## Collins

## General Awareness

## The week from 02 Dec to 08 Dec 2024

BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, was sworn in as Maharashtra CM for the 3rd time. Eknath Shinde (Shiv Sena), who served as CM from July 2022, and Ajit Pawar (Nationalist Congress Party) were sworn in as Deputy CMs of the state. This follows the overwhelming victory of the Mahayuti alliance (BJP-SS-NCP) in the October elections to the Vidhan Sabha.

The Telugu language action-drama film 'Pushpa 2: The Rule', a sequel to the 2021 film 'Pushpa: The Rise' was released. Produced by Mythri Movie Makers, directed by Sukumar, and starring Allu Arjun in the title role, the film also stars Rashmika Mandanna.

The Assad regime which ran Syria for 53 years was overthrown by an Islamist anti-government group called Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) which successfully led a major offensive in the north-west, together with an umbrella group of Turkish-backed Syrian militias called the Syrian National Army. President Bashar al-Assad has fled the country. Lando Norris won the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix for McLaren. This resulted in McLaren winning their first constructors' championship since 1998. This marks the end of the 2024 Formula One season, which included 24 races in all. Among the drivers, Max Verstappen finished first, with Lando Norris in second place.

NASA's latest Centennial Challenge programme called LunaRecycle will encourage entrants from all over the world to come up with innovative ways to recycle materials on the Moon. NASA's Jennifer Edmundson said, "It costs upwards of \$1million (INR 8.5 Crore) to fly a single kilogram payload from Earth to the Moon."

Australia bounced back in the Border Gavaskar Trophy, winning the pink-ball day-night Test at Adelaide within 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> days. The Indian batting failed in both innings (180 & 175); whilst the Australians scored 337, with Travis Head scoring 140. The series is now tied 1-1 with 3 matches to play.

A pair of ruby red slippers worn by actress Judy Garland in the classic movie The Wizard of Oz have been sold for \$28million (INR 238 Crores) at a US-based auction. Termed the "Holy Grail of Hollywood memorabilia", the selling price has made the slippers the most valuable movie memorabilia ever sold at auction.



Compiled by Seema Chari and Kunal Savarkar



