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I have been providing Aparchit Super Current Affairs on a daily, weekly and monthly basis. Additionally, I run GA-paid groups and channels on Telegram for three years. Over the past three years, you have consistently shown me a great deal of love, support, and respect. Your numerous messages urging me to join YouTube have been instrumental in boosting my confidence and inspiring me to take the plunge. "Your support and love mean the world to me. They provide me the strength and courage to overcome any challenge that comes my way. Knowing that you're always there for me is everything. Please continue to be my rock and support me through thick and thin."

Ultimately, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for giving me an abundance of love, support, and respect. Thank you so much, India.

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## Top 12 Students Selected in RRB PO With Highest Marks in GA Section





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Name - Samridhi  
State - Bihar  
Selected as - PO



Name - Jyothy Jagadeesan  
State - Kerala  
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Neelam  
State - Jharkhand  
Selected as - IBPS P



Name - Anju  
Selected as - IBPS PO



Name - Christina Dsouza  
State - Maharashtra  
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Himanshu Gupta  
State - Uttar Pradesh  
Selected as - IBPS PO & Clerk



Name - Anil  
State - West Bengal  
Selected as - RRB PO / RRB Clerk/  
IBPS Clerk



Name - Shivkumar Sharma  
State - Rajasthan  
Selected as - IBPS Clerk



Name - Relsha Dongre  
State - Maharashtra  
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Name - Maya Mohan  
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## INDIA'S NEW VERSION CURRENT AFFAIRS

Dear Aspirants,

Current affairs are important for all the candidates preparing for one or the other government exams. Day by day the weightage of Current Affairs is increasing in the General Awareness section for all exams especially UPSC CSE, State PCS, All Banking exams, SSC CGL, CHSL, MTS, CPO, GD, All Defence exams & RRB NTPC, Group D

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### IMF IN NEWS 2024

- International Monetary Fund has approved an immediate disbursement of USD 1.1 billion to Pakistan as part of a bailout package supported by the IMF's Stand-By Arrangement (SBA).
- Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the latest Global Financial Stability Report.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reappointed Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria) as Managing Director for a second five-year term starting October 1, 2024.
- IMF Raises India's GDP Growth Projection to 6.8% for FY 2024-25.
- Recently, in its Fiscal Monitor the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said industrial policy initiatives pursued by the United States, Europe and other countries to steer innovation in certain sectors were no panacea to boost economic growth
- Sri Lanka will get 337 million US dollars assistance from IMF to stabilize the economy.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- Founded : 1945
- Headquarters: Washington, D.C.
- Managing Director : Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)
- First Deputy MD : Gita Gopinath
- Chief Economist : Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas (France)
- Executive Director for India at IMF : Krishnamurthy Subramaniam
- Member countries : 190 (Andorra)
- IMF Released Report
- Global Financial Stability Report
- World Economic Outlook.
- The value of Special Drawing Right (SDR) is determined by the basket of 5 currencies.
- The currencies are, US Dollar, Japanese Yen, British Pound, Chinese Yuan and Euro.
- Special Drawing Right is known as the Paper Gold. The value of the SDR is based on a basket of key international currencies reviewed by IMF every five years. SDR was introduced in the 1969 by the IMF to solve the problem of International liquidity



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**Q. Which IIT has unveiled Innovative 3D Printed Dummy Ballot Unit in April 2024?**

- A) IIT Guwahati                      B) IIT Indore  
C) IIT Roorkee                        D) IIT Delhi

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Innovative 3D Printed Dummy Ballot Unit unveiled by IIT Guwahati
- ✓ The Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP) of Kamrup Election District has partnered with Indian Insitute of Technoloy-Guwahati to develop a innovative 3D printed dummy ballot unit.
- ✓ The inauguration of the dummy ballot unit was held at the IIT Guwahati campus and was attended by several dignitaries.
- ✓ Crafted with the objective of acquainting citizens, particularly new voters, and senior citizens, with the intricacies of voting procedures, the 3D printed dummy ballot unit aims to dispel any apprehensions, anxiety or uncertainties associated with the voting process.
- ✓ SVEEP
- ✓ SVEEP is a programme launched by the Election Commission of India. It aims to educate and spread awareness among the citizens, electors, and voters regarding the electoral process.
- ✓ This programme is designed to fulfill the needs of different states based on their socio-economic, cultural, and demographic profile as well as their history of electoral participation.
- ✓ SVEEP is a multi-approach program that uses various modes and media to provide voter education materials and promote informed participation in the electoral process.
- ✓ The Commission produces a range of voter awareness materials and disseminates them through different mediums/platforms of communication, such as print media, electronic media, and social media

**Q. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was recently granted 'Navratna' status by the Department of Public Enterprises. With this the total number of Navratna PSEs has become \_\_.**

- A) 15                                      B) 16  
C) 17                                      D) 19

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) was granted 'Navratna' status by the Department of Public Enterprises.



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- ✓ A non-banking financial institution under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, IREDA is engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects related to new and renewable sources of energy.
- ✓ The Indian government grants Navratna status to premier public sector undertakings (PSUs), empowering them to execute significant investments of up to ₹1,000 crore without requiring approval from the central authority.
- ✓ These firms are permitted to allocate up to 30 per cent of their net worth annually, provided it remains under ₹1,000 crore. Additionally, they have the option to participate in joint ventures, forge partnerships, and set up overseas subsidiaries.
- ✓ Established in March 1987, the company offers financial assistance to projects that produce electricity using fresh and sustainable sources. The government holds a 75 per cent ownership stake in the company.
- ✓ This takes the total number of Navratna PSEs to 17.

## IREDA IN NEWS 2023-24

- IREDA has opened an office in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, which will specialize in providing debt options denominated in foreign currencies.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, Punjab National Bank to co-finance green energy projects.
- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Launches 'Pahal' Vigilance Journal
- IREDA Declared 2024 as 'Year of HR Development and Discipline'
- IREDA CMD Pradip Kumar Das bagged 'CMD of the Year' award
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal to improve transparency in CSR initiatives.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).
- IREDA signs MoUs with Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda to co-finance Renewable Energy projects.
- IREDA and Bank of Maharashtra partner to promote renewable energy adoption in India.



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- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), a Mini Ratna (Category – I) has signed an MoU with Government, Revenue Target for 2023-24 set at ₹ 4,350.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has set up a state-of-the-art Business Centre at NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- It was incorporated as a Public Limited Company in the year 1987 as a 'Non-Banking Financial Institution'.
- It is a Miniratna (Category 1) type company functioning under the administrative control of 'Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.
- Its function is to encourage projects related to new and renewable energy sources and to provide them financial assistance for their development.
- It has been notified as a 'Public Financial Institution' under section 4'A' of the 'Companies Act, 1956'.
- Chairman and Managing Director - Pradip Kumar Das

**Q. Who has been appointed as the captain of the Indian men's cricket team for the ICC 2024 T20 World Cup?**

A) Shubman Gill

B) Hardik Pandya

C) Rohit Sharma

D) Virat Kohli

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Rohit Sharma to lead Indian team for the 2024 T20 Cricket World Cup.
- ✓ The five-member Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee, headed by Ajit Agarkar, announced the 15-member Indian squad for the 2024 ICC men's T20 cricket World Cup.
- ✓ The 9th ICC Men's T 20 Cricket World Cup will be held from 1-29 June 2024.
- ✓ It is being co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America.
- ✓ India has been placed in group A along with Pakistan, Canada, the United States and Ireland.
- ✓ India will play its first match against Ireland on June 5. It will then play against Pakistan on 9 June, the USA on 12 June, and Canada on 15 June
- ✓ India squad for the 2024 T20 World Cup



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- ✓ Rohit Sharma (Captain), Hardik Pandya (Vice-Captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant (wicket keeper), Sanju Samson (wicket keeper), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj.
- ✓ Reserve players: Shubman Gill, Rinku Singh, Khaleel Ahmed, Avesh Khan

**Q. Who is the 26th Chief of Naval Staff of the Indian Navy?**

- A) R K Dhawan
- B) Karambir Singh
- C) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
- D) R Harikumar

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Admiral Dinesh Tripathi take charge as 26th Naval Chief
- ✓ Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi assumed office as the 26th Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) on 30 April 2024. Admiral Dinesh Tripathi took the place of Admiral R.Hari Kumar, who demitted his office on 29 April 2024.
- ✓ Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi is an alumnus of Sainik School Rewa, Madhya Pradesh and the National Defence Academy. He was commissioned in the Indian Navy in 1985.
- ✓ About Indian Navy
- ✓ The Indian Navy is one of the three armed forces of India, the other being the Army and Air Force.
- ✓ It is responsible for guarding the maritime boundary and its maritime interests.
- ✓ The Indian Navy is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, government of India. The President of India is the chief commander of the armed forces, including the Indian Navy.
- ✓ History of the Indian Navy
- ✓ The British established the modern Indian Navy as the Royal Indian Navy on 2 October 1934. On 26 January 1950, the Indian constitution was promulgated, and the Royal Indian Navy was renamed the Indian Navy.
- ✓ Admiral Sir Edward Parry was the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Navy. The post of Commander in Chief was changed to Chief of Naval Staff in 1955, and the first chief of Naval staff was Admiral Sir Edward Parry.
- ✓ Vice Admiral RD Katari assumed office as the first Indian Chief of the Naval Staff on 22 April 1958





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- ✓ Krishna M Ella takes over as chairman from Adar C Poonawalla, who held the post from 2019 to March 2024

**Q. Which Indian company's spices have been banned by the health authorities of Singapore and Hong Kong in April 2024?**

- A) Badshah and MDH                      B) MDH and Everest  
C) Catch and Zoff                         D) Ramdev and Catch

**Answer : B**

- ✓ FSSAI to check Spices after Singapore & Hong Kong Ban Indian Spices.
- ✓ Indian food regulator FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India) has announced that it will start checking the quality of spices and culinary herbs within the country.
- ✓ The FSSAI announcement comes after Hong Kong and Singapore banned the four spices mixes of two Indian companies, Everest and MDH, for containing carcinogenic substances.
- ✓ The Maldivian government has also banned the sale of Everest and MDH companies' spices in the country.
- ✓ The United States has also said that it will conduct a quality check of the spices made by the two Indian companies.
- ✓ Spices of Everest and MDH banned by Singapore and Hong Kong
- ✓ The health authorities in Hong Kong and Singapore banned the sale of four spice mixes of Everest and MDH due to the presence of the cancer-causing pesticide ethylene oxide above the acceptable limits.
- ✓ The International Agency for Research on Cancer has identified ethylene oxide as a major carcinogen that causes cancer in humans.
- ✓ In Hong Kong, three of the four failed products belonged to the MDH brand and one to Everest. Singapore's food safety department banned the Fish Curry Masala manufactured by spice maker Everest due to the high presence of ethylene oxide
- ✓ Spice Trade and India
- ✓ India is the largest producer, consumer, and exporter of spices in the world. During 2022-23, the country exported 1404357 tons of spices/spice products valued at Rs.31761 crore (3952.60 million US\$).
- ✓ During 2022-23, the single largest spice exported from India was chilli, followed by cumins and Oleoresins.
- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- ✓ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) was set up in 2008 under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.





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- ✓ FSSAI is a statutory body which is under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ FSSAI has been created to lay down science-based standards for food and to regulate its manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Regional Offices: Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin and Chennai

## FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24

- FSSAI to check Spices after Singapore & Hong Kong Ban Indian Spices.
- FSSAI is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.
- FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a new provision called 'Special Category' in the FOSCOS portal.
- FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Defence ministry, FSSAI to promote use of millets, healthy eating habits among armed forces.
- Guwahati Railway Station of the Northeast Frontier Railway has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI, for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the state-of-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station of the Indian Railways has been awarded the 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high quality nutritious food to the passengers.
- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the food provided by the Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus'. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh..
- G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).



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- FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhushan
- CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and 'Consumer Confidence Survey'.**

**1. They are conducted by NITI Aayog to provide useful inputs for monetary policy.**

**2. Both surveys are conducted in all of Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities in India.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced the launch of 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and 'Consumer Confidence Survey' which will provide key inputs for the bi-monthly monetary policy.
- ✓ About 'Inflation Expectations Survey of Households' and 'Consumer Confidence Survey':
- ✓ They are launched by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ The results of the surveys provide useful inputs for the bi-monthly monetary policy.
- ✓ Inflation Expectations Survey of Households:
- ✓ It aims at capturing subjective assessments on price movements and inflation, based on their individual consumption baskets.
- ✓ This survey spans 19 cities, including Guwahati, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, and Thiruvananthapuram.
- ✓ This survey will also be conducted in 19 cities, including Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, and Delhi



**Q. What is the primary purpose of 'acceptance sampling' in quality control?**

- A) To ensure 100% defect-free products
- B) To eliminate all defects in the production process
- C) To select a representative sample for testing for defects.
- D) To reduce the production costs

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The VVPAT-based audit of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) is a typical case of “lot acceptance sampling”, a statistical quality control technique widely used in industry and trade.
- ✓ About Acceptance Sampling:
- ✓ It is a statistical measure used in quality control.
- ✓ It allows a company to determine the quality of a batch of products by selecting a specified number for testing.
- ✓ It tests a representative sample of the product for defects.
- ✓ The quality of this designated sample will be viewed as the quality level for the entire group of products.
- ✓ The process involves first, determining the size of a product lot to be tested, then the number of products to be sampled, and finally the number of defects acceptable within the sample batch.
- ✓ Products are chosen at random for sampling.
- ✓ It does not assure the quality of the complete set of products from which the sample is derived

**Q. TacticAI, recently seen in news, is developed by:**

- A) Microsoft
- B) Google
- C) Nvidia
- D) Facebook

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Google's DeepMind developed and evaluated TacticAI in a multi-year research collaboration with experts from Liverpool Football Club.
- ✓ It is an AI system that can provide experts with tactical insights, particularly on corner kicks (football), through predictive and generative AI.
- ✓ This AI tool can be used by football team managers as an assistant for tactics.



- ✓ It has been incorporated both a predictive and generative component to allow coaches to effectively sample and explore alternative player setups for each corner kick, and to select those with the highest predicted likelihood of success.
- ✓ It is developed by Google's DeepMind.

**Q. Consider the following:**

1. Canada
2. Russia
3. Japan
4. Germany
5. Australia

**How many of the above are part of Group of Seven (G7)?**

- A) Only two
- B) Only three
- C) Only four
- D) All five

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Recently, G7 energy ministers discussed a possible time frame for phasing out coal-fired power plants.
- ✓ It is an intergovernmental organisation of leading industrialised nations formed in 1975.
- ✓ Member countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United State.
- ✓ Apart from the 7 member countries, the European Union (EU) has also participated fully in the G7 since 1981 as a “non-enumerated” member.
- ✓ It meets annually to discuss issues such as global economic governance, international security, and energy policy.
- ✓ Presidency: The host of the G7 summit, also known as the presidency, rotates annually among member countries.
- ✓ It was formerly referred to as the G-8 until Russia was suspended from the group in 2014 after annexing Crimea.
- ✓ Some of the key principles of the G7 include
- ✓ Democracy: G7 countries promote democratic values and institutions, including free and fair elections, the rule of law, and the protection of individual rights and freedoms.
- ✓ Human rights: They support the protection and promotion of human rights around the world, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights.



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- ✓ Free and fair trade: They are committed to promoting international trade and investment based on open, transparent, and non-discriminatory rules.
- ✓ Environmental protection: They are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting biodiversity, and addressing other environmental challenges.
- ✓ Peace and security: They are committed to promoting international peace and security, and to preventing and resolving conflicts through diplomatic means.

**Q. Tata Motors has tied up with which bank to offer financing solutions to its commercial vehicle customers and dealerships?**

- A) Karur Vyasya Bank                      B) Karnataka Bank  
C) Axis Bank                                  D) South Indian Bank

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Tata Motors has tied up with South Indian Bank to offer financing solutions to its commercial vehicle customers and dealerships.
- ✓ Objective – To empower fleet owners and dealerships to achieve their business goals.
- ✓ As part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), South Indian Bank will offer financing solutions across the auto major's entire commercial vehicle portfolio.

**Q. Reserve Bank kept the limits for FPI investment in government securities (g-secs), state government securities (SGSs) and corporate bonds will remain unchanged at \_\_\_\_, respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for the current fiscal (2024-25).**

- A) 6%, 15% and 2%  
B) 2%, 6% and 15%  
C) 6%, 12% and 15%  
D) 6%, 2% and 15%

**Answer : D**

- ✓ FPI limit in G-sec unchanged at 6% of outstanding stocks of securities: RBI
- ✓ Reserve Bank kept the limits for FPI investment in government securities (g-secs), state government securities (SGSs) and corporate bonds will remain unchanged at 6 per cent, 2 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively, of outstanding stocks of securities for the current fiscal (2024-25).





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- ✓ The government of India has taken a number of steps for the welfare of the working class in India.
- ✓ Simplified Labour laws
- ✓ In order to simplify labour laws, the government has merged 29 separate labour-related regulations into four Codes: the Wage Code, the Social Security Code, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, and the Industrial Relations Code.
- ✓ Schemes for Workers
- ✓ E-Shram Portal: The E-Shram Portal for registering Unorganized Workers across the Country was launched by the government of India on 26 August 2021. It has been developed to create a database of unorganized workers in India.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana: Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana is a government of India scheme to provide old age protection and social security for Unorganized workers.
- ✓ It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme under which the beneficiary receives a minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/—per month after attaining the age of 60.
- ✓ If the beneficiary dies, the beneficiary's spouse is entitled to receive 50% of the pension as a family pension.

**Q. Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated annually on which day in India to raise awareness of the objectives of the government's Ayushman Bharat Yojana?**

A) 30 April

B) 29 April

C) 28 April

D) 27 April

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Ayushman Bharat Diwas is celebrated annually on 30 April in India to raise awareness of the objectives of the government's Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) is also known as the Ayushman Bharat Yojana.
- ✓ It is a healthcare scheme launched by the Indian government to provide affordable and accessible healthcare to about 50 crore people who are economically disadvantaged.
- ✓ The government introduced Ayushman Bharat Yojana scheme after it saw the problem of many people facing difficulties in accessing essential medical care due to financial constraints.
- ✓ Under this scheme, the government will provide medical expenses of up to Rs 5 lakh annually to people who are financially backward.
- ✓ History of Ayushman Bharat Diwas







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- ✓ These figures are among the financial and operational results published in ADB's Annual Report 2023. The report summarises how ADB supported its developing member countries (DMCs) to address the worsening climate crisis as well as the impacts of conflicts, food insecurity, and increased debt burdens, among other challenges.
- ✓ The \$23.6 billion comprised loans, grants, equity investments, guarantees, and technical assistance provided to governments and the private sector. Supplementing its own resources, ADB mobilized an additional \$16.4 billion in cofinancing through its strong partnership

## ADB IN NEWS 2023-24

- ADB operations reach USD23.6 billion in 2023, achieve record climate finance of USD9.8 billion.
- Government of India and ADB have signed a \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in India.
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million) .



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- ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

**Q. Which event has EaseMyTrip partnered with as the presenting partner, starting on July 3, 2024, at Edgbaston Stadium in Birmingham, UK?**

A) FIFA World Cup

B) ICC Cricket World Cup

C) None of these

D) World Championship of Legends (WCL)

**Answer : D**

- ✓ EaseMyTrip becomes presenting partner of World Championship of Legends.
- ✓ EaseMyTrip has announced its partnership as the presenting partner of the World Championship of Legends (WCL), set to commence on July 3, 2024 at Edgbaston Stadium in Birmingham, UK.





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- SBI has launched a 'Mobile Handheld Device' as part of its financial inclusion drive in a bid to improve accessibility and convenience.
- The tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara has been extended till August 2024.
- State Bank of India has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians to effortlessly open Non-Residential External and Non-Resident Ordinary accounts through its mobile app YONO.
- State Bank of India has launched its 'Nation First Transit Card', a RuPay prepaid instrument under the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) that can be used nationwide.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI )
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- Tagline of State Bank of India
  - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
  - (2) With you all the way
  - (3) A bank of the common man
  - (4) The banker to every Indian
  - (5) The Nation banks on us.
- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

**Q. Where will the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting be held in India?**

A) Visakhapatnam

B) Kochi

C) Mumbai

D) Hyderabad

**Answer : B**

- ✓ India to host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.



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- ✓ India will host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46) and the 26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26) from May 20 to 30, 2024, in Kochi, Kerala.
- ✓ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Union Ministry of Earth Science, will host the meeting.
- ✓ Over 350 delegates from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP meetings.
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting is a forum where the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties and other stakeholders meet to discuss the environmental, scientific, and governance issues affecting Antarctica.
- ✓ Antarctic Treaty
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 in Washington, D.C., by 12 countries and came into force in 1961. At present, 56 countries have signed the Antarctic Treaty.
- ✓ The permanent secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty is in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ✓ India And Antarctica
- ✓ India signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1983. India enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022.
- ✓ India started its scientific expedition to Antarctica in 1981 to carry out research in the area.
- ✓ The government of India established the first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, in 1983 to facilitate research expeditions in the area.
- ✓ At present, India operates two research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012)
- ✓ National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)
- ✓ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research is the nodal body for conducting research in the polar regions (the Arctic and Antarctic), the Himalayas, and the Southern Ocean.
- ✓ The Center is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Earth Science, Government of India.
- ✓ Headquarters: Vasco Da Gama, Goa

**Q. What is the name of the torpedo developed by DRDO ?**

A) Varunastra

B) Prahaar

C) Dhanush

D) Astra

**Answer : A**

- ✓ DRDO successfully test SMART missile system for Indian Navy.
- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.



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- ✓ According to DRDO, several state-of-the-art mechanisms, such as symmetric separation, ejection and velocity control, were validated during the test.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and DRDO chief Dr Samir V Kamat lauded the efforts of the entire SMART team.
- ✓ About SMART Missile System
- ✓ The SMART (Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo) system is a next-generation missile-based lightweight torpedo delivery system being developed by DRDO for the Indian Navy. It is likely to boost the anti-submarine capability of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The SMART missile system comprises a long-range supersonic missile carrier that can travel up to 643 km, a lightweight torpedo with a range of 20 km, and a 50 kg high-explosive warhead as the payload.
- ✓ What is a Torpedo?
- ✓ A torpedo is a cigar-shaped, self-propelled underwater missile launched from a submarine, ship, or aeroplane. It is designed to explode upon contact with submarines or surface ships.
- ✓ DRDO Torpedo Varunastra
- ✓ DRDO has developed an indigenous torpedo, Varunastra. It is a ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo that was inducted into the Indian Navy in 2016.
- ✓ Varubastra has a range of 40-50 kilometres and is a subsonic missile.
- ✓ Varunastra can hit submarines in deep and shallow waters and quiet submarines.
- ✓ Varunastra can be fired from any Anti-Submarine Ship of the Indian Navy capable of firing heavyweight torpedoes.

## DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- DRDO successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- DRDO successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha.



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- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

**Q. Which of the following States of India are known for 'Patachitra painting'?**

**A) Bihar and Uttar Pradesh**

**B) Assam and Tripura**

**C) Odisha and West Bengal**

**D) Kerala and Tamil Nadu**



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## Answer : C

- ✓ The first-generation women patachitra artists of West Bengal's village of Naya sell their work online and are recognised the world over, encouraging future generations to stay in the profession.
- ✓ About Patachitra Painting:
- ✓ Patachitra, or Pattachitra, is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting based in the eastern Indian States of Odisha and West Bengal.
- ✓ It is believed to have originated as early as the 12th century.
- ✓ In the Sanskrit language, "Patta" literally means "cloth" and "Chitra" means "picture".
- ✓ Pattachitra paintings are made on a special canvas where cotton sarees are layered with tamarind paste and then coated with clay powder

**Q. In context of financial markets, the term 'front-running' refers to:**

- A) buying and selling of securities simultaneously**
- B) using non-public information concerning a significant transaction to execute trades**
- C) increase in investment in high-risk assets**
- D) investment in securities through Participatory Notes (P-Notes)**

## Answer : B

- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) recently approved changes in mutual fund regulations to prevent front-running in asset management companies (AMCs).
- ✓ About Front-running:
- ✓ Front-running is when a broker or an investor joins a trade because they have pre-existing non-public information concerning a significant transaction that may change the asset's price, equity, or derivative to obtain economic benefits.
- ✓ It is also known as forward-trading or tailgating.
- ✓ It is illegal in India.
- ✓ Front-running can occur in various forms and contexts, including the stock market, commodities market, and other financial markets.
- ✓ The strategies commonly used to front-run trades are the Buy-Buy-Sell (BBS) trading pattern and the Sell-Sell-Buy (SSB) trading pattern.
- ✓ What is Buy-Buy-Sell (BBS) trading pattern?









**Q. The Ministry of Mines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which of the following to enhance the knowledge base of the critical minerals processing industry in India?**

- A) ReNew Power
- B) Adani Enterprises
- C) NTPC Limited
- D) Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Ministry of Mines has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the non-profit, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, to enhance the knowledge base of the critical minerals processing industry in India.
- ✓ This partnership will help in creating a robust domestic critical minerals processing sector to support the country's economic growth and enable a transition to clean sources of energy.
- ✓ The partnership will help promote India as a global hub for critical minerals processing and make it a self-reliant and globally competitive player in the critical minerals arena.
- ✓ The pact will help create a sustainable ecosystem for the growth of the critical minerals industry while ensuring environmental protection

**Q. Which company has signed an MoU with Norwegian company M/s Ocean Sun for the implementation of Floating Solar Energy Technology in India?**

- A) SJVN Limited
- B) NTPC Limited
- C) NHPC Limited
- D) ReNew Power

**Answer : C**

- ✓ NHPC Limited to collaborate with Ocean Sun for implementation of Floating Solar Energy Technology
- ✓ NHPC Limited, the largest organization for hydropower development in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Ocean Sun, a Norwegian company operating as a technology provider to the floating solar industry.
- ✓ As per the MoU, NHPC and Ocean Sun will explore key areas of cooperation for demonstration of Ocean Sun's floating solar energy technology based on photovoltaic panels. The panels would be mounted on hydro-elastic membranes, at relevant sites to be identified by NHPC.



**Q. Isidro Pablo Porqueras Orea has been appointed as the Chief of Transformation for which airline company?**

- A) IndiGo
- B) Air India
- C) SpiceJet
- D) Akasha

**Answer : A**

- ✓ IndiGo has named Isidro Pablo Porqueras Orea, former COO of European airline Volotea, as a chief of transformation.
- ✓ Orea has 25 years of professional experience in different functional areas such as operations, commercial, strategy and finance.
- ✓ He was with European airline Volotea from 2016-2023 and served as their COO for the last 5 years.
- ✓ Currently, Wolfgang Prock-Schauer is the COO of India's largest airline

**Q. India will host the Badminton World Junior Championships 2025 in which city?**

- A) Guwahati
- B) New Delhi
- C) Bengaluru
- D) Ahmedabad

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India will host the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.
- ✓ The 2025 edition in India will mark the return of the BWF Junior World Championships to the country for the first time since 2008 when Pune hosted the event.
- ✓ The team as well as individual events will be held at the National Centre of Excellence, which was inaugurated by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) last year. It boasts 16 badminton courts, a 4,000 square feet gymnasium, a hostel for players and a dedicated 2,000 square feet physiotherapy centre.
- ✓ The 2026 edition of the BWF Thomas and Uber Cup Finals, meanwhile, will head to the Danish city of Horsens



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**Q. Which organization was granted Navratna Status by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), allowing it to operate more independently and efficiently?**

- A) Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)
- B) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)
- C) National Housing Bank (NHB)
- D) Urban Development Corporation (UDC)

**Answer : A**

- ✓ HUDCO granted 'Navratna status' by Department Of Public Enterprises
- ✓ The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) granted the Navratna Status to Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO). This status allows IREDA to operate more independently and efficiently.
- ✓ The 'Navratna status' is accorded to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) who are authorized to take up investments of up to ₹1,000 crore without Central nod.
- ✓ They have the room to invest up to 30% of their net worth within a year as long they adhere to the ₹1,000 crore threshold

**Q. Which city has been identified as the most polluted in the world according to IQAir's real-time pollution measurements?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Kathmandu
- C) Chiang Mai
- D) Hanoi

**Answer : B**

- ✓ According to IQAir, an organization that measures the real-time pollution of 101 cities in the world, Kathmandu was found to be the most polluted city in the world. In terms of pollution, Kathmandu, New Delhi, Chiang Mai in Thailand,
- ✓ Hanoi in Vietnam, Bangkok in Thailand and Dhaka in Bangladesh are ranked first, second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.
- ✓ According to the 'World Air Quality Index-Ranking', which measures the level of air pollution around the world, Kathmandu's air is at the top of the world's unhealthy air list. Air pollution affects the heart and blood vessels, lungs, brain, eyes, nose, ears, and throat and also increases the risk of asthma, cancer and other diseases.



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- ✓ As there is a high possibility of heat waves in the Terai region during summer, the Ministry has requested that people should not go outside unnecessarily during the day and drink more water and take liquid food

**Q. Which port in the Northern part of Sri Lanka is set to undergo renovation with the support of an Indian financial grant?**

- A) Hambantota Port                      B) Colombo Port  
C) Galle Port                                D) Kankesanthurai Port

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Sri Lanka's Cabinet has approved the plan to renovate the Kankesanthurai port in the Northern part of the island. The project will be executed under an Indian financial grant.
- ✓ The project had faced delays as estimated costs surpassed available funds. Recognizing the project's significance, India has pledged to cover the entire estimated cost of the project(USD 61.5 million). Situated in the northern region of Sri Lanka, the Kankesanthurai Port or the KKS Port, with an area of approximately 16 acres, is located at a distance of 104 km (56 nautical miles) from Karaikal Port in Puducherry.

**Q. Which organizations have announced a two-year strategic partnership to drive innovation in Mobile Financial Services (MFS) and Fintech solutions?**

- A) Ericsson and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur  
B) Ericsson and Fintech Solutions Development Institute  
C) Ericsson and Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T)  
D) Ericsson and Fintech Solutions Development Institute

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Ericsson and IIT Kanpur partner to drive innovation in mobile financial services.
- ✓ Ericsson and the Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology (F.I.R.S.T) at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur have announced a two-year strategic partnership to drive innovation in Mobile Financial Services (MFS) and Fintech solutions.
- ✓ This collaboration comes at a pivotal moment as the digital wallet market is predicted to surpass \$16 trillion in transactions by 2028.
- ✓ Ericsson's Wallet Platform is claimed to support over 400 million registered mobile wallets, processing 2.8 billion transactions valued at over \$40 billion monthly.



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## IIT KANPUR IN NEWS 2023 – 24

- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.
- IIT Kanpur Collaborated with Indian Navy to Promote Technology Development
- IITK has established a Center of Excellence (CoE) named ATMAN (Advanced Technologies for Monitoring Air-quality iNdicators)
- Sandeep Jain, an auto-component manufacturer and alumnus of IIT-Kanpur, has been unanimously elected as the President of the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) for the year 2024-25
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Airbus have formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

**Q. Which day of the year is observed as the World Tuna Day?**

A) May 04

B) May 03

C) May 02

D) May 01

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The World Tuna Day is observed on May 2 every year to raise awareness about the Tuna fish and its importance to humans and earth and also to promote more sustainable fishing practices.
- ✓ Theme 2023: Yes We Can.
- ✓ The United Nations (UN) officially recognised the World Tuna Day in 2017.
- ✓ The first World Tuna Day was observed in the year 2017.
- ✓ Tuna is a saltwater fish comprising of some 15 different species across five genera

**Q. The Space Applications Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is located in which one of the following cities?**

A) Bengaluru

B) Hyderabad

C) Thiruvananthapuram

D) Ahmedabad

**Answer : D**



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- ✓ A study carried out by the scientists at the Space Applications Centre suggests that the extent of water ice in the northern polar region is twice that in the southern polar region of the Moon.
- ✓ About Space Applications Centre (SAC):
- ✓ It is a major research and development centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ Located in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, SAC is spread across two campuses with multi-disciplinary activities.
- ✓ Genesis:
- ✓ The genesis of the centre dates back to 1966, with the establishment of the Experimental Satellite Communication Earth Station (ESCES) by the late Dr. Vikram Sarabhai in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ Later in 1972, the different units of ISRO in Ahmedabad pursuing research in applications of space technology were merged to form SAC.
- ✓ Besides these, the centre also contributes significantly to scientific and planetary missions of ISRO like Chandrayan-1, the Mars Orbiter Mission, etc.

## ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath announced on 16 April 2024 that India aims to achieve debris-free space by 2030.
- Proba-3 Mission of ESA to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multi-purpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction- SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO Chairman have already said that by 2040 we should have an Indian astronaut on the moon and also to have our space station by 2035.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.





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- ISRO has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India



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**Q. What regulatory approval has Groww Pay, the UPI payments platform of broking firm Groww, received from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

- A) Authorization to issue credit cards.
- B) Permission to operate as a Payments Aggregator (PA).
- C) License to provide insurance services.
- D) Approval to offer investment advisory services.

**Answer : B**

- ✓ RBI grants in-principle nod to Groww to operate as payments aggregator.
- ✓ Groww Pay, the UPI payments platform of broking firm Groww, has received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a Payments Aggregator (PA).
- ✓ This licence will allow the company to enable e-commerce transactions through its UPI app — Groww Pay.
- ✓ In July last year, the broking firm rolled out UPI payment services through the Groww Pay Private Limited feature to expand its financial services.

**Q. Who recently became the third Indian female Grandmaster after being awarded the title by FIDE, the International Chess Federation?**

- A) Tania Sachdev
- B) Mary Ann Gomes
- C) Vaishali Ramesh Babu
- D) Padmini Rout

**Answer : C**

- ✓ International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu.
- ✓ Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu, has officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE, the International Chess Federation. This remarkable achievement makes Vaishali the third Indian female Grandmaster, joining Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli.
- ✓ Vaishali's promotion to Grandmaster title carries a unique distinction, as she and her brother, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, became the world's first Grandmaster brother-sister duo.







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- India's First Research IIT Satellite Campus will be in Ujjain.
- India's first spy satellite built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will be launched in a SpaceX rocket by April and will be used by the armed forces to obtain secret information.
- Commencement of Core Loading at India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- The PFBR has been fully designed and constructed by BHAVINI.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project at Maruti Suzuki India's plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- Ola Founder's Krutrim Becomes First \$1 Billion Indian AI Startup.
- For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification .
- Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence.
- India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.
- Uttarakhand launches India's first polythene waste bank for sustainable waste management.
- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) in Hyderabad.
- India's first-ever sports university to be set up in Manipur.
- India Launches Its 1st Indigenous e-Tractor Developed By the CMERI.
- Dr Jitendra Singh, had launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, a public engineering R&D institution in Durgapur, West Bengal, and a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Kerala Launches India's First AI School, Pioneering Future-Focused Education.



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- Sanchi, a world heritage site located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is all set to become India's first solar city.
- Hitachi Payment Services launched India's first UPI-ATM.
- India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida.

**Q. Worldline ePayments India obtained authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as what?**

- A) Mobile wallet provider                      B) Payment gateway  
C) Online Payment Aggregator (PA)        D) Digital currency exchange

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Worldline ePayments India gets RBI nod to operate as payment aggregator.
- ✓ Worldline ePayments India, a player in digital payments, on Tuesday said it received authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007.
- ✓ The authorisation from RBI is a testimony of our commitment to the Indian market and affirming our focus on compliance and highlighting the significance of a well-regulated payments landscape.
- ✓ Worldline ePayments India offers solutions for all kinds of payment needs offering in-store, online, and omnichannel payments to its customers. Since late last year, the RBI has approved multiple online payment gateway companies to be PAs including DigiO, PayU, CRED, CC Avenue, Mswipe, Razorpay, Cashfree, Decentro, Zoho, Tata Pay, Google Pay, and EnKash, among others.

**Q. How did the value of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions compare to the record high observed in March 2024?**

- A) It was 0.7% higher                              B) It was 0.7% lower  
C) It remained the same                          D) It increased by 40%

**Answer : B**

- ✓ UPI transactions moderate from March peak to ₹19.6-lakh crore.
- ✓ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) saw both the number and value of transactions moderating by about 1 per cent on month from the record high seen in March 2024.



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- ✓ Transactions worth ₹19.64 lakh crore were processed during April 2024, 0.7 per cent lower than the record of ₹19.78-lakh crore seen in the previous month. The value of transactions was 40 per cent higher compared with April 2023, as per data by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ✓ The end of a financial year traditionally sees a lot of transactions closer to the 1 lakh limit as a lot of merchants, business owners and individuals square off transactions leading to higher value and volume of transactions.
- ✓ The number of transactions on the UPI network fell 1.0 per cent to 1,330 crore during the month from the March peak level of 1,344 crore transactions. On year, the volume of transactions was 50 per cent higher.

**Q. According to the latest data by 1Lattice, which bank held the highest market share in the Debit cards market in March 2024?**

A) Bank of Baroda

B) Canara Bank

C) Union Bank

D) State Bank of India

**Answer : D**

- ✓ HDFC and SBI dominate credit and debit cards market, BoB records highest growth in Mar'24
- ✓ India's largest public sector lender, the State Bank of India, remained the front runner in the Debit cards market, holding a 24 per cent share in March 2024, revealed latest data by 1Lattice.
- ✓ Top banks followed the list like Bank of Baroda which held about 10 per cent market share, followed by Canara Bank, Union Bank and HDFC Bank with approximately 6 per cent market share each and Bank of India with a 5 per cent market share.
- ✓ In the Debit cards segment, Bank of Baroda recorded the highest growth, of approximately 16 per cent year-on-year, while Axis Bank recorded 15 per cent growth and Canara Bank recorded 12 per cent growth. Thereafter, following the lead, Union Bank and HDFC bank registered a growth of 8 per cent each.
- ✓ It is expected that card-based transactions will continue to witness steady growth, at almost 16 per cent year on year for the next four years

**Q. Where did American Express recently inaugurate its expansive nearly one-million-square-foot campus?**

A) Mumbai, Maharashtra

B) Bangalore, Karnataka

C) Gurugram, Haryana

D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

**Answer : C**



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- ✓ American Express opens its largest office worldwide in India.
- ✓ American Express, a global payments company, has announced the inauguration of its expansive, nearly one-million-square-foot campus in Gurugram, Haryana. The new campus will serve as a hub for American Express operations in India and will be the largest campus opened by the company to date.
- ✓ Situated in sector 74A Gurugram, the new office will be an addition to its existing facilities in Gurugram, Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Pune.

**Q. With which entity has NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed an agreement to support the development of an instant payment system similar to India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for Namibia?**

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)                      B) Bank of Namibia (BoN)  
C) South African Reserve Bank (SARB)      D) Central Bank of India (CBI)

**Answer : B**

- ✓ NPCI inks pact with Bank of Namibia for developing UPI-like instant payment system.
- ✓ NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has signed an agreement with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) to support them in developing an instant payment system like Unified Payment Interface (UPI) for Namibia. By leveraging technology and experiences from India's UPI, the partnership seeks to help Namibia modernize its financial ecosystem.
- ✓ This includes improving accessibility, affordability and connectivity with both domestic and international payment networks, and interoperability.
- ✓ Through this collaboration, BoN will gain access to best-in-class technology and insights from NIPL, enabling the creation of a similar platform in Namibia for the digital welfare of its citizens

**Q. Who has recently resigned from the position of joint Managing Director at Kotak Mahindra Bank and is expected to join Federal Bank, as per reports?**

- A) Uday Kotak    B) KVS Manian  
C) Aditya Puri    D) Shikha Sharma

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank Joint MD KVS Manian resigns with immediate effect.
- ✓ KVS Manian, joint MD at Kotak Mahindra Bank, has stepped down from his position with immediate effect, the bank informed the exchanges. He is now likely to join Federal Bank, according to reports.





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- ✓ Manian had been with the Kotak Group for a long time and played key roles in taking forward the group's success, and foray into various financial services business.

## KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- KVS Manian, joint MD at Kotak Mahindra Bank, has stepped down from his position with immediate effect, the bank informed the exchanges. He is now likely to join Federal Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has appointed Jaideep Hansraj, current MD and CEO of Kotak Securities, as Group President of 'One Kotak' with effect from April 1, 2024.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has sold a 2% stake in KFin Technologies through the open market for Rs 208 crore.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has launched 'Smart Choice Gold Loan' for customers.
- CCI approves Zurich Insurance's acquisition of 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability. The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL) have joined forces to establish the Kotak School of Sustainability.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of CS Rajan as part-time Chairman of Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG) on the latter's platform.
- Ashok Vaswani is next Kotak Mahindra Bank CEO.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank
  - Founded 1985
  - Founders : Uday Kotak
  - Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
  - MD & CEO : Ashok Vaswani
  - Tagline : Let's Make Money Simple Ab Kona Kona Kotak.



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- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai.
- It is India's third largest private sector bank by market capitalisation after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- As of 31 March 2023, the bank has a national footprint of 1,780 branches and 2,963 ATMs.
- Kotak Mahindra Finance was then renamed Kotak Mahindra Bank. At the time, Uday Kotak had a 56% stake in the company while Anand Mahindra held a 5% stake .

**Q. Who was honored by the Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, for her 'Outstanding Contribution to the cause of Corporate Social Responsibility'?**

A) Nita Ambani

B) Priya Patel

C) Dr. Bina Modi

D) Anjali Sharma

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Dr. Bina Modi Felicitated by Vice President of India for Contributions to SIL.
- ✓ Dr. Bina Modi, Chairperson and Managing Director of Modi Enterprises – KK Modi Group, was honoured by the esteemed Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankar, for her 'Outstanding Contribution to the cause of Corporate Social Responsibility'.
- ✓ The event marked the inauguration of the new building for the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF), with the Vice President gracing the occasion as the chief guest.
- ✓ Dr. Modi has been actively engaged in various Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives aimed at uplifting communities and fostering sustainable development. Since 2015, she has been supporting the marginalized farmer community in Andhra Pradesh through multifaceted interventions.
- ✓ Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Project ISHAN:**

**1. It aims to streamline and enhance air traffic management.**

**2. It unifies four Flight Information Regions to single continuous airspace in Delhi.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2



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## Answer : A

- ✓ India has kickstarted the process of unifying its four airspace regions into one spanning the entire nation under Project ISHAN.
- ✓ The Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN) initiative aims to streamline and enhance air traffic management.
- ✓ India is planning a major move to unify its four Flight Information Regions (FIRs) in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai into one continuous airspace in Nagpur and have harmonized Air Traffic Management from Nagpur.
- ✓ The Airports Authority of India (AAI), the public entity invited expressions of interest (EoI) for the preparation of a detailed project report.
- ✓ Currently, Indian airspace is divided into four flight information regions (FIRs) in Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, and a sub-FIR in Guwahati each managed separately.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Kutch Ajrakh:**

**1. It is a textile craft created on cotton cloth with intricate designs.**

**2. It was introduced in India by the Mughal empire.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

## Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh,' hailing from the vibrant region of Kutch in Gujarat.
- ✓ The Ajrakh is a textile craft, holds deep roots in the cultural tapestry of Gujarat, particularly in the regions of Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch, where its legacy spans millennia.
- ✓ The art of Ajrakh entails a meticulous process of hand-block printing on treated cotton cloth, culminating in intricate designs infused with rich symbolism and history.





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**Q. India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to \_\_\_\_ Indian rupees a metric ton from 9,600 rupees with effect from May 1.**

A) 9000

B) 8000

C) 8400

D) 8800

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India has cut its windfall tax on petroleum crude to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) a metric ton from 9,600 rupees with effect from May 1.
- ✓ The tax, which is revised every fortnight, was left unchanged at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel.
- ✓ The government had on April 16 raised the windfall tax on petroleum crude to 9,600 rupees a metric ton from 6,800 rupees.
- ✓ This tax is levied as the Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED).
- ✓ The windfall tax remains unchanged at zero for diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF).
- ✓ The Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on the export of diesel, petrol, and jet fuel (ATF) remains at nil

**Q. National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) expects its loan sanctions pipeline to swell to about \_\_ by March-end 2025 against about ₹1 lakh crore as of March-end 2024.**

A) ₹2 lakh crore

B) ₹3 lakh crore

C) ₹4 lakh crore

D) ₹5 lakh crore

**Answer : A**

- ✓ NaBFID expects cumulative loan sanctions to top ₹2-lakh cr in FY25
- ✓ The Government-owned National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) expects its loan sanctions pipeline to swell to about ₹2 lakh crore by March-end 2025 against about ₹1 lakh crore as of March-end 2024.
- ✓ To support loan growth, the development financial institution (DFI) is planning to mop up about ₹53,000 crore this year via bond market, bank and multilateral credit lines.
- ✓ The All India Financial Institution was set up in 2022 under the NABFID Act, 2021, as the principal entity for infrastructure financing in the country.
- ✓ NaBFID sanctioned ₹18,560 crore in the January-March 2023 quarter and ₹83,280 crore in FY24. NaBFID crossed ₹1 lakh crore (cumulative) loan sanctions mark in March 2024.



