or government, and only 26 countries currently have women leaders.
- According to the **UN Women's Global Data on Women Political Leaders 2024**, women are still mostly excluded from positions of power and diplomacy.
- The UN reports that women are significantly underrepresented in decision-making roles globally.
 - As of **January 1, 2024**, **only 23%** of ministerial positions are held by women, and in **141 countries**, women make up less than one-third of cabinet ministers. Additionally, seven countries have no women in their cabinets at all.

"One Week One Theme" (OWOT) Campaign

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh** launched the **"One Week One Theme" (OWOT)** campaign on June 24.
- **Purpose:** To showcase India's recent achievements in different areas of science and technology.

Fast Track Immigration – Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP)

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs** inaugurated the **FTI-TTP** at **Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi**. This facility will soon be available at 21 major airports across the country.
- **Key Points:**
 - **Purpose:** To provide faster, smoother, and safer immigration clearance for international travelers.
 - **Technology:** Uses e-gates or automated border gates to reduce human intervention in the immigration process.
 - **Phases:**
 - **First Phase:** Covers Indian citizens and OCI cardholders.
 - **Second Phase:** Will include foreign travelers.

Telecommunications Act 2023

- The Union Government has recently issued a Gazette Notification to enforce several sections of the **Telecommunications Act, 2023**.
- **About the Telecommunications Act, 2023:**
 1. **Purpose:** The Act aims to modernize and unify laws related to the development, expansion, and operation of telecommunication services and networks. It also addresses the assignment of spectrum and other related issues.
 2. **Replacement of Older Laws:** This new Act replaces the outdated Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraph Act of 1933, reflecting the significant technological advancements in the telecom sector.
 3. **Promotion of Digital Implementation:** The Act encourages digital practices, such as online dispute resolution and other digital frameworks.
 4. **Guiding Principles:** The Act is based on principles of **Inclusion (Samavesh), Security (Suraksha), Growth (Vridhhi), and Responsiveness (Tvarit)**.

V-LEX-02 Mission

- ISRO recently completed the third reusable launch vehicle landing experiment (**RLV LEX**) at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- **Objective:** The main goal of the RLV-LEX-02 mission was to demonstrate the ability of the reusable launch vehicle (RLV) to autonomously land under challenging conditions after being released from a helicopter.
- **Execution:** During the mission, a winged vehicle named Pushpak was lifted by an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter and released from an altitude of 4.5 km