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**Q. How much lakh crore rupees were GST collected in April 2024?**

- A) Rs 2.35 lakh cr                      B) Rs 2.10 lakh cr  
C) Rs 2.80 lakh cr                      D) Rs 2.76 lakh cr

**Answer : B**

- ✓ GST revenue collection hits record high of Rs 2.10 lakh cr in April
- ✓ India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections hit a record high of Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April, growing 12.4 per cent on year-on-year basis.
- ✓ GST collection in March stood at Rs 1.78 lakh crore. Previously, the highest-ever GST collection figure stood at Rs 1.87 lakh crore in April 2023.
- ✓ This is also the first time GST collection has crossed the ₹2 trillion mark, since the unified indirect tax regime was rolled out seven years ago.

**Q. Who has been appointed as the Director of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)?**

- A) Pratima Singh                      B) Rajesh Singh  
C) Deepak Singh                      D) Ramesh Chandra

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Pratima Singh (IRS) has been selected for the appointment as Director of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ✓ She has been selected for the appointment under the Central Staffing Scheme for a period of five years.
- ✓ Singh is an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of 2009-batch. She was recommended for the Central deputation by the Department of Revenue.

**Q. Which IIT was awarded a patent by the Government of India on indigenously developed compact inverter?**

- A) IIT Varanasi                      B) IIT Patna  
C) IIT Delhi                      D) IIT Mumbai

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology-Patna (IIT Patna) has been awarded a patent by the Patent Office of the Government of India on an indigenously developed lightweight, compact and easy-to-port inverter.



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- ✓ IIT Patna will have the copyright on the commercial use of this technology for 20 years.

**Q. Who recently took over as the Vice Chief of the Indian Navy?**

- A) Krishna Swaminathan                      B) Vinod Kumar  
C) Abhinav Kumar                              D) Abhay Kohli

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan assumed charge as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff on 01 May 2024.
- ✓ He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 87.
- ✓ He is an expert in communications and electronic warfare.
- ✓ He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla.

**Q. When is the World Press Freedom Day commemorated all over the world?**

- A) 01 May    B) 02 May  
C) 04 May    D) 03 May

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The World Press Freedom Day is observed on May 3 annually to raise awareness of the importance of freedom of the press and remind governments of their duty to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression.
- ✓ The Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993.
- ✓ The 2024 World Press Day is the 31st World Press Day.
- ✓ The theme of the 31st World Press Day is A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis.
- ✓ Freedom of Press in India
- ✓ The Indian constitution does not mention freedom of the press as a fundamental right. However, Article 19 1(a) of the Constitution guarantees freedom of speech and expression to all citizens of India.
- ✓ The Supreme Court, in the Indian Express vs. Union of India case in 1984, held that though freedom of the press is not mentioned in the constitution, nevertheless the freedom of the press is a fundamental right.
- ✓ The court held that freedom of the press is included in Article 19 1(a) of the constitution



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**Q. With which financial services provider did YES Bank collaborate to introduce two co-branded credit cards named Pi and Phi?**

A) Axis Bank

B) HDFC Bank

C) ICICI Bank

D) ANQ

**Answer : D**

- ✓ YES Bank collaborates with ANQ to launch 2 co-branded credit cards Pi, Phi.
- ✓ YES Bank has partnered with Bengaluru-based financial services provider, ANQ, to unveil two co-branded credit cards — Pi and Phi.
- ✓ The strategic partnership aims to bridge the gap between traditional banking and the fintech industry, offering innovative solutions to meet evolving consumer needs, a release said.
- ✓ The YES Bank-ANQ Pi credit card is a digital-only card that offers credit on UPI for domestic transactions, providing users with convenient and secure payment options. The credit card caters to both domestic and international purchases with its physical card format, offering users versatility in their spending options

## YES BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- YES Bank collaborates with ANQ to launch 2 co-branded credit cards Pi, Phi.
- YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Yes Bank becomes first Indian bank to conduct export finance transactions on RXIL's ITFS.
- Yes Bank Launches SmartFin With Veefin Solutions, An Advanced Digital Platform To Boost MSMEs.
- Yes Bank becomes first lender to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- Yes bank partnered with fintech Zaggle for next-gen corporate credit card.
- YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App.
- Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (₹) in tie-up with YES Bank
- YES Bank announced the unveiling of its new logo, which forms part of its "refreshed brand identity." YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.





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- Yes Bank is an Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor in 2004.
- YES BANK
- Founded : 2004
- Founder : Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Sunil Mehta
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.

**Q. Who has been elected as the new Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands by the legislators, formerly serving as the Foreign Minister?**

**A) John Moffat Fugui**

**B) Manasseh Sogavare**

**C) Jeremiah Manele**

**D) Rick Houenipwela**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Solomon Islands elects Jeremiah Manele as new prime minister.
- ✓ Legislators in the Solomon Islands have elected former Foreign Minister Jeremiah Manele as their new prime minister.
- ✓ Manele, who has pledged to continue the Pacific nation's China-friendly foreign policy, won 31 votes in a secret ballot. His opponent, longtime opposition leader Matthew Wale, secured 18 votes.

## NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

- Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah : Kuwait
- Simon Harris : Ireland
- Bjarni Benediktsson : Iceland
- Luis Montenegro : Portugal
- Mohammad Mustafa : Palestine
- Olzhas Bektenov : Kazakhstan
- Gabriel Attal : France
- Donald Tusk : Poland





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- ✓ Amul will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team that will participate in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which commences on June 1.
- ✓ The opening match of the tournament will be played between USA and Canada in Dallas.
- ✓ This association with Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), responsible for marketing milk and milk products under the brand name Amul, signifies a significant step towards expanding and popularizing cricket across the nation

## SPONSOR IN NEWS 2024

- Amul will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team that will participate in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which commences on June 1
- Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.
- IndusInd Bank, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate
- Tata Group Secures IPL Title Sponsorship for Next 5 Years spanning 2024 to 2028.
- Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years.
- Dream11 has reportedly taken over as the main jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team from July 2023 to March 2026, replacing Byju's.

**Q. Indian wildlife biologist, Purnima Devi Barman has been conferred with the Whitley Gold Award 2024 in May 2024. She is from which state?**

- A) Uttarakhand                      B) Assam  
C) Haryana                              D) Tripura

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Purnima Devi Barman received 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024
- ✓ A wildlife biologist from Assam, Dr Purnima Devi Barman has won her second Whitley Gold Award, also known as the Green Oscar.
- ✓ She was honoured for her conservation effort of the endangered bird, Hargila or Greater Adjutant Stork and its wetland habitat.





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- ✓ Russia's government recently published new footage claiming to show the targeting of two Ukrainian High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS) shortly after the U.S. authorized a significant new chunk of military aid for Ukraine.
- ✓ About High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS):
- ✓ It is a light, multiple rocket launcher.
- ✓ It is manufactured by Lockheed Martin Corporation, a US-based security and aerospace company.
- ✓ HIMARS is intended to engage and defeat artillery, air defence concentrations, trucks, light armour, and personnel carriers, as well as support troop and supply concentrations.
- ✓ It is an air-transportable wheeled launcher mounted on a 5-ton Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV).
- ✓ It can carry either a launcher pod of six rockets or one MGM-140 Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS), which have a range of 300 km (186 miles).

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Commission on Population and Development:**

**1. It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).**

**2. It consists of 47 member countries elected for a period of four years.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund is organizing event titled “Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way” during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57).
- ✓ It was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946, which was renamed as the Commission on Population and Development by the General Assembly in 1994.
- ✓ Members: It is composed of 47 member countries.
- ✓ Term: Member countries are elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years on the basis of geographic distribution.



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- ✓ It was constituted as three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that plays the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the programme of action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.
- ✓ The meetings of commission were held typically every two or three years until 1994, after which it has been held once a year.
- ✓ It is not a United Nations affiliated body.
- ✓ The government of India has selected three elected women representatives Neeru Yadav, Supriya Das Datta, and Kunuku Hema Kumari, to represent India at the United Nations' "Localising the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" event. The event will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 3 May 2024.
- ✓ Vivek Bharadwaj, Secretary of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, is leading the Indian delegation to the United Nations event
- ✓ The "Localising the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" event in New York is being organised by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, along with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- ✓ The Indian-organised event will be held alongside during the 57th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD57), which will be held from 29 April - 3 May 2024 in New York, United States of America.
- ✓ The United Nations adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030, all people will enjoy peace and prosperity. The United Nations has set a target to achieve the 17 SDG goals by 2030

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to C295 Transport Aircraft:**

**1. It is a new-generation tactical airlifter indigenously designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).**

**2. It is powered by turboprop engines and designed to provide low-level flight characteristics.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : B**



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- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently received delivery of the second of the 56 C295 aircraft.
- ✓ About C295 Transport Aircraft:
- ✓ It is a new-generation tactical airlifter in the light and medium segment.
- ✓ It was designed and built by Airbus, a European multinational aerospace corporation.
- ✓ It is a reliable and highly versatile tactical transport that is tailored for missions that range from carrying troops and cargo, maritime patrol, airborne warning, surveillance and reconnaissance to signals intelligence, armed close air support, medical evacuation, Air-to-Air refuelling, VIP transport, and airborne firefighting.
- ✓ In 2021, India formalised the acquisition of 56 C295 aircraft to replace the legacy Avro fleet of the IAF at a cost of Rs 21,935 crore.
- ✓ Under the deal, Airbus will deliver the first 16 aircraft in 'fly-away' condition from its final assembly line in Seville by 2025, and the subsequent 40 aircraft will be manufactured and assembled by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India as part of an industrial partnership between the two companies.

**Q. Which organization organized the #PlayTrue Campaign in India to commemorate WADA's Play True Day?**

- A) UNESCO
- B) WHO
- C) NADA
- D) UNICEF

**Answer : C**

- ✓ NADA India organized #PlayTrue Campaign to create awareness about clean sports.
- ✓ The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA), India concluded #PlayTrue Campaign, with turnout of more than 12,133 participants.
- ✓ The campaign commemorated WADA's Play True Day and aimed at fostering awareness about the importance of clean sport and anti-doping practices in India, received overwhelming participation and support from athletes, coaches, and sports enthusiasts nationwide.
- ✓ The #PlayTrue Campaign highlights NADA India's commitment to equipping athletes, coaches, and the entire sporting community with a thorough understanding of anti-doping regulations, empowering them to champion clean play in India. The campaign was held from 15th to 30th April, 2024



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**Q. What is the name of the portal launched by the government's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare in collaboration with Bank of India?**

- A) PensionEase Portal                      B) Pensioners' Bank Portal  
C) Integrated Pensioners' Portal        D) PensionerConnect Portal

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Pension department launches integrated portal for govt retirees.
- ✓ The government's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has started a portal in collaboration with Bank of India. The Integrated Pensioners' Portal of Bank of India combines the pension processing and payment services of five banks into a single window, said the Press Information Bureau (PIB) in a statement.
- ✓ A key feature of the portal, made possible by the department's collaboration with Bank of India, is that retirees can access their monthly pension slips, check the status of life certificates, submit Form 16, and view statements of arrears paid.
- ✓ Integrating the portal, which is also known as Bhavishya Portal, with the relevant services of State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank and Canara Bank has been completed. Most pension-disbursing banks will be integrated with the portal later

**Q. What interest rate did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announce for the Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2034 (GOI FRB 2034) for the half-year period from April 30, 2024, to October 29, 2024?**

- A) 6%  
B) 7%  
C) 8%  
D) 9%

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced an 8 percent interest on Government of India Floating Rate Bond 2034 (GOI FRB 2034) for the half year April 30, 2024 to October 29, 2024.
- ✓ It may be recalled that FRB 2034 carries a coupon, which has a base rate equivalent to the average of the Weighted Average Yield (WAY) of last three auctions (from the rate fixing day i.e., April 30, 2024) of 182 Day T-Bills, plus a fixed spread (0.98 per cent), the RBI said in a release





**Q. Which investors have backed the neobanking startup Fi, enabling it to secure a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India?**

- A) HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank      B) Peak XV and Temasek  
C) Axis Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank D) SBI and PNB

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Neobanking startup Fi secures NBFC licence from RBI.
- ✓ Neobanking startup Fi, backed by investors such as Peak XV and Temasek, has secured a non-banking finance company (NBFC) licence from the Reserve Bank of India, enabling it to provide loans from its own books.
- ✓ With this, Fi has joined the likes of Jupiter, Groww and Cred, all of which got into the lending business either by getting a fresh licence or by acquiring another NBFC.
- ✓ In recent years, fintech startups have pursued NBFC licences to streamline their entry into lending, given the RBI's stringent regulations on online credit disbursement.

**Q. Which IT company has recently announced a partnership with Spain-based Atento to deliver generative AI-powered solutions and services to global enterprises?**

- A) Wipro  
B) TCS  
C) Infosys  
D) Tech Mahindra

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Tech Mahindra, Atento join hands to offer GenAI-powered services.
- ✓ IT company Tech Mahindra said it has partnered with Spain-based Atento to provide generative AI-powered solutions and services to global enterprises.
- ✓ Atento is a customer relationship management (CRM) and business transformation outsourcing (BTO) company in Latin America.
- ✓ The partnership will deliver end-to-end business transformation solutions and services that leverage.
- ✓ Generative AI-powered technologies, as well as customer experience (CX) consulting for customers in the United States, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa and Latin American regions.



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**Q. Who emerged victorious in the men's and women's categories at the 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru?**

- A) Peter Mwaniki and Lilian Kasait      B) Eliud Kipchoge and Brigid Kosgei  
C) Joshua Cheptegei and Hellen Obiri      D) Geoffrey Kamworor and Faith Chepngetich

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Kenyan athletes triumph at TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2024.
- ✓ The 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) World 10K Bengaluru witnessed a display of exceptional athleticism as Kenyan runners, Peter Mwaniki and Lilian Kasait, claimed victory in the men's and women's categories respectively.
- ✓ Mwaniki, touted as a favourite contender, secured the men's title with a commanding performance, crossing the finish line with a time of 28:15. His strategic surge in the final stretch propelled him ahead of his compatriot Hillary Chepkwony, who finished closely behind at 28:33. Notably, 17-year-old debutant Hagos Eyob impressed with a time of 28:39, securing the third position.
- ✓ In the women's category, Kasait showcased her prowess early on, seizing the lead and maintaining a relentless pace throughout the race. While falling just short of the event record, Kasait's determined run culminated in a victory with a time of 30:56.
- ✓ The Indian elite category saw Kiran Matre and Sanjivani Jadhav emerge as the victors, both setting new event records. Matre's resilient effort resulted in a first-place finish with a time of 29:32, breaking the previous record

**Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director & CEO designate for Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL), set to assume office upon the retirement of Ramesh Iyer on April 29, 2024?**

- A) Ramesh Iyer      B) Raul Rebello  
C) Anand Mahindra      D) Pawan Goenka

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Raul Rebello appointed MD & CEO of Mahindra Finance.
- ✓ The Board of Directors of Mahindra and Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL Company) announced Raul Rebello as the MD & CEO designate for MMFSL. Raul will take over as MD & CEO when Ramesh Iyer retires, on 29th April 2024.



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- ✓ Raul, aged 45 years, joined MMFSL on 1st September 2021 as the Chief Operating Officer of the Company. Over the past 17 months, Raul has capably led the growth and transformation journey in MMFSL, demonstrating strong leadership.

**Q. The National Coal Miners Day is observed in India on which day?**

- A) May 01
- B) May 04
- C) May 02
- D) May 03

**Answer : B**

- ✓ In India, the Coal Miners Day is celebrated on May 4 every year, to recognize the hard work of some of the great unsung heroes of Industrial Revolution.
- ✓ The day aims to show appreciation for the coal miners and honour their accomplishments, who spend most of the days digging, tunnelling and extracting coal from the mines.
- ✓ Though coal miners have been working for centuries, they became significantly important due to the Industrial revolution between 1760 and 1840 when coal was used on a large scale to fuel stationary and locomotive engines and heat buildings.
- ✓ Indian states such as Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra are the significant coal suppliers

**Q. The International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is marked annually on \_\_\_\_\_**

- A) May 02
- B) May 03
- C) May 04
- D) May 01

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) is observed on May 4 every year since 1999, to recognise and honour the sacrifices that firefighters make to ensure that their communities and environment are as safe as possible.
- ✓ The day was instituted, after the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia on 2 December 1998.





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- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival : New Delhi
- Nuakhai festival : Odisha
- Nadi Utsav : Delhi
- Karnataka Cultural Festival : Sri Lanka .
- Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Festival of Libraries 2023 : New Delhi .
- Chachin Grazing Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Harela Festival : Uttarakhand
- Bonalu Festival : Telangana
- Kharchi Puja : Tripura
- Palkhi festival : Maharashtra
- Raja festival : Odisha

**Q. Where did REC Limited receive regulatory approval to set up its wholly owned subsidiary, as announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

A) Mumbai

B) New Delhi

C) Gandhinagar

D) Bangalore

**Answer : C**

- ✓ REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- ✓ REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has received a 'No Objection Certificate' from the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) , for setting up a wholly owned subsidiary in International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tec-City ("GIFT"), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The decision to expand operations into GIFT, a burgeoning hub for financial services in India, comes as REC continues to diversify its portfolio and explore new avenues for growth.
- ✓ The proposed subsidiary will engage in a range of financial activities as a finance company within GIFT, including lending, investment, and other financial services.



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## REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24

- REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat
- REC Limited, a Ministry of Power entity, clinched the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in 'Renewable Energy Financing'.
- REC Limited joins hands with UNISED to support Education of Children.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow', an IIT Madras CSR Summit.
- REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond – Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- REC will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana.
- REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen.
- REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years.
- REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by Assocham.
- RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.
- REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.
- REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise launched a SUGAM REC mobile application.
- REC Limited and Punjab National Bank have signed an MoU to explore funding possibilities in the Power Infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- The consortium arrangement will co-finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crores over the next three years.
- REC Ltd has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- Founded : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- CMD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan



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- REC was formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- REC Limited is an NBFC focused on financing and development of the power sector across India.
- REC Limited has also recently started services in the financing infrastructure and logistics sector.
- REC funding lights every fourth bulb in India. REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Power.

**Q. Who has been named as the laureates of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize?**

- A) Chilean journalists reporting on corruption
- B) Palestinian journalists covering Gaza
- C) Indian journalists advocating for press freedom
- D) Nigerian journalists promoting investigative journalism

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- ✓ Palestinian journalists covering Gaza have been named as laureates of the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, following the recommendation of an International Jury of media professionals. The Award Ceremony taken place the margins of the World Press Freedom Conference in Santiago, Chile.
- ✓ The ongoing conflict in Gaza is having grave consequences for journalists. Since 7 October 2023, UNESCO has condemned and deplored the deaths of 26 journalists and media workers in the line of work, based upon information from its international NGO partners. The Organization is reviewing dozens of other cases.
- ✓ UNESCO is supporting journalists reporting from conflict and crisis zones. The Organization is distributing essential supplies to journalists in Gaza, and has established safe working spaces and provided emergency grants for journalists in Ukraine and Sudan.

### UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize
- A multibillion-dollar dam project underway across the Mekong River in Laos has prompted concerns that it could result in Luang Prabang City losing its UNESCO World Heritage Site status.



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- India has nominated the “Maratha Military Landscapes”, a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.
- Gujarat’s Garba Dance Enters UNESCO’s ‘Intangible Cultural Heritage’ List.
- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the ‘World’s Most Beautiful Airports’ and has been awarded the ‘World Special Prize for an Interior 2023’ by the UNESCO’s Prix Versailles.
- ‘Garba of Gujarat’ has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.
- Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO ‘City of Literature’ and Gwalior as the ‘City of Music’ in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO’s World Heritage List, under the collective entry of ‘Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas’.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site .
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193





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**Q. Who has been announced as the new National Ambassador for Unicef India, after previously serving as a Celebrity Advocate for the organization?**

- A) Kareena Kapoor Khan                      B) Priyanka Chopra Jonas  
C) Deepika Padukone                         D) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

**Answer : A**

- ✓ UNICEF India appoints Kareena Kapoor Khan as National Ambassador #ForEveryChild.
- ✓ Unicef India announced Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as its new National Ambassador.
- ✓ Kareena had earlier served as a Celebrity Advocate for Unicef India.
- ✓ The “Crew” star, who has been associated with Unicef India since 2014, will support the not-for-profit organisation in furthering every child’s right to early childhood development, health, education and gender equality.
- ✓ The four advocates are Gauranshi Sharma from Madhya Pradesh on right to play and disability inclusion; Kartik Verma from Uttar Pradesh on climate action and child rights advocacy; singer Nahid Afrin from Assam on mental health and early childhood development; and Vinisha Umashankar from Tamil Nadu is a budding innovator and STEM pioneer.

## LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Kareena Kapoor Khan : UNICEF India National Ambassador #ForEveryChild
- Yuvraj Singh : ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024
- Usain Bolt : 2024 ICC T20 World Cup
- Sana Mir : ICC Women’s T20 World Cup Qualifier
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Citroen
- Sanjana Sanghi : SPACE India
- Narendra Kumar Yadav : “Fit India” Movement as Brand Ambassador
- Katrina Kaif : Chennai Super Kings as Brand Ambassador for IPL 2024
- Ranveer Singh : boAt
- Deepika Padukone : TECNO
- R Madhavan : Acko
- Sourav Ganguly : brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand Ambassador of Bengal



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- Pankaj Tripathi : 'UPI Safety Ambassador
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : State Bank of India (SBI)
- Katrina Kaif : Luxury Swiss watch brand 'Rado'
- Chetan bhagat : Henry Harvin Education
- Mohammed Shami : Puma
- Sachin Tendulkar : ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : JioMart
- Katrina Kaif : Uniqlo
- Hrithik Roshan : lubricants brand Mobilil
- Anushka Sharma : W
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Swaraj Tractors
- Iga Świątek : Infosys
- Rafael Nadal : Infosys
- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023
- Shraddha Kapoor: Asics India Private Limited
- Rashmika Mandanna : Printer company Epson India
- Smriti Mandhana : Wrangler
- Hrithik Roshan : Zebronics TV
- Sachin Tendulkar : Smile Ambassador
- Sania Mirza : Sony Sports Network
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism
- Virat Kohli : Duroflex
- Alia Bhatt : Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy
- Ayushman Khurana : Wakefit
- Rishabh Pant : Star Sports
- Rohit Sharma : JioCinema
- Virat Kohli : HSBC India
- Ranveer Singh : Star Sports Network
- Shreya Ghodawat : India's ambassador for She Changes Climate



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- MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar : Brand ambassadors of IBA Women's World Championships 2023
- Sachin Tendulkar : World's first 'Hand Ambassador' for Savlon India
- Ranveer Singh : Pepsi
- Ayushmann Khurrana : UNICEF India child rights
- Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh Thakur : Hyundai Motor India Ltd
- Vir Das : Plant-based meat brand UnCrave
- Harmanpreet Kaur : Puma
- Nikhat Zareen : National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
- Saurav Ganguly : Bandhan Bank 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign
- Anushka Sharma : Puma
- Deepika Padukone : Pottery Barn
- Virat Kohli : Smart watch Noise
- Prason Joshi : Uttarakhand State
- Lionel Messi : Byjus

**Q. 'MQ-9B Predator', recently seen in news, is a:**

- A) next-generation space exploration rover
- B) nuclear-powered submarine
- C) high-altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- D) cutting-edge military stealth fighter jet

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The MQ-9B Predator drones India will be buying from the United States will be placed in two States: Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ About MQ-9B Predator:
- ✓ It is a high-altitude, long-endurance armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), capable of remotely controlled or autonomous flight operations.
- ✓ It is a variant of the MQ-9 "Reaper" developed by General Atomics Aeronautical Systems (GA-ASI), with its primary purpose being for the United States Air Force (USAF).
- ✓ The United States uses these drones for surveillance, intelligence gathering, and airstrikes.





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- ✓ NBFCs cannot offer interest rates higher than the ceiling rate prescribed by RBI from time to time. The present ceiling is 12.5 per cent per annum.
- ✓ NBFCs also provide a wide range of monetary advice like chit-reserves and advances.
- ✓ NBFCs do not have a banking license;
- ✓ NBFCs cannot accept demand deposits;
- ✓ Regulation:
- ✓ The functions of the NBFCs are managed by both the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the RBI.
- ✓ The RBI has the authority to issue licenses to NBFCs, regulate their operations, and ensure that they adhere to the established norms and regulations.
- ✓ NBFCs are categorized
- ✓ in terms of the types of liabilities into Deposit and Non-Deposit accepting NBFCs,
- ✓ non-deposit taking NBFCs by their size into systemically important and other non-deposit holding companies (NBFC-NDSI and NBFC-ND) and by the kind of activity, they conduct.
- ✓ What are systemically important NBFCs?
- ✓ NBFCs whose asset size is ₹ 500 crore or more as per the last audited balance sheet are considered systemically important NBFCs.
- ✓ Examples of NBFCs include investment banks, mortgage lenders, money market funds, insurance companies, equipment leasing companies, infrastructure finance companies, hedge funds, private equity funds, and P2P lenders

**Q. What is the primary objective of a Nifty Non-Cyclical Index Fund, recently seen in the news?**

- A) To generate short-term profits through speculative trading**
- B) To capitalize on market trends during economic downturns**
- C) To focus on high-risk, high-return investments**
- D) To invest in securities of companies that are not impacted by economic instability**

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Groww Mutual Fund recently launched India's first Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index Fund.
- ✓ About Nifty Non-Cyclical Index Fund:
- ✓ It is a type of mutual fund that aims to generate long-term capital growth by investing in securities of the Nifty Non-Cyclical Consumer Index (TRI).







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- ✓ Other tiger reserves of Maharashtra: Melghat Tiger Reserve, Bor Tiger Reserve, Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Pench Tiger Reserve and Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct

**Q. Bhavishya platform, recently launched by the Government of India, primarily aims to:**

- A) facilitate online voter registration**
- B) track pension sanction and payment process online**
- C) simplify the process of issuance of passport**
- D) streamline the income tax returns filing process**

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The Government's Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare recently started the Integrated Pensioners' Portal in collaboration with Bank of India.
- ✓ About Integrated Pensioners' Portal:
- ✓ The portal is specifically designed to ensure complete digitization of the pension processing and payment system.
- ✓ It combines the pension processing and payment services of five banks (Bank of India, State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Punjab National Bank, and Canara Bank) into a single window.
- ✓ Most pension-disbursing banks will be integrated with the portal later.
- ✓ Its primary objective is to achieve transparency and efficiency in pension-related services.
- ✓ With this system, the pensioner's personal and service particulars can be captured, which enables the online submission of pension forms.
- ✓ Retirees will also be notified of the progress of their pension sanction through SMS or email, keeping them informed throughout the process.
- ✓ The portal has a Bhavishya platform and a Centralised Pension Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS).
- ✓ Bhavishya platform:
- ✓ It is an online Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System launched by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare.





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- ✓ It provides online tracking of pension sanction and payment process by the individual as well as the administrative authorities for all actions preparatory to grant pension and other retirement benefits, as well as payment of monthly pension after retirement.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Lakshya Aircraft:**

**1. It is a re-usable high subsonic aerial target system powered by a gas turbine engine.**

**2. It is designed and built by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Aeronautical Development Establishment, a Bengaluru-based Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) lab that developed the Lakshya aircraft, has been visited by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ✓ About Lakshya Aircraft:
  - ✓ It is an indigenously developed micro-light and pilot-less target aircraft.
  - ✓ It designed and built by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), a subsidiary of DRDO, for the Indian Armed Forces.
  - ✓ The Lakshya was inducted into the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Indian Army in 2000, 2001, and 2003, respectively.
  - ✓ The Lakshya was inducted into the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, and Indian Army in 2000, 2001, and 2003, respectively.
  - ✓ It is a cost-effective re-usable high subsonic aerial target system powered by a gas turbine engine.
  - ✓ The engine is designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Bangalore.
  - ✓ It is required for evaluation and development trials of new surface-to-air and air-to-air weapon systems.
  - ✓ It carries two tow targets of tow lengths of 1.5 km each, having radar, IR or visual signature augmentation, and a Miss Distance Indication Scoring System.

**Q. Which Indian state surpassed Karnataka in total private equity investments for the fiscal year 2023-24?**

A) Karnataka

B) Haryana



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C) Maharashtra

D) Tamil Nadu

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Maharashtra leads in private equity investments in FY24 while overall investment drops.
- ✓ Maharashtra has emerged as the top state, surpassing Karnataka in total money flow for the fiscal year 2023-24 in terms of private equity investments (PE funds) in India. In 2022-23, Karnataka has topped the list for maximum PE investments in the state.
- ✓ Mumbai, the financial capital of India, has clinched the spotlight by becoming the leading city for investments after receiving an investment of \$7.3 billion, according to a report titled 'India Invests' by Wealth 360 One.
- ✓ Maharashtra, Karnataka, Haryana, Delhi, and Tamil Nadu are the top five states to attract substantial investments from private equity funds.
- ✓ Mumbai has surpassed India's Silicon City Bengaluru in attracting PE funds, as startup funding has substantially lowered in FY24

**Q. What is the name of India's first indigenous bomber UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) aircraft developed by Flying Wedge Defence, a leading company in India's defense and aerospace technology sector?**

A) FWD-100A

B) FWD-200B

C) FWD-300C

D) FWD-400D

**Answer : B**

- ✓ India's first indigenous bomber UAV unveiled in Bengaluru.
- ✓ India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft- FWD-200B developed by Flying Wedge Defence, one of the pioneers in India's defence and aerospace technology sector, was unveiled.
- ✓ The Flying Wedge Defence's state-of-the-art manufacturing unit where the FWD-200B was meticulously crafted, is over 12000 sq.ft built on 1.5 acre land and is located at Electronic City.
- ✓ The FWD-200B has a payload capacity of 100 kgs and is classified as a MALE Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (medium-altitude, long-endurance). The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) consists of optical surveillance payloads and is integrated with missile-like weapons for precision air strikes. While having a max speed of 200 kts/370 kmph, it has an endurance capacity of 12-20 hours.



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**Q. Which actor, known for his roles in “The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” and “Titanic,” has passed away at the age of 79?**

A) Bernard Hill

B) Ian McKellen

C) Leonardo DiCaprio

D) Viggo Mortensen

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Actor Bernard Hill, of ‘Titanic’ and ‘Lord of the Rings,’ passes away
- ✓ Actor Bernard Hill, who delivered a rousing cry before leading his people into battle in The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King” and went down with the ship as the captain in Titanic, has died. He was 79.
- ✓ Hill joined The Lord Of The Rings franchise in the second film of the trilogy, 2002’s The Two Towers, as Thoden, King of Rohan. The following year, he reprised the role in Return of the King, a movie that won 11 Oscars.
- ✓ He was nominated for an award in 1983 from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts for the role, and the show won the BAFTA for best drama series

**Q. Who, known for leading Argentina to victory in the 1978 FIFA World Cup, has passed away at the age of 85?**

A) Lionel Messi

B) Diego Maradona

C) Gabriel Batistuta

D) Cesar Luis Menotti

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Argentina’s FIFA World Cup-Winning Coach Menotti Dies Aged 85.
- ✓ Cesar Luis Menotti, who led a dashing Argentina team to victory in the 1978 FIFA World Cup, has died aged 85, the country’s football federation announced.
- ✓ Menotti played for Rosario Central, Boca Juniors and Santos. He began his coaching career at Newell’s Old Boys and won the Argentine championship with Huracan in 1973, before taking over as head coach of the Argentine national team in 1974.
- ✓ Menotti, who left the national side after the 1982 World Cup, went on to coach Barcelona, where he guided the side to the Copa Del Rey success in 1983.



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**Q. The Appointment committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of \_\_\_ as President GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for 4 years.**

A) Ranveer Arora

B) Akhilendra Sahu

C) Kavita Shukla

D) Sanjaya Kumar Mishra

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Sanjaya Kumar Mishra appoints as head of GST Appellate Tribunal
- ✓ The Appointment committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of Sanjaya Kumar Mishra as President GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) for 4 years.
- ✓ Mishra is a former Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.
- ✓ The selection was made on the recommendations of a Search-Cum-Selection Committee. This will speed up the process of making the GSTAT functional at earliest.
- ✓ GSTAT will have one Principal Bench located at Delhi and 31 State benches located at various locations across States.
- ✓ In February 2024, the Department of Revenue invited applications for appointments to the posts of the 63 posts of judicial members and 32 posts for the technical Members (Centre) in Principal Bench of GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).
- ✓ The eligibility criteria was being a judge of the High Court, or serving a retired District Judge or Additional District Judge with 10 years of combined experience, or Lawyer with 10 years of experience with substantial experience in litigation in matters relating to indirect taxes

**Q. Which company has secured USD 400 million finance from a consortium of five international banks for its under-construction solar projects of 750 MW in Gujarat and Rajasthan?**

A) NTPC Limited

B) REC Limited

C) ReNew Power

D) Adani Green Energy

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has secured USD 400 million finance from a consortium of five international banks for its under-construction solar projects of 750 MW in Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- ✓ One of the projects is being developed in Rajasthan with 500 MW capacity and has a long-term power purchase agreement (PPA) with Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).



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- ✓ The second one, with 250 MW capacity, is a standalone merchant power project being implemented at the world's largest RE cluster in Khavda, Gujarat.
- ✓ The consortium of lenders includes Cooperative Rabobank U.A., DBS Bank Ltd, Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A., MUFG Bank, Ltd., and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation

**Q. Who has been appointed as MD of Raymond for 5 years?**

- A) Farrhad Acidwalla                      B) Akhilendra Sahu  
C) Gautam Hari Singhania                D) Nithin Kamath

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Gautam Singhania appointed as MD of Raymond
- ✓ Raymond has re-appointed Gautam Hari Singhania as its managing director for a term of five years effective from July 1, 2024.
- ✓ Singhania, a commerce graduate, assumed the role of chairman and managing director of Raymond in September 2000.
- ✓ Over the years, he has been instrumental in strategically restructuring the Raymond Group, including the divestment of its non-core businesses of Steel, Cement, and Synthetics.

**Q. Carol Furtado has been appointed as executive director of which Small Finance Bank in May 2024?**

- A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank            B) Shivalik Small Finance Bank  
C) Suryoday Small Finance Bank        D) Capital Small Finance Bank

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has appointed Carol Furtado as executive director for three years with effect from May 1.
- ✓ Ms Furtado has been with the bank since its inception and assumed various key positions including chief human resource officer, head of operations and service quality and chief business officer.
- ✓ Furtado has over 29 years of banking experience in retail banking and non-banking finance company domains. She was instrumental in the organisation's transition from NBFC-MFI to a small finance bank.

**Q. Which day of the year is observed as the International Day of the Midwife?**

- A) 02 May                                      B) 05 May  
C) 03 May                                      D) 04 May





- ✓ The day is dedicated to promoting a healthy life style with a focus on health at any size and in raising awareness of the potential dangers of dieting and the unlikelihood of success

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the FWD-200B, recently seen in the news:**

**1. It is an indigenous military-grade bomber Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).**

**2. It is designed and manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft, the FWD-200B, developed by Flying Wedge Defence, an Indian defence and aerospace company, was unveiled recently.
- ✓ About FWD-200B:
  - ✓ It is an indigenous military grade bomber Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).
  - ✓ It is India's first indigenous unmanned bomber aircraft.
  - ✓ It is designed and manufactured by Flying Wedge Defence and Aerospace Technologies, an Indian defence and aerospace company.
  - ✓ It has a payload capacity of 100 kg and is classified as a MALE (medium-altitude, long-endurance) Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle.
  - ✓ The Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) consists of optical surveillance payloads and is integrated with missile-like weapons for precision air strikes.
  - ✓ It has a maximum speed of 370 kmph (200 knots), an endurance capacity of 12 to 20 hours, and a ground control station range of 200 km.
  - ✓ At six metres long, with an eight-metre wingspan, the aircraft can carry a maximum take-off weight of 498 kg and has an operational altitude of 9,000 feet above mean sea level.

#### **INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2023-24**

- India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft, the FWD-200B, developed by Flying Wedge Defence, an Indian defence and aerospace company, was unveiled recently.



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- Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group joined hands to inaugurate the nation's first Constitution Park in Pune
- Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala has received approval from the shipping ministry to operate as India's first transshipment port
- SJVN Limited has commissioned India's first multipurpose (heat and power) green hydrogen pilot project at the 1,500 MW Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station at Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels.
- India's first Artificial Intelligence based Film 'IRAH' trailer launched
- India's 1st Battery Energy Storage GigaFactory will be Launched in J&K
- India's first integrated oil palm processing unit in Arunachal Pradesh started operation by one of India's largest oil palm development companies, 3F Oil Palm.
- India's first Indoor athletic centre inaugurated in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- India's First Research IIT Satellite Campus will be in Ujjain.
- India's first spy satellite built by Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will be launched in a SpaceX rocket by April and will be used by the armed forces to obtain secret information.
- Commencement of Core Loading at India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) (500 MWe) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu.
- The PFBR has been fully designed and constructed by BHAVINI.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first automobile in-plant railway siding project at Maruti Suzuki India's plant in Hansalpur, Gujarat.
- Kerala has declared the man-animal conflict a state-specific disaster, the first in India to do so.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched India's first indigenous green hydrogen fuel cell inland waterway vessel in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility.
- Ola Founder's Krutrim Becomes First \$1 Billion Indian AI Startup.
- For the first time in India, a boat running on solar energy will be operated in the Saryu river in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification .





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- Lucknow city, known as the 'City of Nawabs', will be developed as India's first 'AI City'.
- Uttar Pradesh government has announced the launch of India's first 'Telecom Center of Excellence'.
- India's first solar roof cycling track was inaugurated in Hyderabad city.
- Uttarakhand launches India's first polythene waste bank for sustainable waste management.
- Telangana has launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) in Hyderabad.
- India's first-ever sports university to be set up in Manipur.
- India Launches Its 1st Indigenous e-Tractor Developed By the CMERI.
- Dr Jitendra Singh, had launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, a public engineering R&D institution in Durgapur, West Bengal, and a constituent laboratory of the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Kerala Launches India's First AI School, Pioneering Future-Focused Education.
- Sanchi, a world heritage site located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, is all set to become India's first solar city.
- Hitachi Payment Services launched India's first UPI-ATM.
- India's first Vedic-themed park unveiled in Noida.

**Q. Iga Swiatek, who won the 2024 Madrid Open Tennis Women's singles title, belongs to which country?**

A) Belarus

B) Poland

C) Norway

D) Australia

**Answer : B**

- ✓ World no.1 women's tennis players Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev won the women's and men's singles titles at the 2024 Madrid Open, respectively.
- ✓ This was the first Madrid Open title for Iga Swiatek of Poland, while it was the second Madrid Open title for Andrey Rublev.
- ✓ The Madrid Open Tennis was held in the Spanish capital city of Madrid from 22 April to 5 May 2024.
- ✓ Iga Swiatek defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9/7) to win her first Madrid Open title. Last year, she lost in the final to Aryna Sabalenka.







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**Q. Who has won the 2024 Men's AFC U23 title?**

- A) Japan  
B) Uzbekistan  
C) India  
D) Thailand

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Japan win 2024 Men's AFC U-23 Title by beating Uzbekistan in final
- ✓ Japan defeated Uzbekistan in the final to win the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time. Japan had earlier won the tournament title in 2016.
- ✓ In the final match played at the Jassim bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Japan won by a solitary goal and also qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics
- ✓ The 6th edition of AFC U-23 was held in Qatar from 15 April -3 May 2024.
- ✓ Gold for Japan, Silver for Uzbekistan, and Bronze for Iraq
- ✓ Performers at the 2024 AFC U 23
- ✓ Fair Play Award - Uzbekistan. The award was received by Uzbekistan's captain Jaloliddinov.
- ✓ Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament- Uzbekistan's goalkeeper Nematov.
- ✓ Top Goalscorer of the Tournament - Ali Jasim of Iraq. He scored four goals during the tournament.
- ✓ Most Valuable Player of the Tournament - Japanese team captain Fujita
- ✓ 2024 Men's AFC U 23
- ✓ The 6th edition of the 2024 men's AFC U-23 was held in Doha, Qatar, from 15 April -3 May 2024. 16 teams from Asia participated in the tournament.
- ✓ The 2024 Men's AFC U 23 Asian Cup was organised by the Asian Football Confederation along with the host Qatar Football Association.
- ✓ The men's AFC U 23 is organised every two years.
- ✓ The first championship was organised in 2013 in Oman which was won by Iraq.
- ✓ In the 2022 championship, Saudi Arabia won the title.
- ✓ Japan is the most successful team, having won it in 2016 and 2024.

**Q. Which team has won the 2023-24 season La Liga title?**

- A) Barcelona  
B) Sevilla  
C) Forward  
D) Real Madrid

**Answer : D**





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- 3rd Summit for Democracy being hosted by South Korea
- The 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 23–27, 2024.
- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2024) in Delhi.
- WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice'
- 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held in Davos, Switzerland from 15 January 2024.
- Theme of 54th meeting of WEF: 'Rebuilding Trust'.
- India launched Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum Summit at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, on 10 January 2024.
- Theme of 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024: 'Gateway to the Future'.
- India has been selected for the first time to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi between 21 and 31 July 2024.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members. This group has now become an organization of 10 countries.
- Russia's tenure as Chairman of BRICS begins from January 1, 2024.
- 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC) started on 11 December 2023 in New Delhi
- India Internet Governance Forum 2023 (IIGF-2023) will be organized on 5 December 2023 in New Delhi.
- India is going to organize a three-day (4 to 6 December) Global Technology Summit (GTS) from 4 December 2023





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Cape Canaveral, Florida. Butch Wilmore will travel to the International Space Station with 58-year-old Williams.

## FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Professor Naima Khatoun has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- Democratic Republic Of Congo Appoints Judith Suminwa Tuluka As African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister.
- Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Maryam Nawaz was sworn in as the first woman Chief Minister (CM) of Pakistan's Punjab province.
- Justice Ritu Bahri was today sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court.
- Nina Singh becomes first woman to be appointed as DG of CISF.
- Captain Fatima Wasim has become the first woman medical officer to be posted at the operational post of Siachen Glacier.
- Captain Geetika Kaul of Snow Leopard Brigade had become the first woman medical officer to be deployed in Siachen.
- Commander Perna Deosthalee has been appointed as the first woman officer to command a warship in the Indian Navy (INW).
- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.
- Jaya Varma Sinha has been appointed as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) w.e.f Sept 01, 2023. She has replaced AK Lahoti.
- She is the first woman to be appointed to this Apex post of Indian Railways.
- Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan.
- Phangnon Konyak became the first woman to chair the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland.
- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lisa Franchetti becomes 1st woman to be top Navy officer in US history.
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).





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- Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.
- Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.
- New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- Sheenu Jhawar becomes first woman president of TiE Rajasthan.
- American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat, From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- Shalija Dhami becomes first woman officer to command a fighter unit in Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Colonel Geeta Rana became the first woman officer to command a field workshop.
- Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the first women officer to be operationally deployed in the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareilly's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.
- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year .
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.



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- FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match.
- PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

**Q. India's Tejaswin Shankar, who was seen in news in May 2024 for achieving a remarkable achievement, is associated with which of the following sport?**

A) Hockey

B) Badminton

C) Weightlifting

D) High Jump

**Answer : D**

- ✓ India's Tejaswin Shankar clinched victory in the men's High Jump event at the USATF Festival in Tucson, Arizona, USA.
- ✓ The National record holder Tejaswin cleared 2.23 metres in his first attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour – Silver event. With this jump, he equaled his season-best effort.
- ✓ Earnie Sears of USA finished second, while Roberto Vilches of Mexico was third. Another Indian athlete, Sarvesh Kushare cleared 2.13m to finish fifth

**Q. When is the World Athletics Day 2024 being observed by the IAAF?**

A) 06 May

B) 03 May

C) 05 May

D) 07 May

**Answer : D**

- ✓ World Athletics Day is celebrated globally on May 7.
- ✓ The day aims to boost participation in athletics among youngsters and make people aware of the various health issues and create awareness about the importance of fitness.
- ✓ World Athletics Day was introduced in 1996 by then-president of International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) Primo Nebiolo.
- ✓ The date to celebrate this day is different every year and is decided by IAAF, but the month remains the same which is May.



**Aparchit May 2nd Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts**  
**By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir**

**Q. Which bank has rolled out a new facility allowing its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India using their international mobile numbers?**

- A) Yes Bank  
B) Axis Bank  
C) HDFC Bank  
D) ICICI Bank

**Answer : D**

- ✓ ICICI Bank introduces UPI for NRIs through international mobile numbers
- ✓ ICICI Bank has rolled out a new facility allowing its non-resident Indian (NRI) customers to make Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions in India using their international mobile numbers.
- ✓ Previously, NRIs had to register an Indian mobile number with their Non-Resident External (NRE) or Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) bank accounts to use UPI, limiting their ability to make payments conveniently.
- ✓ The new facility allows ICICI Bank's NRI customers to use their international mobile numbers registered with their NRE/NRO accounts for UPI payments.
- ✓ This change applies to customers residing in ten countries, including the USA, UK, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ This service is available through its mobile banking app, iMobile Pay, providing an easy way for NRIs to make utility payments, merchant and e-commerce transactions, and other financial activities without switching to an Indian mobile number.
- ✓ Customers can make payments by scanning any Indian QR code, sending money to a UPI ID, or sending to an Indian bank account.

**ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2023-24**

- ICICI Bank introduces UPI for NRIs through international mobile numbers.
- Pradeep Kumar Sinha to take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- ICICI Bank Canada Launches 'Money2India (Canada)' Mobile Banking App.
- iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud, has announced its empanelment with ICICI Bank for the delivery of e-surveillance services across branches.
- ICICI Bank receives RBI's nod to make Securities a wholly-owned subsidiary.



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- ICICI Bank Introduces 'iFinance,' A One-Stop Solution for Multi-Bank Account Access.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against two prominent banking institutions, Kotak Mahindra Bank penalty of Rs 3.95 crore and ICICI Bank penalty of Rs 12.19 crore, by imposing significant penalties.
- RBI approves reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO for three more years till October 2026.
- ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- Founded : 1994
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka.

**Q. Shinkun La Tunnel, is an upcoming motorable tunnel, that connects which one of the following regions?**

- A) Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
- B) Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab
- C) Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh
- D) Ladakh and Uttarakhand

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is preparing to commence the construction of the Shinkun La Tunnel.
- ✓ About Shinkun La Tunnel:
- ✓ It is an upcoming motorable tunnel under the 16,580 feet high Shinku-La pass between Himachal's Lahaul valley and Ladakh's Zaskar valley.
- ✓ It is located on the Nimu-Padam-Darcha Road link.
- ✓ The length of the tunnel will be 4.1 km.
- ✓ After completion, the Shinku-la tunnel will be the longest high altitude highway tunnel in the world.

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- ✓ The Border Roads Organization (BRO) will construct the tunnel at a cost of Rs. 1,681.5 crores.
- ✓ It will provide all-weather road connectivity to Ladakh, and this will be the shortest route to the border areas of Ladakh.
- ✓ It is expected to streamline the transportation of heavy machinery to strategic locations such as Kargil, Siachen and the Line of Control (LOC), reducing travel distances by approximately 100 km.
- ✓ The traffic movement in the tunnel will not be vulnerable to long-range artillery shelling or missile firings, either by China or Pakistan.

**Q. What is the rank of India in the World Press Freedom Index 2024?**

- A) 139                                      B) 142  
C) 127                                      D) 159

**Answer : D**

- ✓ India has improved its ranking on the World Press Freedom Index 2024 by two positions. India, which was ranked 161 out of 180 countries in the world in 2023, improved its position to 159 in 2024, a jump of two ranks.
- ✓ The World Press Freedom Index was released by a French non-governmental organisation, Reporters sans Frontieres (RSF) which is also known as Reporters Without Border.
- ✓ In its report, the RSF said that the maximum threat to the freedom of the press was from the government
- ✓ The World Press Freedom Index uses five indicators to compile the Index.
- ✓ These five indicators are political, legal framework, economic context, sociocultural context and safety of the Journalist
- ✓ India has been ranked behind countries like Pakistan, which has been ranked 152, Sri Lanka, which is ranked 150; and Turkey, which is ranked 158.

**Q. The World Press Freedom Index is published annually by which organisation?**

- A) Transparency International  
B) World Economic Forum  
C) Economist Intelligence Unit  
D) Reporters Without Borders

**Answer : D**



**Q. Which country has been ranked as the worst in terms of freedom of the press in the world by the 2024 World Press Freedom Index?**

- A) Syria  
B) Eritrea  
C) Afghanistan  
D) North Korea

**Answer : B**

- ✓ In 2023, North Korea was ranked as the country with the worst press freedom. This year, Eritrea, an African country, was ranked at the bottom of the index.

**Q. José Raúl Mulino has been elected as the president of which country?**

- A) Oman  
B) Sudan  
C) Ghana  
D) Panama

**Answer : D**

- ✓ José Raúl Mulino has won Panama's presidential election after three of his nearest rivals conceded defeat.  
✓ The 64-year-old former security minister has secured nearly 35% of the counted votes, with more than 92% of the votes counted.  
✓ He has an unassailable 9 per cent lead over his nearest rival.  
✓ Jose Raul Mulino was initially chosen as a Vice-Presidential candidate by former president Ricardo Martinelli, who was himself the Presidential candidate.  
✓ About Panama  
✓ Capital : Panama City  
✓ Currency : Balboa  
✓ President : José Raúl Mulino

#### NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- José Raúl Mulino : Panama
- Peter Pellegrini : Slovakia
- Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt
- Prabowo Subianto : Indonesia
- Tamás Sulyok : Hungary
- Alexander Stubb : Finland



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- Azali Assoumani : Comoros
- Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala
- William Lai : Taiwan
- Daniel Noboa : Ecuador
- Mohammed Muizzu : Maldives
- Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore
- Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe
- Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian
- Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey
- Bola Tinubu : Nigeria
- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh
- Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal
- Xi Jinping : China (third term)
- Vo Van Thuong : Vietnam

**Q. Under which initiative Thomas Cook India has launched video KYC for its retail foreign exchange customers for a safe digital transactions?**

- A) No Jhanjhat Forex Fatafat                      B) KYC Aapke Dwar  
C) Ab Forex Dur Nhi                                      D) Ab Forex Ghar Baithe

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Thomas Cook India has launched video KYC for its retail foreign exchange customers for a safe digital transaction.
- ✓ The company said that the new initiative, 'Ab Forex Ghar Baithe', offers customers a paperless means to buy forex without stepping out of home.
- ✓ The Aadhaar-based video KYC verification ensures doorstep delivery within two hours. Customers can complete the transaction online, including loading/topping up of prepaid forex cards, fund transfers, and foreign exchange transactions.



**Q. Researchers have discovered the world's deepest blue hole named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH) in which country?**

A) China

B) USA

C) Russia

D) Mexico

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Researchers have discovered the world's deepest blue hole located in Mexico's Chetumal Bay, named Taam Ja' Blue Hole (TJBH).
- ✓ Initially thought to be the second deepest, recent measurements have now recorded it at depths exceeding 420 meters below sea level (mbsl), surpassing all known blue holes to date
- ✓ A blue hole is a large marine cavern or sinkhole, which is open to the surface and has developed in a bank or island composed of a carbonate bedrock.
- ✓ What are blue holes and how are they formed?
- ✓ Blue holes are large marine caverns or sinkholes, typically formed in limestone or other carbonate rock beds.
- ✓ They stand out dramatically as dark blue water-filled pits, contrasting sharply with the lighter blue of surrounding shallow waters.

**Q. Where are the rocks that provided the oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field collected?**

A) Andes

B) Antarctica

C) Greenland

D) Atlas Mountains

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field found in Greenland rocks
- ✓ Geologists from MIT and Oxford University discovered the oldest evidence of Earth's magnetic field in 3.7-billion-year-old rocks from Greenland's Isua Supracrustal Belt.
- ✓ Researchers determined them to be approximately 3.7 billion years old, showing remnants of a magnetic field with a strength of at least 15 microtesla, comparable to today's magnetic field.
- ✓ This finding suggests Earth's conditions may have been habitable earlier than thought, with a stable magnetic shield playing a crucial role
- ✓ The magnetic field protects the planet from harmful solar radiation and cosmic rays, sustains the atmosphere, and allows liquid water essential for life.





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**Q. Frank Shrontz passed away recently at the age of 92. He was former CEO of which company?**

- A) Boeing  
B) Qatar Airways  
C) Blue Origin  
D) Lockheed Martin

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Former Boeing CEO Frank Shrontz passed away at the age of 92.
- ✓ Shrontz, an attorney by training, was Boeing's chief executive officer from 1986 to 1996.
- ✓ It was an era of innovation, from designing ground-breaking new jets such as the Boeing 777 to elevating quality standards after he studied processes pioneered by Japanese automakers such as Toyota Motor Corp.

**Q. Border Road Organization (BRO), recently celebrated its 65th raising day, comes under which ministry?**

- A) Ministry of Civil Aviation  
B) Ministry of Earth Sciences  
C) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways  
D) Ministry of Defence

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Border Road Organisation (BRO) marked its 65th raising day on May 7, 2024, with a ceremony in New Delhi, led by Union Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane.
- ✓ Established in 1960 by the Nehru government, BRO undertakes critical road projects for the Army.
- ✓ Notably, Project Tuskar, now Project Vartak, connects Bhalukpong to Tenga in Arunachal Pradesh, while Project Beacon focuses on Kashmir.
- ✓ Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan currently heads BRO, operating under the Ministry of Defence with the motto: "In the Silence of Our Great Mountains – Work Speaks."

**Q. Pakistan recently launched its first-ever lunar mission, iCube-Qamar, in collaboration with which country?**

- A) Russia  
B) India  
C) China  
D) Iran

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Pakistan and China jointly launched iCube-Qamar, Pakistan's inaugural lunar mission.





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**Q. \_\_\_ is a bank account held in another country by a domestic bank, but in the currency of the foreign country.**

A) Loro Account

B) Non-Residential Ordinary (NRO) Account

C) Vostro Account

D) Nostro Account

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that standalone primary dealers (SPDs) may borrow in foreign currency from their parent companies and other authorised entities.
- ✓ Standalone primary dealers will also be allowed to access overdraft facilities in nostro accounts solely for operational use.
- ✓ Nostro is a bank account held in another country by a domestic bank, but in the currency of the foreign country.
- ✓ The circular titled 'Master Direction – Risk Management and Inter-Bank Dealings: Amendments' further noted that “such borrowings shall be within the limit for foreign currency borrowings” prescribed in the RBI.

**Q. Which of the following Organisation teamed up with Microsoft to launch a suite of cognitive assistants for financial services powered by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI)?**

A) Reliance

B) HCL

C) TCS

D) Wipro

**Answer : D**

- ✓ IT major Wipro announced that it has teamed up with Microsoft to launch a suite of cognitive assistants for financial services powered by generative artificial intelligence (GenAI).
- ✓ These assistants, named Wipro GenAI Investor Intelligence, Wipro GenAI Investor Onboarding, and Wipro GenAI Loan Origination, aim to revolutionise how financial professionals operate.

**Q. According to a UBS report, India is set to become the third largest consumer market in**

A) 2029

B) 2028

C) 2026

D) 2030

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India is set to become the third largest consumer market in 2026, surpassing Germany and Japan, according to a UBS report.



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- ✓ The report predicts that the affluent category will double in the next five years, with 88 million people with over \$10,000 annual income by 2028.
- ✓ Consumption growth is expected to remain muted at 4-5% in the current and next fiscal, below the 6.5-7% average annual growth seen during FY11 and FY20.

## TARGET YEAR IN NEWS 2023-24

- India is set to become the third largest consumer market in 2026, surpassing Germany and Japan, according to a UBS report.
- India has made a declaration to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.
- India plans to build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035.
- National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027.
- India self-reliant in pulses by December 2027
- Indian Consumer Tech To Touch \$300 Bn By 2027.
- India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027.
- Members of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) collectively have set an "aspirational target" of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.
- India to push developed nations to become carbon-negative before 2050.
- This 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' event will help the country to achieve its commitment of becoming a global drone hub by 2030.
- Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026.
- Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.



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- UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- India sets target to become 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030
- Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.
- Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.

**Q. Which of the following actor has been appointed as ambassador of Sports brand Puma India?**

A) Shah Rukh Khan

B) Aamir Khan

C) Ibrahim Ali Khan

D) Salman Khan

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Sports brand Puma India has announced actor, Ibrahim Ali Khan Pataudi, as its newest ambassador and said with a legendary legacy in both the realms of sports and cinema, he is the perfect addition to the brand's family

**Q. Who has been appointed by global digital payments platform Visa as the new Country Manager in India?**

A) Abhay Kumar

B) Sujai Raina

C) Vikram Saxena

D) Deepak Anand



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**Answer : B**

- ✓ Global digital payments platform Visa announced that it has appointed Sujai Raina as its new country manager for India.
- ✓ Sandeep Ghosh will continue in his role as Group Country Manager for India and South Asia

**Q. The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed annually on which day?**

- A) 08 May
- B) 06 May
- C) 07 May
- D) 05 May

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is observed every year on 8 May.
- ✓ The day aims to celebrate the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, to reduce the suffering of people and enabling them to lead a dignified life with independence, humanity, impartiality, universality, unity and neutrality.
- ✓ The theme of the 2024 World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is Everything we do comes # from the heart
- ✓ The day also marks the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant (8 May 1828), who was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- ✓ He was the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.

**Q. When is the World Thalassemia Day observed?**

- A) May 07
- B) May 08
- C) May 06
- D) May 05

**Answer : B**

- ✓ World Thalassemia Day is celebrated on May 8 every year to commemorate Thalassemia victims and to encourage those who struggle to live with the disease.
- ✓ Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder which is characterised by less haemoglobin and lesser than normal blood cells.
- ✓ A person suffering from thalassemia has at least one of the parents as carrier of the disease





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- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million) .
- ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

**Q. Which operation has been started by the Indian Air Force to extinguish the forest fire near Nainital in Uttarakhand?**

**A) Vishu Bucket Operation**

**B) Water Bucket Operation**

**C) Swift Operation**

**D) Bambi Bucket Operation**

**Answer : D**





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- ✓ The Indian Air Force had deployed its Mi17 V5 helicopters to undertake Bambi Bucket operations to douse the forest fires near Nainital, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ These helicopters efficiently transported and released over 4,500 liters of water over the affected areas, a crucial effort made in close coordination with the Uttarakhand government.
- ✓ The swift and coordinated action by the Indian Air Force played a pivotal role in supporting the ground-based firefighting crews.

## IMPORTANT OPERATION & CODE NAME IN NEWS 2023-24

- **OPERATION INDRAVATI**
  - India has started Operation Indravati to evacuate its nationals from Haiti to the Dominican Republic.
- **OPERATION SANKALP**
  - Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with the aim of ensuring the security of Indian ships.
- **OPERATION RISING SUN**
  - Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a big syndicate involved in smuggling of foreign-origin gold worth around Rs. 40 crore in its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th and 13th March, 2024
- **OPERATION KAMDHENU**
  - Jammu and Kashmir police launched Operation Kamdhenu to curb cattle smuggling.
- **OPERATION PROSPERITY GUARDIAN**
  - Operation Prosperity Guardian is a United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.
- **OPERATION AJAY.**
  - India has launched 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home.
- **OPERATION IRON SWORD**
  - Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip.
- **OPERATION SAJAG**



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- Indian Coast Guard conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill along the west coast, aimed at enhancing coastal security.
- **OPERATION BROADER SWORD.**
- India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.
- **OPERATION KARUNA**
- India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- **OPERATION KAVERI**
- India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan
- **OPERATION DOST**
- Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation Dost' to help the affected people.
- **OPERATION GARUDA**
- Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking network.
- **OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA**
- To give assurance of the safety to the passengers, the Indian railways with the coordination of Railway Protection Force has launched a pan India drive under the code name Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- **OPERATION "NARCOS"**
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently recovered narcotic products worth Rs 7.40 crore under "Operation Narcos".
- **OPERATION SANKALP**
- Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for Op-Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf.
- **OPERATION SATARK**
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started "Operation Satark" taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, etc.
- **OPERATION GANGA**
- India launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine



**Q. Which is the wealthiest city in the world as per the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024?**

- A) New York City                      B) Tokyo  
C) London                                D) Los Angeles

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Mumbai & Delhi Among 50 Wealthiest Cities of World: Henley & Partners
- ✓ In a reflection of the continued economic growth in India, two Indian cities, Mumbai and Delhi, have been included for the first time in the top 50 world's wealthiest cities of the world. Mumbai was ranked 24th, and Delhi was 37th in the world in the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 which was released recently.
- ✓ Wealthiest Cities Report 2024
- ✓ The Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 has been compiled by Henley & Partners in collaboration with New World Wealth, a global data intelligence firm.
- ✓ The wealthiest person has been defined as HNWIs (High worth individuals) who have a liquid investable wealth of USD 1 million or more. Centi millionaires are those individuals with a wealth of more than USD 100 million to invest, and billionaires have more than USD 1000 million to invest.
- ✓ According to the Henly report, the Indian financial capital city Mumbai has 58,800 millionaires, 236 centi-millionaires and 29 billionaires. Mumbai was ranked as the 24th wealthiest city in the world.
- ✓ The other city in the top 50 was Delhi, with 30,700 millionaires, 123 centi-millionaires, and 16 billionaires. Delhi was ranked 37th in the wealthiest cities list.
- ✓ Top 10 Wealthiest Cities







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✓ Following are the top 10 solar power-producing countries in the world in 2023 as per the Ember ‘Global Electricity Review’.

- |              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 1- China     | 2- United States of America |
| 3- India     | 4- Japan                    |
| 5- Germany   | 6- Brazil                   |
| 7- Australia | 8- Spain                    |
| 9- Italy     | 10- South Korea             |

**Q. Which startup of IIT Madras has launched first India-made high-performance SoC (system on chip)?**

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>A) CysterCare Pvt Ltd.</b>       | <b>B) Sociodent Private Limited.</b> |
| <b>C) Clinfo Trialmate Pvt Ltd.</b> | <b>D) Mindgrove Technologies</b>     |

**Answer : D**

- ✓ IIT Madras startup Mindgrove launches first India-made microcontroller chip
- ✓ India is finally set to have a made-in-India microcontroller chip powering electronic device.
- ✓ Mindgrove Technologies, incubated by IIT Madras Pravartak Technologies Foundation and IIT Madras Incubation Cell, and supported by Peak XV Partners, has launched Secure IoT, India’s debut high-performance SoC (system on chip).
- ✓ A system-on-chip (SoC) combines many electronic parts into one chip, like a mini-computer. It goes into the printed circuit board (PCB) and is used in various devices, making them smaller and more efficient

## IIT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Alliance of Digital India Foundation (ADIF) and IIT Guwahati incubation center sign MoU to boost startup ecosystem
- Experimental Licence Module for 100 5G Labs’ launched at IIT Madras
- President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India’s first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.



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- IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.
- Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility .
- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.







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- ✓ There is an overall increase in remittances in recent decades, from \$128 billion in 2000 to \$831 billion in 2022.
- ✓ In 2022, India, Mexico, China, the Philippines and Egypt were (in descending order) the top five remittance recipient countries, followed by the Philippines, France, and Pakistan.
- ✓ India received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022, the first country to surpass USD 100 billion threshold.
- ✓ The United States is the top remittance-sending country, with a total outflow of \$79 billion in 2022, followed by Saudi Arabia (\$39 billion), Switzerland (\$31.9 billion), and Germany (\$25.6 billion).

**Q. Agenda 2063 is related to which one of the following organisations?**

- A) European Union (EU)
- B) African Union (AU)
- C) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- D) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The African Union recently condemned the Israeli military's moves into southern Gaza's Rafah, calling for the international community to stop "this deadly escalation" of the war.
- ✓ About African Union (AU):
- ✓ It is a continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent.
- ✓ It was officially launched in 2002 and replaced its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was founded in 1963.
- ✓ Primary Objective: To promote unity, cooperation, and development among African nations while advancing the continent's interests on the global stage.
- ✓ The AU is guided by its vision of "An Integrated, Prosperous, and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."
- ✓ To ensure the realisation of its objectives and the attainment of the Pan African Vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, Agenda 2063 was developed as a strategic framework for Africa's long term socio-economic and integrative transformation.



- ✓ Agenda 2063 calls for greater collaboration and support for African led initiatives to ensure the achievement of the aspirations of African people.
- ✓ Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

**Q. Widal Test, recently seen in the news, is related to which one of the following?**

- A) Monitoring glucose levels                      B) Soil analysis  
C) Diagnosis of typhoid fever                      D) Financial risk assessment

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Widal Test's propensity for erroneous results is obfuscating India's typhoid burden, increasing expenses and risking more antimicrobial resistance.
- ✓ About Widal Test:
  - ✓ It is a test done for diagnosing typhoid fever.
  - ✓ Typhoid fever, also known as enteric fever, is a bacterial infection caused by the bacterium *Salmonella Typhi*, and it is commonly spread through contaminated food or water.
  - ✓ A person with typhoid fever will experience symptoms like fatigue, high fever, headache, diarrhoea or constipation, abdominal pain, weight loss, and red spots.

**Q. AlphaFold, an AI model that can predict the interactions of all life's molecules, is developed by:**

- A) Microsoft    B) Intel  
C) Meta    D) Google Deepmind

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Google Deepmind has unveiled the third major version of its "AlphaFold" artificial intelligence model, designed to help scientists design drugs and target disease more effectively.
- ✓ It is a new AI model developed by Google DeepMind and Isomorphic Labs.
- ✓ It is a revolutionary model that can predict the structure and interactions of all life's molecules with unprecedented accuracy and even it mapped the behaviour for all of life's molecules, including human DNA.
- ✓ It can generate molecules joint 3D structure, revealing how they all fit together.
- ✓ It models large biomolecules such as proteins, DNA and RNA, as well as small molecules, also known as ligands — a category encompassing many drugs.
- ✓ Furthermore, AlphaFold 3 can model chemical modifications to these molecules which control the healthy functioning of cells, that when disrupted can lead to disease.





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- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for “non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016’.”
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

**Q. Which bank has been recognized as a ‘Best Employer’ 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive year?**

A) Axis Bank

B) DBS Bank India

C) HDFC Bank

D) ICICI Bank

**Answer : B**

- ✓ DBS Bank India has been recognized as a ‘Best Employer’ 2023 by Kincentric for the fourth consecutive year.
- ✓ The award acknowledges organizations with exceptional employee experiences and a strong culture of engagement.
- ✓ The Kincentric Best Employers study is one of the most respected annual studies with a robust evaluation methodology designed to understand alignment across business objectives, people process, and employee experience.



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- ✓ The jury evaluates shortlisted organizations and selects the Best Employers, who are recognized by Kincentric.

**Q. The payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, CCAvenue has partnered with which Small Finance Bank to provide merchants access?**

- A) Equitas Small Finance Bank      B) Shivalik Small Finance Bank  
C) Fincare Small Finance Bank      D) Capital Small Finance Bank

**Answer : B**

- ✓ CCAvenue, the payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, will partner with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to provide merchants registered with it to access to SFB's customer base.
- ✓ The partnership would integrate Shivalik SFB's internet banking service with its payment platform.
- ✓ Account holders with the bank will be able to make payments on websites "powered" by CCAvenue, the payments platform of fintech firm Infibeam Avenues, will partner with Shivalik Small Finance Bank to provide merchants registered with it to access to SFB's customer base.

**Q. Which Insurance company has launched Unit Linked Investment Plan (ULIP) having fund value-based distributor payouts?**

- A) Universal Sompo General Insurance      B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance  
C) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance      D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

**Answer : C**

- ✓ ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Platinum, a Unit Linked Investment Plan (ULIP) that ties the distributor's commission to their customers' Assets Under Management (AUM).
- ✓ According to the product specifications, customers have unlimited free switches between asset classes without any cost or tax implications.
- ✓ Customers can choose from an array of 21 funds under this product, which includes 13 equity funds, four debt funds, and four balanced funds. Additionally, they can choose from four portfolio strategies
- ✓ According to the insurer, this product, which provides a cost- and tax-efficient way to build long-term wealth, will also incentivise distribution partners to encourage their customers to stay invested throughout the policy term



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**Q. Which trading platform has secured the prestigious title of Best Trading Platform in India for the second consecutive year?**

- A) UnoCoin  
B) AngelOne  
C) Groww  
D) QuantPower

**Answer : D**

- ✓ QuantPower Emerges as Best Trading Platform in India
- ✓ QuantPower, the most innovative AI-enabled trading platform, has secured the prestigious title of Best Trading Platform in India for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ This milestone reaffirms QuantPower's position as the preferred software for Indian investors, offering an unparalleled suite of features that consolidate various trading tools into one comprehensive solution.
- ✓ Under the umbrella of Wisdom Tree Ventures Pvt Ltd., QuantPower.tech has revolutionized the trading landscape by providing a unified platform that caters to diverse trading styles.
- ✓ By seamlessly integrating advanced features such as Strategy Builder, Algo Bots, and Backtesting for algorithmic traders, alongside Advanced Charting, Trading from Charts, and Chart Alerts for manual traders, QuantPower empowers investors to make informed decisions with confidence.
- ✓ Deb Mukherjee, the Group CEO of Wisdom Group, also celebrated the recognition of Wisdom Tree Ventures as the Top Fintech Company of the Year 2024 by Entrepreneur India.

**Q. Which state government has launched the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign?**

- A) Himachal Pradesh  
B) Uttarakhand  
C) Madhya Pradesh  
D) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Uttarakhand Government Launches Pirul Lao Paise Pao Campaign
- ✓ Uttarakhand government has launched the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign to contain the raging forest fire in the state. The Supreme Court recently expressed concern about the raging forest fire in the state, which has already killed five people. The forest fires have already destroyed trees, medicinal plants and wildlife in the area, besides creating air pollution due to thick smoke and soot.
- ✓ Under the Pirul Lao-Paise Pao campaign, the local youth and villagers will collect dry Pirul (Pine tree leaves) in the forest and take them to the designated Pirul collection centre. The Tehsildar in their respective areas will manage the pirul collection centre under the supervision of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate.





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- India And Saudi Arabia Tie Up For Green Hydrogen.
- India And Saudi Arabia Sign Agreement On Cooperation In Energy Sector.
- India, New Zealand Sign MoU To Enhance Cooperation In Civil Aviation.
- India and Trinidad and Tobago have entered a partnership by signing an MoU to share INDIA STACK.
- India, Moldova agree to sign MoU for cooperation in agriculture
- India, UAE sign MoU on linking of India's Unified Payments Interface with Instant Payment Platform of UAE.
- India, Panama sign MoU on electoral cooperation.
- India and Singapore extend MoU on cooperation for 5 years.
- Israel signed an agreement with India to enhance technological advancements and sustainable practices cooperation in the fields of water and agriculture.
- India and US To Establish Monitoring Group to Boost High-Tech Trade and Tech Partnership.
- India and Australia Sign Agreements on Migration and Green Hydrogen Task Force.
- India, Israel sign MoU for industrial research and development cooperation.
- NET Zero' Innovation Virtual Centre to be jointly created by India-UK.
- India, UK sign agreement to collaborate on science and innovation.
- Nepal and India to Sign Agreement for Cross-Border Digital Payments.
- India and Romania sign first Defence Cooperation Agreement to strengthen bilateral relations.
- India, US to sign memorandum of understanding on semiconductors.
- Australia, India agree on strengthening economic, defence ties.

**Q. Pulitzer Prize is awarded for which of the following fields?**

**A. Journalism**

**B. Story-Poetry**

**C. Drama**

**D. Music**

**E. Science and Technology**

**A) Only A**

**B) A, C, D, E**

**C) B, D, E**

**D) A, B, C, D**

**Answer : D**





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- ✓ Columbia University of the United States of America announced the 2024 Pulitzer Prize winners
- ✓ Columbia University announced the winners on the recommendation of the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- ✓ The award will be conferred by the president of Columbia University in a ceremony later.
- ✓ The Pulitzer Award is considered the most prestigious prize in the field of Journalism.
- ✓ It recognises work in 15 journalism categories and eight arts categories. It also gives special citations and awards.
- ✓ Some of the important winners of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize are as follows.
- ✓ Journalism Category
- ✓ Some of the important award winners in the journalism categories are as follows.
- ✓ Public Service - Pro Publica. Pro Publica is a non-profit investigative journalist body in California. It was given the award for the investigative work of its reporters Joshua Kaplan, Justin Elliott, Brett Murphy, Alex Mierjeski and Kirsten Berg.
- ✓ Investigative Reporting - Hannah Dreier of The New York Times
- ✓ International Reporting - Staff of The New York Times. The award was given for its
- ✓ wide-ranging and revelatory coverage of Hamas' lethal attack in southern Israel on October 7, Israel's intelligence failures and the Israeli military's response in Gaza.
- ✓ Editorial Writing - David E. Hoffman of The Washington Post Newspaper.
- ✓ Breaking News Photography - Photography Staff of Reuters news agency.
- ✓ Feature Photography - Photography Staff of Associated Press news agency.
- ✓ Audio Reporting - Staff of the Invisible Institute and USG Audio.
- ✓ Book Drama and Music Category
- ✓ Fiction - Night Watch. The novel has been written by American novelist Jayne Anne Phillips.
- ✓ Drama - Primary Trust. The Primary Trust has been written by American playwright Eboni Booth,
- ✓ History - No Right to an Honest Living: The Struggles of Boston's Black Workers in the Civil War Era. The book was written by American historian Jacqueline Jones.
- ✓ Biography - two books have been chosen this time.
- ✓ King: A Life, by Jonathan Eig, is a biography of American Black civil rights activist Martin Luther King Jr.
- ✓ Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom, by Ilyon Woo
- ✓ Memoir and Autobiography - Liliana's Invincible Summer: A Sister's Search for Justice, by Cristina Rivera Garza.



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- ✓ Poetry - Tripas: Poems, by Brandon Som. Brandon Som is an American poet.
- ✓ Music - Adagio (For Wadada Leo Smith), by Tyshawn Sorey.
- ✓ Special Awards and Citation
- ✓ Greg Tate - A special citation has been issued to the late writer and critic Gregory Stephen Tate, also popularly known as Greg Tate. Greg Tate was an American writer, musician, and producer.
- ✓ Journalists and Media Workers Covering the War in Gaza
- ✓ Pulitzer Prize
- ✓ The Pulitzer Prize was instituted by Joseph Pulitzer.
- ✓ He was a newspaper owner who, in 1904, provided for the foundation of the Pulitzer Prize as an incentive for excellence in Journalism, art, and culture.
- ✓ He donated money to the Faculty of Journalism to administer the prizes.
- ✓ The Prize winners are selected by the Pulitzer Prize Board.
- ✓ The first Prize was provided in 1917

**Q. Which bank has supported social sector startups in India with grants worth Rs 19.6 crore in FY24, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (under NITI Aayog)?**

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) Yes Bank
- C) Axis Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

**Answer : A**

- ✓ HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants
- ✓ HDFC Bank has supported social sector startups in India with grants worth Rs 19.6 crore in FY24, in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission (under NITI Aayog).
- ✓ In FY 2023-24, 170 social start-ups received funding via 41 incubators, with a total of Rs 19.6 crore in the 'Parivartan Start-up Grants programme.'
- ✓ The focus areas for the 2024 grants included climate innovation, financial inclusion, agriculture and sustainable rural economy, accessible and affordable healthcare, education and livelihood enhancement, gender diversity and inclusion.
- ✓ Over a half of the 170 startups hail from over 60 tier 2 and 3 cities.



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## HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world



**Q. Which Indian wrestler has been banned by the global governing body of wrestling?**

A) Deepak Kumar

B) Vijay Dahiya

C) Bajrang Punia

D) Jitendra Kumar

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Bajrang Punia suspended till 2024 by Global Wrestling Body UWW.
- ✓ The world wrestling governing body United World Wrestling (UWW) has provisionally suspended Tokyo bronze medallist Bajrang Punia till 31st December 2024. The UWW has cited the suspension of Bajrang Punia by the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) of India as the reason for the provisional suspension. It puts into jeopardy his participation in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics
- ✓ What is the Issue behind Bajrang Suspension?
- ✓ NADA provisionally suspended Bajrang Punia on 23 April 2024 after Bajrang Punia refused to give his sample for an anti-dope test.
- ✓ Dope refers to the use of prohibited performance-enhancing drugs taken by athletes. Under the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) a sportsman has to give his location to the national anti-doping agencies and sample when demanded.
- ✓ Bajrang Punia refused to give his sample to NADA during the selection trials held in Sonapat, Haryana, on 10 March 2024. A notice was served on Punia to reply by 7th May 2024 which he failed to reply..
- ✓ If NADA clears Bajrang Punia of all charges, then there is hope that he may still participate in the Paris Olympics, which starts on 26 July 2024.
- ✓ About Bajrang Punia and His Achievement
- ✓ Bajrang Punia was born into a wrestler family in Jhajjar, Haryana. He was mentored by Olympic medalist Yogeshwar Dutt, who is also from the same state. He has brought many laurels to the country in wrestling.
- ✓ Some of his prominent achievements are as follows.
- ✓ He is the first Indian wrestler to be ranked world no.1 and first to win four world championship medals.
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ His first significant international success was winning a bronze medal at the 2013 Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi.
- ✓ Medal at the Commonwealth Games
- ✓ Bajrang has won a silver medal at the 2014 Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow, Scotland.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2016 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.



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- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ Medals at the World Championship
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the 2013 World Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2018 World Wrestling Championship in Budapest, Hungary.
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the world wrestling championship at Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ He won his fourth medal at the 2022 world wrestling championship held in Belgrade, Serbia by winning a bronze medal
- ✓ Medals at the Asian Championship
- ✓ He won a bronze medal at the 2013 Asian Championship held in New Delhi in 2013.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2014 Asian Championship in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2017 Asian Championship held in New Delhi.
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2021 Asian Championship held at Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Medals at the Asian Games
- ✓ He won a silver medal at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games.
- ✓ He won a gold medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
- ✓ **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award**
- ✓ **Bajrang Punia was awarded India's highest sports award Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2019.**
- ✓ United World Wrestling (UWW)
- ✓ The United World Wrestling (UWW) is an international body that governs amateur wrestling in the world.
- ✓ Headquarters : Corsier-sur-Vevey, Switzerland
- ✓ President: Nenad Lalović

**Q. Vladimir Putin was sworn in as president of the Russian Federation for the fifth time. What is the term of the President of Russia?**

A) 5 years

B) 6 years

C) 7 years

D) 4 years

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Vladimir Putin was sworn in as president of the Russian Federation for the fifth time for a six-year term.
- ✓ He took the oath of office at a ceremony held at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow.
- ✓ The ceremony was attended by Russia's top military and political leadership, but the United States and many European nations boycotted the ceremony, saying that the presidential election was a fraud.





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- ✓ It is an initiative by India, bringing together the biggest consumers and producers of biofuels to drive the development and deployment of biofuels.
- ✓ It was launched on the sidelines of the 2023 G20 summit in New Delhi.
- ✓ The initiative aims to position biofuels as a key to the energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI):**

**1. It is administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).**

**2. It has been granted the status of 'Deemed University'.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386.
- ✓ About Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI):
- ✓ It is India's largest and foremost institute in the field of research and higher education and training in agricultural sciences.
- ✓ The Institute is situated in Delhi and is administered by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ✓ History:
- ✓ IARI, popularly known as Pusa Institute, began in 1905 at Pusa (Bihar) with a generous grant of 30,000 pounds from an American philanthropist, Henry Phipps.
- ✓ The institute was then known as the Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), which functioned with five departments, namely Agriculture, Cattle Breeding, Chemistry, Economic Botany and Mycology. Bacteriology unit was added in 1907.
- ✓ The name of ARI was changed to Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research in 1911 and in 1919 it was renamed Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.
- ✓ It attained the status of a Deemed University in the year 1958.
- ✓ The IARI was responsible for the research leading to the "Green Revolution in India" of the 1970s



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## SEED VARIETY IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) recently introduced a new high-yielding wheat seed variety, HD 3386.
- An international team of scientists has discovered a new drought-resilient semi-dwarf wheat gene named 'Rht13.'
- Scientists of Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune in collaboration with Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) have developed a new high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean named MACS 1407

**Q. Which country has signed 20-Year Power Deal with Adani Green Energy for Wind Stations?**

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Bhutan
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Maldives

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Sri Lanka has sealed a 20-year power deal with Adani Green Energy Ltd of India.
- ✓ Sri Lanka's Cabinet of Ministers have approved the project under which two wind power stations will be developed by Adani, marking a crucial step towards sustainable energy solutions.
- ✓ The approval granted last year for Adani's \$442 million investment in 484 megawatts wind power plants underscores the growing partnership between the two nations in the renewable energy sector.
- ✓ As part of the deal, Adani will receive 8.26 cents per kilowatt-hour that is approximately 7 rupees. This collaboration comes amidst Sri Lanka's efforts to address energy challenges, including power blackouts and fuel shortages experienced during its economic crisis in 2022

**Q. Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional shares in Sikkim Urja Limited by Greenko Energies Private Limited. Greenko Energies is a limited liability company incorporated in which country?**

- A) Bhutan
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Nepal
- D) Mauritius

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of additional shares in Sikkim Urja Limited (formerly Teesta Urja Limited) by Greenko Energies Private Limited.





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- ✓ Sikkim Urja Ltd is a special purpose vehicle incorporated for the purpose of the implementation of the 1,200 MW hydropower project in North Sikkim.
- ✓ According to the CCI, Greenko Energies, an indirect company wholly owned by Greenko Mauritius, will acquire the additional shares in the capacity of 6 units of 200 MW each in the hydro power project.
- ✓ The project will be executed by Greenko Mauritius, a wholly owned subsidiary of Greenko Energy Holdings (GEH).

**Q. Which bank has formed an association with Northern Arc Capital aiming to explore and maximize commercial prospects by combining efforts in loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection, and reconciliation procedures?**

- A) Indian Overseas Bank                      B) South Indian Bank  
C) Kotak Mahindra Bank                      D) Canara Bank

**Answer : B**

- ✓ South Indian Bank and Northern Arc Capital join hands to set new benchmarks in the financial sector
- ✓ South Indian Bank has formed an association with Northern Arc Capital aiming to explore and maximise commercial prospects by combining efforts in loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, collection, and reconciliation procedures.
- ✓ The collaboration between South Indian Bank and Northern Arc Capital is aimed to create an ecosystem that promotes innovation and allows the seamless flow of credit across many sectors.
- ✓ The cooperation will allow South Indian Bank to use nPOS, Northern Arc's unique technology platform for co-origination, co-lending, and pool buyouts, as well as interact with numerous originators for loan origination, underwriting, disbursement, and reconciliation.

**Q. Which of the following company has launched 'The Complete Home Loan' facility?**

- A) L&T Finance Ltd                              B) LIC Housing Finance  
C) Muthoot Finance                              D) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services

**Answer : A**

- ✓ L&T Finance Ltd (LTF) has launched 'The Complete Home Loan', offered through a digitised process, along with a dedicated relationship manager and optional home décor finance.
- ✓ Home décor finance aims to provide flexibility and convenience in acquiring essential furnishings for a comfortable living space.





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- ✓ Antarctic Treaty
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 in Washington, D.C., by 12 countries and came into force in 1961. At present, 56 countries have signed the Antarctic Treaty,
- ✓ The Antarctic Treaty made Antarctica a non-military Zone. It was declared a zone of peace dedicated to peaceful purposes, scientific cooperation, and environmental protection.
- ✓ The Committee for Environmental Protection was established under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty (the Madrid Protocol) in 1991.
- ✓ The permanent secretariat of the Antarctic Treaty is in Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- ✓ India And Antarctica
- ✓ India signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1983. India enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022.
- ✓ India started its scientific expedition to Antarctica in 1981 to carry out research in the area.
- ✓ The government of India established the first Antarctic research station, Dakshin Gangotri, in 1983 to facilitate research expeditions in the area.
- ✓ At present, India operates two research stations: Maitri (1989) and Bharati (2012).

## SUMMIT & CONFERENCE IN NEWS 2023- 24

- A Ministerial round table conference was held on April 24th, 2024, during the 26th World Energy Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure's 6th edition has begun in New Delhi.
- The conference's theme is "Investing today for a more resilient tomorrow".
- The 16th World Future Energy Summit has recently commenced in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
- 3rd Summit for Democracy being hosted by South Korea
- The 148th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly was held in Geneva, Switzerland from March 23–27, 2024.
- Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2024) in Delhi.
- WSDS 2024 is the 23rd edition of the summit.
- WSDS 2024 will take place on the theme 'Leadership for the Sustainable Development and Climate Justice



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- 54th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is being held in Davos, Switzerland from 15 January 2024.
- Theme of 54th meeting of WEF: 'Rebuilding Trust'.
- India launched Global Good Alliance for Gender Equity and Equality, at the World Economic Forum Summit at Davos, Switzerland, held from 15-19 January 2024.
- Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024 at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, on 10 January 2024.
- Theme of 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2024: 'Gateway to the Future'.
- India has been selected for the first time to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.
- The 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi between 21 and 31 July 2024.
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates joined BRICS as new full members. This group has now become an organization of 10 countries.
- Russia's tenure as Chairman of BRICS begins from January 1, 2024.
- 27th WAIPA World Investment Conference (WIC) started on 11 December 2023 in New Delhi
- India Internet Governance Forum 2023 (IIGF-2023) will be organized on 5 December 2023 in New Delhi.
- India is going to organize a three-day (4 to 6 December) Global Technology Summit (GTS) from 4 December 2023

**Q. Which country has recently extended the deadline for visa-free entry for Indians?**

A) Vietnam

B) Malaysia

C) Sri Lanka

D) France

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Sri Lanka has recently extended the deadline for visa-free entry for Indians once again.
- ✓ Under this initiative of Sri Lanka, citizens of India, China, Russia, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia can travel to Sri Lanka for 30 days without visa.
- ✓ This scheme was launched in October with the aim of attracting more tourists.





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- ✓ It is the uppermost stage of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), comprising of two Earth storable liquid engines.
- ✓ It uses a bipropellant combination of nitrogen tetroxide as the oxidizer and monomethyl hydrazine as the fuel. It was developed by Isro's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
- ✓ The same engine is also used in the Reaction Control System (RCS) of the first stage (PS1) of PSLV.
- ✓ ISRO redesigned the conventionally manufactured PS4 engine to make it compatible with additive manufacturing techniques and this innovative approach, known as Design for Additive Manufacturing, has yielded remarkable advantages.

## ISRO IN NEWS 2023-24

- ISRO achieved yet another milestone in design and manufacturing by successfully conducting a long duration test of the PS4 engine of the PSLV stage.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) Chairman S Somanath announced on 16 April 2024 that India aims to achieve debris-free space by 2030.
- Proba-3 Mission of ESA to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan -3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- Vikram Sarabhai Space Center (VSSC) located at Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram has launched a multi-purpose app 'SAKHI' (Space-borne Assistant and Knowledge Hub for Crew Interaction-SAKHI) to assist the Gaganyaan crew.
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO Chairman have already said that by 2040 we should have an Indian astronaut on the moon and also to have our space station by 2035.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- ISRO has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.



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- Vyommitra(Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath
- Aryabhata India's first satellites Launched on 19 April 1975.
- GSAT-1 India's first commercial satellite.
- SLV-3 was India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle.
- Ariane Passenger PayLoad Experiment, (APPLE) first communication satellite in India 19 June 1981.
- Udupi Ramachandra Rao : satellite Man of India







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- ✓ The opening ceremony of the 7th edition of Exercise Shakti will be attended by the French Ambassador to India, Thierry Mathou. Brigadier Mayur Shekatkar, Commander of the 24 Mountain Brigade, and other civilian and military dignitaries.
- ✓ The 7th edition will be hosted by India at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024.

## EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024
- The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan begins in Uzbekistan
- Recently, a two-day 'Sagar Kavach' exercise was organised in the Lakshadweep Islands.
- A bilateral tri-service exercise Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the US will be held on the Eastern Seaboard in the US from March 18 to 31.
- An Indian Army contingent on Monday departed for Seychelles to participate in the 10th edition of joint military exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The joint exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from March 18-27, 2024.
- The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the "Maritime Security Belt-2024" near the Gulf of Oman.
- The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.



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- Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16
- Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.
- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercise.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.



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- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October
- 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.

**Q. Which country was the largest export destination for Indian merchandise goods in 2023-24?**

A) UAE

B) Saudi Arabia

C) United States

D) United Kingdom

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Indian export to 115 countries shows positive growth in 2023-24.
- ✓ According to the latest data released by the Union Ministry of Commerce, India's exports have recorded positive growth in 115 countries out of the total 238 countries/territories it exported in 2023-24.
- ✓ A positive growth rate in exports was recorded in the major export markets of the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, the Netherlands, China, The United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Bangladesh, Germany and Italy.
- ✓ Out of the 229 countries/territories from which India imports goods and services, import has declined from 124 countries during 2023-24.
- ✓ Highlights of the 2023-24 Indian Export Data
- ✓ In 2023-24, Indian exports to 10 major export destinations increased by 13 percent compared to 2022-23.
- ✓ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) was India's largest export market in 2023-24, registering a growth rate of 12.71 per cent.
- ✓ India's merchandise export to UAE was \$ 35.6 billion.
- ✓ Exports to Singapore increased by 20.19 per cent to \$14.4 billion and to China to \$16.7 billion, a growth of 8.70%.
- ✓ A sharp increase in export growth was registered to Albania (234.97 per cent), Romania (138.84 per cent) and Russia (35.41 per cent).



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**Q. Which company will sponsor Sri Lanka Men's Team in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024?**

A) Mother Dairy

B) Rummy

C) Deream11

D) Amul

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Amul to Sponsor Sri Lanka Men's T20 World Cup Team
- ✓ Sri Lanka has announced Amul, one of India's iconic diary brands with a global footprint, as their sponsor for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, starting June 2 in the USA and the West Indies.
- ✓ Sri Lanka, former champions of the T20 World Cup, will become the third team after South Africa and USA to be sponsored by Amul at the showpiece T20 tournament.
- ✓ Amul has a history of sponsoring cricket teams during ICC tournaments, having previously collaborated with the New Zealand and the Netherlands national sides for the 2017 Champions Trophy and 2011 Cricket World Cup, respectively
- ✓ Additionally, Amul was one of the sponsors of the Women's Premier League in its inaugural edition.

## SPONSOR IN NEWS 2024

- Sri Lanka has announced Amul, one of India's iconic diary brands with a global footprint, as their sponsor for the ICC T20 World Cup 2024
- Amul will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team that will participate in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 which commences on June 1
- Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.
- IndusInd Bank, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate
- Tata Group Secures IPL Title Sponsorship for Next 5 Years spanning 2024 to 2028.
- Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years.
- Dream11 has reportedly taken over as the main jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team from July 2023 to March 2026, replacing Byju's.



**Q. With reference to DigiLocker, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.**
- 2. The issued documents in the DigiLocker system are not deemed to be at par with the original physical documents.**
- 3. It has the feature of 2048 Bit encryption and multi-factor authentication.**

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- A) Only one**
- B) Only two**
- C) All three**
- D) None**

**Answer : B**

- ✓ DigiLocker has become a digital placeholder for administrative and government-related documents and now students have the option of viewing their scores and even obtaining their verified marksheets.
- ✓ It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) under the Digital India Programme in 2015.
- ✓ It is a government approved application and is ideally maintained with strict security protocols framed by officials.
- ✓ It operates as an app to store users' digital records. The app can be used when applying for a passport, reviewing marksheets, or proving one's identity during travel.
- ✓ The app is part of the Indian Government's paper-free initiative aimed at letting users access, verify, and store essential documents in a digital wallet so that they are easy to retrieve and present to officials when required.
- ✓ The issued documents in DigiLocker system are deemed to be at par with original physical documents as per Rule 9A of the Information Technology (Preservation and Retention of Information by Intermediaries providing Digital Locker facilities) Rules, 2016.
- ✓ It has standard security measures in place including 2048 Bit RSA SSL encryption, multi-factor authentication (OTP verification), consent systems, timed log outs, and security audits.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.





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## Answer : A

- ✓ The Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has announced the Indian team, which will participate in the 22nd Asian Team Squash Championships, which will be held in Dalian, China, from 12 to 16 June 2024.
- ✓ The Indian men's team is the current Asian Team Champion, having won the 2022 event in Cheongju, South Korea.
- ✓ Velavan Senthilkumar will lead the Indian men's team, and Rathika Seelan will lead the women's team. The Indian team is highly optimistic after its spectacular performance in the 19th Hangzhou Asian Games. India won five medals—two gold, one silver, and two bronze at the Hangzhou Asian games.

**Q. Which bank has announced that it will close inoperative accounts of customers on 1 June 2024?**

- A) State Bank of India                      B) Punjab National Bank  
C) Kotak Mahindra Bank                      D) Bank of Baroda

## Answer : B

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced that it will close all its customers' inactive bank accounts on 1 June 2024.
- ✓ Customers whose accounts have become inactive can activate their accounts by completing their KYC (Know Your Customer) by 31 May 2024.
- ✓ The bank has taken this step to reduce expenses and prevent fraud in such accounts.
- ✓ Which Inactive accounts will be closed and which will not
- ✓ According to the PNB, those customers' accounts will be closed where there has been no transaction (deposit or withdrawal) by the customer for the past three years, and the account balance has been zero.
- ✓ The bank said that if these account holders do not complete their KYC by 31 May 2024, then they will not be given further notice, and their account will be closed permanently on 1 June 2024.
- ✓ Accounts not be closed.
- ✓ However, the bank said that it will not close certain inactive accounts. The exempted accounts are student accounts for customers under the age of 25, Minor accounts, accounts opened for specific schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), Atal Pension Yojana, and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and those frozen by statutory authorities like court orders, income tax department orders, etc.



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- ✓ The bank will also not close bank accounts linked with Demat accounts, lockers, or active standing instructions accounts.
- ✓ How to activate the inactive account
- ✓ According to the RBI, an inactive customer account can be activated by performing a fresh KYC of the customer. Under the KYC the customer has to submit his/her fresh photograph. One approved Identity proof and one address proof. These could be Voters ID cards, Aadhaar cards, passports, etc.
- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB)
- ✓ Punjab National Bank is the third largest public sector bank after the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.
- ✓ The Punjab National Bank was established as a private bank in 1894 and commenced operation in 1895.
- ✓ It is the first bank to set up with Indian capital.
- ✓ Lala Lajpat Rai was the first person to open an account in the bank.
- ✓ It was nationalised in 1969, and presently, the government of India has a majority stake.
- ✓ Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO): Atul Kumar Goel
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Tagline of the Bank: A name you can bank upon.

**Q. Mahamat Idris Deby Itno has been recently elected as the president of which country?**

A) Chad

B) Ethiopia

C) Nigeria

D) Kenya

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Chad military dictator Idriss Deby win's Presidential election.
- ✓ The Military dictator and interim president of the Central African Country of Chad, Mahamat Idris Deby Itno has won the presidential election held on 6 May 2024.
- ✓ The provisional result was declared by the country's National Election Management Agency on 10 May 2024
- ✓ The election will legitimise the rule of Mahamat Idris Deby Itno for another six years.
- ✓ Republic of Chad
- ✓ Chad is a landlocked country situated in north-central Africa. It is the fifth largest country in Africa in area.
- ✓ President is the head of the state and the head of the government in Chad.
- ✓ The president has a six-year term, and a person can be president for only two terms.
- ✓ Capital: N'Djamena





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- ✓ Currency: CFA franc
- ✓ President: Mahamat Idris Deby Itno

**Q. Who is Moosa Zameer, who visited India recently?**

- A) Foreign Minister of Maldives      B) Foreign Minister of Malaysia  
C) Foreign Minister of Singapore      D) Foreign Minister of UAE

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The foreign minister of Maldives Moosa Zameer visited India on 9 May 2024 .
- ✓ It was the first high ranking official visit from Maldives to India after coming into power of Maldives' pro-China president Mohamed Muizzu six months ago.
- ✓ The Maldivian foreign minister met the Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar during his visit.
- ✓ The visit comes in the background of strained India-Maldives ties due to President Muizzu's pro-China policies and being associated with the India Out campaign in Maldives.
- ✓ Purpose of Moosa Zameer's Visit to India
- ✓ The main purpose of Moosa Zameer's visit to India was to seek debt relief from India.
- ✓ India has provided over \$ 2 billion in loans to Maldives, which involves loans given for the development of various infrastructure and connectivity projects in the island nation.
- ✓ Maldives has to repay \$ 500 million of the loan amount to India in the near future. Maldives wants the Indian government to convert a part of loans into grants as it is in no position to repay the loans.
- ✓ President Muizzu has accused the previous Solih government of taking massive loans from India which has pushed Maldives into debt trap
- ✓ Maldives
- ✓ Maldives is a group of islands located in the north-central Indian Ocean. It is part of the South Asian region.
- ✓ Maldives is an archipelago of coral atolls built up from the crowns of a submerged ancient volcanic mountain range.
- ✓ Eight-degree channels separate Maldives from Minicoy island of Lakshadweep.
- ✓ Due to rising sea levels, Maldives faces a danger of being submerged in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Capital: Male
- ✓ Currency: Rufiyaa
- ✓ President: Mohamed Muizzu



**Q. Which organization adopted the first law to tackle violence against women?**

- A) European Union (EU)                      B) United Nations (UN)  
C) African Union (AU)                      D) ASEAN

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The European Union (EU) adopted its first law to combat violence against women.
- ✓ The law requires EU countries to criminalize female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and online harassment.
- ✓ However, the law does not include a common definition of rape.
- ✓ The EU Commission proposed the law in 2022.

**Q. Which organization recently released a report titled ‘Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation’?**

- A) International Monetary Fund              B) World Bank  
C) World Economic Forum                      D) World Meteorological Organization

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The World Economic Forum’s report titled ‘Amplifying the Global Value of Earth Observation’ highlights Earth Observation (EO) technologies’ economic potential, estimating a \$3.8 trillion contribution to global GDP from 2023-2030.
- ✓ EO encompasses remotely-sensed and in-situ data collection, offering insights across sectors.
- ✓ Agriculture benefits from precision techniques, while energy sectors utilize EO for forecasting and operations management. Mining gains insights for mineral exploration.
- ✓ EO also aids climate efforts, with applications like early wildfire detection and greenhouse gas monitoring, potentially reducing over 2 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually by 2030.

**Q. Which company has launched India’s first crowd-supported weather network with over 650 weather stations, the largest private setup in India, for real-time local weather data?**

- A) Domino’s                                      B) Food Panda  
C) Swiggy    D) Zomato

**Answer : D**



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- ✓ Zomato CEO Deepinder Goyal has launched India's first crowd-supported weather network with over 650 weather stations, the largest private setup in India, for real-time local weather data.
- ✓ These weather stations, developed by Zomato, provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, rainfall, among others can be seen at <http://weatherunion.com>.
- ✓ Initially available in 45 major cities, plans are underway for expansion.

**Q. Indian Coast Guard has signed MoU with which company for manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for construction of ships?**

- A) Tata Advanced Systems                      B) Reliance Industries Limited  
C) Larsen & Toubro (L&T)                      D) Hindalco Industries

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindalco Industries for manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for construction of ships.
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard fleet is presently operating 67 ships with aluminium hull with capability of operating in shallow waters.
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard has planned to induct more such vessels where the indigenously manufactured marine-grade aluminium will be utilized.

**Q. Who has been appointed as the President of Larsen and Toubro (L&T) ?**

- A) R Shankar Raman                                  B) Rakesh Sharma  
C) Rajesh Singh                                      D) Umesh Nath Singh

**Answer : A**

- ✓ R Shankar Raman elevated as President of L&T
- ✓ Larsen and Toubro was elevated R Shankar Raman as the Preaident of the engineering and construction conglomerate.
- ✓ Post the promotion, Raman will continue to hold the position of the whole-time Director and CFO of the company as well.
- ✓ Raman joined the L&T Group in November 1994 to set up L&T Finance Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary. He later assumed the role of CFO at L&T and was appointed to the board in October 2011.



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**Q. Who has been bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 for Outstanding Social Work?**

A) Pawan Sindhi

B) Tilak Mehta

C) Advait Thakur

D) Kunal Shah

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Pawan Sindhi honored with Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024
- ✓ Social worker Pawan Sindhi was bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 for Outstanding Social Work.
- ✓ The award night witnessed a gathering of like-minded individuals who came together to promote the values of humanity, peace, and prosperity.

**Q. Which platform has secured Gold in the 'Best Product Iteration' category at the INMA Awards 2024?**

A) Netflix

B) OTTplay

C) Amazon Prime

D) Disney

**Answer : B**

- ✓ OTTplay has bagged the Gold for Best Product Iteration and Silver in Best Use of an Event at INMA 2024.
- ✓ OTTplay has won Gold (first place) in the Best Product Iteration category and Silver (second place) in the category for Best Use of an Event to Build a News Brand.
- ✓ The platform's transition to an OTT aggregator, addressing the challenge of multiple subscriptions, was celebrated for its innovation.
- ✓ About OTTplay
- ✓ OTTplay is India's pioneering OTT aggregator that uses AI-based recommendations to revolutionise content discovery and consumption.
- ✓ With the introduction of OTTplay Premium, the platform now offers a curated selection of content from 37 premier OTT platforms which are personalized based on each user's unique preferences.

**Q. Which company has been recognized and honored by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its outstanding commitment to quality and branding excellence?**

A) Juplay

B) Genius Box

C) Giggles

D) CreativeKidz



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**Answer : B**

- ✓ Genius Box honored by BIS for quality and branding excellence
- ✓ Genius Box, a leading brand specializing in innovative DIY educational kits for children, has been recognized and honored by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its outstanding commitment to quality and branding excellence.
- ✓ The prestigious recognition comes alongside Genius Box's distinguished feat of maintaining a flawless record of nil sample failures over the past three years.
- ✓ Genius Box stands as a pioneer in revolutionizing children's education through its "Play-full-learning" approach. With a mission to engage children in immersive learning experiences, the brand offers thoughtfully curated kits and games designed to foster curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking skills.

**Q. India clinched how many gold medals at the Asian Open Pickleball Championships in Vietnam?**

- A) 3
- B) 4
- C) 5
- D) 6

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India clinched three gold and two bronze medals at the Asian Open Pickleball Championships in Vietnam.
- ✓ Sachin Pahwa and Priyanka Chhabra led India to its first gold medal, defeating Ruben Hellberg and Chitlada Hemasee 11-9, 5-11, 11-9, in the mixed doubles intermediate 35+ category final.
- ✓ While in the women's doubles open category, the pair of Isha Lakhani and Pei Chuan Kao bagged the gold medal with a dominating 15-7, 15-3 win against Dang Kim Ngan and Tyak K.
- ✓ In the men's doubles, India's Aniket Patel and Rohit Patil claimed the yellow metal despite losing the opening game. The duo defeated Nik Alessandro Isagan and Lester Ga 5-11, 11-6, and 11-8 in the final
- ✓ In the men's singles advance 35+ category, Vijay Menon defeated Yu Hsuan Cher to secure the bronze, while in the women's singles intermediate 35+ event, Priyanka Chhabra defeated Marissa Phongsirikul, earning India another bronze medal

**Q. Nine projects sanctioned from the electronics and communication systems (ECS) cluster of DRDO were handed over to which IIT?**

- A) IIT Bhubaneswar
- B) IIT Patna
- C) IIT Kanpur
- D) IIT Roorkee

**Answer : A**



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- ✓ DRDO hands over nine defence tech projects to IIT-Bhubaneswar
- ✓ Nine projects sanctioned from the electronics and communication systems (ECS) cluster of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) were handed over to IIT-Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ Seven more projects are in the process of being sanctioned from ECS with a funding of Rs 18 crore.
- ✓ The IIT-Bhubaneswar will work on these sanctioned projects, which would be beneficial in electronics warfare, AI-driven surveillance, power systems and radar systems.
- ✓ This form of collaboration will enhance the sustainability of defence research programmes and will be part of the ecosystem for nation building

## DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- DRDO hands over nine defence tech projects to IIT-Bhubaneswar
- DRDO successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- DRDO successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' to encourage Defence R&D.



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- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.
- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

**Q. Which day is celebrated as 'National Technology Day' every year?**

A) 10 May

B) 11 May

C) 12 May

D) 13 May

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Every year, India observes 11th May as the National Technological Day to celebrate its technological and scientific prowess. The day aims to inspire youngsters and to create awareness about the country's scientific and technological achievements.
- ✓ It commemorates India's success in using science and technology to address the challenges facing the country.
- ✓ On this day, the government of India announces the names of the winners of the Rashtriya Vigyan Purashkar, or the National Science Awards
- ✓ The first National Technological Day was observed on 11 May 1999, commemorating the anniversary of the Pokhran nuclear test conducted on 11 May 1998.



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- ✓ The decision to observe 11 May as National Technological Day was announced by the National Council for Technology Development during Atal Bihari Vajpayee's prime ministership.
- ✓ Significance of the 1998 Pokhran Nuclear Test
- ✓ India conducted five nuclear tests in Pokhran, Rajasthan, on 11 and 13 May 1998. The test was code-named Operation Shakti.
- ✓ It was conducted jointly by the Atomic Energy Commission and the Defence and Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the leadership of Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- ✓ Four nuclear weapons and one thermonuclear (Hydrogen) weapon were successfully tested by India.
- ✓ India became the sixth country after the United States of America, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France and China to possess nuclear weapons.
- ✓ Pakistan tested its nuclear weapon in 1998, and North Korea in 2006. Israel has not tested any nuclear weapon but it is believed to have a nuclear weapon. Thus, at present, nine countries are believed to have nuclear weapons.
- ✓ India had earlier conducted a Nuclear test code-named Smiling Budha on 18 May 1974 at Pokhran. India claimed that the test was a Peaceful Nuclear Explosion (PNE), a scientific experiment for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and was not meant for making nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The theme for National Technology Day 2024 is "From Schools to Startups: Igniting Young Minds to Innovate."

**Q. Who has won the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy 2024?**

A) Japan

B) Pakistan

C) Malaysia

D) India

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.
- ✓ Japan won its maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey trophy by defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the penalty shoot-out in the final. The final was played at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, on 11 May 2024.
- ✓ First Sultan Azlan Shah Title for Japan
- ✓ The Japanese men's hockey team defeated Pakistan to claim its first Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy. In the final, the match ended at 2-2 after the end of the normal. In the penalty shoot-out, Japan defeated Pakistan by 4-1.





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- ✓ The Pakistani team, also popularly called the Green Shirts, was appearing in the final of the Azlan Shah for the 10th time. It last played the final in 2011, which it lost to Australia. Pakistan has won the Sultan Azlan Shah trophy three times
- ✓ Six teams, Japan, Pakistan, Canada, South Korea, New Zealand, and the host team, Malaysia, participated in the 2024 event.
- ✓ India and Azlan Shah Trophy
- ✓ Sultan Azlan Shah is considered a prestigious Hockey tournament in Asia that has attracted the world's top men's national hockey teams.
- ✓ India has been a regular participant in the Sultan Azlan Shah Tournament.
- ✓ India has won the Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy 5 times in 1985, 1991, 1995, 2009, 2010.
- ✓ This time, the Indian team skipped the tournament as they were more focused on preparing for the 2024 Paris Olympics, which start on 26 July 2024
- ✓ Australia is the most successful team, having won it 10 times. India is the second most successful team, with 5 titles, and Pakistan has 3 titles

## SPORTS IN NEWS 2024

- Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.
- Spanish football club Real Madrid has been crowned the La Liga 2023-24 season title after beating Cadiz 3-0.
- World no.1 women's tennis players Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev won the women's and men's singles titles at the 2024 Madrid Open, respectively
- Mumbai City FC defeat Mohun Bagan Super Giant to win the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24
- China wins both Thomas and Uber Cup Badminton 2024 titles
- Japan defeated Uzbekistan in the final to win the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time.
- Paris Saint-Germain football club was confirmed as the champion of the 2023-24 Ligue-1 Season
- National men's Squash champion Velavan Senthilkumar defeated Melvil Scianimanico of France to win the Batch Open Challenger Squash
- Yuvraj Singh becomes ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador



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**Q. Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy is related to which sport?**

- A) Cricket  
B) Badminton  
C) Tennis  
D) Hockey

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy is organised by the Malaysia Hockey Confederation and invites six countries to play in it. It started as a biennial tournament in 1983 and, after its popularity, was converted into an annual event in 1999.
- ✓ The trophy is named after the former Sultan of the state of Perak Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah. Sultan Azlan Shah was a pioneer of Hockey in Asia. He was the president of the Asian Hockey Federation from 1990 till his death in 2014.
- ✓ The Trophy named after him is played annually at Ipoh the capital of Perak state of Malaysia

**Q. Who is the first person in the world to climb Mount Everest 29 times?**

- A) Sangeetha Sindhi Bahi  
B) Sherpa Tenzing Norgay  
C) Pasang Dawa  
D) Kami Rita

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Kami Rita of Nepal climbs Mount Everest for record 29th times.
- ✓ Kami Rita of Nepal has broken his own world record by climbing Mount Everest 29 times. This is the 29th time in the last 30 years that he has climbed the world's highest mountain.
- ✓ According to the Mingma Sherpa of the Seven Summits Treks, Kami Rita reached the peak on 12 May 2004.
- ✓ Mount Everest is the world's highest peak, with a height of 8,848.86 metres or 29,031.69 feet.
- ✓ Legendary Mountaineer Kami Rita
- ✓ Kami Rita is a citizen of Nepal and was born on 17, 1970. He is currently a senior mountain sherpa (guide) with Seven Summit Treks.
- ✓ Kami Rita started his mountaineering career in 1992 as a supporting crew member.
- ✓ Kami Rita first conquered the Everest peak in 1994 and has been climbing the mountain peak almost every year. In 2023, he climbed the mountain peak twice.
- ✓ He is popularly known as the Everest Man.
- ✓ Another Nepalese Mountaineer, Pasang Dawa, is Kami Rita's closest competitor, who has climbed Mount Everest 27 times.



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- ✓ About Mount Everest
- ✓ Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain peak, situated in the Great Himalayas region of the Himalayas. It lies on the boundary of Nepal and Tibet.
- ✓ In Tibet, Mount Everest is known as Chomolungma which means "Goddess Mother of the World" or "Goddess of the Valley". It is known as Sagarmatha in Nepal.
- ✓ The present height of Mount Everest is estimated to be 8,848.86 metres or 29,031.69 feet
- ✓ Indian Climbers on Mount Everest
- ✓ On 29 May 1953, New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary became the first person in the world to climb Mount Everest. He was accompanied by Nepali-Indian Sherpa Tenzing Norgay.
- ✓ The Government of India established the Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award in his memory in 1994.
- ✓ The first woman to climb Mount Everest was Junko Tabei of Japan. She climbed the peak on 16 May 1975.
- ✓ The first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest was Bachendri Pal on 23 May 1984.
- ✓ The first woman to climb Mount Everest twice - Santosh Yadav in 1992 and 1993.
- ✓ The first amputee in the world to climb Mount Everest - Arunima Sinha in 2013
- ✓ The youngest girl in the world to climb Mount Everest - Malvanath Poorna in 2014. She was 13 years and 11 months old.
- ✓ The oldest woman in the world to climb Mount Everest - Sangeetha Sindhi Bahi, in 2018 at the age of 53 years.

**Q. In which prestigious athletic event did Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finish in second place to commence his 2024 season?**

- A) Tokyo Olympics                      B) Doha Diamond League  
C) World Athletics Championships      D) Commonwealth Games

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Doha Diamond League
- ✓ Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world champion, started his 2024 season with a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024.
- ✓ The 26-year-old Chopra trailed Czech Republic veteran Vadlejch, who won the title with his third round throw of 88.38m all through the competition.



- ✓ Chopra made a last ditch effort but his final round throw fell 2cm short of Vadlejš's mark as the Indian superstar failed to defend the title he had won last year . Two-time world champion Anderson Peters took the third spot with a best throw of 86.62m

### NEERAJ CHOPRA IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world champion, started his 2024 season with a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024.
- Neeraj Chopra has been honoured with a plaque at the famous Ice Palace at Jungfrauoch, known as the 'Top of Europe', in Switzerland.
- Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra was shortlisted for men's 'World Athlete of the Year' award.
- Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower, won a gold medal in the Asian Games with a massive throw of 88.88m.
- Neeraj Chopra finishes second in Eugene Diamond League with a throw of 83.80m, failing to defend his title. Jakub Vadlejš becomes champion.
- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the first gold medal for India at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary with a throw of 88.17 meters.
- Neeraj Chopra, will lead the country's challenge at the World Athletics Championships from August 19 to 27, 2023 in Budapest.
- India observes 3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' on August 07, 2023.
- Neeraj Chopra wins second straight Diamond League title in Lausanne, Switzerland with 87.66m throw.
- Olympic gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra has secured victory with 88.67 m throw at Doha Diamond League 2023.
- Neeraj Chopra makes history, becomes World No 1 in men's javelin throw.
- Neeraj Chopra is on top with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Anderson Peters of Granada.
- The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) accepted Neeraj Chopra's proposal to train in Kuortane, Finland.
- The men's javelin must weigh at least 800g and be 2.6m-2.7m long while the women's javelin must weigh 600g and be 2.2m-2.3m long.
- Neeraj Chopra presently holds the rank of Subedar in the Indian Army.
- Neeraj Chopra is from Khandra village, Panipat district, Haryana



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**Q. The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched a pilot project for the Namu Drone Didi project with which company?**

- A) Ashok Leyland                      B) Mahindra & Mahindra Limited  
C) Larsent & Toubro Limited        D) Dabur India Limited

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Sign MoU with MSDE for 'Drone Didi' Pilot Project
- ✓ To boost rural women's empowerment, the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. to conduct two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana at Noida And Hyderabad.
- ✓ The MoU was signed in New Delhi in the presence of Mahindra Group CEO and MD Dr Anish Shah and Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
- ✓ The pilot projects to train women to operate drones for agricultural purposes will be held at the National Skill Training Institute in Noida and Hyderabad.
- ✓ Drone Didi programme
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Namu Drone Didi scheme under the Sashakt Nari-Viksit Bharat programme on 11 March 2024 at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, New Delhi.
- ✓ Under the Drone Didi scheme, the government aims to train and equip 15000 women-led Self Help Groups with agricultural drones to assist in tasks such as crop monitoring, spraying fertilisers and sowing seeds.

**Q. Which of the following is not an objective of the Vibrant Village Programme?**

- A) Enhancing the quality of life in border villages  
B) Reversing the outmigration from border areas  
C) Improving security of the border areas  
D) Comprehensive development of villages along coastal states

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The Home Ministry recently sanctioned 113 roads under the Vibrant Village Programme in Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim to improve connectivity in areas along the border.
- ✓ About Vibrant Village Programme:
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented over the financial years 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- ✓ Objective:



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- ✓ Comprehensive development of villages and blocks on the northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages.
- ✓ This will help in encouraging people to stay in their native locations in border areas and reversing the outmigration from these villages, adding to improved security of the border
- ✓ The programme will provide funds for the development of essential infrastructure and the creation of livelihood opportunities in 2967 villages in 19 Districts and 46 Border blocks of 4 States and 1 UT along the northern land border of the country: Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and the UT of Ladakh.
- ✓ The programme envisages focused areas of intervention in the select villages for the creation of opportunities for livelihood generation through promotion of tourism and cultural heritage, skill development and entrepreneurship, and development of cooperative societies, including agriculture/horticulture, cultivation of medicinal plants/herbs etc.
- ✓ Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats, and 100 % saturation of Central and state schemes will be ensured.
- ✓ There will be no overlap with the Border Area Development Programme.

**Q. With reference to Credit Information Companies (CICs), consider the following statements:**

**1. They are licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

**2. Both banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) can refer to the CIC report to assess the creditworthiness of borrowers.**

**3. Every Credit Institution (like banks) should be a member of at least one CIC.**

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

**A) Only one**

**B) Only two**

**C) All three**

**D) None**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Supreme Court recently issued notice in a plea alleging right to privacy violations by four foreign credit information companies operating in India.
- ✓ About Credit Information Companies (CICs):
- ✓ CICs collect public data, credit transactions, and payment histories of individuals and companies regarding loans and credit cards, among others.



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- ✓ Their primary function is to gather data from various sources, such as banks, financial institutions, lenders, and other credit-granting entities, and based on the collected data, CICs form a credit report and generate a score.
- ✓ Banks and non-banking financial institutions refer to the CIC's report and score to decide borrowers' creditworthiness before granting a loan or issuing a credit card.
- ✓ The credit score ranges from 350 to 850, and anything above 750 is considered a good score.
- ✓ CICs in India are licensed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and governed by the Credit Information Companies Regulation Act, 2005 (CICRA) and various other rules and regulations issued by the RBI.
- ✓ As per Section 15 of the CICRA, every Credit Institution (like banks) should be a member of at least one CIC.
- ✓ As per the RBI's notification, each customer/individual should be provided with one base-level Credit line Information Report (CIR) free of cost per year by a Credit Information Company (CIC).
- ✓ The CIC's have their own procedure through which individuals can apply for a credit report at a specified fee.
- ✓ At present, there are four well known CICs in India. These companies are Credit Information Bureau (India) Limited (CIBIL), Equifax Credit Information Services Private Limited, Experian Credit Information Company of India Private Limited, and CRIF High Mark Credit Information Services Private Limited.

**Q. Rat-Hole Mining is a method of manual drilling most common in which one of the following States in India?**

A) Odisha

B) Meghalaya

C) Jharkhand

D) Bihar

**Answer : B**

- ✓ A one-member panel appointed by the High Court of Meghalaya to handle coal-related issues has flagged the lack of progress in restoring the environment damaged by rat-hole coal mining in the State.
- ✓ About Rat-Hole Mining:
- ✓ It is a method of manual drilling most common in Meghalaya, especially in the West Jaintia Hills, East Jaintia Hills, and West Khasi Hills.
- ✓ The term "rat hole" refers to the narrow pits dug into the ground, typically just large enough for one person to descend and extract coal.
- ✓ The coal is manually extracted using primitive tools such as pickaxes, shovels, and baskets.



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- ✓ Rat-hole mining is broadly classified into two categories: Side-cutting procedure and box-cutting.
- ✓ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) banned rat-hole mining in 2014 for being unscientific, although the practice remains widespread

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement:**

**1. It was signed at the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations in Bangkok in 2009.**

**2. It only applies to trade in physical goods and does not apply to trade in services.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The 4th Joint Committee meeting for the review of AITIGA (ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement) was held in Putrajaya, Malaysia from 7-9 May 2024.
- ✓ It is a trade deal between the ten member states of ASEAN and India.
- ✓ It was signed at the 7th ASEAN Economic Ministers-India Consultations in Bangkok, Thailand in 2009.
- ✓ The agreement, which came into effect in 2010, is sometimes referred to as the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.
- ✓ The Agreement covers trade in physical goods and products; it does not apply to trade in services.
- ✓ ASEAN and India signed a separate ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement in 2014.
- ✓ What is ASEAN?
- ✓ It is a group of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which was established in 1967 with the signing of the Bangkok declaration.
- ✓ Founding members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- ✓ Presently ASEAN comprises 10 member states namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.
- ✓ It promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration between its members and other countries in Asia.





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**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Indian Ocean Basin-Wide (IOBW) index:**

- 1. It indicates the average sea-surface temperature variations across the tropical Indian Ocean.**
- 2. It has a stronger association with the Northern Hemisphere than the Southern Hemisphere of Earth.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 only                                      B) 2 only  
C) Both 1 and 2                              D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : A**

- ✓ According to the study Indian Ocean basin-wide (IOBW) index exhibits a close association with dengue outbreaks in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres.
- ✓ It represents the average sea-surface temperature variations across the tropical Indian Ocean.
- ✓ It has emerged as a key indicator for predicting the magnitude and timing of dengue epidemics in each country.
- ✓ IOBW index's association with the Southern Hemisphere is stronger than that with the Northern Hemisphere.
- ✓ The index has a more pronounced impact on temperatures in tropical regions. Brazil, for example, bears a higher burden of dengue in the Southern Hemisphere.
- ✓ The Northern Hemisphere witnesses a peak dengue epidemic period between July and October and the Southern Hemisphere in February and April, both in the summers.

**Q. Which of the following fintech platforms has launched its 'Digital Credit' as a service for banks in India?**

- A) PhonePe                                      B) GooglePay  
C) Zeta    D) Instamojo

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Fintech platform Zeta has launched its 'Digital Credit' as a service for bank in India.
- ✓ Zeta's offering is underpinned by the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) credit line on UPI scheme – which harnesses the power of the UPI network to turbo-charge credit issuance in India.





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**Q. Who among the following individuals will be honored with an honorary doctorate by McGill University as part of the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies?**

- A) Dr. Anthony Fauci
- B) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- C) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- D) Dr. Deborah Birx

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Dr Soumya Swaminathan to be awarded honorary doctorate by Canada's McGill University
- ✓ Dr Soumya Swaminathan, most recently WHO's Chief Scientist, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals who will receive honorary degrees from Canada's prestigious McGill University as part of the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.
- ✓ In 2017, Swaminathan joined the World Health Organisation (WHO) as Deputy Director General (Programmes), and, in March 2019, was named its first Chief Scientist, a role she filled through the Covid-19 pandemic until late 2022.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Alok Shukla has been selected for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize
- Noted Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award
- Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata was honoured with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.
- Amitabh Bachchan will receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award
- Kannada poet, Mamta Ji Sagar was honored with the World Literary Prize for her contribution to literature by the World Organization of Writers (WOW)
- India's premier national space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan-3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- SJVN Limited was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution



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- Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik receives the 2023 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, an honor granted annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.
- Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis
- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III
- Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.
- PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- REC Secures Best Green Bond – Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- Australia skipper Pat Cummins was announced as the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at Wings India Awards.
- REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23.



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- US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024
- Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honored With Tenzing Norgay Award
- Singapore's Changi Airport Earns The Title Of World's Best Airport For 2023
- Hero MotoCorp's facility wins CII National Award for water management
- Prof B R Kamboj Honoured With M S Swaminathan Award
- Poet Sukrita Paul Kumar Wins Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for 'Salt & Pepper'
- Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport Terminal 2 Recognized Among UNESCO's 'Most Beautiful Airports'
- IREDA's Pradip Kumar Das Wins 'CMD Of The Year' For The Second Straight Year.
- Poonam Khetrpal Singh Honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit.
- Indira Gandhi Peace Prize Awarded to Daniel Barenboim and Ali Abu Awwad"
- Noted Hindi Writer Pushpa Bharati to Receive 33rd Vyas Samman for her 2016 memoir, "Yaadein, Yaadein aur Yaadein."
- Federal Bank Titled "Bank of the Year 2023" in India : The Banker
- Argentina's football icon, Lionel Messi, has been named Time magazine's Athlete of the Year for 2023
- Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee, has been named the 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award
- Paul Lynch who is an Irish author won the 2023 Booker prize for his fifth novel 'Prophet Song'
- Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's 'Fire Bird' Wins 2023 JCB Prize for Literature

**Q. Which space-tech start-up recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) to utilize co-working and testing facilities in Ahmedabad?**

A) GalaxEye

B) AstroTech Solutions

C) Stellar Horizon

D) CosmoLaunch Technologies

**Answer : A**

- ✓ GalaxEye signs MoU with IN-SPACE for co-working and testing facilities
- ✓ Space-tech start-up GalaxEye has gained access to the co-working and testing facilities of the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) in Ahmedabad.



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- ✓ The start-up signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IN-SPACe, an autonomous agency under the Department of Space, on May 01, 2024 to formalise the collaboration. The partnership facilitates the utilisation of ISRO's laboratories and testing facilities
- ✓ GalaxEye is planning to build multi-sensor earth observation (EO) satellites and is set to launch their first satellite, Drishti Mission, within a year from now. In 2023, GalaxEye developed a UAV SAR system for defence markets and completed over 200 successful flights with UAV SAR Payload.
- ✓ Further, GalaxEye has introduced the "Drishti Sensor", a sensor technology which helps with cloud cover and provides high quality images with detailed and timely data that is required for mission preparation, border patrols, and disaster management.

**Q. Who were named the Player of the Year for 2023 in men's and women's categories, respectively, at the sixth annual Hockey India awards?**

- A) Manpreet Singh and Rani Rampal    B) Hardik Singh and Salima Tete  
C) Harmanpreet Singh and Savita Punia    D) Akashdeep Singh and Vandana Katariya

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Hardik Singh and Salima Tete named the Player of the Year for 2023.
- ✓ Hardik Singh and Salima Tete were named the Player of the Year for 2023 among men and women respectively at the sixth annual Hockey India awards even as the federation announced the revival of Hockey India League (HIL) in January 2025.
- ✓ With a total prize pool of ₹7.56 crores, the awards saw teams and individuals felicitated for their achievements in the past year. Interestingly, even the 2016 Junior World Cup winning men's team was honoured at the event, eight years since the triumph.
- ✓ Hockey India Awards 2023 winners
- ✓ Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Ashok Kumar
- ✓ Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award: Ashok Kumar
- ✓ Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of The Year (Men): Hardik Singh
- ✓ Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of The Year (Women): Salima Tete
- ✓ Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year: PR Sreejesh
- ✓ Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year: Harmanpreet Singh
- ✓ Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year: Hardik Singh
- ✓ Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year: Abhishek



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- ✓ Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women – Under 21): Deepika Soreng
- ✓ Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men – Under 21): Arajjeet Singh Hundal

**Q. What significant approval did Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) recently receive from the IRDAI?**

- A) Approval to launch a new insurance product
- B) Approval to expand its insurance operations internationally
- C) Approval to merge with a leading insurance company
- D) Approval for the acquisition of Reliance Capital

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Hinduja Group gets IRDAI approval for Reliance Capital acquisition.
- ✓ Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) received the long-awaited Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) approval for the acquisition of Reliance Capital.
- ✓ The acquisition will include the takeover of Reliance Capital's insurance arms — wholly-owned subsidiary Reliance General Insurance and 51:49 JV with Nippon Life, Reliance Nippon Life Insurance.
- ✓ The insurance regulator has cleared the transfer of Reliance Capital's 26 per cent stake in Reliance Nippon Life to Aasia Enterprises. Post the transaction, Reliance Capital, Nippon Life Insurance and Aasia Enterprises LLP will be the promoters of the company.

**Q. Colin Munro, who recently retired from international cricket after representing his national team in 123 matches, played for which country?**

- A) Australia
- B) England
- C) South Africa
- D) New Zealand

**Answer : D**

- ✓ New Zealander Colin Munro retires from international Cricket
- ✓ Veteran New Zealand cricket player Colin Munro has announced his retirement from international cricket, ending his 123-match career with the Black Caps. The New Zealand cricket team is also called the Black Caps.







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**Q. India signed an MoU with which country for the conservation of sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea?**

- A) Oman  
B) Kuwait  
C) Qatar  
D) Saudi Arabia

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India and Oman to jointly undertake research on sharks and rays in Arabian Sea
- ✓ A joint initiative between India and Oman to boost research and conservation of sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea will be launched at an upcoming workshop at ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

**Q. India signed an agreement with which country for Visa Waiver on Diplomatic and Official Passports?**

- A) Moldova  
B) Maldives  
C) Mauritius  
D) Singapore

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India, and Moldova sign agreement for Visa Waiver on Diplomatic Passports
- ✓ India and Moldova signed an agreement allowing holders of diplomatic and official passports from either country to travel to the other without requiring a visa.
- ✓ This Agreement will add further momentum to the friendly and cordial relations between the two countries.
- ✓ Diplomatic relations between India and Moldova were established on March 20, 1992.

**Q. India has contributed \_\_ to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its unwavering commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism.**

- A) \$1,00,000  
B) \$50,000  
C) \$5,00,000  
D) \$5000

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India contributes \$5,00,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund
- ✓ India has contributed \$500,000 to the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, underscoring its unwavering commitment to support multilateral efforts in the global fight against the scourge of terrorism.
- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over to Under Secretary General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Vladimir Voronkov the country's voluntary financial contribution of half a million dollars towards the U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF).



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- ✓ UNITED NATIONS (UN)
- ✓ Founded : 24 October 1945
- ✓ Headquarteres : New York, US
- ✓ Official languages : Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish
- ✓ Membership : 193 member states & 2 observer states
- ✓ 1st Secretary General : Trygve Halvdan Lie ( Norway)
- ✓ 7th Secretary General : Kofi Annan (Ghana)
- ✓ 8th Secretary General : Ban Ki-moon (South Korea)
- ✓ 9th Secretary-General : António Guterres (Portugal)
- ✓ Deputy Secretary-General : Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)
- ✓ United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 every year.

**Q. World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on the second Saturday of May. This year was celebrated on 11 May. What is the theme of World Migratory Bird Day 2024?**

- A) Insects
- B) Fishes
- C) Dolphin
- D) Animals

**Answer : A**

- ✓ World Migratory Bird Day is observed every year on second Saturday of May. This year was celebrated on 11 May.
- ✓ Objective – To raise awareness about the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Insects
- ✓ World Migratory Bird Day was first established in 1993 by visionaries from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center.
- ✓ The initial celebrations were organized by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation along with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In 2007, the responsibility for the day was transferred to the non-profit organization 'Environment for the Americas'.
- ✓ WMBD is celebrated annually on the second Saturday in May and October to accommodate the varying migration patterns in different regions.



**Q. When is the International Nurses Day celebrated?**

- A) May 10                                      B) May 11  
C) May 12                                      D) May 09

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The International Nurses Day is celebrated on May 12, every year to mark the contributions and hard work of nursing staff around the world.
- ✓ The theme for International Nurses Day 2024 is Our Nurses. Our Future. The economic power of care
- ✓ The day was created by the International Council of Nurses, and is celebrated globally since January 1974.
- ✓ This day also marks the birth anniversary of nursing pioneer Florence Nightingale, who was born on May 12, 1820.

**Q. The International Nurses Day marks the birth anniversary of which social reformer?**

- A) Clara Barton                                      B) Florence Nightingale  
C) Marie Curie                                      D) Mother Teresa

**Answer : B**

**Q. Which literary works have been included in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, confirming India's rich literary heritage and cultural legacy?**

- A) Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Bhagavad Gita  
B) Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana  
C) Rigveda, Atharvaveda, and Upanishads  
D) Arthashastra, Manusmriti, and Meghaduta

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana of India is among 20 items of the Asia Pacific region which has been included in the 2024 cycle of the 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register
- ✓ The Memory of the World Asia Pacific Committee recognises and honours the Asia-Pacific achievements in genealogy, literature, and science, among other categories.



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- ✓ The decision to include Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana was taken at the 10th General Meeting of the Memory of the World Committee for Asia and the Pacific (MOWCAP), held from 7 and 8 May, in Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia.
- ✓ The 10th General Meeting of MOWCAP was hosted by the Mongolian government's Ministry of Culture, the Mongolian National Commission for UNESCO, and the Bangkok Regional Office of UNESCO.
- ✓ The meeting was attended by 38 representatives from member states convened alongside 40 observers and nominees.
- ✓ Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayaloka-Locana
- ✓ Ramcharitmanas was written by Tulsidas in the 16th century A.D in the Awadhi dialect. It is different from Ramanaya which was written by Sage Valmiki in Sanskrit language. The Ramcharitmanas is written in Chaupai form.
- ✓ Panchatantra is one of the oldest collections of fables in the world, composed in Sanskrit. Vishnusharma, the court scholar of King Amar Shakti of Mahilaropya, is credited with compiling it.
- ✓ It was probably composed around 300 BCE. It was translated into Pahlavi (Iranian language) in 550 BCE.
- ✓ 'Sahṛdayaloka-Locana' has been composed by Acharya Anandvardhan in Sanskrit. He lived in Kashmir during the second half of the 10th century and the first half of the 11th century AD.

## UNESCO IN NEWS 2023-24

- Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana of India is among 20 items of the Asia Pacific region which has been included in the 2024 cycle of the 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register
- Palestinian journalists covering Gaza awarded 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize
- A multibillion-dollar dam project underway across the Mekong River in Laos has prompted concerns that it could result in Luang Prabang City losing its UNESCO World Heritage Site status.
- India has nominated the "Maratha Military Landscapes", a network of forts that showcase the strategic military powers of Maratha rule, for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list for 2024-25.
- 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will take place from July 21 to 31, 2024 in New Delhi, India.



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- Gujarat's Garba Dance Enters UNESCO's 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' List.
- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has secured recognition as one of the 'World's Most Beautiful Airports' and has been awarded the 'World Special Prize for an Interior 2023' by the UNESCO's Prix Versailles.
- 'Garba of Gujarat' has been inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) of Humanity by UNESCO.
- Garba dance is the 15th intangible cultural heritage of India to be included in this list.
- Kozhikode in Kerala has been designated as the UNESCO 'City of Literature' and Gwalior as the 'City of Music' in the latest UNESCO list of Creative Cities Network.
- temples of the Hoysala Empire in Karnataka, India were officially added to the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites, marking India's 42nd addition to the prestigious heritage list.
- Three Hoysala-era temples in Karnataka [Chennakeshava (Belur), Hoysaleswara (Halebidu) and Keshava Temple (Somanathapura, Mysuru)] recently made it to UNESCO's World Heritage List, under the collective entry of 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas'.
- Santiniketan, located in West Bengal, India, has achieved the prestigious status of being recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site .
- Santiniketan as the 41st World Heritage Property in India.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France
- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193

**Q. Where was the World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024 held?**

A) Netherlands

B) Belgium

C) Norway

D) Sweden

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India has set up its maiden pavilion at the World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024.
- ✓ The Pavilion was set up by the Union Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, and it was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, on May 12, 2024.

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- ✓ The World Hydrogen Summit 2024 is being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands, from 13-15 May 2024. The Summit is being attended by 15,000 delegates from around the world..
- ✓ World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024
- ✓ The World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition has been organised by the Sustainable Energy Council in partnership with the Netherlands government, the province of Zuid-Holland, the City of Rotterdam and the Port of Rotterdam.
- ✓ National Hydrogen Mission
- ✓ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the National Hydrogen Mission on 4 January 2022. The government of India has approved an outlay of Rs 19,744 crore for the Mission.
- ✓ Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonne) per annum,
- ✓ 125 GW of renewable energy capacity addition,
- ✓ Investment of over Rs. Eight lakh crore,
- ✓ Creation of over six lakh jobs,
- ✓ Reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. One lakh crore,
- ✓ Reduction in nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions

**Q. Who is the 85th Chess Grandmaster of India?**

A) Vidit Gujrathi

B) Pentala Harikrishna

C) P Shyaamnikhil

D) Arjun Erigaisi

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Tamil Nadu's P Shyaamnikhil became India's 85th chess Grandmaster(GM).
- ✓ The 31-year-old chess prodigy, who started his career at the age of eight, finally secured his third and final GM norms at the 2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament.
- ✓ R Vaishali was the 84th Indian GM.
- ✓ P Shyaamnikhil was born in Nagercoil in Tamil Nadu in 1992 and he later shifted to Chennai to pursue his passion in chess.
- ✓ Grandmaster
- ✓ Grandmaster is the highest title in chess, just below the world champion title.
- ✓ A male chess player must earn at least a FIDE 2500 Elo rating point in established classical or standard chess and three Grandmaster's norms in international competition.



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- ✓ For the women chess player the player has to earn a minimum FIDE 2300 ELO rating points and three women Grandmaster's norm.
- ✓ Chess Grandmaster of India
- ✓ Manuel Aaron was the first Indian chess player to get the International Master title in 1961.
- ✓ Vishwanathan Anand was the first Indian to become the Grandmaster in 1988.
- ✓ Jayshree Khadikar was the first Indian woman to get the Women International Master in 1979.
- ✓ Koneru Humpy was the first women Grandmaster of India. She is also the world's youngest female player ever to become women GM, at the age of 15 years..
- ✓ There are three female Indian Grandmasters Koneru Humpy, Dronavalli Harika and R. Vaishali.

## CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023-24

- P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster.
- International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu.
- Indian young chess player Rameshbabu Praggnanand has defeated world chess champion Ding Liren in the 'Tata Steel Masters' held in Netherlands.
- Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- Raunak Sadhwani (Maharashtra) won FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship.
- India's Karthikeyan Murali became the third Indian chess player to defeat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess after he prevailed over the Norwegian at the Qatar Masters tournament.
- Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra ) Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament defeated Koneru Humpy.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.
- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023.

**Q. With reference to Chabahar Port, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is the only Iranian port with direct access to the Indian Ocean.**
- 2. It is situated on the Persian Gulf.**



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3. It is a key transit center on the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

**Answer : B**

- ✓ India recently signed a 10-year agreement with Iran to develop and manage the Chabahar port, marking a pivotal development in bilateral ties between the two nations.
- ✓ About Chabahar Port:
  - ✓ It is a deep-water port located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchistan province.
  - ✓ It is on the Gulf of Oman at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.
  - ✓ It is the only Iranian port having direct access to the Indian Ocean.
  - ✓ It consists of two separate ports called Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.
  - ✓ It's geographic proximity to countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India, as well as its status as a key transit center on the burgeoning International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), gives it the potential to develop into one of the most important commercial hubs in the region.

Q. In India, which one of the following organizations regulates the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX)?

A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

C) Ministry of Finance

D) International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA)

**Answer : D**

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) recently announced it has become the first trading-cum-clearing member at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX).
- ✓ About India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX):
  - ✓ It is India's first International Bullion Exchange.
  - ✓ It is based at GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tech City) IFSC (International Finance Services Center), Gandhinagar, Gujarat.





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- ✓ IIBX has been conceptualized to provide a gateway to import bullion into India and provide a world class bullion exchange ecosystem to promote bullion trading, investment in bullion financial products and vaulting facilities in IFSCs.
- ✓ It will facilitate Transparent Price Discovery, Responsible sourcing and supply chain integrity, Quality Assurance and Standardization.
- ✓ The IIBX is regulated by the International Financial Services Centers Authority (IFSCA), a unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services, and financial institutions at IFSCs.
- ✓ Products and technology offered at IIBX are diversified, and available at a cost that is far more competitive than those at Indian exchanges, as well as global exchanges in Hong Kong, Singapore, Dubai, London, and New York.

**Q. Senior IPS Officer Idashisha Nongrang has been appointed as first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of which state?**

A) Nagaland

B) Tripura

C) Arunachal Pradesh

D) Meghalaya

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Senior IPS Officer Idashisha Nongrang has been named first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya state.
- ✓ A 1992 batch Indian Police Service officer, she will replace Lajja Ram Bishnoi who will retire on May 19.
- ✓ She will serve as the State's police chief till May 19, 2026.
- ✓ Nongrang is also the first tribal woman to ascend to this prestigious rank.

## FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Idashisha Nongrang has been named first woman Director General of Police (DGP) of Meghalaya state.
- Professor Naima Khatoon has been appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
- Democratic Republic Of Congo Appoints Judith Suminwa Tuluka As African Nation's First Woman Prime Minister.
- Suman Kumari has become the first woman sniper of the Border Security Force (BSF).



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- Maryam Nawaz was sworn in as the first woman Chief Minister (CM) of Pakistan's Punjab province.
- Justice Ritu Bahri was today sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court.
- Nina Singh becomes first woman to be appointed as DG of CISF.
- Captain Fatima Wasim has become the first woman medical officer to be posted at the operational post of Siachen Glacier.
- Captain Geetika Kaul of Snow Leopard Brigade had become the first woman medical officer to be deployed in Siachen.
- Commander Prerna Deosthalee has been appointed as the first woman officer to command a warship in the Indian Navy (INW).
- Sue Redfern became the first woman to stand as an umpire in a men's first-class cricket match in England and Wales.
- Jaya Varma Sinha has been appointed as the new Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Railway Board (Ministry of Railways) w.e.f Sept 01, 2023. She has replaced AK Lahoti.
- She is the first woman to be appointed to this Apex post of Indian Railways.
- Geetika Srivastava is first woman to head Indian mission in Pakistan.
- Phangnon Konyak became the first woman to chair the Rajya Sabha from Nagaland.
- Tenzing Yangki has become the first female IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Nusrat Chowdhary will become the first Muslim woman federal judge in US history.
- Celeste Saulo of Argentina has been appointed as the first female Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- Shalini Singh from Lucknow has become the first woman NCC cadet in India to complete a mountaineering course in the Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.
- Parminder Chopra becomes first woman Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation.
- Amy Pope of the United States has been selected as the first female Director-General of the United Nations Migration Agency.
- Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is the first woman Rafale pilot to take part in Orion Exercise 2023.
- Wing Commander Deepika Mishra has become the first woman Air Force officer to receive the Gallantry Medal.



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- New Zealand-born Kim Cotton has become the first female umpire to officiate in a Men's T20 International (T20I) cricket match involving two ICC full-member nations.
- American Space Agency, NASA has selected the first woman astronaut, Christina Koch for its Artemis II mission.
- Surekha Yadav, Asia's 1st woman loco pilot who now operates Vande Bharat, From Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT) in Maharashtra.
- Shalija Dhami becomes first woman officer to command a fighter unit in Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Colonel Geeta Rana became the first woman officer to command a field workshop.
- Captain Shiva Chauhan becomes the first women officer to be operationally deployed in the highest battleground in Kumar Post on the Siachen glacier.
- The first woman officer to be posted on foreign assignment in the Border Roads Organization (BRO) - Captain Surabhi Jakhmola.
- Rae Bareli's hockey stadium is named after hockey star Rani Rampal, first woman player from India to achieve this feat.
- Hekani Jakhalu became the first female MLA of Nagaland Assembly.
- Equatorial Guinea appoints Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM.
- Indian-origin Manpreet Monica Singh sworn in as 1st female Sikh judge of USA.
- Santhi Kumari Appointed as First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- Saudi Arabia's Rayna Barnawi first female astronaut is set to go into space this year .
- Dina Boluarte became Peru's first female president.
- FIFA has announced that Stephanie Frappart of France will be the first woman to referee a men's World Cup match.
- PT Usha Become First Women President of Indian Olympic Association.

**Q. Chabahar Port, which was in the news recently, is located in which country?**

A) Pakistan

B) Qatar

C) UAE

D) Iran

**Answer : D**

✓ India and Iran have signed a 10-year bilateral contract aimed at enhancing the operations of Chabahar Port.





✓ Meanwhile, exports to the US dipped by 1.32 per cent to \$77.5 billion in 2023-24 as against \$78.54 billion in 2022-23, while imports dipped by about 20 per cent to \$40.8 billion, the report showed.

**Q. Where did the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully test the new liquid rocket engine manufactured through Additive Manufacturing technology?**

- A) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Kerala
- B) Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- C) ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu
- D) U R Rao Satellite Centre, Bengaluru, Karnataka

**Answer : C**

- ✓ ISRO Successfully Tests New Liquid Rocket Engine In Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO successfully tested the new liquid rocket engine manufactured through Additive Manufacturing technology. The test was successfully carried out at ISRO Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri in Tamilnadu.
- ✓ This new redesigned PS4 engine has brought down the number of parts from 14 to a single piece and eliminated 19 weld joints. This will significantly save on the raw material usage per engine, reduce metal powder from 565 kgs to 13.7 kgs and reduce the production time by 60 percent.
- ✓ This new redesigned engine will be used for the fourth stage of PSLV launch vehicle and also in the Reaction Control System of the First Stage in PSLV.
- ✓ ISRO is planning to induct this PS4 engine into the regular PSLV program. Additive Manufacturing technology means 3D printing of PS4 engines. The Private partner Wipro 3D joined hands with ISRO to successfully carry out the hot testing of the 3D printed PS4 engine.

**Q. Who has been elected as a director of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd.)?**

- A) Umesh Nath
- B) Vivek Bipindada Kolhe
- C) Rajesh Sharma
- D) Dinesh Singh

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Vivek Bipindada Kolhe has been elected as a director of IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertilizers Co-op Ltd.) New Delhi.
- ✓ He is currently working as the Chairman of Sahkar Maharshi Shankarao Kolhe Co-operative Sugar Factor.



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- ✓ Kolhe's extensive experience in the cooperative sector, coupled with his past role as RGB of IFFCO, positions him as a formidable advocate for farmers' rights and interests.
- ✓ With Kolhe assuming his new responsibilities, the future of cooperative farming in Maharashtra looks bright.
- ✓ IFFCO, the cornerstone of India's agricultural landscape, stands as a beacon of support for farmers nationwide
- ✓ IFFCO (Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Corporation)
- ✓ Founded : 1967
- ✓ Founder : Udaybhansinhji Natwarsinhji Jethwa
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ CEO : Udai Shanker Awasthi
- ✓ Director : Vivek Bipindada Kolhe

**Q. Hemant Khatri has been honoured with 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect in May 2024. Khatri is currently CMD of which company?**

- A) Cochin Shipyard Limited                      B) ABG Shipyard  
C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders                D) Hindustan Shipyard

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Hindustan Shipyard Limited's (HSL) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Hemant Khatri has been honoured with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect at the award ceremony held in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 'PSU Samarpan Award' acknowledges the significant contributions of Public Sector Undertakings to the country's progress.
- ✓ 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect, an initiative by ilouge Media, recognised the exemplary leadership of HSL's CMD for driving the transformation of the shipyard and inspiring countless individuals within the industry.

**Q. Which day has been declared as the World Football Day by the United Nations ?**

- A) 14 May    B) 25 May  
C) 20 May    D) 21 May

**Answer : B**



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- ✓ 25th May declared as World Football Day by the UN
- ✓ The 193 member United Nations General Assembly has passed a resolution on 7 May 2024 to observe 25 May, every year as World Football Day . The resolution was adopted by consensus by the members of the United Nations General Assembly.
- ✓ Libyan Resolution on World Football Day
- ✓ The resolution to mark 25th May of every year as World Football Day was introduced by Libya's ambassador to the United Nations Taher El-Sonni. It was co-sponsored by more than 160 members of the United Nations.
- ✓ Introducing the resolution the Libyan ambassador said football or soccer is played across the globe in towns, cities and villages. It is the most popular sport on earth.

**Q. Who has become the first Indian male wrestler to secure quota for Paris Olympics 2024?**

- A) Aman Sehrawat
- B) Vivek Chopra
- C) Deepak Dahiya
- D) Bajrang Punia

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Aman Sehrawat has become the first Indian male wrestler to secure a quota for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Asian champion Sehrawat secured the Paris quota in the men's 57kg freestyle category at the World Wrestling Olympic Qualifiers in Istanbul, Turkey.

**Q. Where is the Senior Nationals Sailing Championship 2024 being organized?**

- A) Mumbai
- B) Chennai
- C) Cuttack
- D) Visakhapatnam

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Senior Nationals Sailing Championship 2024 is being organized at Mumbai Port.
- ✓ It is being organised by the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC), Mumbai from 12 to 18 May 2024.
- ✓ Indian Navy Sailing Association (INSA) is also cooperating in this.
- ✓ 82 participants from 10 major sailing clubs across the country have registered for the event



**Q. Which England cricketer recently announced his retirement from international cricket?**

- A) Jos Buttler  
B) Adil Rashid  
C) Moeen Ali  
D) James Anderson

**Answer : D**

- ✓ England's legendary fast bowler James Anderson has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- ✓ He will say goodbye to cricket after the test match against West Indies to be played at Lord's.
- ✓ Anderson, who turns 42 in July, made his Test debut against Zimbabwe at Lord's in 2003.
- ✓ He has taken 700 wickets, the most by any fast bowler in Test history.
- ✓ Jimmy has 269 wickets to his name in ODIs.

**Q. Who recently became the first Indian to win a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships?**

- A) Srishti Khandagale  
B) Dipa Karmakar  
C) Pranati Nayak  
D) Aruna Reddy

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Indian Gymnast Srishti Khandagale Wins Silver At Asian Championships.
- ✓ In Trampoline, India's Srishti Khandagale scripted history by becoming the first ever Indian to win a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships.
- ✓ She clinched the silver medal in Women's Individual Age group category at the 6th Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championship held in Hong Kong, China.
- ✓ However, she did not qualify for the upcoming Paris Olympics, as she was competing in an age group event. Kazakhstan's Dolgoplova secured the gold medal, while Hong Kong's S Hung won the bronze

**Q. Which country emerged victorious in the Eurovision Song Contest 2024, beating Croatia as the runner-up, after being among the top three favorites according to bookmakers?**

- A) Sweden  
B) Germany  
C) Norway  
D) Switzerland

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Switzerland Wins Eurovision Song Contest Amid Gaza Protests.





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- ✓ Switzerland won the Eurovision Song Contest 2024 in Swedish host city Malmö, beating runner-up Croatia, after having been among bookmakers' top-three to win the competition.
- ✓ Billed as a feel-good celebration of European diversity, this year's contest has been thrust into the political spotlight with calls for Israel to be excluded over its military campaign in Gaza, triggered by Hamas' deadly attack on Oct. 7 in Israel.
- ✓ Swiss rapper and singer Nemo, 24, won the contest with "The Code", a drum-and-bass, opera, rap and rock song, about Nemo's journey of self-discovery as a non-binary person.

**Q. Who recently passed away at the age of 72 due to cancer, and served as the Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar for approximately 11 years under Janata Dal (United) chief and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar?**

- A) Sushil Kumar Modi                      B) Lalu Prasad Yadav  
C) Rabri Devi                                D) Nitish Kumar

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Sushil Modi, former Bihar deputy CM, passes away at 72.
- ✓ Former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister, Sushil Kumar Modi, passed away at the age of 72 due to cancer.
- ✓ Modi served as deputy to Janata Dal (United) chief and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for approximately 11 years. He emerged victorious in the Bihar assembly elections three times between 1990 and 2004.
- ✓ From 1996 to 2004, he served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar assembly. In 2003, he was appointed as BJP's national vice president, a position he held until 2005.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope:**

- 1. It monitors millions of stars that haunt the outskirts of our solar system.**
- 2. It is developed by the European Space Agency.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 only                                      B) 2 only  
C) Both 1 and 2                            D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : A**

- ✓ NASA's upcoming Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope, which is poised to embark on a groundbreaking mission of hunting for primordial black holes dating back billions of years to the Big Bang.
- ✓ It will provide one of the deepest-ever views into the heart of our Milky Way galaxy.



- ✓ Objectives: The mission will monitor hundreds of millions of stars in search of tell-tale flickers that betray the presence of planets, distant stars, small icy objects that haunt the outskirts of our solar system, and isolated black holes.

### NASA IN NEWS 2023-24

- NASA confirmed the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's moon Titan with a \$3.35 billion budget, launching in July 2028.
- NASA is now publicly distributing science-quality data from its newest Earth-observing PACE satellite.
- NASA has been tasked with establishing Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC) as a unified standard for timekeeping on the Moon and other celestial bodies
- American space agency NASA has discovered a "super-Earth" planet, dubbed TOI-715 b, that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away and was found by NASA's planet-hunting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- NASA Re-Establishes Contact With Ingenuity Helicopter On Mars After Outage
- NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency's first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth's atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- About OSIRIS-APEX:
  - It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter
  - with Earth in April 2029.
- A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.
- 16 Psyche:
  - It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space



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- weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size
- of Jupiter.
- NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
- It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
- NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
- NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

**Q. 'Exercise Tarkash, a joint counter terrorism exercise is held between India and:**

- A) Japan
- B) United States of America
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Nepal

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The India-U.S joint exercise in conducting coordinated operations in urban counter terrorism contingencies will conclude in Kolkata.
- ✓ It is the seventh edition of the India-United States of America's joint counter terrorism exercise.
- ✓ It is held between the elite National Security Guard (NSG) and the U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) commenced on April 22, 2024.
- ✓ The previous edition of the exercise was conducted at Chennai in January 2023.
- ✓ This exercise encompassed intense training and mock drills in urban counter terrorism scenarios.



**Q. The Great Pyramid of Giza, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following countries?**

- A) Peru  
B) Mexico  
C) Egypt  
D) Iraq

**Answer : C**

- ✓ A recent discovery of a mysterious structure buried beneath the sands near the iconic Great Pyramid of Giza might likely change the way we perceive these ancient structures.
- ✓ About Great Pyramid of Giza:
- ✓ The Great Pyramid of Giza, also called Great Pyramid and Great Pyramid of Khufu, is an ancient Egyptian pyramid that is the largest of the three Pyramids of Giza.
- ✓ Location: It is located on the Giza plateau, five miles to the west of the Nile River, near the city of Cairo, Egypt.
- ✓ It was built by Khufu (Cheops), the second king of Egypt's 4th dynasty (c. 2575–c. 2465 BCE).
- ✓ Until the Eiffel Tower was completed in Paris, France, in 1889, the Great Pyramid was the tallest structure made by human hands in the world; a record it held for over 3,000 years.

**Q. Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in which one of the following States?**

- A) Odisha  
B) Gujarat  
C) Assam  
D) Rajasthan

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Even 46 years after it was notified as a Tiger Reserve, Sariska, among the first 12 in the country, awaits rightful ownership of its land in the state's revenue records.
- ✓ About Sariska Tiger Reserve:
- ✓ Location: It is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- ✓ It is well nestled in the Aravali Hills, covering an area of 800 sq km.
- ✓ It was once a hunting ground of the Maharaja of Alwar before being proclaimed a natural reserve in 1955 and a national park in 1979.
- ✓ It is the first reserve in the world to successfully relocate tigers.





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- ✓ About Wholesale Price Index (WPI):
- ✓ WPI measures the changes in the prices of goods sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
- ✓ It is calculated and published by the Office of Economic Advisor, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ CPI data is published monthly, with the index value representing an estimate of the price level for the month as a whole, rather than a specific date.
- ✓ Difference between WPI and CPI inflation:
- ✓ While the WPI keeps track of the wholesale price of goods, the CPI measures the average price that households pay for a basket of different goods and services.
- ✓ WPI is restricted to only goods, while CPI is for both goods and services.
- ✓ Even as the WPI is used as a key measure of inflation in some economies, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) no longer uses it for policy purposes, including setting repo rates. The RBI currently uses CPI, or retail inflation, as a key measure of inflation to set monetary and credit policy.
- ✓ New series of WPI: With an aim to align the index with the base year of other important economic indicators such as GDP and IIP, the base year was updated to 2011-12 from 2004-05 for the new series of WPI, effective from April 2017.
- ✓ How do you calculate WPI?
- ✓ It is calculated by taking a weighted average of the prices of a basket of goods, with each item's weight determined by its share of total wholesale sales.
- ✓ The basket of goods comprises three major groups:
- ✓ Primary Articles (Weight 22.62%)
- ✓ Fuel and Power (Weight 13.15%)
- ✓ Manufactured Products (Weight 64.23%)
- ✓ The prices of a total of 697 items are tracked under the 2011-12 series of the WPI, which includes 117 primary items, 16 items of fuel and power, and 564 manufactured products.

**Q. With reference to Memory of the World programme, consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is an initiative launched by UNESCO.**
- 2. It aims to facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage.**
- 3. Ramcharitmanas written by Tulasidas has been included under this programme.**



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**How many of the above statements are correct?**

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Recently, the Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayāloka-Locana have been included in 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'.
- ✓ It is part of an international initiative launched by UNESCO in 1992 to safeguard the documentary heritage of humanity.
- ✓ This programme aims to recognise significant documentary heritage in a similar fashion to the way UNESCO's World Heritage Convention and World Heritage List recognises significant natural and cultural sites.
- ✓ The Memory of the World Programme (MoW) aims to:
- ✓ Facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage, particularly in areas affected by conflict and/or natural disaster.
- ✓ Enable universal access to documentary heritage worldwide.
- ✓ Enhance public awareness about the significant of documentary heritage among the wider public.
- ✓ Governance: The International Advisory Committee (IAC) is the main body responsible for advising UNESCO on the planning and implementation of this MoW Programme as a whole.
- ✓ It comprises 14 members serving in a personal capacity, appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, and chosen for their authority in the field of documentary heritage.
- ✓ Governance: The International Advisory Committee (IAC) is the main body responsible for advising UNESCO on the planning and implementation of this MoW Programme as a whole.
- ✓ It comprises 14 members serving in a personal capacity, appointed by the Director-General of UNESCO, and chosen for their authority in the field of documentary heritage.
- ✓ Nomination for MoW: The call for nominations and inscriptions on the Asia Pacific Register is made every two years unless unexpected circumstances make this impractical. Nominations will normally be called for in the even-number years (to alternate with the International Register).
- ✓ India's 3 items included in Mow are
- ✓ Ramcharitmanas: It was written by Tulasidas in the 16th century in the Awadhi dialect, which is primarily spoken in the districts of Lucknow, Prayagraj, and Ayodhya.



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- ✓ Panchatantra: The Panchatantra of ancient India is a collection of fables originally written in Sanskrit. It has five distinct sections, each of which is focused on a specific principle and is believed to have been written by Vishnu Sharma.
- ✓ Sahrdayaloka-Locana: It is a Sanskrit commentary on the Dhvanyaloka.

**Q. Defence Secretary Giridhar Armane released a Rs 250 commemorative coin to celebrate the 250th foundation of which institution?**

- A) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers
- B) Cochin Shipyard
- C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- D) Hindustan Shipyard Limited

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Defence Secretary Giridhar Armane released a commemorative Rs 250 coin on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the foundation of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).
- ✓ The defence secretary was the chief guest of the function, which was organised by the MDL in New Delhi on 14 May 2024 to mark the 250th anniversary of the MDL.
- ✓ About MDL
- ✓ The Mazagon Dock Limited started its journey as a dry dock in 1774, constructed in Mazagon, Mumbai. In 1934, the company was incorporated as a private limited company. It was nationalised and taken over by the government of India in 1960.
- ✓ It is a premier naval shipyard under the Union Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ It was accorded Mini-Ratna 1 status by the government of India in 2006.
- ✓ The MDL has become the premier yard for building warships, submarines for the Indian Navy, and other vessels for the Coast Guard

**Q. To which country the government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth one million dollars to deal with floods?**

- A) Nigeria
- B) Zimbabwe
- C) Kenya
- D) Maldives

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India grants \$ 1 million humanitarian assistance to flood hit Kenya





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- ✓ The government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth \$ one million to the government of Kenya to deal with the devastation caused by the floods in the country. More than 267 people in the country have been killed by the devastating flood, which has displaced more than 3,80,00 people in the country
- ✓ Republic of Kenya
- ✓ The Republic of Kenya is a country in East Africa. It is famous for its scenic landscape and its wildlife.
- ✓ It gained independence from England in 1963.
- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme headquarters is situated in Nairobi.
- ✓ President : William Ruto
- ✓ Capital: Nairobi
- ✓ Currency: Kenyan Shilling

**Q. Which space organization announced plans to build the first railway station on the moon for efficient payload transportation?**

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| A) NASA | B) ISRO |
| C) JAXA | D) ESA  |

**Answer : A**

- ✓ NASA announced FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track), the first lunar railway system, aiming to transform cargo transfer on the Moon.
- ✓ FLOAT, part of NASA's Moon to Mars initiative, utilizes unpowered magnetic robots on a three-layer flexible film track.
- ✓ These robots levitate above the track, reducing wear from moon dust and offering dependable transportation for sustainable lunar colonies.
- ✓ The system integrates diamagnetic levitation, electromagnetic propulsion, and optional solar panels for power generation.

**Q. Where did the Indian Air Force airdrop-test indigenous mobile hospital 'Bhishma' Cube?**

- |              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| A) New Delhi | B) Agra  |
| C) Jaipur    | D) Patna |

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The Indian Air Force has tested the state-of-the-art indigenous mobile hospital 'BHISHM Cube' for airdrop in Agra.



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- ✓ Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, this innovative technology is capable of providing quick and comprehensive medical assistance during emergencies anywhere.
- ✓ It has been prepared to treat 200 injured people.

**Q. Who has appointed Davide Salvagnini as its first Chief AI Officer?**

- A) Tesla
- B) UN
- C) NASA
- D) Google

**Answer : C**

- ✓ US space agency NASA has appointed David Salvagnini as its first Chief AI Officer.
- ✓ Earlier, David Salvagnini was NASA's chief data officer.

**Q. In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to which country's government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year?**

- A) Maldives
- B) Thailand
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Argentina

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India extends budgetary support of \$50m to Maldives
- ✓ In a goodwill gesture, India has decided to extend vital budgetary support to the Maldives government with the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another year on the Maldivian government's special request.
- ✓ The State Bank of India has subscribed for one more year to the USD 50 million Government Treasury Bill, issued by the Ministry of Finance of Maldives, upon maturity of the previous subscription.
- ✓ These Government Treasury Bills are subscribed by SBI under government-to-government, a unique arrangement at zero cost (interest-free) to the Government of Maldives.

**Q. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Tata Electronics?**

- A) Subramanian Ramadorai
- B) T. V. Narendran
- C) Pranav Chandrasekaran
- D) N. Chandrasekaran

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The current chairman of Tata Sons, N. Chandrasekaran will also serve as the chairman of Tata Electronics.
- ✓ Chandrasekaran will replace Banmali Agarwal in this role, pending regulatory approval.



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**Q. Wipro has appointed whom as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU)?**

A) Kunal Shah

B) Nithin Kamath

C) Vinay Firake

D) Deepak Ravindran

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Wipro appoints Vinay Firake as CEO for APMEA region
- ✓ Wipro, a leading IT major, has appointed Vinay Firake as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU)
- ✓ Mr. Firake will report to Srini Pallia and will also join Wipro's executive board.
- ✓ He succeeds Anis Chenchah, who is stepping down to pursue opportunities outside the organisation, the company said in a statement.

**Q. Which Indian company has announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit?**

A) Accenture

B) Wipro

C) Infosys

D) Tata Consultancy Services

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit.
- ✓ The TCS AI Centre of Excellence in Paris will leverage TCS' global ecosystem of startups, academia, and research organisations to bring the best of global capabilities to French companies.
- ✓ The new AI centre will be based in the upcoming TCS PacePort in the La Défense area of Paris, which will be inaugurated in June 2024, becoming the seventh such facility in TCS' global Pace network, following Amsterdam, London, New York, Pittsburgh, Toronto, and Tokyo

## TCS IN NEWS 2023-24

- Tata Consultancy Services announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in Paris, during the Choose France Summit.
- BSNL has placed an order worth ₹15,000 crore to tech firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to further expand the 4G network in India. .



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- No TCS on LRS transactions upto Rs 7 lakh via international debit, credit cards from July 1, 2023.
- When the scheme was introduced in the year 2004, that time this limit was of USD 25,000.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading global IT services company, has expanded its partnership with Google Cloud and unveiled a new offering called TCS Generative AI.
- K Krithivasan Appointed CEO Designate of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- Telefónica Germany Selects TCS as Transformation Partner to Build Future-Ready Operations Support.
- Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys grew their brand value to retain their positions as the second and third most valuable IT services brands, according to the 'IT Services 25' list prepared by UK-based consultancy Brand Finance for the year 2023.
- Accenture retained the top slot for the fifth year straight, with a brand valued at \$39.8 billion.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been named to FORTUNE® magazine's list of the World's Most Admired Companies.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) received a nod from Central Government to go ahead with Rs 26,821 crore deal with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) paving its way to launch 4G services in India.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with a subsidiary of Financial Institutions, Inc. 'Five Star Bank' on its digital transformation journey..
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
- Founded : 1968
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Natarajan Chandrasekaran
- MD & CEO : Kriti Krithivasan

**Q. Which cooperative society has recently signed an agreement with Marut Dronetech Private Ltd to launch Drone-as-a-Service operations in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?**

- A) Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO)
- B) Amul
- C) Anyonya Co-operative Bank Limited
- D) Kerala Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (KCMMF)







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- MICROSOFT
- Founded : 1975
- Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- Headquarters : Washington DC
- Chairman : Satya Nadella
- CEO : Satya Nadella
- President : Brad Smith

**Q. Public sector banks' cumulative profit crossed \_\_\_\_ in the financial year ended March 2024.**

- A) ₹1.6 lakh crore                      B) ₹1.5 lakh crore  
C) ₹1.4 lakh crore                      D) ₹1.7 lakh crore

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Public sector banks' total profit crosses ₹1.4 lakh crore in FY24
- ✓ Public sector banks' cumulative profit crossed ₹1.4 lakh crore in the financial year ended March 2024, recording a growth of 35 per cent over the previous year on a high base of ₹1 lakh crore.
- ✓ The 12 public sector banks (PSBs) together had earned a net profit of ₹1,04,649 crore in 2022-23. Out of the total profit of ₹141,203 crore earned during the FY24, market leader State Bank of India (SBI-₹61,077 crore) alone contributed over 40 per cent of the total earnings, as per the published numbers on exchanges.
- ✓ In percentage terms Delhi-based Punjab National Bank had the highest net profit growth with 228 per cent to ₹8,245 crore, followed by Union Bank of India with a 62 per cent rise to ₹13,649 crore and Central Bank of India with a 61 per cent increase to ₹2,549 crore.
- ✓ Among the banks which recorded over 50 per cent jump in net profit included Bank of India with a 57 per cent growth to ₹6,318 crore while Bank of Maharashtra with a 56 per cent rise to ₹4,055 crore and Chennai-based India Bank recorded a 53 per cent improvement to ₹8,063 crore

**Q. Which bank has introduced the 'ARISE ComeAsYouAre' talent acquisition programme to recruit individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community across India for careers in banking?**

- A) Yes Bank                              B) Axis Bank  
C) HDFC Bank                            D) ICICI Bank

**Answer : B**



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- ✓ Axis Bank to groom LGBTQIA+ talent for careers in banking
- ✓ Axis Bank has introduced the 'ARISE ComeAsYouAre' talent acquisition programme to recruit individuals from the LGBTQIA+ community across India for careers in banking. The initiative focuses on skills-based hiring, offering equal opportunities to fresh graduates and professionals up to 5 years of experience.
- ✓ The 'ARISE ComeAsYouAre' open campus programme is focused on skills-based hiring that prioritises skill set and potential of an individual over traditional factors such as a specific degree or college pedigree.
- ✓ Fresh graduates and professionals with up to 5 years of experience will get an equal opportunity to launch their career in a dynamic and inclusive environment that focuses on their skills, potential, and fresh perspective. It will also provide them with ample learning opportunities to help develop their skills and knowledge of the banking sector.

## AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Axis Bank to groom LGBTQIA+ talent for careers in banking.
- Axis Bank has recently reappointed Amitabh Chaudhry as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- Axis Bank has launched the digital US dollar Fixed Deposits (FD) tailored for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) situated in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- Axis Bank to support Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid.
- Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years.
- Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India.
- Axis Bank and Fibe Partner to launch India's First Numberless Credit Card.
- Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs.
- Axis Bank Introduces 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees.
- Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards.
- Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards.
- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.
- Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.
- Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.





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- Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd announce strategic partnership under the co-lending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- **AXIS BANK**
- Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

**Q. In which country has PhonePe recently launched UPI services?**

- A) Nepal
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Thailand

**Answer : C**

- ✓ PhonePe launches its UPI in SriLanka in collaboration with LankaPay.
- ✓ PhonePe has announced that it has enabled UPI payment acceptance in collaboration with online payment platform LankaPay across LankaQR merchant points.
- ✓ This alliance is facilitated through LankaPay's partnership with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).
- ✓ Their account will be debited in INR, showing the currency exchange rate. These transactions are facilitated by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and LankaPay National Payment Network.

**Q. Which bank has launched its first virtual credit card 'PIXEL Play' and 'PIXEL Go'?**

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) Yes Bank
- D) ICICI Bank

**Answer : B**

- ✓ HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India's First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback



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- ✓ HDFC Bank has launched a new digital credit card called Pixel Play Credit Card that allows you to customize benefits to fit your lifestyle and select merchants of your choice to earn cashback, choose card design, and select your preferred billing cycle date.
- ✓ It comes with a benefit of 5% of annual Cashback and Rs 500 Annual Fees. It is 100% digital. No documentation, email, or calling required.
- ✓ The card is available in two variants: PIXEL Play and PIXEL Go and allows users to build their own cards with personalised benefits, offers, etc
- ✓ Simply convert to EMI and manage EMI repayments fully from your Payzapp. You can easily apply for the PIXEL Play Credit Card through the Payzapp

## HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India's First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback.
- HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.



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- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

**Q. Bulava, an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), is developed by:**

- A) Iran
- B) North Korea
- C) Russia
- D) China

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Russian President has bolstered the country's military capabilities by ordering the addition of a new nuclear-capable missile known as the Bulava into the Russian military arsenal.
- ✓ About Bulava Missile:
- ✓ RSM-56 Bulava (NATO reporting name: SS-N-32) is a Russian submarine-launched intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- ✓ Designed by the Moscow Institute of Thermal Technology, development of the missile was launched in the late 1990s, and is designed to be deployed on Russia's Borei-class submarines.
- ✓ Bulava represents a core component of Russia's future strategic nuclear force.
- ✓ Bulava has a maximum range of 8,300 km (5,160 miles) and a payload of up to 10 multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles, or MIRVs, capable of delivering nuclear warheads to different targets.





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**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024:**

**1. It is an annual report published by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).**

**2. As of 2023, the number of people internally displaced due to disasters significantly outnumber the number of people internally displaced due to conflict and violence.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ In 2023, the number of internally displaced people increased to 75.9 million, from 71.1 million in the preceding year, according to the Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024 (GRID-2024) released recently.
- ✓ About Global Report on Internal Displacement 2024:
- ✓ It is an annual report published by the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).
- ✓ It records internal displacements due to conflict and violence and disasters.
- ✓ Highlights of GRID-2024:
- ✓ In 2023, the number of internally displaced people (IDP) increased to 75.9 million, from 71.1 million in the preceding year.
- ✓ Report says 7.7 million displaced by disasters (one-fourth of it was caused by earthquakes) and 68.3 million by conflict and violence.
- ✓ Sudan, Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Colombia, and Yemen host nearly half of the world's IDPs.
- ✓ At 9.1 million, Sudan has the highest number of IDPs recorded for a single country.
- ✓ Most of the new displacement this year happened in Sudan, the Palestinian territories, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, accounting for almost two-thirds of all new displacement.
- ✓ South Asia:
- ✓ The IDMC said around 5.3 million people were living in internal displacement as a result of conflict and violence across South Asia at the end of 2023, 80 percent of whom were in Afghanistan.
- ✓ Conflict and violence triggered 69,000 displacements in South Asia in 2023, with Manipur violence alone accounting for 67,000.
- ✓ It is the highest number of displacements triggered by conflict and violence in India since 2018.



- ✓ There is a sharp decline in IDP in 2023 from 2.5 million internal displacements due to natural disasters in India in 2022. Internal displacements by natural disasters in 2023 was 528,000.

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Igla-S defence system:**

- 1. It is a hand-held defence system that can be operated by an individual or crew.**
- 2. It has a capacity of attacking targets up to an altitude of 3.5 kilometres.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 only**
- B) 2 only**
- C) Both 1 and 2**
- D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Army is all set to begin receiving another set of Russian Igla-S very short range air defence systems (VSHORAD) by the end of May or early next month.
- ✓ It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) developed by Russia.
- ✓ Capabilities:
- ✓ It is a hand-held defence system that can be operated by an individual or crew.
- ✓ It is designed to bring down low-flying aircraft and can also identify and neutralise air targets such as cruise missiles and drones.
- ✓ It comprises the 9M342 missile, the 9P522 launching mechanism, the 9V866-2 mobile test station, and the 9F719-2 test set. These components work together to provide a comprehensive air defence solution.
- ✓ A VSHORAD is the soldier's last line of defence against enemy combat aircraft, helicopters and UAVs in the multilayered air defence network.
- ✓ Range: It has a range of 500 metres to 6 kilometres and attack targets up to an altitude of 3.5 kilometres. The speed of the missile is 400 metres per second and the deployment time is 13 seconds.
- ✓ Significance: The acquisition of the Igla-S MANPADS marks a significant step in enhancing India's air defence capabilities, particularly in mountainous regions.





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**Q. Indian Pavilion inaugurated at Cannes Film Festival 2024, where is it being held?**

- A) France  
B) Canada  
C) Germany  
D) Australia

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The 77th Cannes Film Festival is being organised in France where the Indian Pavilion was also inaugurated.
- ✓ The Indian Pavilion at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival is organised every year by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.
- ✓ It was inaugurated by Information and Broadcasting Ministry Secretary Sanjay Jaju and Indian Ambassador to France Javed Ashraf

**Q. Which famous Indian footballer has announced his retirement from international football?**

- A) Sunil Chhetri  
B) Sahal Abdul Samad  
C) Lalengmawia Ralte  
D) Manveer Singh

**Answer : A**

- ✓ India's most famous footballer Sunil Chhetri has announced his retirement from international football.
- ✓ The FIFA World Cup qualifier against Kuwait on June 6 in Kolkata will be his last match for the national team.
- ✓ Chhetri started his playing career with Mohun Bagan in 2002.
- ✓ Chhetri made his international debut in 2005 and scored his first goal against Pakistan.

**Q. Which company's agricultural drone has recently received certification from DGCA?**

- A) AITMC Ventures Limited  
B) NewSpace Research and Technologies  
C) Skylark Drone  
D) Marut Drone

**Answer : A**

- ✓ AITMC Ventures Limited (AVPL International) has received DGCA certification for agricultural drone VIRAJ.
- ✓ Company CEO Himanshu Sharma said that AVPL's Viraj UAS (agricultural drone) has received the first type certification.







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- Founded : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Chairman : Siddhartha Mohanty
- It is India's largest life insurance company and also the country's largest investment company.
- Authorised Capital of LIC - Rs 25,000 Crore

**Q. New York-based private equity firm Warburg Pincus will acquire which company in a deal valued at ₹4,630 crore for equity and convertible instruments?**

- A) PNB Housing Finance Limited      B) LIC Housing Finance  
C) Shriram Housing Finance      D) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services

**Answer : C**

- ✓ New York-based private equity firm Warburg Pincus will acquire Shriram Housing Finance Ltd (SHFL) in a deal valued at ₹4,630 crore for equity and convertible instruments.
- ✓ Warburg Pincus will acquire the stake through its affiliate Mango Crest Investment Ltd.
- ✓ At present Shriram Finance Ltd holds a controlling stake in SHFL while private equity firm Valiant Partners L.P. (Valiant), Mauritius, holds the remaining ownership.
- ✓ As a part of this transaction, Valiant and Shriram Finance will completely divest its equity stake to Warburg Pincus.
- ✓ The company has a pan-India presence with 155 branches with an AUM of ₹13,762 crore, net worth of ₹1,924 crore and revenues of ₹1,430 crore, as of March 31, 2024.

**Q. Who has been honoured with the Global Excellence Award 2024 for Outstanding Contributions in Education?**

- A) Chandrakant Satija      B) Rekha Srivastava  
C) Shivani Sharma      D) Pallavi Gupta

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Chandrakant Satija wins the Global Excellence Award 2024 for being the “Most Trusted Admission Consultant in Vidarbha Region”.
- ✓ He is the founder and CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants.
- ✓ The award was presented to him by the famous Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra. He was adjudged as the Most Trusted Admissions Consultant in Vidarbha Region.







**Q. Ambaji White Marble, recently seen in the news, is predominantly quarried from which one of the following States?**

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Haryana
- C) Gujarat
- D) Odisha

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Marble mined in Gujarat's Ambaji has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication, or GI tag, by the Central Government.
- ✓ About Ambaji White Marble:
- ✓ It is a type of marble known for its stunning white appearance and unique natural patterns.
- ✓ It is named after the town of Ambaji in the state of Gujarat, where it is predominantly quarried.
- ✓ It is also known as Amba White Marble and Ambe White Marble.
- ✓ It is characterized by its pristine white color, which often features subtle gray or beige veining.
- ✓ The veins can vary in intensity, ranging from fine and delicate to bold and pronounced, giving each slab a distinct and individualistic appearance

#### GI TAG IN NEWS 2023-24

- Marble mined in Gujarat's Ambaji has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication, or GI tag, by the Central Government.
- The famous silver filigree (Rupa Tarakasi) of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag.
- On December 4, 2023, Uttarakhand became the 1st state in the country to get GI certificates for a maximum of 18 products in a single day.
- Till now, a total of 27 products of Uttarakhand have received GI tag.
- West Bengal achieves Geographical Indication tags for distinctive products, including 'Mouban' honey from Sunderbans, 'Prince of Rice' Black Nunia rice, and traditional Tangail, Gorod, etc.



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1. Recognition of Sunderbans Honey – ‘Mouban’

2. Black Nunia Rice – ‘Prince of Rice’

3. Distinctive Sarees – Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal.

- As a part of the National GI Drive Mission, 'Kadiyal Sarees' of West Bengal have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn.
- The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Goan cashew (Fruit and Nut) was recently granted the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Mushkbudji rice, which was granted the GI tag along with eight other products from Jammu and Kashmir.
- GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI) :-
- GI tags are issued as per the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999. This tag is issued by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag in 2004.
- The second GI tag in India was given to Aranmula Kannadi (Handicraft) which is a mirror and made in Kerala.
- A GI is registered for an initial period of ten years, which must be renewed after 10 years.









### TUNNEL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Sela Tunnel, constructed by BRO India, is officially recognized as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour, England.
- Prime Minister Inaugurates Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Sela tunnel is an engineering feat that connects Tawang with the Balipara-Chariduar-Tawang road in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Border Roads Organization has built the world's longest bi-lane tunnel at an altitude of over 13,000 feet at a cost of Rs 825 crore.
- The Shinku La tunnel, located at an altitude of 15,800 feet, will serve as a crucial link between Manali and Leh Ladakh.
- The Indian Army inaugurated its first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh.
- Border Roads Organisation will build the world's highest tunnel at Shinku La Pass, at 16,580 feet, to connect Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.
- India's First Underwater Metro Train Service Launched in Kolkata by PM Modi.
- The underwater metro route is part of the extensive 16.6 km Howrah Maidan-Esplanade section, remarkable for its passage beneath the Hooghly River.

**Q. Lawrence Wong has been elected as the new Prime Minister of which country?**

A) Malaysia

B) Indonesia

C) Singapore

D) Hong Kong

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Lawrence Wong to be Sworn in as Singapore's fourth PM
- ✓ Singapore's deputy leader Lawrence Wong is set to be sworn in as the nation's fourth Prime Minister.
- ✓ 51-year-old US-trained economist Wong will succeed 72-year-old Lee Hsien Loong, who stepped down after two decades at the helm.
- ✓ Lee's resignation marked the end of a family dynasty led by his father Lee Kuan Yew.
- ✓ Since becoming an independent nation in 1965, Singapore has only had three Prime Ministers – all from the ruling People's Action Party.
- ✓ SINGAPORE



- ✓ Capital : Singapore City
- ✓ Currency : Singapore dollar
- ✓ President : Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- ✓ Prime Minister : Lawrence Wong

### NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

- Lawrence Wong : Singapore
- Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah : Kuwait
- Simon Harris : Ireland
- Bjarni Benediktsson : Iceland
- Luis Montenegro : Portugal
- Mohammad Mustafa : Palestine
- Olzhas Bektenov : Kazakhstan
- Gabriel Attal : France
- Donald Tusk : Poland
- Luke Frieden : Luxembourg
- Robert Fico : Slovakia
- Christopher Luxon : 42nd PM of New Zealand
- Srettha Thavisin : Thailand
- Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani : Qatar
- Li Qiang : China
- Manuela Roka Botey as first female PM : Equatorial Guinea
- Anwar Ibrahim : Malaysia
- Benjamin Netanyahu : Israel
- Rishi Sunak : 57th PM of United Kingdom (UK)

**Q. Which country has become the country with the highest data center capacity in the Asia-Pacific region, surpassing major countries like Australia, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Singapore, and Korea?**

- A) India
- B) China
- C) Russia
- D) USA





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- Indian Navy has launched 'Operation Sankalp' in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman with the aim of ensuring the security of Indian ships.
- **OPERATION RISING SUN**
- Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) busted a big syndicate involved in smuggling of foreign-origin gold worth around Rs. 40 crore in its operation code named 'Rising Sun' on 12th and 13th March, 2024
- **OPERATION KAMDHENU**
- Jammu and Kashmir police launched Operation Kamdhenu to curb cattle smuggling.
- **OPERATION PROSPERITY GUARDIAN**
- Operation Prosperity Guardian is a United States-led military operation by a multinational coalition formed in December 2023 to respond to Houthi-led attacks on shipping in the Red Sea.
- **OPERATION AJAY**
- India has launched 'Operation Ajay' to facilitate the return from Israel of those Indians who wish to come back home.
- **OPERATION IRON SWORD**
- Israel has named the ongoing fight against Hamas as Operation Iron Sword. Hamas is a Palestinian militant group that controls some areas of the Gaza Strip.
- **OPERATION SAJAG**
- Indian Coast Guard conducted 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill along the west coast, aimed at enhancing coastal security.
- **OPERATION BROADER SWORD**
- India and the USA, jointly conducted an 'Operation Broader Sword' to stop the illegal shipment of drugs through the International Mail System.
- **OPERATION KARUNA**
- India launched "Operation Karuna" to provide humanitarian assistance for people in Myanmar, which is affected by Cyclone Mocha.
- **OPERATION KAVERI**
- India launches Operation Kaveri to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in Sudan
- **OPERATION DOST**



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- Due to the recent earthquake in Turkey and Syria, India has launched a campaign named 'Operation Dost' to help the affected people.
- **OPERATION GARUDA**
- Central Bureau of Investigation has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking network.
- **OPERATION YATRI SURAKSHA**
- To give assurance of the safety to the passengers, the Indian railways with the coordination of Railway Protection Force has launched a pan India drive under the code name Operation Yatri Suraksha.
- **OPERATION "NARCOS"**
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) recently recovered narcotic products worth Rs 7.40 crore under "Operation Narcos".
- **OPERATION SANKALP**
- Indian Navy's stealth Frigate, INS Talwar is presently deployed for Op-Sankalp commemorating the 3rd continuous year of Indian Navy's presence in the Gulf.
- **OPERATION SATARK**
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently started "Operation Satark" taking action against illicit liquor, fake currency circulation, etc.
- **OPERATION GANGA**
- India launches mission named Operation Ganga to evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine

**Q. What significant milestone has the Indian Army achieved in Eastern Ladakh?**

- A) Deployment of over 500 tanks and infantry combat vehicles
- B) Establishment of the world's highest tank repair facilities
- C) Introduction of advanced combat training facilities
- D) Construction of the longest military road in the region

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Indian Army sets up one of world's highest tank repair facilities near China border.



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- ✓ With over 500 of its tanks and infantry combat vehicles deployed in Eastern Ladakh, the Indian Army has created a record of sorts by setting up two of world's highest tank repair facilities in that area to support its operations there.
- ✓ The Indian Army has set up two armoured vehicle maintenance and repair facilities near the China border in Nyoma and the DBO Sector in that region to at altitudes of over 14,500 feet in the area, which is the world's highest battlefield for tanks and infantry combat vehicles along the LAC in Eastern Ladakh

**Q. Who inaugurated the IndiaSkills Competition 2024, which is aimed at showcasing the highest standards of skilling in India?**

A) Narendra Modi

B) Atul Kumar Tiwari

C) Ramesh Pokhriyal

D) Nirmala Sitharaman

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the IndiaSkills Competition 2024 – the country's biggest skill competition designed to demonstrate the highest standards of skilling.
- ✓ The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) organised an inauguration ceremony at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi which witnessed the participation of over 900 students from more than 30 states and Union Territories and over 400 industry experts.
- ✓ For the next three days, the participants will be competing in a variety of skills from Construction and Building Technology, Creative Arts and Fashion to Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, and Transportation and Logistics. The event will close on 19th May with a grand closing ceremony.
- ✓ Winners of IndiaSkills, with the help of the best industry trainers, will prepare for the WorldSkills Competition scheduled to take place in Lyon, France in September 2024 and will bring together 1,500 competitors from over 70 countries.

**Q. Which two countries are collaborating to develop interceptors capable of shooting down hypersonic missiles by the 2030s?**

A) Russia and China

B) Japan and South Korea

C) United States and Russia

D) Japan and the United States

**Answer : D**





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- ✓ The first leg of the Grand Chess Tour (GCT) came to a thrilling conclusion as five-time World Champion and World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen beat tournament leader Grandmaster (GM) Wei Yi to win Superbet Poland Rapid & Blitz and \$40,000 for the first place finish.
- ✓ Carlsen delivered a brilliant performance which included ten blitz wins in a row, defeating each of his competitors before overtaking Wei Yi in the final standings.

**Q. Who has been appointed as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of IndiaFirst Life Insurance for a term of five years, effective from July 1, 2024?**

- A) Rushabh Gandhi                      B) Anand Mahindra  
C) Nirmala Sitharaman                D) Ratan Tata

**Answer : A**

- ✓ IndiaFirst Life Insurance appoints Rushabh Gandhi as MD & CEO
- ✓ IndiaFirst Life Insurance's board has approved the appointment of Rushabh Gandhi as the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) for five years effective July 1, 2024, or the date of regulatory approvals, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Gandhi is the deputy chief executive officer of the insurer. Gandhi has over 29 years of experience in the financial services industry and across national and international markets.
- ✓ R M Vishakha, the current MD and CEO of the life insurer, will retire on June 30, 2024.

**Q. What is the name of the guided multi-launch rocket system recently launched by Pakistan, capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres?**

- A) Fatah-I                                  B) Fatah-II  
C) Ghaznavi                                D) Shaheen

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Pakistan conducts successful training launch of 'Fatah-II' rocket system.
- ✓ Pakistan conducted a successful training launch of guided multi-launch rocket system 'Fatah-II', which is capable of engaging targets with high precision up to a range of 400 kilometres, the army said.
- ✓ The launch of Fatah-II Guided Rocket System was aimed at perfecting the launch drills and procedures, the army said.
- ✓ Equipped with state-of-the-art navigation system, unique trajectory and manoeuvrable features, Fatah-II is capable of engaging targets with high precision and defeating any missile defence system







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**Q. Canadian author and Nobel laureate Alice Munro passed away recently at the age of 92. In which year did he receive the Nobel Prize?**

A) 2011

B) 2013

C) 2014

D) 2019

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Canadian author Alice Munro and Nobel laureate passed away at the age of 92.
- ✓ She wrote short stories for more than 60 years, often focusing on life in rural Canada. She was often compared to Russian writer Anton Chekhov for the insight and compassion found in her stories.
- ✓ Munro was recipient of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2013. The Nobel committee called Munro a “master of contemporary short stories”.
- ✓ Her first major breakthrough came in 1968, when her short story collection, *Dance of The Happy Shades*, about life in the suburbs of western Ontario, won Canada’s highest literary honour, the Governor General’s Award. It was the first of three Governor General’s Awards she would win in her lifetime.

**Q. When is the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) observed?**

A) 18 May

B) 16 May

C) 17 May

D) 15 May

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD) is observed every year on 17 May since 1969, to commemorate the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ✓ The ITU was founded on 17 May 1865, when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris.
- ✓ The main objective of the day is to raise global awareness of the changes brought about by the Internet and new technologies in societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.
- ✓ International Telecommunication Union
- ✓ The International Telecommunication Union was established on 17 May 1865 as the International Telegraph Union.
- ✓ Members of the ITU: 193 countries
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ Secretary General: Doreen Bogdan-Martin (USA)



**Q. World Hypertension Day (WHD) is observed on which day of the year?**

- A) 17 May
- B) 14 May
- C) 15 May
- D) 16 May

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The World Hypertension Day (WHD) is celebrated on 17 May worldwide to promote public awareness of increasing high blood pressure (BP) and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer.
- ✓ The day was held for the first time in May 2005.
- ✓ World Hypertension Day (WHD) is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL), an affiliated section of the International Society of Hypertension.
- ✓ Hypertension is also popularly known as high blood pressure. When a person's blood pressure is 140/90 mmHg or higher, they are diagnosed as having hypertension
- ✓ The theme for 2024 World Hypertension Day is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!"

**Q. National Dengue Day is celebrated in India on which day?**

- A) 17 May
- B) 16 May
- C) 14 May
- D) 15 May

**Answer : B**

- ✓ In India, the National Dengue Day is observed every year on 16 May.
- ✓ The day is an initiative by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to raise awareness about dengue and its preventive measures, and preparedness for control of the vector-borne disease before the transmission season begins.
- ✓ Dengue is caused by the bite of Aedes mosquito





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- The first conference of I2U2 Business Forum, a joint initiative of India, Israel, the US and the United Arab Emirates, was held on 22 February 2023 in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
- United Arab Emirates (UAE) will host the 13th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial meeting in February 2024.
- UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) in November 2023.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) signed an agreement to set up its first overseas office in Abu Dhabi Global Market.
- UAE and India launched the UAE India Business Council - UAE Chapter (UIBCUC) to strengthen economic ties and enhance bilateral trade and investment.
- EDGE, UAE's leading defence group signed a Memorandum of Understanding with India's aerospace firm Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL) at the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX).
- India, France, UAE Establish Trilateral Cooperation Initiative, in fields including Energy, Defence & Economy.
- India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is shortly to be connected to comparable networks in Indonesia, Mauritius, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- RBI, Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to promote innovation in financial products and services.
- Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan appointed President of UAE.
- Emaar, a Dubai-based real estate developer, has become the first foreign company to invest in a mega-mall spread over one million square feet in Srinagar.
- Indian Air Force contingent of 110 Air Warriors reached Al Dahfra airbase of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on 25 February for participating in Exercise 'Desert Flag VIII'.
- President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has appointed Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, his brother, as the Vice President of the country.
- The 'Study in India Pavilion' at the Global Education & Training Exhibition (GETEX) in Dubai, UAE.
- HDFC Bank and UAE-based financial services company Lulu Exchange, have partnered to strengthen cross-border payments between India and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region.
- About UAE





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- ✓ Accessible: It can be easily bought from any post office on submission of the required KYC documents. Also, it is easy to transfer the certificate from one PO to another, as well as from one person to another, without impacting the interest accrual/maturity of the original certificate.
- ✓ Loan Collaterals: NSC certificates are accepted as collateral or security for secured loans in Banks and NBFCs.
- ✓ Nomination: The investor can nominate any family member (even a minor) so that they can inherit it in the unfortunate event of the investor's demise.
- ✓ Premature Withdrawal: Generally, one cannot exit the scheme early except on the death of an investor, on a court order, or on forfeiture by a pledgee who is a Gazetted Government Officer for it.
- ✓ Eligibility Criteria for NSC:
- ✓ Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), Trusts, and Private and public limited companies are not eligible to invest in NSC.
- ✓ The individual must be a resident Indian citizen. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are not eligible to invest in NSC.
- ✓ There is no age limit for individuals to purchase an NSC

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Bond Buyback:**

**1. It is a process in which central and state governments buy back their existing securities from holders by redeeming them prematurely.**

**2. It is aimed to decrease the liquidity in the market.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has responded to tight liquidity conditions in the banking system by announcing a significant reduction in the government's treasury bill sales and introducing a new selection of bonds for the Centre's buyback operations.
- ✓ Bond Buyback is a process whereby the central government and state governments buy back their existing securities, by redeeming them prematurely, from the holders.
- ✓ Bond buybacks is a liability management tools widely used in government securities markets to manage refinancing and liquidity risks.



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- ✓ It enables issuers to retire an outstanding debt before its maturity date against a cash payment.
- ✓ The objectives of buyback can be
- ✓ Reduction of cost (by buying back high coupon securities),
- ✓ Reduction in the number of outstanding securities and improving liquidity in the G-Secs market (by buying back illiquid securities) and
- ✓ Infusion of liquidity in the system.
- ✓ What is a Bond?
- ✓ It is a debt instrument in which an investor loans money to an entity (typically corporate or government) which borrows the funds for a defined period of time at a variable or fixed interest rate.
- ✓ Bonds are used by companies, municipalities, states and sovereign governments to raise money to finance a variety of projects and activities. Owners of bonds are debt holders, or creditors, of the issuer.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI) platform:**

**1. It is launched to monitor the safety of medical devices.**

**2. The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission functions as National Coordination Centre.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Recently, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) directed all medical device licence holders and manufacturers to report any adverse events related to life-saving medical equipment on the government's Materiovigilance Programme of India (MvPI) platform.
- ✓ It was launched on July 6, 2015 to monitor the safety of medical devices in the country.
- ✓ It aims to collect data on medical device related adverse events systematically and scientifically analyze them to aid in regulatory decisions and recommendations on safe use of medical devices.
- ✓ Objective: To improve Indian patient safety by monitoring, recording and analysing the root cause of adverse events or risks associated with the use of medical devices including in-vitro diagnostics by healthcare professionals or patients/users and suggesting regulatory bodies for appropriate action with the sole intention of improving patient safety.





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- ✓ It is an important program for reporting of adverse events, coordinated analysis etc related to the medical devices including in-vitro diagnostic devices.
- ✓ The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) functions as National Coordination Centre (NCC) since 2018.
- ✓ It is regulated by the Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO).
- ✓ Currently, all medical devices in India are regulated by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Medical Device Rule, 2017.
- ✓ At present, India is 80% dependent on imports for medical devices.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry Of Health and Family Welfare

**Q. How much financing has the International Finance Corporation (IFC) provided to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to underserved women in rural and semi-urban India?**

A) \$100 million

B) \$250 million

C) \$500 million

D) \$750 million

**Answer : C**

- ✓ International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to “underserved women” in rural and semi-urban India.
- ✓ HDFC Bank said it would use IFC’s financing for on-lending as microloans to self-help groups (SHGs) and joint liability groups (JLGs) enrolled in the Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (SLI).
- ✓ IFC’s loan will further enable the Bank to grow its microcredit and microlending to women, especially allowing SHG and JLG borrowers to graduate to individual lending schemes

## HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to “underserved women” in rural and semi-urban India.
- HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India’s First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback.
- HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.



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- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

**Q. Which sports organization did Puma India officially sign up as the official kit sponsor?**

- A) Indian Olympic Association (IOA)
- B) Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- C) Athletics Federation of India (AFI)
- D) All India Football Federation (AIFF)

**Answer : C**





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- IndusInd Bank, a leading financial institution in India, has announced a significant multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Nandini's Sponsorship of Ireland and Scotland Cricket Teams Sparks Debate
- Tata Group Secures IPL Title Sponsorship for Next 5 Years spanning 2024 to 2028.
- Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years.
- Dream11 has reportedly taken over as the main jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team from July 2023 to March 2026, replacing Byju's.

**Q. RoseTTAFold, recently seen in the news, is a:**

A) dwarf planet

B) new variant of SARS-CoV-2

C) newly discovered asteroid

D) AI-based prediction tool used for drug development

**Answer : D**

- ✓ AI-based prediction tool RoseTTAFold has provided a major scientific breakthrough in the last four years in the area of computational drug development.
- ✓ It is developed by researchers at the University Of Washington, U.S.
- ✓ It uses generative diffusion-based architectures (one kind of AI model) to predict structural complexes.
- ✓ The tools' neural networks use massive amounts of input data to produce the desired output — the three-dimensional structures of proteins.
- ✓ It uses deep learning to quickly and accurately predict protein structures based on limited information. Without the aid of such software, it can take years of laboratory work to determine the structure of just one protein

**Q. Who handed over the first set of citizenship certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019, in New Delhi?**

A) Narendra Modi

B) Ajay Kumar Bhalla

C) S. Jaishankar

D) Nirmala Sitharaman

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Centre Issues First Set Of Citizenship Certificates Under CAA.



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- ✓ Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla handed over certificates under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 to the first 14 people in New Delhi. Digitally signed certificates are also being issued to other applicants through email.
- ✓ The process involves granting Indian nationality to undocumented non-Muslims migrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh
- ✓ The CAA was enacted in December 2019 but the rules under which the citizenship was granted were issued only on March 11 this year, marking nearly four years of delay

**Q. Which UK-based institution has AIIMS New Delhi partnered with to enhance medical research, innovation, and education?**

- A) University of Oxford
- B) University of Cambridge
- C) University of Bolton Institute of Medicine
- D) Imperial College London

**Answer : C**

- ✓ AIIMS New Delhi Signed MoU With University Of Bolton Institute Of Medicine
- ✓ AIIMS New Delhi has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with UK based University of Bolton Institute of Medicine to collaborate in the field of medical research, innovation and education.
- ✓ This strategic collaboration brings together two esteemed institutions renowned for their commitment to excellence in medical training, research, and patient care.
- ✓ These partnerships will encompass various initiatives such as staff/student exchanges, educational conferences and collaborative degree programmes, aiming to enrich the medical education landscape in both countries.

**Q. How long has the Indian government extended the ban on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)?**

- A) Two years
- B) Three years
- C) Four years
- D) Five years

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Centre Extends Ban Imposed On LTTE For Five More Years.
- ✓ The Centre has extended the ban on Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for further five years.



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- ✓ The central government has taken the decision in view of the activities of the LTTE that continues to pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, particularly in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The union home ministry imposed the ban invoking the sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. In a notification, the home ministry said the central government is of the opinion that the LTTE is still indulging in activities which are prejudicial to the integrity and security of the country.

**Q. Who recently became the first Indian woman to break into the top 25 of the world Women's singles rankings in table tennis?**

A) Pooja Sahasrabudhe

B) Mouma Das

C) Manika Batra

D) Madhurika Patkar

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Table Tennis, Manika Batra Becomes First Indian Woman To Break Into Top 25 Of World Women's Singles Rankings
- ✓ India's ace women's table tennis player Manika Batra became the first Indian woman paddler to break into the top 25 of the world Women's singles rankings. She rose to her career-best ranking of 24, following her success in the Saudi Smash, last week.
- ✓ She also equalled G. Sathyan's five year old record for the highest rank achieved by an Indian in singles table tennis. G Sathiyam, Manika's longtime mixed doubles partner, achieved world No. 24 in men's singles in 2019.
- ✓ The 28-year-old Khel Ratna awardee, who was in 39th spot before the tournament, jumped 15 spots following her run in Jeddah, where she reached the quarterfinals.

**Q. Who recently assumed the role of Director General of Akashvani?**

A) Ramesh Kumar

B) Maushumi Chakravarty

C) Sunil Sharma

D) Priya Singh

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Senior Indian Information Service officer, Maushumi Chakravarty assumed the charge as Director General of Akashvani.



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- ✓ A 1991 batch IIS officer, Ms Chakravarty has a vast experience of working in several media organisations of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, including Press Information Bureau and Central Bureau of Communication

**Q. What was the total value of India's exports in the financial year 2023-24?**

- A) USD 776.3 billion                      B) USD 800 billion  
C) USD 778 billion                        D) USD 755 billion

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India Registers Record Export At USD 778 Billion In 2023-24
- ✓ India registered record exports in the just concluded financial year 2023-24 at USD 778 billion, commerce ministry said. In the financial year 2022-23, the combined value of exported goods and services stood at USD 776.3 billion.
- ✓ In 2023-24, services exports increased from USD 325.3 billion to USD 341.1 billion, while merchandise exports marginally declined from USD 451.1 billion to USD 437.1 billion
- ✓ China, Russia, Iraq, UAE, and Singapore are among the countries where India's exports in the just-concluded financial year have risen substantially, though with a low base. The other countries in the Top 10 list are the UK, Australia, Saudi Arabia, the Netherlands, and South Africa.
- ✓ Meanwhile, there was a decline in overall imports from USD 898.0 billion in 2022-23 to USD 853.8 billion in 2023-24.

**Q. In which year did FIFA officially announce the scheduled dates for the inaugural Women's Club World Cup tournament?**

- A) 2026                                        B) 2028  
C) 2027                                        D) 2030

**Answer : A**

- ✓ FIFA Confirm First Ever Women's Club World Cup Will Kick Off In 2026
- ✓ FIFA has officially announced the scheduled dates for the inaugural Women's Club World Cup tournament, slated to take place in January and February of 2026. The tournament's first edition is expected to feature 16 teams.







**Q. Which companies have collaborated to accelerate the adoption of generative AI (GenAI)?**

- A) Tech Mahindra and Google      B) IBM and Infosys  
C) Tech Mahindra and IBM      D) IBM and TCS

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Tech Mahindra, IBM collaborate to accelerate adoption of GenAI
- ✓ IT company Tech Mahindra said it has collaborated with IBM to assist businesses worldwide in responsibly accelerating the adoption of generative AI (GenAI).
- ✓ Under the partnership, Tech Mahindra's amplifAI and IBM watsonx will integrate to bring new GenAI and governance capabilities to enterprises, according to a company statement.

**Q. Which country will host the 2027 Women's World Cup, as declared at the FIFA Congress?**

- A) Brazil      B) Belgium  
C) Netherlands      D) Germany

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Brazil to host 2027 Women's World Cup
- ✓ Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup at the FIFA Congress, beating the joint bid of Belgium, Netherlands and Germany to become the first South American country to hold the tournament.
- ✓ The Brazil bid received the backing of 119 member associations of the FIFA Congress to host the 10th edition of the competition, compared to 78 votes for the European bid.
- ✓ The race was whittled down to two last month after the United States and Mexico withdrew their joint bid to pursue the 2031 tournament instead

**Q. Which company has signed an initial pact with European bank Societe Generale for up to \$1 billion financing as debt and advisory solutions over the next three years?**

- A) Torrent Power      B) NTPC Limited  
C) JSW Energy      D) ReNew

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Energy firm ReNew has signed an initial pact with European bank Societe Generale for up to \$1 billion financing as debt and advisory solutions over the next three years.







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- ✓ This mission will take off aboard Japan's H3 rocket.
- ✓ Primary Goal: To explore the moon's southern polar region, investigating the presence of water and other elements, potentially in the form of surface ice.
- ✓ It aims to showcase innovative surface exploration technologies. The special focus is on vehicular transport and lunar night survival.
- ✓ It features both a lander and a rover. JAXA is responsible for developing and operating the rover, and ISRO for developing and operating the lander that will carry the rover.
- ✓ The rover will be equipped with instruments for measuring the water content of regolith (lunar sand), drilling, and sampling, as well as with other world-first and world-leading technologies for the driving system and batteries.
- ✓ The rover will carry not only the instruments of ISRO and JAXA but also those of the US space agency NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA).

**Q. Which of the following is the name of the premium banking services program recently launched by Yes Bank, specifically targeting affluent customers?**

A) Yes Privilege

B) Yes Excellence

C) Yes Prestige

D) Yes Grandeur

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Yes Bank launches premium services under 'Yes Grandeur' for affluent, elite customers
- ✓ Yes Bank has launched premium banking services under the label 'Yes Grandeur' targeting elite and rising affluent class to drive business growth.
- ✓ So, only banking customers with an average monthly balance (AMB) of Rs 5 lakh or a net relationship value (NRV) of Rs 20 lakh will be eligible for the program, with additional consideration to loan relationships.
- ✓ YES Grandeur is aimed at enhancing and personalising the customer experience by offering unique banking, travel and lifestyle privileges

## YES BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- Yes Bank launches premium services under 'Yes Grandeur' for affluent, elite customers.
- YES Bank collaborates with ANQ to launch 2 co-branded credit cards Pi, Phi.
- YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.



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- Yes Bank becomes first Indian bank to conduct export finance transactions on RXIL's ITFS.
- Yes Bank Launches SmartFin With Veefin Solutions, An Advanced Digital Platform To Boost MSMEs.
- Yes Bank becomes first lender to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- Yes bank partnered with fintech Zaggle for next-gen corporate credit card.
- YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App.
- Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (₹) in tie-up with YES Bank
- YES Bank announced the unveiling of its new logo, which forms part of its "refreshed brand identity." YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.
- Yes Bank is an Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor in 2004.
- YES BANK
- Founded : 2004
- Founder : Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Sunil Mehta
- MD & CEO : Prashant Kumar
- YES BANK launches new logo, to roll out campaign 'Life Ko Banao Rich'.

**Q. Which Indian public sector companies are set to actively search for critical mineral assets overseas, according to the government announcement?**

**A) Coal India, NTPC, Indian Oil Corporation**

**B) NMDC, ONGC Videsh Ltd, GAIL (India) Limited**

**C) Coal India, NMDC, ONGC Videsh Ltd**

**D) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Oil India Limited, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Coal India, NMDC, ONGC Videsh to actively scout for critical mineral assets abroad: Govt



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- ✓ The government said public sector companies Coal India, NMDC and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), will start looking actively for critical mineral assets overseas.
- ✓ ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) is the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation. These PSUs already have some kind of presence abroad.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL) is a joint venture of three PSUs formed to scout for mineral assets overseas. It is owned by three public sector undertakings National Aluminium Company Ltd (Nalco), Hindustan Copper Ltd (HCL) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd (MECL).
- ✓ The government-backed initiative ONDC (open network for digital commerce) has started getting traction in the e-commerce sector and so far five lakh sellers have been onboarded on the platform
- ✓ Five lakh sellers have on-boarded of which 70 per cent are small and medium sellers. In April, ONDC facilitated 7.22 million transaction

**Q. By how many basis points (bps) did State Bank of India (SBI) increase interest rates on retail domestic term deposits of less than one year tenor?**

A) 10-50 bps

B) 50-100 bps

C) 75-125 bps

D) 25-75 bps

**Answer : D**

- ✓ SBI raises short-term retail fixed deposit rates by up to 75 bps
- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has increased interest rates on retail domestic term deposits (Below ₹2 crore) by 25-75 basis points on deposits of less than one year tenor.
- ✓ India's largest bank also increased interest rates on domestic bulk term deposits (₹2 crore and above) by 10-50 basis points on five out of eight maturity buckets.
- ✓ The new interest rates are effective from May 15, 2024. This deposit rate hike comes against the backdrop of credit growth outstripping deposit growth.
- ✓ On retail domestic TDs, SBI has upped the interest rate on deposits of 46 days to 179 days from 4.75 per cent to 5.50 per cent (or by 75 basis points/bps); on deposits of 180 days to 210 days from 5.75 per cent to 6 per cent (up 25 bps); and deposits of 211 days to less than 1 year from 6 per cent to 6.25 per cent (up 25 bps).

## SBI IN NEWS 2023-24

- State Bank of India (SBI) has increased interest rates on retail domestic term deposits (Below ₹2 crore) by 25-75 basis points on deposits of less than one year tenor.



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- State Bank of India (SBI) recently announced it has become the first trading-cum-clearing member at the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX).
- SBI partners with HCLSoftware for digital transformation.
- Aurionpro secures a significant deal with SBI for iCashpro+, a cash management platform. Valued at Rs 100 crore, it involves phased delivery over 12 months, followed by 6-year maintenance.
- LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has signed a Line of Credit (LOC) of Euro 70 million (about Rs 630 crore) with German development bank KfW to promote solar projects in the country.
- SBI Mutual Fund got permission from the RBI to buy up to a 9.99% share in Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Sri Lanka.
- State Bank of India ropes in MS Dhoni as brand ambassador.
- SBI has launched a 'Mobile Handheld Device' as part of its financial inclusion drive in a bid to improve accessibility and convenience.
- The tenure of State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman Dinesh Khara has been extended till August 2024.
- State Bank of India has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians to effortlessly open Non-Residential External and Non-Resident Ordinary accounts through its mobile app YONO.
- State Bank of India has launched its 'Nation First Transit Card', a RuPay prepaid instrument under the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) that can be used nationwide.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54 percent through its third infrastructure bond issuance.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI )
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Dinesh Kumar Khara
- Imperial Bank of India was previous name of SBI
- The presidency Banks of Bengal, Bombay and Madras with merged in 1921 to Imperial Bank of India.
- Tagline of State Bank of India
  - (1) Pure Banking Nothing Else
  - (2) With you all the way
  - (3) A bank of the common man



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(4) The banker to every Indian

(5) The Nation banks on us.

- It is one of the largest and oldest banks in India.

**Q. Cristiano Ronaldo topped Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes for the fourth time in his career. He is from which country?**

A) Portugal

B) Spain

C) Norway

D) Netherlands

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo topped Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes for the fourth time in his career while Spanish golfer Jon Rahm moved up to second following his sensational switch to Saudi-backed LIV Golf.
- ✓ Ronaldo became the world's highest-paid athlete after his move to Saudi Arabian side Al-Nassr and Forbes said the 39-year-old's estimated total earnings were in the region of \$260 million, an all-time high for a soccer player.
- ✓ His on-field earnings amounted to \$200 million while his off-field earnings were \$60 million thanks to sponsorship deals where brands make use of his 629 million Instagram followers
- ✓ Third on the list is record eight-times Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi, who made a lucrative switch to Major League Soccer side Inter Miami, helping the Argentine World Cup winner earn \$135 million. The 36-year-old has earned \$65 million in on-field earnings but \$70 million off it thanks to deals with major sponsors such as Adidas and Apple.
- ✓ Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James is fourth at \$128.2 million and although the 39-year-old.
- ✓ World's top 10 highest paid athletes 2024
  1. Cristiano Ronaldo, football: \$260m
  2. Jon Rahm, golf: \$218m
  3. Lionel Messi, football: \$135m
  4. LeBron James, basketball: \$128.2m
  5. Giannis Antetokounmpo, basketball: \$111m
  6. Kylian Mbappe, football: \$110m
  7. Neymar, football: \$108m







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- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has partnered with ISRO for the Urban Frame Survey (UFS) using Bhuvan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ISRO Chairman have already said that by 2040 we should have an Indian astronaut on the moon and also to have our space station by 2035.
- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the second spaceport of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu.
- ISRO has successfully launched meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS with the GSLV-F14/INSAT-3DS mission from SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota.
- Vyommitra (Woman Robot Astronaut) is going to fly into Space ahead of ISRO's "Gaganyaan" Mission
- ISRO has completed all key tests on Insat-3DS satellite before the final review which will be followed by its shipping to the spaceport in Srihari Kota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the PSLV-C58 X-ray Polarimeter Satellite (XPoSat) mission.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is planning to send Indian astronauts to the moon for the first time by 2040.
- ISRO's Next Moon Mission in Collaboration with Japan Gathers Steam. This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25.
- Centre has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by the ISRO.
- ISRO has announced a new online training programme for post-graduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology. The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) .
- ISRO will launch Singapore's TeLEOS-2 satellite using the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bangalore, Karnataka
- Founder / 1st Chairman : Vikram Sarabhai
- 10th Chairman : S Somanath





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- ✓ A rare hemi-parasitic terrestrial plant named *Phtheiospermum lushaiorum* has been found in Phawngpui National Park in Mizoram.
- ✓ About *Phtheiospermum lushaiorum*:
- ✓ It is a new species of hemi-parasitic terrestrial plant.
- ✓ These hemi-parasitic plants lack a fully developed root system and form connections with another plant, from which they obtain some or all of their water and minerals.
- ✓ Such plants have chlorophyll and produce their own food by photosynthesis, and in some cases, are capable of limited growth in the absence of the host plant.
- ✓ They tap into the sap-conducting tissue of the host by means of specialized structures called haustoria.
- ✓ The new species has been found in Phawngpui National Park of Mizoram.
- ✓ Key Facts about Phawngpui National Park:
- ✓ It is located in the Lawngtlai district under the Lai Autonomous District Council of Mizoram, towards the southeast bordering Myanmar.

**Q. With reference to India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC), consider the following:**

**1. It will provide a reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network to supplement existing maritime routes.**

**2. It will comprise two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.**

**3. Beyond the transport infrastructure, undersea cables and long-distance hydrogen pipelines are also part of the project.**

**How many of the above given statements are correct?**

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

**Answer : C**

- ✓ An Indian delegation recently paid a visit to the UAE for the first time to hold discussions with the key entities there on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC).
- ✓ About India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC):
- ✓ It was announced on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in New Delhi when a memorandum of understanding was signed between the European Union and seven countries, namely India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, and Italy.



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- ✓ The corridor will provide a reliable and cost-effective cross-border ship-to-rail transit network to supplement existing maritime routes.
- ✓ The IMEEC will comprise two separate corridors, the east corridor connecting India to the Gulf and the northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.
- ✓ The corridor will include a shipping route connecting Mumbai and Mundra (Gujarat) with the UAE, and a rail network connecting the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan with the Israeli port of Haifa to reach the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

**Q. In which one of the following Wildlife Sanctuary, Sri Lankan golden-backed frog was recently rediscovered?**

- A) Talley Valley Wildlife Sanctuary      B) Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary  
C) Nilgiri Wildlife Sanctuary              D) Koundinya Wildlife Sanctuary

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India, in partnership with the Andhra Pradesh Biodiversity Board, rediscovered the Sri Lankan golden-backed frog (*Hylarana gracilis*) after two centuries in the Koundinya wildlife sanctuary in the Chittoor district.
- ✓ It is located in Palamner - Kuppam forest ranges of Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ It is the only sanctuary in the whole state housing Asian elephants.
- ✓ This Sanctuary comes under Project elephant - a Country wide Elephant Conservation Project taken up by Government of India

**Q. With reference to Calcium carbide, consider the following statements:**

1. It is commonly used for ripening of fruits.
2. It is a highly reactive compound and releases acetylene gas.
3. It causes serious health issues such as dizziness and frequent thirst.

**How many of the above given statements are correct?**

- A) One Only                                      B) Two only  
C) All three                                      D) None

**Answer : C**



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- ✓ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has alerted traders'/fruits handlers/Food Business Operators (FBOs) operating ripening chambers to strictly ensure compliance with the prohibition on calcium carbide for artificial ripening of fruits, particularly during the mango season.
- ✓ It is a compound with the chemical formula  $\text{CaC}_2$  and also known as 'masala'.
- ✓ It is commonly used for ripening fruits like mangoes, releases acetylene gas which contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus.
- ✓ Manufacturing: It is manufactured by heating a lime and carbon mixture to 2000 to 2100°C (3632 to 3812°F) in an electric arc furnace.
- ✓ It has been prohibited as per the provision in the sub-regulation of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulation, 2011.
- ✓ Application
- ✓ It is used in mining and metal industries as well as in the production of acetylene gas.
- ✓ It is a highly reactive compound and releases acetylene gas which is used to artificially ripen fruits
- ✓ Health impacts
- ✓ It can cause serious health issues such as dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting and skin ulcers, etc

**Q. Which company will invest Rs 600 crore for setting up two ethanol manufacturing plants in the country?**

A) Torrent Power

B) JSW Energy

C) Nayara Energy

D) ReNew Power

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Nayara Energy, a private downstream company, is planning to invest Rs 600 crore for setting up ethanol manufacturing plants in the country.
- ✓ The move is in line with the government's target of 20% ethanol blending for FY26.
- ✓ The company plans to set up two ethanol manufacturing plants, each with a production capacity of 200 kiloliters per day (KLPD), in Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

**Q. Which country has become the first country to lose all Glaciers?**

A) Argentina

B) Peru

C) Caracas

D) Venezuela





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- ✓ Several of Joshi's stories were adapted for television by Doordarshan, and she made appearances in television shows such as 'Saat Phere,' produced by Jaya Bachchan, and 'Kirdaar,' produced by Gulzar
- ✓ Her stories were translated into multiple languages, including Marathi, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Punjabi, Malayalam, Kannada, English, Russian, and Japanese, expanding her reach and influence across diverse audiences

**Q. Who was crowned Miss Pink Nepal 2024 in a gala event held in Kathmandu, and will go on to represent Nepal at the Miss International Queen 2024 competition in Thailand?**

A) Aarohi Basnet

B) Sarosy Neupane

C) Anmol Rai

D) Aarohi Rai

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Anmol Rai, a transwoman, was crowned Miss Pink Nepal 2024 in a gala event held in Kathmandu. Sarosy Neupane and Aarohi Basnet were named first and second runners-up, respectively.
- ✓ Rai will represent Nepal at the Miss International Queen 2024 competition in Thailand later this year. The event highlighted Nepal's advancements in LGBTQ rights

**Q. Which Indian table tennis duo clinched the mixed doubles title at the WTT Cappadocia Feder tournament in Turkey?**

A) Anirban Ghosh and Swastika Ghosh

B) Poymantee Baisya and Akash Pal

C) Sathiyam Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra

D) Sharath Kamal and Mouma Das

**Answer : B**

- ✓ In Table Tennis Poymantee Baisya And Akash Pal Clinch Mixed Doubles Title At WTT Cappadocia Feder In Turkey
- ✓ The Indian table tennis duo of Poymantee Baisya and Akash Pal clinched mixed doubles title at World Table Tennis (WTT) Feder tournament held in Cappadocia, Turkey.
- ✓ The duo secured their triumph after a fierce battle against fellow Indians Anirban Ghosh and Swastika Ghosh. In a nail-biting encounter Baisya and Akash emerged triumphant with a hard-fought 3-2 victory, securing the prestigious title.





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- ✓ This was the second WTT title for Pal and Baisya. The Indian table tennis pair had stunned their senior compatriots Sathiyana Gnanasekaran and Manika Batra to win the mixed doubles crown in Beirut in March.
- ✓ In the men's singles, national champion Harmeet Desai lost to Yuta Tanaka 3-1 (11-8, 7-11, 11-6, 11-8) in the round of 16. Harmeet Desai will represent India at the Paris Olympics in the men's singles and team events.

**Q. What is the name of the mission unveiled by ISRO that aims to land a rover and helicopter on Mars, potentially making India the third nation to achieve this feat?**

- A) Chandrayaan-3                      B) Gaganyaan  
C) Vikram-2                              D) Mangalyaan-2

**Answer : D**

- ✓ India's renowned space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), is on the verge of a historic milestone: a mission to land a rover and helicopter on Mars.
- ✓ This ambitious endeavour, a feat so far accomplished only by the US and China, aims to firmly establish India's place as a significant player in the realm of space exploration.
- ✓ The details about the upcoming ambitious project by Isro, named Mangalyaan-2, were made public during a presentation on National Technology Day (May 11) at the Space Application Centre.

**Q. Which two Indian boxers clinched gold medals at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Kazakhstan?**

- A) Mary Kom and Pooja Rani                      B) Nikhat Zareen and Minakshi  
C) Sarita Devi and Lovlina Borgohain                      D) Simranjit Kaur and Saweety Boora

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Nikhat Zareen And Minakshi Clinch Gold Medals At Elorda Cup In Kazakhstan.
- ✓ In Boxing, India's reigning world champion, Nikhat Zareen and another boxer Minakshi clinched gold medals at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Nikhat in the women's 52 kg category, triumphed over Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with a 5-0 victory, while Minakshi defeated another Uzbekistan boxer Rahmonova Saidahon, 4-1 in the women's 48 kg event.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Anamika in the 50kg and Manisha in the 60kg suffered losses to end their campaigns with silver medals.



- ✓ The Indian pugilists concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals, including two gold, two silver and eight bronze medals

**Q. Who recently passed away at the age of 85, and had served as the former Vice-Chairman of Tech Mahindra?**

- A) Anand Mahindra                      B) Vineet Nayyar  
C) None of these                         D) C.P. Gurnani

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Vineet Nayyar, former Vice-Chairman of Tech Mahindra passed away at the age of 85.
- ✓ A former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Nayyar also worked with the World Bank for over 10 years in a series of senior assignments, including the Chief for the Energy, Infrastructure and the Finance Divisions for East Asia and Pacific. He was the first Chairman of state-owned GAIL (India) Ltd from 1986 to 1991.
- ✓ In the private sector, he served as the Managing Director of HCL Corporation and as the Vice Chairman of HCL Technologies. He was also the founder & CEO of HCL Perot Systems.

**Q. Who won the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament in the men's doubles category?**

- A) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty  
B) Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi  
C) Kento Momota and Hiroyuki Endo  
D) Viktor Axelsen and Anders Antonsen

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Indian shuttlers Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Thailand Open Super 500 badminton tournament with a straight-game win over Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of China
- ✓ The Thailand Open title was the eighth title for Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty pai on the BWF World Tour. The Indian pair had won the Swiss Open, the Indonesia Open and the Korea Open in 2023.
- ✓ Men Singles Title :
- ✓ Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia defeated Ng Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong in the final to win the men's singles title.
- ✓ Women's Single Title







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## FSSAI IN NEWS 2023-24

- FSSAI warns traders, food businesses against use of calcium carbide for artificial fruit ripening during mango season.
- FSSAI to check Spices after Singapore & Hong Kong Ban Indian Spices.
- FSSAI is working towards creating a network of 34 microbiology labs across the country that will be equipped to test food products for 10 pathogens.
- FSSAI has awarded 'Eat Right Station' certification to 150 railway stations so far for ensuring safe, hygienic and nutritious food options for passengers.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) introduced a new provision called 'Special Category' in the FOSCOS portal.
- FSSAI has recently recognized the Mithun as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Defence ministry, FSSAI to promote use of millets, healthy eating habits among armed forces.
- Guwahati Railway Station of the Northeast Frontier Railway has been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification by FSSAI, for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers.
- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has inaugurated the state-of-the-art National Training Centre for Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Varanasi Cantt Railway Station of the Indian Railways has been awarded the 5-Star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high quality nutritious food to the passengers.
- The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) has awarded the food provided by the Bulandshahr prison of Uttar Pradesh a five-star rating and the tag 'Eat Right Campus'. Bulandshahr Jail is the second prison after Farrukhabad jail to get this tag from Uttar Pradesh..
- G Kamala Vardhana Rao was appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- FSSAI has been established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which is a consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India.
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : New Delhi



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- Chairperson : Rajesh Bhusan
- CEO : G Kamala Vardhana Rao

**Q. Which state-owned bank recorded the highest growth rate in total business and deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders in FY24?**

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Punjab National Bank
- C) Bank of Baroda
- D) Bank of Maharashtra

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Bank of Maharashtra tops among PSU banks in business growth in FY24
- ✓ State-owned Bank of Maharashtra recorded the highest growth rate last fiscal in terms of total business and deposit mobilisation among public sector lenders at a time when most banks are facing difficulty in achieving double-digit growth.
- ✓ The Pune-headquartered lender has registered a 15.94 per cent rise in the total business (domestic) in FY24, followed by State Bank of India (SBI) with 13.12 per cent growth, according to published financial numbers of the public sector banks (PSBs).
- ✓ BoM continued to maintain its top spot in terms of growth in deposit mobilisation, with a 15.66 per cent rise in FY24. It was followed by SBI (11.07 per cent), Bank of India (11.05 per cent) and Canara Bank (10.98 per cent). Out of 12 public sector banks, only these four lenders could log a double-digit growth in deposits in the financial year 2023-24.
- ✓ In terms of low-cost CASA deposits, the Bank of Maharashtra continued to top the chart with 52.73 per cent growth, followed by the Central Bank of India with a 50.02 per cent rise at the end of March 2024.
- ✓ With regard to loan growth, the Kolkata-based UCO Bank was a tad higher at 16.38 per cent, followed by BoM at 16.30 per cent. SBI also reported 16.26 per cent growth in advances in FY24.
- ✓ In terms of capital adequacy ratio, the Bank of Maharashtra was leading PSBs at 17.38 per cent, followed by Indian Overseas Bank at 17.28 per cent and Punjab & Sind Bank at 17.16 at the end of FY24.





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- FSIB recently recommended the name of IFCI Managing Director Manoj Mittal as SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director.
- SIDBI partners fintech platform KarmaLife for micro loans to gig workers.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has received \$24.5 million from Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its maiden anchored project 'Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF)' valued at \$120 million.
- Bihar state government has signed an MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to promote the startup ecosystem in the state
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- Founded : 2 April 1990
- Headquarteres : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- Chairman & MD : Siva S Ramann

**Q. Which countries have been confirmed as the hosts for the 2026 and 2029 AFC Women's Asian Cup?**

- A) Japan and South Korea                      B) China and India  
C) Australia and Uzbekistan                      D) Thailand and Vietnam

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Australia and Uzbekistan confirmed as 2026 and 2029 AFC Women's Asian Cup hosts.
- ✓ Australia and Uzbekistan have been confirmed as the hosts of the 2026 and 2029 editions of the AFC Women's Asian Cup respectively, the Asian Football Confederation said.
- ✓ The AFC Executive Committee ratified the AFC Women's Football Committee's recommendations at its third meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ✓ Australia will host the continent's premier women's national team competition for the second time in history, having staged the 2006 edition. Uzbekistan will become the first Central Asian nation to organize the tournament

## UPCOMING SPORTS VENUE IN NEWS 2024

- Australia and Uzbekistan confirmed as 2026 and 2029 AFC Women's Asian Cup hosts.
- Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup at the FIFA.
- India will host the BWF World Junior Championships 2025 at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.









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- ✓ Gopi Thotakura makes history, becomes 1st Indian to go to space as tourist.
- ✓ Indian expatriate Gopi Thotakura made history as the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space, joining the crew for Amazon founder Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.
- ✓ Blue Origin successfully completed its seventh human spaceflight and the 25th flight for the New Shepard program.
- ✓ Gopi Thotakura was one of six crew members. The astronaut crew also included Mason Angel, Sylvain Chiron, Kenneth L. Hess, Carol Schaller, and former Air Force Captain Ed Dwight. Dwight was selected by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 as the nation's first black astronaut candidate but never had the opportunity to fly.

**Q. Who has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to join IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd. as its Whole Time Director for a three-year term?**

A) Rajesh Kumar

B) Pradeep Natarajan

C) Anil Sharma

D) Deepak Jain

**Answer : B**

- ✓ RBI approves appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as IDFC FIRST Bank's Whole Time Director
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Mr. Pradeep Natarajan's joining IDFC FIRST Bank Ltd. as Whole Time Director Mr. Natarajan will serve a three-year term in this role.
- ✓ The bank further said it will take the necessary steps to complete the formalities for the appointment of Natarajan as Executive Director.

**Q. How much money has the government recovered under the amnesty scheme for exporters for one-time settlement of defaults in export obligation by holders of advance and EPCG authorizations?**

A) Rs 652 crore

B) Rs 752 crore

C) Rs 852 crore

D) Rs 952 crore

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Govt recovers Rs 852 crore under amnesty scheme for exporters
- ✓ The government has recovered about Rs 852 crore under the amnesty scheme for exporters for one-time settlement of default in export obligation by the holders of advance and EPCG authorisations.
- ✓ The figures are likely to increase further as the exercise is on for the compilation of the data. The government has fixed March 31 as the last date for payment of customs duty plus interest.



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- ✓ Under the scheme, 6,705 applications were filed and as per the provisional figures, an amount of about Rs 852 crore has been recovered. This figure is further expected to increase.

**Q. Who received the first stamp released to commemorate the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka?**

- A) Narendra Modi                      B) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar  
C) Senthil Thondaman                D) Ram Nath Kovind

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Indian spiritual guru Sri Sri Ravi Shankar received the first stamp released commemorating the completion of 200 years of Indian Origin Tamils in Sri Lanka. Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka Senthil Thondaman presented the stamp to Sri Sri Ravi Shankar.
- ✓ Mr. Thondaman said the stamp is a way to attain recognition for the community which has been neglected for decades. He thanked the Indian government as well as the Sri Lankan government for the assistance given to the IOT community.

**Q. Which banking group has partnered with Pine Labs to revamp payment solutions in the MENAT region?**

- A) HSBC  
B) Standard Chartered  
C) Emirates NBD  
D) Citibank

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Emirates NBD Join hands with Pine Labs to Revamp Payment Solutions in MENAT Region
- ✓ Emirates NBD, a leading banking group in the Middle East, North Africa, and Turkey (MENAT) region, has partnered with Pine Labs, a prominent merchant commerce omnichannel platform.
- ✓ This collaboration aims to provide companies across the region with the latest and best payment solutions, significantly enhancing digital payment systems for both online and in-store transactions.
- ✓ As part of its ambitious growth plans, Emirates NBD is leveraging Pine Labs' Credit+ platform to offer its corporate and institutional clients state-of-the-art merchant acquiring processing solutions. The rollout will begin in the UAE and subsequently extend to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.



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**Q. Which bank has become eligible to apply for a universal banking license due to meeting the stringent asset quality norms set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?**

- A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank                      B) Equitas Small Finance Bank  
C) Bandhan Bank    D) AU Small Finance Bank

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank becomes eligible for universal banking license
- ✓ Due to the stringent asset quality norms set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Ujjivan Small Finance Bank meets the eligibility criteria to apply for a universal banking licence.
- ✓ Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has met all the criteria established by the regulatory authority. The bank's gross non-performing assets ratio stood below 3% and net NPA ratio below 1% for two consecutive years, making it entitled to apply for a licence

**Q. Where was the Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior National Championship 2024 held?**

- A) Goa    B) Chennai  
C) Mumbai    D) Kolkata

**Answer : C**

- ✓ YAI Senior National Championship 2024 held in Mumbai
- ✓ The Yachting Association of India (YAI) Senior National Championship 2024 concluded after intense competition at the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC) in Mumbai.
- ✓ The championship featured all eight Olympic classes of boats and attracted 82 participants from 10 sailing clubs nationwide. A total of 94 races, including four medal races, determined the champions.
- ✓ Teams from Army and Navy combined won the largest medal haul.

**Q. Which platform has surpassed INR 1 trillion (1 lakh crore) in invoice financing for MSMEs?**

- A) NSE Emerge    B) RXIL TReDS  
C) SIDBI    D) NABARD

**Answer : B**

- ✓ RXIL TReDS Surpasses INR 1Trillion (1 Lakh Crore) in Invoice Financing for MSMEs
- ✓ RXIL TReDS Surpasses INR 1Trillion (1 Lakh Crore) in Invoice Financing for MSMEs. MSME contributing over 30% to GDP, faces estimated credit gap of around Rs.28.2 lakh crores.



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- ✓ RXIL's Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS) platform has achieved a milestone by facilitating financing of over 50 lakh invoices worth ₹1,00,000 crore since its inception
- ✓ This milestone underscores the platform's role in providing accessible working capital financing solutions to MSMEs, crucial for economic growth and India's journey towards achieving a Rs. 5 trillion economy.
- ✓ In fiscal year 2024, RXIL witnessed exponential growth in monthly invoice financing volumes, currently enabling financing of over INR 6,000 crores monthly. With a target of financing INR 75,000 crore worth of invoices in FY 25, RXIL aims to further elevate its performance, demonstrating its commitment to fostering the growth and prosperity of MSMEs nationwide

**Q. Which country has become the first modern nation to lose all of its glaciers, as confirmed by climate scientists?**

- A) Peru  
B) Chile  
C) Argentina  
D) Venezuela

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Venezuela becomes the first nation to lose all of its glaciers
- ✓ Venezuela is the first modern country to lose all of its glaciers, after the Latin American country lost its last remaining glacier on the Pico Humboldt peak was downgraded by climate scientists as an ice field.
- ✓ The International Cryosphere Climate Initiative (ICCI), a scientific advocacy organisation, said the La Corona glacier was now too small to be considered as a glacier, which may spark wider concerns over the effects of climate change.
- ✓ Venezuela had been home to six glaciers in the Sierra Nevada de Mérida mountain range, which lies at about 5,000m above sea level, but lost five of them by 2011.

**Q. The government is expected to receive approximately what percentage more in dividends from public sector banks (PSBs) compared to FY23?**

- A) 20%  
B) 25%  
C) 30%  
D) 35%

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Govt will receive 30% more dividend from public sector banks in FY24
- ✓ The government will get about 30 per cent more dividends from public sector banks (PSBs) in FY24 vis-a-vis FY23 due to handsome payouts declared by them on the back of strong financial performance.



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- ✓ A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that PSBs will pay dividends aggregating ₹18,013 crore to the government in FY24 against ₹13,804 crore in the preceding financial year.
- ✓ This calculation does not take into account the 15 per cent dividend distribution tax as the same also goes to the government. Out of 12 PSBs, 10 have declared dividends.
- ✓ The top four PSBs to pay rich dividends (relative to face value) in FY24 are – State Bank of India (SBI), Bank of Baroda (BoB), Canara Bank and Indian Bank. Central Bank of India and Indian Overseas Bank did not declare dividend.

**Q. The second edition of India, Australia, Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW) conducted in which city?**

- A) Chennai  
B) Kochi  
C) Visakhapatnam  
D) Mumbai

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The second edition of India, Australia, Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW) concluded after discussing the ongoing maritime security challenges and opportunities for collaboration between the three maritime neighbours in the region.
- ✓ The theme of the workshop was 'Indian Ocean Region: Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Regional Maritime Security'.
- ✓ The exercise was conducted at INS Dronacharya, Kochi, India.

**Q. Which bank has executed transaction documents to acquire a 6.125 per cent stake in CCIL IFSC Limited for ₹6.125 crore?**

- A) Canara Bank  
B) Punjab National Bank  
C) State Bank of India  
D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

**Answer : C**

- ✓ State Bank of India has executed transaction documents to acquire a 6.125 per cent stake in CCIL IFSC Limited for ₹6.125 crore.
- ✓ CCIL IFSC, which will be incorporated with an authorized and paid-up capital of ₹200 crore and ₹100 crore, respectively, will operate the foreign currency settlement system and act as a clearing house and system operator at the IFSC within GIFT City.







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## Answer : C

- ✓ The United Nations recognised International Tea Day is observed annually on May 21 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to raise awareness of the deep cultural and economic significance of tea around the world and promote its importance in fighting hunger and poverty.
- ✓ The day was adopted by United Nations on December 21, 2019.

## Q. When is the World Metrology Day observed?

- A) 21 May
- B) 20 May
- C) 18 May
- D) 19 May

## Answer : B

- ✓ The World Metrology Day is observed on 20 May to celebrate the International System of Units.
- ✓ Metrology is the study of measurement.
- ✓ The theme for World Metrology Day 2024 is 'Sustainability',.
- ✓ 20 May marks the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875, by representatives of seventeen nations.

## Q. Which day of the year is marked as the National Anti Terrorism Day in India?

- A) May 21
- B) May 19
- C) May 20
- D) May 18

## Answer : A

- ✓ In India, the National Anti Terrorism Day is observed on May 21 to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ The day is also observed to spread the message of peace, harmony, and humankind and to promote unity among the people.
- ✓ Rajiv Gandhi was India's youngest Prime Minister. He was appointed as the sixth Prime Minister of the country and served the nation from 1984 to 1989.
- ✓ Mr Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991 by a human bomb.





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- ✓ The 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index was prepared in collaboration with the University of Surrey, England.
- ✓ This year, 119 countries have been ranked on the Index.
- ✓ The Travel and Tourism Development Index gives scores to a country based on 17 pillars and 102 individual indicators. The maximum score is 7, while the lowest score is 1.
- ✓ The top five ranked countries in the world according to the 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index are as follows:
  1. United States of America -score of 5.24
  2. Spain -score 5.18
  3. Japan -score 5.09
  4. France -score 5.07
  5. Australia -score 5.00
- ✓ Bottom Ranked countries
  119. Mali score - 2.78
  118. Sierra Leone -Score 2.9
- ✓ World Economic Forum
- ✓ The World Economic Forum is a non-profit international think tank that was set up by German Klaus Schwab of Germany in 1971 to promote Public-Private Cooperation.
- ✓ According to the WEF, it is a platform that brings together the government, non-government, business, academics, and other stakeholders and to find common solutions to global issues.
- ✓ Headquarters of WEF: Cologne, Switzerland
- ✓ Report Released by WEF
- ✓ As a research organisation, it releases several reports. Some of the important reports released by WEF are as follows:
  - ✓ Global Gender Gap Report,
  - ✓ Global Competitiveness Report,
  - ✓ Energy Transition Index,
  - ✓ Global Travel and Tourism Report,
  - ✓ Global IT Report in collaboration with INSEAD and Cornell University.



**Q. Which country has topped the WEF's World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2024?**

- A) Japan  
B) Germany  
C) France  
D) United States

**Answer : D**

✓ The top five ranked countries in the world according to the 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index are as follows:

1. United States of America -score of 5.24
2. Spain -score 5.18
3. Japan -score 5.09
4. France -score 5.07
5. Australia -score 5.00

**Q. Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 was recently released by which organization?**

- A) UNESCO  
B) World Economic Forum  
C) World Bank  
D) UNDP

**Answer : B**

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the International Booker Prize:**

1. It is awarded annually for the finest single work of fiction from around the world translated into English and published in the United Kingdom.
2. It is awarded only to the authors who belong to the United Kingdom.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 only  
B) 2 only  
C) Both 1 and 2  
D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Recently, 'Kairos' by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated by Michael Hofmann, has won the International Booker Prize 2024.
- ✓ It is awarded annually for the finest single work of fiction from around the world which has been translated into English and published in the UK and/or Ireland.
- ✓ This prize began life in 2005 as the Man Booker International Prize.



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- ✓ It was initially a biennial prize for a body of work, and there was no stipulation that the work should be written in a language other than English.
- ✓ This prize aims to encourage more reading of quality fiction from all over the world, and has already had an impact on those statistics in the UK.
- ✓ Eligibility: Eligible work of long-form fiction, written originally in English by an author of any nationality, and published in the UK and/or Ireland.
- ✓ Prize money
- ✓ The prize celebrates the vital work of translators, with the £50,000 prize money divided equally between the author and the translator.
- ✓ In addition, the shortlisted authors and translators each receive £2,500.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS IN NEWS 2023- 24

- 'Kairos' by Jenny Erpenbeck, translated by Michael Hofmann, has won the International Booker Prize 2024.
- Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Alok Shukla has been selected for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize
- Noted Hindi film superstars Hema Malini and Saira Banu as well as other prominent personalities from the fields of art and culture, will be honoured with the prestigious Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Award
- Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata was honoured with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.
- Amitabh Bachchan will receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award
- Kannada poet, Mamta Ji Sagar was honored with the World Literary Prize for her contribution to literature by the World Organization of Writers (WOW)
- India's premier national space agency, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chandrayaan-3 mission team was awarded the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration by the US-based Space Foundation.
- SJVN Limited was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution
- Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik receives the 2023 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, an honor granted annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.



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- Nishant, a young poet and critic, is awarded the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award in 2023 for his book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.
- Narendra Modi receives Bhutan's Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award.
- Amitav Ghosh has been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis
- Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal has become the first Indian to be awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain's King Charles III
- Shashi Tharoor, a prolific author and a diplomat-turned-politician, was conferred France's highest civilian honour 'Chevalier de la Legion d'honneur'.
- PV Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh, and MS Swaminathan are set to receive India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna.
- Karpoori Thakur, a renowned socialist leader and former Chief Minister of Bihar, is set to be posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- Another recipient of the Bharat Ratna Award for the year 2024 is Lal Krishna Advani.
- Dr. Bina Modi, the esteemed Chairperson of Modi Enterprises, has been honored with the prestigious 'Outstanding Business Woman of the Year' Award.
- REC Secures Best Green Bond – Corporate Award At The Asset Triple A Awards 2024.
- PT Usha Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by SJFI and DSJA
- Priest Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri Honored with the Shankar Smriti Award
- The 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards 2024 took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Best Film 12th Fail
- Best Director Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male) Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- Australia skipper Pat Cummins was announced as the winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- Veteran Indian batter Virat Kohli was crowned the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year 2023.
- Skyways Air Services wins Best Cargo Services Award at Wings India Awards.
- REC Limited Wins ICAI Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting FY 2022-23.
- US Air Force Officer Madison Marsh Becomes First Active-Duty Winner Of Miss America 2024
- Savita Kanswal Posthumously Honored With Tenzing Norgay Award









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- President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- French aerospace and defence firm Starburst Accelerator SARL has partnered with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) to set up an innovative hub for start-ups with €100 million in funding support.
- IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.
- Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility .
- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.



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- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.
- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.

**Q. Who has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2024-25?**

A) Sanjiv Puri

B) Rajiv Memani

C) Sanjay Nayar

D) Anish Shah

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Sanjiv Puri, ITC MD elected CII President for 2024-25.
- ✓ Chairman and Managing Director of ITC, Sanjiv Puri, has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2024-25. Sanjiv Puri replaces R Dinesh, Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions as the President of CII.
- ✓ Rajiv Memani has been appointed as the new President-Designate, and R Mukundan has been elected as the new Vice President of the CII for 2024-25
- ✓ Sanjiv Puri is currently the Chairman & Managing Director of ITC Ltd. Sanjiv Puri is an alumnus of IIT, Kanpur, and Wharton School of Business, United States of America.
- ✓ He was appointed Chairman of the Expert Group on agri-exports set up by the 15th Finance Commission. He has also been a member of the NITI Aayog Group on 'Farm to Table-driving India's agriculture sector digitally'.
- ✓ Sanjiv Puri was given the 'Best CEO Award' by Business Today in 2024. He was also honoured with the 'Transformational Leader Award 2022-23' by the Asian Centre for Corporate Governance and Sustainability.



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- ✓ R Mukundan as Vice President of Cii 2024-25
- ✓ About Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)
- ✓ The Confederation of Indian Industry is one of the oldest business lobby groups in India. It traces its origin to the setting up of the Engineering and Iron Trades Association in Bengal in 1895. After many changes in its name, it was renamed as Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI) in 1986.
- ✓ It assumed its present name, Confederation of Indian Industry, in 1992.
- ✓ It is an industry lobby group which represents business groups in India and puts pressure on the government to make business-friendly policies.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi.
- ✓ Apart from the CII, the other important business lobby groups in India are
- ✓ Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)- President Sanjay Nayar
- ✓ Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) -Dr. Anish Shah is the President for 2023-2024
- ✓ National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)- Debjani Gosh, President of NASSCOM since 2018

**Q. Who has been elected as the president of Vietnam?**

- A) Bùi Thanh Sơn
- B) Lê Thành Long
- C) Phạm Thị Thanh Trà
- D) Lo Tam

**Answer : D**

- ✓ To Lam elected as the New President of Vietnam.
- ✓ General To Lam was elected as the new president of Vietnam by the Vietnamese parliament on 22 May 2024.
- ✓ To Lam, who was the public security minister, was removed from his post as minister by the Vietnamese parliament before being elected president.
- ✓ The appointment comes after Vietnam's former President Vo Van Thuong resigned two months back amid a corruption crackdown
- ✓ General To Lam to be president for 2021-2026 tenure



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- ✓ Vietnam is ruled by one party—the Communist Party of Vietnam. General To Lam who is a member of the Communist Party’s politburo, was the only candidate for the president post. He was elected by Vietnam’s parliament—the National Assembly—for a tenure till 2026.
- ✓ The National Assembly of Vietnam has 500 members who are elected for 5 years and sit two times a year. The National Assembly elects the president and vice president of Vietnam
- ✓ About Vietnam
- ✓ Vietnam is a communist country which lies in Southeast Asia.
- ✓ Capital : Hanoi
- ✓ Currency : Dong
- ✓ Prime Minister :Pham Minh Chinh
- ✓ President : To Lam

## NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2023-24

- William Lai Ching-te : Taiwan
- Lo Tam : Vietnam
- José Raúl Mulino : Panama
- Peter Pellegrini : Slovakia
- Abdel Fatah al-Sisi : Egypt
- Prabowo Subianto : Indonesia
- Tamás Sulyok : Hungary
- Alexander Stubb : Finland
- Azali Assoumani : Comoros
- Bernardo Arevalo : Guatemala
- William Lai : Taiwan
- Daniel Noboa : Ecuador
- Mohammed Muizzu : Maldives
- Bharatvanshi Tharman Shanmugaratnam : Singapore
- Emmerson Mnangagwa : Zimbabwe
- Edgars Rinkevics : Latvian
- Tayyip Erdogan : Turkey
- Bola Tinubu : Nigeria



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- Mohammed Shahabuddin Chuppu : Bangladesh
- Ram Chandra Paudel : Nepal
- Xi Jinping : China (third term)

**Q. The PM-WANI Scheme, recently seen in the news primarily aims to:**

- A) establish fiber optic networks across the country**
- B) encourage the use of digital payments and e-commerce in rural markets**
- C) provide affordable and high-speed internet connectivity to the public in remote areas**
- D) develop a centralized digital infrastructure for public services**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Public wifi hotspots under the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme are nearing the 2-lakh mark in the country.
- ✓ About PM-WANI Scheme:
- ✓ It was launched by the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) in December 2020 to provide affordable and high-speed internet connectivity to the public in rural and remote areas of the country.
- ✓ The scheme aims to establish a public Wi-Fi network across the country through the creation of Wi-Fi Access Points (WAPs) set up by public data offices (PDOs).
- ✓ The WAPs will operate on an open-architecture system, allowing multiple service providers to offer their services to the public through a single platform.
- ✓ PM-WANI ecosystem: It consists of four parts: Public Data Office (PDO), Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA), App Provider, and Central Registry.
- ✓ PDO establishes Wi-Fi hotspots and provides internet access to users. There shall be no license required by PDOs from the DoT for providing broadband Internet through these public Wi-Fi networks.
- ✓ PDOA provides authorisation and accounting services to PDOs. PDOA provides user interface for the user to buy a plan and keep track of their data consumption. PDOA need not pay any license fees.
- ✓ The small shopkeepers can become PDOs as last-mile access service providers and take services from PDOAs for Internet and backend services



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**Q. The 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index has been prepared by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with which institution?**

- A) Surrey University, England.
- B) University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
- C) University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- D) Harvard University, United States

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The 2024 Travel and Tourism Development Index was prepared in collaboration with the University of Surrey, England.

**Q. Which UN body has signed a MoU with the government of India for India's first animal vaccine supply chain management?**

- A) UNEP
- B) UNDP
- C) WEF
- D) WHO

**Answer : B**

- ✓ DAHD & UNDP MoU on Digitalisation of Animal Vaccine Cold Chain Mgmt.
- ✓ Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) under the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India on Digitalization of Vaccine Cold Chain Management, Communication Planning and Capacity Building.
- ✓ The agreement was signed by Alka Upadhyay, Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, and Caitlin Wiesen, UNDP Resident Representative in India in New Delhi
- ✓ India is the most populous country in the world with 142.86 Crore people, 53.57 Million farm animals and 85.18 Million poultry. To keep these animals healthy, the government has started a vaccination programme.
- ✓ Also, humans who are in close contact with infected animals can become infected with various Zoonotic diseases, such as bird flu and coronavirus.
- ✓ Zoonotic diseases refer to diseases caused in humans due to viruses, bacteria, etc., being transmitted from an infected animal to a human who is in close contact with the infected animal.
- ✓ The government has adopted a One Health Approach to deal with this problem.



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- ✓ The UNDP will support and strengthen India's first animal vaccine supply chain management system to protect communities and animals and prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases.
- ✓ United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ✓ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was set up by the United Nations in 1965 by merging United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance with the United Nations Special Fund.
- ✓ The UNDP focus on three main areas:
  - ✓ Sustainable development
  - ✓ Democratic governance and peacebuilding
  - ✓ Climate and disaster resilience
- ✓ Headquarters: New York, the United States of America.
- ✓ Administrator : Achim Steiner.

**Q. Who won the first gold medal for India at the 11th World Para Athletics Championship 2024?**

A) Deepthi Jeevanji

B) Poonam Agrawal

C) Preethi Pal

D) Ekta Bhyan

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Deepthi Jeevanji sets a world record in women's 400 m T20 event.
- ✓ Deepthi Jeevanji of Telangana has set a new world record in the 400-meter T 20 event at the World Para Athletics Championship 2024.
- ✓ She clocked a world record timing of 55.07 seconds.
- ✓ India has won five medals so far in the championships: 2 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze.
- ✓ First Gold medal for India at World Para Athletics Championship
- ✓ Tha Hangzhou Asian Games Paralympics champion Deepthi Jeevanji won the first gold for India at the World Para Athletics Championship.
- ✓ She broke the world record of American Breanna Clark's record of 55.12 seconds in 400 meters T 20 events. Deepthi Jeevanji broke the record with a time of 55.07 seconds.
- ✓ With this win, Deepthi Jeevanji also qualified for the 2024 Paris Summer Paralympics.
- ✓ T 20 events are for the 'mentally impaired' athletes
- ✓ Ekta Bhyan wins second gold for India



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- ✓ 38-year-old Ekta Bhyan won India's second gold medal at the World Para Athletics Championship in the women's F51 club throw competition. She threw 20.12 meters to win the gold.
- ✓ Ekta, a Haryana Civil Services (HCS) officer, had won a bronze medal in the 2018 Asian Para Games in China.
- ✓ The first medal for India in the 11th World Para Athletics Championships 2024 was won by Nishad Kumar. He won a silver medal in the men's high jump T47 event. He cleared the height of 1.99m.
- ✓ In the women's 200m T35 event.
- ✓ Preethi Pal won a bronze medal in the 200m T35 event, clocking 30.49, It is India's first-ever para track medal in the tournament.
- ✓ India won a record 10 medals—three gold, four silver, and three bronze—at the 10th World Para Athletics Championships 2023, held in Paris, France.
- ✓ The 11th World Para Athletics Championship is being held in the Japanese city of Kobe from 17 -25 May 2024.

**Q. EKta Bhyan who was in recently, belongs to which field?**

- A) Para-athlete
- B) Gymnastics
- C) Alpine skiing
- D) skating

**Answer : A**

- ✓ She is a para-athlete and won a gold medal in the World Para Athletics Championship 2024 in the women's F51 club throw event.

**Q. Who won the first medal for India at the 11th World Para Athletics Championship 2024?**

- A) Rampal Chahar
- B) Nikhil Chittarasu
- C) Vijay Singh Chauhan
- D) Nishad Kumar

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The first medal for India in the 11th World Para Athletics Championships 2024 was won by Nishad Kumar. He won a silver medal in the men's high jump T47 event. He cleared the height of 1.99m









- ✓ President of India has notified that these three new laws related to the Indian criminal justice system will be implemented on July 1, 2024.
- ✓ Thus to make the legal fraternity and other stakeholders aware of these three laws, the Conference has been organised by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice

**Q. Which European country has recently granted country status to Palestine?**

- A) Norway, Ireland and Spain                      B) Norway, Portugal and France  
C) Germany, Greece and Italy                      D) Norway, Portugal and Spain

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Norway, Ireland and Spain recently granted statehood status to Palestine in a historic move. In protest against this decision, Israel has ordered the recall of its ambassadors from Norway and Ireland. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre said in his decision that it will be officially announced from May 28

**Q. Which day of the year is celebrated as the International Day for Biological Diversity?**

- A) 20 May    B) 22 May  
C) 21 May    D) 19 May

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The International Day for Biological Diversity (also known as World Biodiversity Day) is a United Nations–sanctioned international day held on May 22 every year to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.
- ✓ The theme of the 2024 International Day for Biodiversity is ‘Be part of the Plan’.

**Q. Which Indian public sector company has been awarded third in the world at the ATD BEST Awards 2024?**

- A) NTPC Limited  
B) SJVN  
C) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)  
D) Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

**Answer : A**

- ✓ NTPC secures 3rd rank at ATD BEST Awards 2024.



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- ✓ The public sector company NTPC was awarded the third rank in the world at the ATD BEST Awards 2024. The award ceremony was held in New Orleans, United States of America, on 21 May 2024
- ✓ ATD BEST Awards
- ✓ The Association of Talent Development (ATD), USA, gives the ATD BEST Awards in the field of Learning and Development. The award was instituted in 2003.
- ✓ The award recognises small and large private, public and not-for-profit organisations that use talent development as a strategic business tool and demonstrate enterprise-wide success through effective employee development practices.

## NTPC IN NEWS 2023-24

- NTPC was awarded the third rank in the world at the ATD BEST Awards 2024.
- NTPC inks pact with RINL for supply of limestone.
- NTPC Limited, India's largest power company, launches the latest edition of Girl Empowerment Mission (GEM), aligned with the Government's Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative.
- NTPC group has inked foreign currency loan agreements worth JPY 30 billion, or roughly \$200 million, with the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC).
- NTPC Green Energy (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, has signed a joint venture agreement with Maharashtra State Power Generation Company (MAHAGENCO) for development of renewable energy parks in Maharashtra
- NTPC Green Energy has entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation to set up India's largest green hydrogen production plant.
- NTPC Limited gets certified as a Top Employer 2024 in India.
- NTPC Kanti has received the 11th edition of the FICCI Water Award 2023 under the "Industrial Water Use Efficiency" category.
- NTPC shines as the only Indian PSU to feature in Forbes "World's Best Employers 2023" List.
- The central government has received about Rs 1,487 crore from NTPC as a dividend tranche.
- NTPC has been honoured with the prestigious Economic Times (ET) HR World Future Skills Awards 2023.
- NTPC climbs up 52 positions to 433rd rank in Forbes' "The Global 2000" List.
- NTPC Kanti launches Girl Child Empowerment Mission (GeM)-2023.



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- NTPC Group's total installed capacity reaches 72,304 MW with first overseas capacity addition in Bangladesh.
- Country's largest power generation company NTPC Limited has been conferred with 'ATD Best Awards 2023' by Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.
- NTPC and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) sign agreement for joint development of nuclear power plants.
- India's largest power company NTPC Ltd has commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project at Kawas, Gujarat.
- About NTPC
- The NTPC which was earlier known as National Thermal Power Corporation of India is owned by the Government of India. It was set up in 1975.
- The Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh, with an installed capacity of 4,760MW, is currently the biggest thermal power plant in India.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairman and Managing Director: Gurdeep Singh

**Q. What was the approximate average price per share at which HDFC Bank sold its stake in Protean eGov Technologies?**

A) Rs 1,100.50

B) Rs 1,120.75

C) Rs 1,160.15

D) Rs 1,180.90

**Answer : C**

- ✓ HDFC Bank exits Protean eGov Technologies; sells entire stake for ₹150 crore.
- ✓ Private sector lender HDFC Bank sold its entire 3.20 per cent stake in Protean eGov Technologies for Rs 150 crore through an open market transaction.
- ✓ According to the bulk deal data available with the BSE, HDFC Bank sold 12,94,326 shares, amounting to a 3.20 per cent stake in Protean eGov Technologies. The shares were offloaded at an average price of Rs 1,160.15 apiece, taking the transaction value to Rs 150.16 crore.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Nippon India Mutual Fund purchased 12.78 lakh shares or 3.16 per cent stake in Protean eGov Technologies for Rs 148 crore.



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## HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank exits Protean eGov Technologies; sells entire stake for ₹150 crore.
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to “underserved women” in rural and semi-urban India.
- HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India’s First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback.
- HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.
- HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL’s corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan



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➤ Tagline : We understand your world

**Q. How much dividend will the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) pay to the government for the fiscal year ending March 31?**

A) Rs 1.05 lakh crore

B) Rs 1.50 lakh crore

C) Rs 2.01 lakh crore

D) Rs 2.11 lakh crore

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Government gets Rs 2.11 lakh crore from RBI by way of dividend.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) will pay a record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to the government for the fiscal ended March 31, more than double of what was budgeted expectation, helping shore up revenue ahead of a new government taking office. The RBI board approved the transfer of surplus, the central bank said.
- ✓ The government had budgeted a receipt of Rs 1.02 lakh crore as dividends from the RBI, public sector banks and financial institutions in the interim budget for the fiscal year 2024-25 (April 2024 to March 2025) presented in February this year.
- ✓ The dividend or surplus transfer by the RBI to the Centre was Rs 87,416 crore for the fiscal 2022-23. The previous high was Rs 1.76 lakh crore in 2018-19.

**Q. What license has Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services received from the insurance regulator IRDAI?**

A) Brokerage license

B) Corporate agency license

C) Underwriting license

D) Reinsurance license

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Finance secures IRDAI license to offer tailored insurance plans.
- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services said it has received corporate agency licence from insurance regulator IRDAI, which will enable it to sell life and general insurance policies offered by various insurers. The registration shall be valid from May 21, 2024 to May 20, 2027
- ✓ The registration as 'Corporate Agent (Composite)' will enable the company to undertake supplemental business activity of soliciting and procuring insurance business in the areas of life, health and general insurance — both group and individual.



**Q. What was the main focus of Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024, which CDS Gen Anil Chauhan attended?**

- A) Enhancing nuclear capabilities      B) Strengthening cyber defence capabilities  
C) Improving air force strategies      D) Expanding naval operations

**Answer : B**

- ✓ CDS Gen Anil Chauhan attends Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024.
- ✓ Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024', and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities.
- ✓ The comprehensive cyber defence exercise is being conducted by Defence Cyber Agency from 20 – 24 May 2024. It aims to further develop Cyber Defence Capability of all Cyber security organisations and promote synergy amongst all stakeholders. It focusses on enhancing collaboration and integration among participants from various military and prominent national organizations.
- ✓ Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024 aims to empower participants by enhancing their cyber defence skills, techniques and capabilities; share best practices, and work towards a unified and robust cyber defence posture

#### EXERCISE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan attended 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024', and underscored the importance of strengthening India's cyber defence capabilities
- Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya, from 13 -26 May 2024
- The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan begins in Uzbekistan
- Recently, a two-day 'Sagar Kavach' exercise was organised in the Lakshadweep Islands.
- A bilateral tri-service exercise Tiger Triumph-24 between India and the US will be held on the Eastern Seaboard in the US from March 18 to 31.
- An Indian Army contingent on Monday departed for Seychelles to participate in the 10th edition of joint military exercise "LAMITIYE-2024" with Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF). The joint exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from March 18-27, 2024.





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- The naval forces of China, Iran, and Russia recently launched a joint exercise called the “Maritime Security Belt-2024” near the Gulf of Oman.
- The joint exercise 'Bharat-Shakti' of the three armies of India (Army, Navy and Air Force) will be organized in Asia's largest field firing range located in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.
- The United States Coast Guard's (USCG) Bertholf ship reached Port Blair ahead of the 'Sea Defenders-2024' joint exercise.
- Exercise Samudra Laksamana kicked off on February 28 and will continue until March 2, taking place at or off the coast of Visakhapatnam
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- The 5th edition of the joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' is being organized at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan.
- Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships reached the Maldives recently to take part in the trilateral coast guard exercise Dosti 16
- Indian Air Force will conduct mega exercise Vayu Shakti 2024 at Pokhran Range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on February 17.
- The first edition of India-Saudi Arabia joint military exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' is being organized in Mahajan, Rajasthan
- India, France, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) conducted a major air exercise, named 'Desert Knight', over the Arabian Sea.
- Indian Army contingent is taking part in the 2nd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise CYCLONE. The Exercise is being conducted at Anshas, Egypt.
- 11th edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR has commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
- The maiden Bilateral Maritime Exercise -Ayutthaya' between the Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was conducted.
- The 12th edition of the Multilateral Naval Exercise - 2024 (Milan) is set to take place at Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27.
- Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel reached Hanoi, Vietnam to take part in the Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023.



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- This year's exercise will be conducted at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" commenced at the Joint Training Node, Umroi, Meghalaya.
- A joint military exercise, "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" is being conducted from November 16th to 29th, 2023, in Aundh (Pune), Maharashtra.
- It is a joint military exercise between India and Sri Lankan army.
- This year is the ninth edition of the exercise.
- The coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' is set to unfold its strategic manoeuvres along the Kerala and Mahe coasts.
- Coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard.
- Much-anticipated joint exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' recently began near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.
- Exercise CORPAT and BONGOSAGAR between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy were conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 - 09 Nov 2023.
- Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 commenced in Umroi Cantonment, India.
- It is a joint bilateral training exercise between Indian & Malaysian Armed Forces.
- The 19th edition of "EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS" will be conducted from 25th September to 8th October 2023 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA.

**Q. Which two entities recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide financial solutions to farmers for purchasing tractors and Farm Mechanisation products?**

- A) Mahindra & Mahindra and HDFC Bank
- B) VST Tillers Tractors Limited (VST) and Axis Bank
- C) John Deere and ICICI Bank
- D) TAFE (Tractors and Farm Equipment Limited) and State Bank of India (SBI)

**Answer : B**

- ✓ VST ropes in Axis Bank to offer loan to farmers.



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- ✓ VST Tillers Tractors Limited (VST), a farm equipment manufacturer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Axis Bank, to offer financial solutions to the farmers for purchasing tractors and Farm Mechanisation products.
- ✓ As per the agreement, Axis Bank will provide financial solutions to VST's prospective customers through its network of 5370 branches.
- ✓ As per the agreement, Axis Bank will provide financial solutions to VST's prospective customers through its network of 5370 branches.
- ✓ As per the MOU both the companies would leverage their extensive footprint to reach out to the farmers community to ensure that they have an easy access to credit facility for adapting farm mechanisation

## AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- VST Tillers Tractors Limited (VST), a farm equipment manufacturer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Axis Bank, to offer financial solutions to the farmers for purchasing tractors and Farm Mechanisation products.
- Axis Bank to groom LGBTQIA+ talent for careers in banking.
- Axis Bank has recently reappointed Amitabh Chaudhry as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- Axis Bank has launched the digital US dollar Fixed Deposits (FD) tailored for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) situated in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- Axis Bank to support Tata Memorial-supported National Cancer Grid.
- Axis Bank has appointed Pranam Wahi as an additional independent director of the bank for four years.
- Axis Bank signed MoU with IRMA to promote financial inclusion and literacy in India.
- Axis Bank and Fibe Partner to launch India's First Numberless Credit Card.
- Axis Bank Launched 'NEO For Business' Banking Platform For MSMEs.
- Axis Bank Introduces 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees.
- Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards.
- Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards.
- Axis Bank has launched the 'one-view' feature on its mobile application which enables account management across multiple bank accounts.



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- Axis Bank has appointed NS Vishwanathan, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India, as non-executive chairman.
- Axis Bank launches Digital Onboarding platform 'Sarathi' for POS Terminals.
- Axis Bank and India Shelter Finance Corporation Ltd announce strategic partnership under the co-lending model.
- Axis Bank completes deal to buy Citibank's India consumer business.
- Axis Bank Partners with OPEN to Launch a Fully Digital Current Account.
- AXIS BANK
- Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

**Q. What is the name given by Microsoft to the new category of personal computers with AI features?**

**A) Copilot Plus PCs**

**B) AI-Integrated PCs**

**C) Microsoft Genius PCs**

**D) Windows AI PCs**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Microsoft Debuts 'Copilot+' PCs With AI Features.
- ✓ American technology major Microsoft debuted a new category of personal computers with AI features as it rushes to build the emerging technology into products across its business and compete with Alphabet and Apple.
- ✓ Microsoft calls them 'Copilot Plus PCs'. They come with a deeper integration of generative Artificial Intelligence (gen AI) and are touted to be the most powerful and efficient Windows devices to date. "Copilot Plus PCs provide a quantum leap in com.
- ✓ They boast a new generation Neural Processing Unit that can perform more than 48 trillion operations per second. The new devices promise faster and more efficient performance than their predecessors. Also, they can deliver smoother performance on Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft 365 and other productivity and creativity apps. The most notable aspect of Microsoft's latest Copilot+ PCs is the 'Recall' feature.



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- ✓ The new 2-in-1 Surface Pro sports a 13.8-inch PixelSense Flow display with 2880 x 1920p resolution and pixel density of 267 ppi (pixels per inch). The company is offering the device in both the LCD and OLED options

## MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Microsoft Debuts 'Copilot+' PCs With AI Features.
- Microsoft invests €4 billion to drive AI growth in France.
- Microsoft unveiled the latest version of its 'lightweight' AI model – the Phi-3-Mini.
- Microsoft announces VASA-1 AI model to turn images into videos.
- Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella pledges to skill 2 million Indians by 2025
- Microsoft Hits The \$3 Trillion Valuation Mark But Apple Still Remains Most Valuable Company.
- Microsoft India has unveiled the 'AI Odyssey' initiative, aiming to train 100,000 Indian developers in the latest AI technologies.
- Microsoft Completes \$69 Billion Acquisition of Activision Blizzard
- Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia.
- Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Microsoft has recently announced the appointment of Aparna Gupta as the new Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader
- Meta and Microsoft have jointly announced the expansion of their artificial intelligence partnership by introducing their new large language model (LLM) called "Llama 2".
- MICROSOFT
- Founded : 1975
- Founders : Bill Gates and Paul Allen
- Headquarters : Washington DC
- Chairman : Satya Nadella
- CEO : Satya Nadella
- President : Brad Smith





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## Answer : D

- ✓ John Slaven named Vice-Chairman of International Aluminium Institute
- ✓ Vedanta Aluminium has announced the appointment of its CEO, John Slaven, as Vice-Chairman of the International Aluminium Institute (IAI).
- ✓ In this role, Slaven will lead global initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable transformation within the aluminium industry and highlighting aluminium's crucial role in advancing the energy transition towards a Zero Carbon future.

**Q. Which finance company has partnered with Tata Motors' passenger vehicles and passenger electric mobility subsidiaries to provide financing to their dealers?**

- A) Muthoot Finance                      B) Aditya Birla Capital  
C) Bajaj Finance                         D) Indiabulls Housing Finance

## Answer : C

- ✓ Tata Motors' arms partner with Bajaj Finance to provide financing to passenger, EV dealers.
- ✓ Tata Motors said its passenger vehicles and passenger electric mobility subsidiaries have tied up with Bajaj Finance for providing supply chain finance solutions to their respective dealers.
- ✓ Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles (TMPV) and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility (TPEM), subsidiaries of Tata Motors, have joined hands with Bajaj Finance to extend supply chain finance solutions to its passenger and electric vehicle dealers, the company said.

**Q. What license has Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services received from the insurance regulator IRDAI?**

- A) Brokerage license                      B) Corporate agency license  
C) Underwriting license                 D) Reinsurance license

## Answer : B

- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Finance secures IRDAI license to offer tailored insurance plans.
- ✓ Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services said it has received corporate agency licence from insurance regulator IRDAI, which will enable it to sell life and general insurance policies offered by various insurers. The registration shall be valid from May 21, 2024 to May 20, 2027



- ✓ The registration as 'Corporate Agent (Composite)' will enable the company to undertake supplemental business activity of soliciting and procuring insurance business in the areas of life, health and general insurance — both group and individual.

**Q. What is one of the key aspects of the new corporate governance regulations introduced by IRDAI for insurers?**

- A) Allowing conflicts of interest in key management positions
- B) Mandating a single individual to hold both business and control functions
- C) Requiring prior approval for the appointment of Board Chairperson
- D) Permitting Chairpersons to hold multiple control positions

**Answer : C**

- ✓ IRDAI introduces new corporate governance regulations for insurers.
- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked insurance companies to seek prior approval for the appointment of their Board Chairperson, effective immediately.
- ✓ Existing Chairperson have been given until March 31, 2026, or the end of their current terms, whichever comes first, to comply with the new regulations.
- ✓ Under these new corporate governance rules, IRDAI has prohibited conflicts of interest in key management positions.
- ✓ Also, the holding of both business and control functions by a single key management person or the holding of two or more control positions by one individual is now forbidden.

**Q. How many times has POWERGRID received the ATD Best Awards for its Learning & Development initiatives?**

- A) Two
- B) Three
- C) Four
- D) Five

**Answer : B**

- ✓ POWERGRID gets global recognition for Learning & Development, receives ATD Best Awards for the third time.
- ✓ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has been conferred the prestigious ATD BEST Awards 2024 for its strategic approach to talent development driving business results.











**Q. What is the projected size of India's digital economy by the fiscal year 2027-28?**

- A) \$500 billion
- B) \$750 billion
- C) \$1 trillion
- D) \$1.5 trillion

**Answer : C**

- ✓ India's digital economy is growing at 2.8 percent per annum and is expected to reach \$1 trillion by 2027-28, minister of state for electronics and IT Rajevee Chandrasekhar said at an outreach programme.
- ✓ The minister further said the value of the IndiaAI mission will be doubled to Rs 20,000 crore from Rs 10,000 crore.
- ✓ The government earlier expected India to reach the \$1 trillion-mark by 2026-27 but the target has been moved by a year due to various reasons, including the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The minister further said the value of the IndiaAI mission will be doubled to Rs 20,000 crore from Rs 10,000 crore. The government earlier expected India to reach the USD 1 trillion-mark by 2026-27 but the target has been moved by a year due to various reasons, including the Covid-19 pandemic

**Q. Which organizations collaborated to launch the 'SAMBAV' initiative, aimed at enhancing the skills of 1 million students and professionals in new-age technologies across India?**

- A) NITI Aayog and Coursera
- B) AICTE and Skillible
- C) Ministry of Human Resource Development and Udacity
- D) IIT Bombay and LinkedIn Learning

**Answer : B**

- ✓ AICTE and Skillible launch advanced tech ed program 'SAMBAV' to elevate 1 million students.
- ✓ The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), operating under the Ministry of Education, partnered with Skillible, a technology platform focusing on experiential learning, to introduce an innovative initiative called Skillible's Academic Model for Business-To-Academic Ventures (Sambav).
- ✓ The initiative aims to enhance the skills of 1 million students and professionals in new-age technologies across India.



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- ✓ Sambhav will initially provide specialisation in software development, Artificial Intelligence, cybersecurity and salesforce development.
- ✓ There are plans to expand the programme to cover additional high-demand technology domains in the future, ensuring participants stay updated with emerging trends and innovations.





**Aparchit May 4th Week English Best 350+ MCQs with Amazing Facts**  
**By :- Aparchit Exam Warriors/Kumar Kaushal Sir**

**Q. Which organization slapped penalties totalling ₹11.90 crore on 19 entities and barred them from the securities market for up to five years for indulging in a pump-and-dump scheme of shares in Superior Finlease Ltd?**

- A) RBI  
B) SEBI  
C) NABARD  
D) IRDAI

**Answer : B**

- ✓ SEBI has slapped penalties totalling ₹11.90 crore on 19 entities and also barred them from the securities market for up to five years for indulging in a pump-and-dump scheme of shares in the matter of Superior Finlease Ltd.
- ✓ The regulator-imposed fines in the range of ₹10 lakh to ₹5 crore on 19 entities, including Rajneesh Kumar, Ashish P Shah and Kirtidan K Gadhavi.
- ✓ Further, Sebi also barred 17 entities, including Kumar, Shah, and Gadhavi from the securities markets for five years

**PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24**

- SEBI imposes ₹11.90 crore fine on 19 entities for Superior Finlease 'pump and dump'
- IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
- RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms.
- Paytm's trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.



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- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for “non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016’.”
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.

**Q. What are Krish and Bhoomi, which were in the news recently?**

A) Aircraft

B) AI news anchor

C) Missile

D) Drone

**Answer : B**

- ✓ DD Kisan channel to launch AI anchor Krish and Bhoomi on 26 May 2024.
- ✓ The government of India-run public broadcaster Doordarshan has announced that its channel DD Kisan will launch two artificial intelligence (AI) anchors, Krish and Bhoomi, on 26 May 2024. The DD Kisan channel was launched on 26 May 2015 and is celebrating the 9th year of its foundation.
- ✓ First AI News Anchor in the World and India
- ✓ The first AI news anchor in the world was introduced by the Chinese state news agency Xinhua in 2018. The anchor named Qiu Hao was developed by Xinhua and the Chinese search engine Sogou.







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- Initially conceived as a joint effort by India and France, ISA was conceptualized during the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in 2015.
- With its framework Agreement amended in 2020, all UN member states are eligible to join ISA.
- Currently, 116 countries are signatories, with 95 having completed the necessary ratification to become full members.
- The ISA is guided by its 'Towards 1000' strategy which aims to mobilize USD 1,000 billion of investments in solar energy solutions by 2030, while delivering energy access to 1,000 million people using clean energy solutions and resulting in installation of 1,000 GW of solar energy capacity.
- This would help mitigate global solar emissions to the tune of 1,000 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> every year.
- The Assembly is the apex decision-making body of ISA, in which each Member Country is represented.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Founded - 2015
- HQ - Gurugram Haryana
- Director General - Ajay Mathur
- Membership : 121
- ISA : Joint Initiative by India and France
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Former France Prime Minister Francois Hollande on 30 November 2015 during the 21st session of the United Nations Climate Change COP-21 in Paris, France to promote solar energy.
- India and France have been re-elected as the President and co-President of the International Solar Alliance..

**Q. Which country among the world's top five crude steel-producing countries has recorded positive growth in steel production in April 2024?**

A) China

B) India

C) Russia

D) United States

**Answer : B**

- ✓ According to the World Steel Association, India is the only country amongst the world's top five crude steel-producing countries to record positive growth in production during April 2024.

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- ✓ India, which is the second largest producer of crude steel in the world, recorded a growth rate of 3.9 per cent in April 2024 as compared to April 2023.
- ✓ India a bright spot amidst global slowdown
- ✓ According to World Steel Association data, the world's crude steel production was 155.7 million tonnes in April 2024, a 5.0% decrease as compared to April 2023.
- ✓ India produced 12.1 million tonnes of crude steel in April 2024, an increase of 3.9 per cent compared to April 2023.
- ✓ The world's largest steel producer, China, recorded a decline of 7.2 per cent to 85.9 million tonnes in April. China has an excess steel-producing capacity and relies on exports to keep its steel mills running. Recently, the United States of America has imposed duties on the import of Chinese steel, which is one reason for the decline in Chinese steel production.
- ✓ Japan, the third largest steel producer in the world, produced 7.1 million tonnes of steel, registering a 2.5 per cent decline.
- ✓ The fourth largest steel producer, the United States of America, produced 6.7 million tonnes, registering a decline of 2.8 per cent.
- ✓ Russia, the fifth largest steel producer, registered a 5.7 per cent decline to 6.2 million tonnes
- ✓ Reason for Positive Growth in Indian Steel Production
- ✓ India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world and is expected to remain so in 2024-25.
- ✓ The Indian government's push on large infrastructure projects in the rail, road, and port sectors has led to a huge demand for steel in the country.
- ✓ Status of Steel production
- ✓ India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in the world after China.
- ✓ India has the distinction of being the largest producer of sponge iron in the world.
- ✓ After China and the United States of America, India is the world's third-largest user of finished steel.
- ✓ World Steel Association, also known as World Steel, is an association of the steel industry in the world. It is a non-profit organisation set up in 1967 as the International Iron and Steel Institute.
- ✓ Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

**Q. Which is the second largest crude steel-producing country in the world?**

A) China

B) India

C) Japan

D) Russia



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## Answer : B

- ✓ India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in the world after China

**Q. Which football club has won the 2023-24 UEFA Europa League?**

- A) Sevilla
- B) Bayer Leverkusen
- C) Atalanta BC
- D) Manchester City

## Answer : C

- ✓ The Italian football club Atalanta BC defeated the German football club Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 in the final of the 2023-24 UEFA Europa League, played at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Republic of Ireland, on 23 May 2024.
- ✓ The defeat ended Bayer Leverkusen's 51-match unbeaten record.
- ✓ The Europa League is organised by the European Football governing body UEFA. It is considered the second most prestigious football tournament for European professional football clubs after the Champions League

**Q. Which International Airport was awarded the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) accolade by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence?**

- A) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Thiruvananthapuram
- B) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
- C) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- D) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi

## Answer : A

- ✓ Thiruvananthapuram International Airport was awarded the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) accolade by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence.
- ✓ It is the first airport in India to receive this recognition, achieving 99.50% waste diversion from landfills.
- ✓ The award confirms the airport's implementation of leading waste management practices.



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## AIRPORT IN NEWS 2023-24

- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport was awarded the zero waste to landfill (ZWL) accolade by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence.
- Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport will be World's Largest
- GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) won the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany
- The government of Sri Lanka has decided to hand over the management of a Chinese-built Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport in Hambantota to an Indian and Russian company
- Delhi airport included among the 10th busiest airports in the world
- Manohar International Airport, Mopa, joins 13 others in India adopting the Digi Yatra system, enhancing travel convenience.
- Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in Delhi, India has been named the "Best Airport" in the Asia-Pacific region for six years in a row.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated 15 airport projects, including the revamped Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi, worth over Rs.9,800 crore
- Cochin International Airport Limited has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum (BPCL) for the Green Hydrogen Project.
- Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a curative petition filed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) against the multinational conglomerate GMR Group concerning the operational management of Nagpur's Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport.
- So far, 519 air routes are being operated across the country under the regional level air connectivity scheme (RCS) 'Ude Deshka Aam Nagrik' (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik-UDAN).
- Government of India has officially given the status of 'International Airport' to Surat Airport in Gujarat.
- Thiruvananthapuram Airport Honored with Excellence Award for its Quality Initiatives.
- Bengaluru and Delhi Airports have jointly bagged the 'Best Airport of the Year' at the Wings India Awards 2024 in the Civil Aviation Sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a new terminal building at Tiruchirappalli International Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to declare Surat Airport an international airport.



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**Q. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has launched a campaign to inspire people to celebrate the athletes participating in the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris. What is the name of this campaign?**

- A) Bounce to the Victory                      B) Dream Crazy  
C) Let's Move India                              D) Change the Game

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has launched the 'Let's Move India', an initiative to inspire people to celebrate the athletes participating in the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris.
- ✓ The move invites people from across the country to join the movement through a digital challenge on social media.
- ✓ Young people can take part in a series of regional school initiatives to coincide with Olympic Day on June 23. People are encouraged to recreate their favourite athlete celebrations or create their own, aiming to inspire and celebrate the Olympians heading to Paris 2024, who will be representing their 1.4 billion compatriots from July 26.
- ✓ The IOC has joined forces with Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, and an IOC Athletes' Commission member, and together, they will extend invitations to schools across the nation to join the movement, as part of the Olympic Values Education Programme

**Q. What is the name of the Buddhist festival celebrated in Sikkim to mark the enlightenment of Lord Buddha?**

- A) Saga Dawa                                      B) Drupka Tshechi  
C) Pang Lhabzol                                 D) Sonam Lochar

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Sikkim is celebrating the festival of Saga Dawa on 23 May 2023 on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.
- ✓ The Buddhist across the world are celebrating the Buddha purnima which marks the enlightenment of Siddhartha Gautama as Lord Buddha.
- ✓ Saga Dawa festival of Sikkim
- ✓ The Saga Dawa, also known as the 'Triple Blessed Festival', falls annually on the 15th day of the fourth month of the Tibetan Buddhist calendar.
- ✓ Saga means the fourth and Dawa means month in Tibetan. It is the most sacred Buddhist festival, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana (passing away) of Buddha Shakyamuni.



- ✓ During this month, Buddhists of Sikkim offer prayers in various monasteries of the state.

### FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2023-24

- Saga Dawa Festival : Sikkim
- Koothandavar Festival : Tamil Nadu
- Seng Khihlang Festival : Meghalaya
- Gorsam Kora festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Chapchar Kut Festival : Mizoram
- Orange Festival : Nagaland
- Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- Ethnic Mamani Festival : Ladakh
- International Camel Festival : Bikaner, Rajasthan
- Chandubi Festival : Assam
- International Purple Fest 2024 - Goa
- National Street Food Festival : New Delhi
- Kuno Forest Festival : Madhya Pradesh
- 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival : Arunachal Pradesh
- 24th Hornbill Festival : Nagaland
- Dhillio festival : Goa
- India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 : Faridabad, Haryana
- Arattu festival : Kerala
- Banni festival : Andhra Pradesh
- Zanskar Festival : Ladakh
- Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival : New Delhi
- Nuakhai festival : Odisha
- Nadi Utsav : Delhi
- Karnataka Cultural Festival : Sri Lanka .
- Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts : Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- Festival of Libraries 2023 : New Delhi .
- Chachin Grazing Festival : Arunachal Pradesh









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- ✓ According to a recent report by the Wildlife Institute of India, there are more than 4000 dolphins in the Gangetic River basin.
- ✓ Out of the 4000 river dolphins found in the Ganga River and its tributaries, more than 2000 are found in Uttar Pradesh alone. In Uttar Pradesh, the dolphins are mainly found in the Chambal River.
- ✓ Gangetic river dolphin is listed in Schedule –I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which provides the highest degree of legal protection.
- ✓ Gangetic river dolphin was declared the National Aquatic Animal of India on 18 May 2010 by the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest.
- ✓ Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary in Bhagalpur, Bihar, has been set up to protect the species.
- ✓ A comprehensive action plan (2022-2047) has been developed to ensure the well-being of river dolphins and aquatic habitats.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has declared a Dolphin Sanctuary area in the Chambal Sanctuary.
- ✓ The Prime Minister has announced Project Dolphin in 2019 under the Arth Ganga part of the Namami Ganga Project.
- ✓ The aim is to double the population of Dolphins by 2030.

**Q. Who is the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest recently?**

A) Jyoti Ratre

B) Soni Kumari

C) Ashalata Sinha

D) Arunima Choudhary

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Recently, mountaineer Jyoti Ratre has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.
- ✓ 55-year-old Ratre is a resident of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Earlier, on May 19, 2018, 53-year-old Sangeeta Bahl became the 'oldest Indian woman to climb Mount Everest'.
- ✓ This was Ratre's second attempt to climb the world's highest peak.
- ✓ In the year 2023, he had to return from 8,160 meters due to bad weather.

**Q. Which Indian-origin professor was recently awarded the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy?**

A) Srinivas R. Kulkarni

B) Ashok Mohanty

C) Vivek R Ranjan

D) Chandrakant R Narayan



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## Answer : A

- ✓ For his outstanding contributions in the field of astronomy, Indian-origin professor Srinivas R. Kulkarni has been awarded the prestigious Shaw Prize in Astronomy for 2024.
- ✓ Currently he is working as a professor at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech).
- ✓ He completed his Ph.D.
- ✓ He did his M.A. from the University of California in 1983. Shaw Prize is an important award given in the field of astronomy.

**Q. The President of the United Arab Emirates presented the First Class Independence Medal to the Ambassador of which country?**

- A) India
- B) Pakistan
- C) Paraguay
- D) Portugal

## Answer : C

- ✓ The President of the United Arab Emirates conferred the First Class Independence Medal to Paraguayan Ambassador Jose Agüero Avila on the occasion of the completion of his tenure as ambassador to the country.
- ✓ Paraguay is a landlocked country in South America.

**Q. Which company has acquired AI-powered women's wellness platform SocialBoat for an undisclosed amount?**

- A) Titan
- B) FastTrack
- C) Sonata
- D) Noise

## Answer : D

- ✓ Leading smartwatch and connected lifestyle brand, Noise has acquired AI-powered women's wellness platform SocialBoat for an undisclosed amount.
- ✓ This strategic move is part of Noise's broader strategy to advance innovation in smart rings.
- ✓ This acquisition will expand its tech offerings and build specialized innovation capabilities for its flagship smart wearable, Luna Ring.



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**Q. Which company has partnered with Tata Communications to launch Webex Calling in India?**

A) Cisco

B) Casio

C) Starlink

D) Reliance Industries

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Cisco and Tata Communications have launched their Webex Calling solution in India with cloud public switched telephone network (PSTN), aimed at helping enterprises move from on-premises phone systems to a global cloud calling system.
- ✓ The calls will be routed via Tata Communications' data centre in the Mumbai region, thereby helping organizations stay compliant with local regulations
- ✓ Webex Calling is a modern and complete business phone system that delivers enterprise-grade calling through a globally available cloud platform with over 14 million users around the world.

**Q. Who has become the youngest Indian mountaineer to climb the world's highest peak Mount Everest?**

A) Suvidha Kadlag

B) Yaashi Jain

C) Ravindra Kumar

D) Kaamya Karthikeyan

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Sixteen-year-old Kaamya Karthikeyan successfully summited Mt. Everest, becoming the youngest Indian mountaineer to scale the world's highest peak from the Nepal side.
- ✓ The daughter of a naval officer, Kaamya is a class 12 student at Navy Children School, Mumbai.
- ✓ Kaamya and her father Cdr S Karthikeyan successfully summited Mt. Everest (8,849 m).

**Q. When is the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula observed by United Nations?**

A) 22 May

B) 21 May

C) 23 May

D) 20 May

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Every year, United Nations' (UN) International Day to End Obstetric Fistula is marked on 23rd May since 2013 to promote action towards treating and preventing obstetric fistula, a condition that affects many girls and women during child birth in developing countries.
- ✓ Theme 2024 : Overcoming barriers to provide more treatment



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- ✓ In 2003 the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and its partners launched the global Campaign to End Fistula, a collaborative initiative to prevent fistula and restore the health of those affected by the condition. The day was officially recognised in 2012.

**Q. Who is the first Indian to win the Best Actress award at the Cannes Film Festival?**

A) Meenakshi Anoop

B) Anikha Surendran

C) Samyuktha Hegde

D) Anusya Sengupta

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Chidanand Naik and Anasuya Sengupta created history at the 77th Cannes Film Festival, which is being held in Cannes, France.
- ✓ Chidanand Naik's film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know' won the La Cined Award for Best Short Film, while Anasuya Sengupta became the first Indian to win the Best Actress award for her film Shameless.
- ✓ The Cannes Film Festival, first held in 1946, is now considered one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world.
- ✓ Chidanand Naik's short film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know' won the La Cined Award for Best Short at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Chidanand Naik made the film a part of his coursework at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.
- ✓ About the Film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know'
- ✓ The film "Sunflowers Were the First to Know" was a joint collaboration of four students of the FTII's TV wings 1-year programme as part of their coursework. It was directed by Chidananda S Naik, filmed by Suraj Thakur, edited by Manoj V, and sound by Abhishek Kadam. All these students passed out in 2023.
- ✓ Anusya Sengupta becomes first Indian to win Best Actress Award at Cannes
- ✓ Actress Anasuya Sengupta created history at the Cannes Film Festival by winning the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard segment. She became the first Indian to win the Best Actress award in any category at the Cannes Film Festival.
- ✓ Anasuya Sengupta was honoured for her excellent performance in the film Shameless, directed by Bulgarian filmmaker Constantin Bojanov.
- ✓ The film Shameless is based on the story of a sex worker who escapes from a brothel in Delhi after stabbing a policeman. The film sensitively portrays a human story of survival and resilience.



**Q. Who is the director of the Shameless film, which won the Best Actress award at the Un Certain Regard segment of the 77th Cannes Film Festival?**

- A) Johnny Depp                                      B) Constantin Bojanov  
C) Denzel Washington                              D) Tom Cruise

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Anasuya Sengupta was honoured for her excellent performance in the film Shameless, directed by Bulgarian filmmaker Constantin Bojanov

**Q. Which film won the La Cinef Award for Best Short at the 77th Cannes Film Festival?**

- A) Meshes of the Afternoon                      B) The Red Balloon  
C) Sunflowers Were the First to Know      D) Night and Fog

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Chidanand Naik's short film 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know' won the La Cinef Award for Best Short at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. Chidanand Naik made the film a part of his coursework at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune

**Q. Which country has been given the name Remal Cyclone?**

- A) Bangladesh                                      B) Oman  
C) Saudi Arabia                                      D) Maldives

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Cyclone Remal bring heavy rains in part of West Bengal and Bangladesh.  
✓ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning that a low depression in Bay Bengal has developed into a severe cyclonic storm Remal.  
✓ The Remal cyclone is expected to have a wind speed of 100-120 km per hour, bringing heavy rain and thundershowers in parts of West Bengal and Bangladesh.  
✓ Cyclone Remal is the first cyclone of the season to develop in the Bay of Bengal region.  
✓ The name Remal has been given by Oman which means sand in Arabic.  
✓ Tropical cyclones are quite common in India during the months of May-June and October-November.  
✓ According to IMD, cyclone Remal is expected to make landfall on 26 May at midnight between the Sagar Islands of West Bengal and Khepupara of Bangladesh.



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## CYCLONE IN NEWS 2023-24

- Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a warning that a low depression in Bay Bengal has developed into a severe cyclonic storm Remal.
- The name Remal has been given by Oman which means sand in Arabic.
- Cyclone Biparjoy is a low-pressure area that is currently forming over the Southeast Arabian Sea.
- The cyclone was named "Biparjoy" by Bangladesh.
- IMD has issued warnings against Cyclone Mocha which is heading towards the Southeast Bay of Bengal.
- Cyclone Freddy in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar.
- As Cyclone Gabrielle approaches the coast of the nation, residents of Auckland, the largest city in New Zealand.
- IMD Issue Warning of Formation of Cyclone Mandous Over Bay of Bengal and hit the east coast in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh.
- Recently a powerful "Bomb Cyclone" has hit the United States, affecting at least 200 million people.
- Cyclone Yaas Impact on Odisha and West Bengal.
- Cyclone Sitrang ploughed into heavily populated, low-lying parts of Bangladesh .
- Asani' turns into severe cyclonic storm, Odisha and West Bengal on alert.
- A red alert issued in the Philippines due to Super Typhoon Noru

**Q. Which former Pakistani cricket player has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the 9th ICC Men's T20 Cricket World Cup 2024?**

A) Shahid Afridi

B) Mohammad Yousuf

C) Abdul Razzaq

D) Shoaib Akhtar

**Answer : A**

- ✓ ICC names Shahid Afridi as Men's T 20 WC 2024 Brand Ambassador.
- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC), the world cricket governing body, has appointed Pakistan's Shahid Afridi as the brand ambassador of the forthcoming 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup.
- ✓ The tournament will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America from 1 to 29 June 2024.



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- ✓ Shahid Afridi joins Indian Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle of West Indies, and Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt as brand ambassadors for the event.
- ✓ In terms of the number of teams, the 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be the biggest men's T-20 World Cup with 20 teams
- ✓ Shahid Afridi
- ✓ Shahid Afridi, nicknamed 'Lala', was an explosive batsman and a skilful leg spinner. His explosive batting was best suited to the limited-overs one-day International (ODI), especially the T-20 format.
- ✓ He was the player of the Tournament in the first Men's T-20 World Cup 2007, held in South Africa. Pakistan lost the final match to India

## LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2023-24

- Shahid Afridi : Men's T 20 World Cup 2024 Brand Ambassador.
- Kareena Kapoor Khan : UNICEF India National Ambassador #ForEveryChild
- Yuvraj Singh : ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024
- Usain Bolt : 2024 ICC T20 World Cup
- Sana Mir : ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Citroen
- Sanjana Sanghi : SPACE India
- Narendra Kumar Yadav : "Fit India" Movement as Brand Ambassador
- Katrina Kaif : Chennai Super Kings as Brand Ambassador for IPL 2024
- Ranveer Singh : boAt
- Deepika Padukone : TECNO
- R Madhavan : Acko
- Sourav Ganguly : brand ambassador of Tripura state to promote tourism
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand Ambassador of Bengal
- Pankaj Tripathi : 'UPI Safety Ambassador
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : State Bank of India (SBI)
- Katrina Kaif : Luxury Swiss watch brand 'Rado'
- Chetan bhagat : Henry Harvin Education
- Mohammed Shami : Puma



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- Sachin Tendulkar : ICC as the global ambassador of ODI World Cup 2023
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : JioMart
- Katrina Kaif : Uniqlo
- Hrithik Roshan : lubricants brand Mobilil
- Anushka Sharma : W
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Swaraj Tractors
- Iga Świątek : Infosys
- Rafael Nadal : Infosys
- Rahul Dravid : Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- Shah Rukh Khan : ICC World Cup 2023
- Shraddha Kapoor: Asics India Private Limited
- Rashmika Mandanna : Printer company Epson India
- Smriti Mandhana : Wrangler
- Hrithik Roshan : Zebronics TV
- Sachin Tendulkar : Smile Ambassador
- Sania Mirza : Sony Sports Network
- Sourav Ganguly : Brand ambassador of Tripura Tourism
- Virat Kohli : Duroflex
- Alia Bhatt : Gucci, the luxury fashion brand from Italy
- Ayushman Khurana : Wakefit
- Rishabh Pant : Star Sports
- Rohit Sharma : JioCinema
- Virat Kohli : HSBC India
- Ranveer Singh : Star Sports Network
- Shreya Ghodawat : India's ambassador for She Changes Climate
- MC Mary Kom, Farhan Akhtar : Brand ambassadors of IBA Women's World Championships 2023
- Sachin Tendulkar : World's first 'Hand Ambassador' for Savlon India
- Ranveer Singh : Pepsi
- Ayushmann Khurrana : UNICEF India child rights
- Yastika Bhatia and Renuka Singh Thakur : Hyundai Motor India Ltd





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- Vir Das : Plant-based meat brand UnCrave
- Harmanpreet Kaur : Puma
- Nikhat Zareen : National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC)
- Saurav Ganguly : Bandhan Bank 'Jahaan Bandhan, Wahaan Trust' campaign
- Anushka Sharma : Puma
- Deepika Padukone : Pottery Barn
- Virat Kohli : Smart watch Noise
- Praseon Joshi : Uttarakhand State
- Lionel Messi : Byjus

**Q. Which state government company has added the maximum transmission lines in 2023-24?**

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

**Answer : B**

- ✓ According to the recently released statistics of the Central Electricity Authority, Uttar Pradesh emerged as the number one state in terms of the addition of transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24.
- ✓ In 2022-23 also, Uttar Pradesh topped the list amongst the state utilities.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the state government-owned Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (UPPTCL) added 1,460 ckm(Circuit Kilometer) of transmission lines of 220kV or above.
- ✓ Gujarat was in second place. The state-run Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd (GETCO) added 898 ckm of transmission line in 2023-24.
- ✓ At the third place was Tamil Nadu. The state-run utility company
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO) added 753 ckm of transmission line.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh came fourth with its Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited (APTRANSCO), adding 682 ckm of the transmission line.



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**Q. Who won the Casablanca Chess Variant tournament in 2024, held in Casablanca, Morocco?**

- A) Hikaru Nakamura                      B) Magnus Carlsen  
C) Fabiano Caruana                      D) Viswanathan Anand

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Magnus Carlsen conquers Casablanca Chess 2024.
- ✓ The world No 1, Magnus Carlsen (Europe) won the Casablanca Chess Variant tournament with 4.5 points from six rounds at Casablanca, Morocco.
- ✓ In the tournament, in which the players were required to make moves from certain positions onwards from well-known games from the past, Hikaru Nakamura of the United States finished runner-up with 3.5 points.
- ✓ Viswanathan Anand was third. The five-time World champion from Chennai scored three points. Bassem Amin of Egypt finished last with one point.

## CHESS GRANDMASTER IN NEWS 2023-24

- World No 1, Magnus Carlsen (Europe) won the Casablanca Chess Variant tournament .
- P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster.
- International Chess Federation Awards Grandmaster Title To Indian Chess Prodigy Vaishali Ramesh Babu.
- Indian young chess player Rameshbabu Praggnanand has defeated world chess champion Ding Liren in the 'Tata Steel Masters' held in Netherlands.
- Vaishali Rameshbabu has become the 84th Grandmaster of India.
- Raunak Sadhwani (Maharashtra) won FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship.
- India's Karthikeyan Murali became the third Indian chess player to defeat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen in classical chess after he prevailed over the Norwegian at the Qatar Masters tournament.
- Divya Deshmukh (Maharashtra ) Emerges Winner Of 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament defeated Koneru Humpy.
- Magnus Carlsen (Norway) wins the Chess World Cup Final 2023.
- Aditya Samant becomes India's 83rd Grandmaster.
- Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa has won the title of V Geza Hetenyi Memorial Super GM Chess Tournament 2023.



**Q. What is the primary objective of the AstroSat mission?**

- A) To explore the Moon's surface
- B) To study celestial sources in multiple spectral bands simultaneously
- C) To monitor the Earth's atmospheric changes
- D) To track space debris in Earth's orbit

**Answer : B**

- ✓ A team of Indian astrophysicists has used observations from AstroSat to discover the aperiodic modulation of high-energy X-ray photons in Swift J1727.8-1613, a black hole binary source.
- ✓ About AstroSat Mission:
- ✓ It is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in the X-ray, optical, and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
- ✓ AstroSat, with a lift-off mass of 1515 kg, was launched on September 28, 2015, into a 650 km orbit by PSLV-C30 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ✓ The spacecraft control centre at Mission Operations Complex (MOX) of ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru, manages the satellite during its entire mission life.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Shallow Aquifer Management Project:**

1. It is a sustainable urban water management technique to address issues of groundwater depletion.
2. It is part of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 only
- B) 2 only
- C) Both 1 and 2
- D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) in a latest intervention has taken up Shallow Aquifer Management (SAM) model on a pilot basis in the city.
- ✓ It is a sustainable urban water management technique and addresses persistent issues of groundwater depletion, drying up of borewells, and check quick flooding of city streets.
- ✓ How it is done?



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- ✓ The project's concept is to drill shallow water injection borewells to a depth of 100-120 feet and pump out water in the shallow aquifers.
- ✓ This is done so that the layers underneath get recharged whenever there is rainfall, while collecting water from the surrounding watershed and channelling it through recharge pits.
- ✓ SAM Pilot model in India
- ✓ It is part of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ Nodal implementing agency: National Institute of Urban Affairs
- ✓ In 2022, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) initiated a SAM pilot across 10 cities in nine states: Bengaluru (Karnataka), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Dhanbad (Jharkhand), Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh), Hyderabad (Telangana), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Kolkata (West Bengal), Pune and Thane (Maharashtra), and Rajkot (Gujarat).

**Q. Consider the following statements regarding Project Udbhav:**

**1. It is an initiative by the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India.**

**2. It aims to bridge the gap between ancient techniques and contemporary military education.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Indian Army, under its initiative Project Udbhav, is delving into the epic battles of the Mahabharata and the strategic brilliance of past Indian dynasties, shaping India's rich military heritage.
- ✓ It is collaboration between the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India (USI), a defence services think tank.
- ✓ The project, named 'Udbhav', translates to 'origin' or 'genesis', recognizing the profound knowledge embedded in our nation's historical texts spanning centuries.
- ✓ At its core, the project seeks to amalgamate ancient insights with modern military practices, creating a comprehensive approach to tackle present-day security challenges.
- ✓ Aim: This initiative aims to bridge the gap between age-old wisdom and contemporary military education.





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- ✓ The platform provides real-time updates on technical tools and resources, ensuring accessibility and relevance.
- ✓ The development of the GSAP SKILLS platform has been principally supported by Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, with additional resources from the Tech4Nature Initiative launched by IUCN and Huawei in 2020.

**Q. Which company has inaugurated a simulation centre of excellence (CoE) for Airbus at its Bengaluru campus?**

A) Infosys Technologies

B) L&T Technology Services

C) Reliance Industries Limited

D) Tata Consultancy Service

**Answer : B**

- ✓ L&T Technology Services has inaugurated a simulation centre of excellence (CoE) for Airbus at its Bengaluru campus.
- ✓ The CoE is designed to provide engineering support for Airbus aircraft structural simulation activities across its business units in France, Germany, the UK, and Spain.
- ✓ The CoE is equipped with simulation software, hardware, and computational machinery. It aims to standardise processes across all Airbus European business units and aircraft programmes, streamline efficiency, and enhance productivity.

**Q. Which company has acquired 6.125 per cent equity stake in CCIL IFSC Limited (CCIL IFSC) ?**

A) DBS Bank

B) HSBC Bank

C) Citibank

D) Standard Chartered Bank

**Answer : B**

- ✓ HSBC acquires 6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC
- ✓ HSBC, a leading global bank and financial services major, has through its branch in Gift City executed transaction documents to acquire 6.125 per cent equity stake in CCIL IFSC Limited (CCIL IFSC).
- ✓ The investment value for this transaction stood at ₹6.125 crore.
- ✓ Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL) is promoter of CCIL IFSC Limited and will hold 57.125 per cent stake in this subsidiary.
- ✓ CCIL IFSC is being incorporated with an authorised and paid-up capital of ₹200 crore and ₹100 crore, respectively



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- ✓ CCIL IFSC will be responsible to build and operate the Foreign Currency Settlement System (FCSS) at Gujarat International Finance Tec (Gift) City, which is country's sole international financial services centre (IFSC).

**Q. Which company exported its first-ever consignment of 100 octane premium fuel 'XP100' to Sri Lanka?**

- A) Reliance Petroleum                      B) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation  
C) Indian Oil Corporation                  D) Hindustan Petroleum

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) exported its first-ever consignment of 100 octane premium fuel, XP100 to Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The product is tailored for premium high-end vehicles.
- ✓ About XP100
- ✓ The XP100 is domestically developed, leveraging IndianOil's indigenous Octamax Technology.
- ✓ Designed with anti-knock properties, it is engineered to enhance engine performance, faster acceleration, smoother drivability and improved fuel economy.

**Q. Who has won the gold medal in the women's 40kg category at the IWF World Youth Championships?**

- A) Karnam Malleswari                      B) Kunjarani Devi  
C) Swati Singh                                  D) Preetismita Bhoi

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Indian weightlifter Preetismita Bhoi smashed the youth clean and jerk world record in the women's 40kg category to win a gold medal at the IWF World Youth Championships here.
- ✓ The 15-year-old bettered the existing record of 75kg by 1kg.
- ✓ She lifted 57kg in snatch for a total effort of 133kg, finishing within 2kg of the youth world standard on total on the opening day of the competition.

**Q. Which Indian athlete clinched the gold medal in men's shot put at the World Para Athletics Championship in Kobe, Japan, setting a new Asian record in the F46 category?**

- A) Dharambir                                  B) Sumit Antil  
C) Thangavelu Mariyappan                  D) Sachin Sarjerao Khilari







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- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has significantly increased its gold reserves, adding 24 tonnes between January and April 2024. This move is part of a strategic diversification of reserves aimed at mitigating risks amid ongoing geopolitical tensions and economic uncertainty. This increase is almost one and a half times the 16 tonnes of gold added throughout 2023, as per an analysis of RBI data.
- ✓ of April 26, 2024, the RBI held 827.69 tonnes of gold as part of its foreign exchange reserves, up from 803.6 tonnes at the end of December 2023. This marked increase underscores the central bank's proactive approach in enhancing its gold reserves, reflecting a significant shift in its reserve management strategy.
- ✓ The RBI's renewed interest in gold is part of a broader trend seen among emerging market central banks. The share of gold in India's total foreign exchange reserves increased from 7.75% at the end of December 2023 to about 8.7% by the end of April 2024.

**Q. Which city achieved the highest rank among Indian cities in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2024, securing the 350th position globally?**

A) Mumbai

B) Bangalore

C) Chennai

D) Delhi

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Delhi ranks 350 in Oxford Global Cities Index Report 2024.
- ✓ Delhi has been placed 350 in the Oxford Economics Global Cities Index 2024, making it the highest ranked Indian city. The ranking compares the world's 1000 cities. In 2023, cities in the report accounted for 60% of global GDP and 30% of the world's population.
- ✓ Once again, New York achieved the highest ranking in all five categories with a score of 100, followed by London and San Jose securing the 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively.
- ✓ Bengaluru, India's IT hub, stood at 411, higher than the country's financial capital Mumbai, which stood at 427. On the other hand, Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh ranked last in the index, at 1000th place. All Indian cities scored 380 in the Governance category.
- ✓ Mumbai, the Indian city that secured the 427th rank, was actually ranked 915th in the category of quality of life.
- ✓ The Index assesses over 1,000 largest cities in the world based on 5 important categories – Economics, Governance, Quality of Life, Environment, and Human Capital.





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## Answer : B

- ✓ KKR wins their third IPL title beating SRH in the final at Chennai.
- ✓ Chandrakant Pandit-coached Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) cricket team won their third Indian Premier League (IPL) title by beating Sunriser Hyderabad (SRH) in the final of the 17th IPL.
- ✓ The final was played at the M A Chidambaram stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on 26 May 2024.
- ✓ They defeated the Sunrisers by eight wickets to lift the trophy for the third time.
- ✓ The KKR team, led by Shreyas Iyer and mentored by former Indian cricket player Gautam Gambhir, put up a strong display in the final to comprehensively beat the SRH team by eight wickets. This was KKR's third IPL trophy, having won it in 2012 and 2014.
- ✓ Player of the Match: Mitchel Starc of KKR.

🕒 TATA IPL 2024 MOST IMPORTANT FACTS (<https://t.me/gadiscussionchannel/29819>)

🎱 TATA IPL 2024

◇ Title Sponsor : TATA (₹440 crores)

◇ Total teams : 10

◇ Season : 17th ( 2024)

◇ Opening Match : M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai (CSK Vs RCB)

◇ Final Match : M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai (KKR Vs SRH)

🏆 Champions {Rs. 20 crore} : Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) (3rd title) [ 2012, 2014, 2024]

👑 Runners-up {Rs. 12.5 crore} : Sunrisers Hyderabad (1st title) [ 2016]

♥ Orange Cap (most runs in a season) {Rs. 10 Lakh} – Virat Kohli (Royal Challengers Bengaluru)– 741 runs

♥ Purple Cap (Highest wicket-taker) {Rs. 10 Lakh} – Harshal Patel (Punjab Kings) – 24 wickets

🏆 Most Valuable Player of the Season award {Rs. 10 Lakh} – Sunil Narine (Kolkata Knight Riders)

❖ Emerging Player of the Season {Rs. 10 Lakh} – Nitish Kumar Reddy (SRH).

❖ Fair Play Award {Rs. 10 Lakh} - Sunrisers Hyderabad

👑 Mitchell Starc (Australia) became the most expensive player in the history of IPL when he was bought by Kolkata Knight Riders for ₹24.75 crore (US\$3.1 million) .



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☑ Pat Cummins (Australia)- Sunrisers Hyderabad - 20.5 Crore, becoming the second most expensive player in the IPL 2024.

📖 Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) .

- ◇ Captain : Shreyas Iyer
- ◇ Coach : Chandrakant Pandit
- ◇ Owner : Shah Rukh Khan, Juhi Chawla & Jay Mehta
- ◇ Mentored : Gautam Gambhir
- ◇ KKR's third IPL trophy, 2012, 2014 & 2024
- ◇ Motto of the team - Korbo, Lorbo, Jeetbo (we will perform, fight, and win!)

📖 Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)

- ◇ Captain : Pat Cummins
- ◇ Coach : Daniel Vettori
- ◇ Owner : Kaviya Kalanithi Maran (SUN Group)
- ◇ Sunrisers won IPL title in the 2016 season.

◇ Chennai Super King and Mumbai Indians have been the most successful side in the IPL. Both have won the trophy five times each.

**Q. Which player has won the Orange cap for scoring the maximum run in the Indian Premier League 2024?**

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Ruturaj Gaikwad
- C) Riyan Parag
- D) Travis Head

**Answer : A**

✓ Virat Kohli of Royal Challenger Hyderabad for scoring 741 runs in 15 matches.

**Q. Which player won the purple cup for taking the maximum wicket in the Indian Premier League 2024?**

- A) T Natarajan
- B) Harshal Patel
- C) Jasprit Bumrah
- D) Sandeep Sharma

**Answer : B**

✓ Harshal Patel of Punjab Kings XI. He took 24 wickets in 14 matches





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- Arunachal Pradesh approves constitution of Special Tiger Protection Force for three Tiger Reserves.
- Bihar's second tiger reserve to come up in Kaimur sanctuary
- After the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district (Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary) by the end of the year.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.
- India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approving a proposal.
- India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population.
- Project Tiger is a tiger conservation programme launched on April 1, 1973

**Q. Which film won the Palme d'Or or Golden Palm award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival?**

A) Although I guess

B) BlackBerry

C) Emilia Perez

D) Anora Film

**Answer : D**

- ✓ 77th Cannes Film Festival Award 2024
- ✓ Palme d'Or or Golden Palm for Best Feature Film—Anora Film (United States), Directed by Sean Baker.
- ✓ Grand Prix for Best Feature Film- All We Imagine As Light(India-French), Directed by Payal Kapadia.
- ✓ Best Director for Feature Film- Miguel Gomes (Portugal) for film Grand Tour.
- ✓ Best Actor for Feature Film - Jesse Plemons (United States) for the film Kinds for Kindness.
- ✓ Best Actress for Feature Film - Selena Gomez (United States) for film Emilia Perez.
- ✓ Special Prize for Feature Film - The Seed for the Sacred Fig (German, France, Iran) directed by Mohammad Rasoulof
- ✓ The 77th Cannes Film Festival was held in Cannes, France, from 14-25 May 2024. It is considered to be one of the most prestigious film festivals in the world.

**Q. Who won the Best Actress award in the feature film category at the 77th Cannes Film Festival 2024?**

A) Selena Gomez

B) Scarlett Johansson

C) Anne Hathaway

D) Amber Heard

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✓ President: Poul Erik Hayer Larsen

**Q. Who won the men's singles title of the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024?**

A) Jin Yong

B) Na Sung Sueng

C) V. Axelsen

D) Rinov Rivaldy

**Answer : C**

### SPORTS IN NEWS 2024

- PV Sindhu of India failed to win the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024 Badminton title. She lost in the women's singles final to the People's Republic of China's Wang Zhi Yi, played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 May 2024.
- Dipa Karmakar of Tripura became the first ever Indian gymnast to win a gold medal in any Asian Championships.
- Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) cricket team won their third Indian Premier League (IPL) title by beating Sunriser Hyderabad (SRH) in the final of the 17th IPL 2024.
- ICC names Shahid Afridi as Men's T 20 WC 2024 Brand Ambassador
- The Italian football club Atalanta BC defeated the German football club Bayer Leverkusen 3-0 in the final of the 2023-24 UEFA Europa League
- Alexander Zverev won the single title of the Italian Open tennis tournament, while the women's singles title was won by the world no.1 player Iga Swiatek.
- Indian badminton pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the Thailand Open 2024 badminton men's doubles title by defeating the Chinese duo of Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the final played on 19 May 2024
- Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.
- Spanish football club Real Madrid has been crowned the La Liga 2023-24 season title after beating Cadiz 3-0.
- World no.1 women's tennis players Iga Swiatek and Andrey Rublev won the women's and men's singles titles at the 2024 Madrid Open, respectively
- P Shyaamnikhil of Tamil Nadu becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster
- Japan defeated Pakistan to win the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy
- Mumbai City FC defeat Mohun Bagan Super Giant to win the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24





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- ✓ The trade deficit with China rose to \$85 billion, Russia to \$57.2 billion, Korea to \$14.71 billion, and Hong Kong to \$12.2 billion in 2023-24 against \$83.2 billion, \$43 billion, \$14.57 billion, and \$8.38 billion, respectively, in 2022-23.
- ✓ India has a trade surplus of \$ 36.74 billion with the US in 2023-24. America is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus.
- ✓ After the US, the Netherlands offers a surplus of \$17.3 billion on the back of being a hub of India's petroleum trade with Europe.
- ✓ Other countries with which there is a trade surplus are the UK (\$4.5 billion), Italy (\$ 2.9 billion), France (\$902 million), and Belgium (\$598 million).
- ✓ India has a free trade agreement with four of its top trading partners - Singapore, the UAE, Korea, and Indonesia (as part of the Asian bloc).

**Q. Nyishi Tribe is the largest ethnic group of which one of the following States?**

A) Odisha

B) Tripura

C) Sikkim

D) Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Mountaineer and cricketer Kabak Yano etched her name in history recently by becoming the fifth woman from Arunachal Pradesh and the first woman from the Nyishi tribe to scale Mt. Everest.
- ✓ About Nyishi Tribe:
- ✓ The Nyishi are the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ In Nishi, their traditional language, Nyi refers to "a man" and the word shi denotes "a being", which combined together refers to a civilized human being.
- ✓ The Nyishi language belongs to the Sino-Tibetan family; however, its origin is disputed.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Green Hydrogen Mission:**

**1. It aims to make India a Global Hub for the production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.**

**2. The Ministry of Power, Government of India, will be responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the mission.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**



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A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

### Answer : A

- ✓ State-run GAIL (India) Ltd. recently inaugurated its first 10 MW Green Hydrogen Plant under the National Green Hydrogen Mission in Madhya Pradesh's Vijaipur.
- ✓ About National Green Hydrogen Mission:
- ✓ It was approved by the Union Cabinet on January 4, 2022.
- ✓ Aim: To make India a Global Hub for the production, utilization, and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- ✓ Components:
- ✓ Under the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT), two distinct financial incentive mechanisms
- ✓ Incentive for manufacturing of electrolyzers
- ✓ Incentive for production of green hydrogen.
- ✓ The Mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways.
- ✓ Regions capable of supporting large-scale production and/or utilization of Hydrogen will be identified and developed as Green Hydrogen Hubs.
- ✓ The mission outcomes projected by 2030 are:
- ✓ Development of green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum with an associated renewable energy capacity addition of about 125 GW in the country;
- ✓ Over Rs. Eight lakh crores in total investments;
- ✓ Creation of over Six lakh jobs;
- ✓ Cumulative reduction in fossil fuel imports over Rs. One lakh crore;
- ✓ Abatement of nearly 50 MMT of annual greenhouse gas emissions;
- ✓ The initial outlay for the Mission will be Rs.19,744 crore, including an outlay of Rs.17,490 crore for the SIGHT programme, Rs.1,466 crore for pilot projects, Rs.400 crore for R&D, and Rs. 388 crores towards other Mission components.
- ✓ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy will be responsible for the overall coordination and implementation of the Mission



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**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Mundra Port:**

**1. It is the largest private port and the largest container port in India.**

**2. It is located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Adani Group's Mundra Port recently saw the largest ever container ship to dock at an Indian port when the almost 400-metre-long MSC Anna came visiting.
- ✓ About Mundra Port:
- ✓ It is the largest private port and the largest container port in India.
- ✓ Location: It is located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch, near Mundra, Kutch district, Gujarat.
- ✓ It is a deep-draft, all-weather port.
- ✓ It is also a special economic zone (SEZ).
- ✓ As much as 33 percent of India's container traffic flows through the port.
- ✓ Ownership: It is run by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ), which is India's largest commercial ports operator and accounts for nearly one-fourth of the country's cargo movement.
- ✓ Handling Capacity:
- ✓ With a capacity of 260 MMT, the port handles over 155 MMT (FY 2022-23), which constitutes nearly 11% of India's maritime cargo.
- ✓ The port has 26 berths and two single-point moorings, which allow it to accommodate a wide range of vessels.
- ✓ It also has the country's largest coal import terminal, which facilitates faster cargo evacuation with minimal turnaround time.





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- ✓ Component B:
- ✓ Installation of 20 lakhs of standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps.
- ✓ Individual farmers will be supported to install standalone solar Agriculture pumps of capacity up to 7.5 HP for the replacement of existing diesel Agriculture pumps / irrigation systems in off-grid areas, where grid supply is not available.
- ✓ Component C:
- ✓ For Solarisation of 15 Lakh Grid Connected Agriculture Pumps.
- ✓ Under this Component, individual farmers having grid connected agriculture pump will be supported to solarise pumps.
- ✓ The eligible categories for KUSUM Scheme are:
- ✓ An individual farmer.
- ✓ A group of farmers.
- ✓ FPO or Farmer producer organization.
- ✓ Panchayat.
- ✓ Co-operatives.
- ✓ Water User Associations.

**Q. Mrugavani National Park, recently seen in news, is located in:**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Odisha
- C) Gujarat
- D) Telangana

**Answer : D**

- ✓ The extent of Mrugavani National Park at Chilkur in Moinabad mandal has undergone massive revision on paper, resulting in reduction of 80 hectares.
- ✓ Location: It is located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ✓ Topography: The topography of Park supports woodlands, grasslands and rocky areas.
- ✓ Vegetation: Most of the vegetation can be classified as southern tropical dry deciduous forests.







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## Answer : A

- ✓ Every year, 25 May is observed as International Missing Children's Day (IMCD) around the world to commemorate the missing children who have found their way home, remember those who have been victims of crime, and continue efforts to find those who are still missing.
- ✓ The symbol for IMCD is the forget-me-not flower.
- ✓ The day was proclaimed in 1983, by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.
- ✓ The first IMCD was observed in 2001 through the joint efforts of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), Missing Children Europe, and the European Commission

## Q. Which day of the year is celebrated as the World Thyroid Day?

- A) May 23
- B) May 22
- C) May 25
- D) May 26

## Answer : C

- ✓ The World Thyroid Day is celebrated every year on May 25 to promote awareness and understanding of thyroid health and the advances made in treating thyroid diseases.
- ✓ The World Thyroid Day was established in 2008 by the European Thyroid Association and the American Thyroid Association

## Q. Who was granted a one-year extension as the Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)?

- A) Samir V. Kamat
- B) Rajesh Sharma
- C) Amit Patel
- D) Priya Singh

## Answer : A

- ✓ DRDO chairman Samir V Kamat gets one-year extension.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet granted an extension of one year to Dr Samir V. Kamat, who is the Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).



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- ✓ With approval, Dr Samir Kamat will hold charge of DRDO till May 31, 2025. The extension of Kamat's term came a day after the Union government, in an unusual move, extended the tenure of Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande for a month.

## DRDO IN NEWS 2023-24

- DRDO chairman Samir V Kamat gets one-year extension.
- DRDO hands over nine defence tech projects to IIT-Bhubaneswar
- DRDO successfully tested the next-generation Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system on 1 May 2024 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.
- DRDO successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out successful trials of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan
- Recently, Strategic Forces Command and DRDO successfully tested the new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha.
- DRDO successfully conducted two flight tests of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile.
- DRDO successfully conducted four flight trials of the high-speed expendable aerial target 'ABHYAS' recently.
- Defence Ministry has cleared the proposal of buying a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army which can strike targets at 150–500 km.
- DRDO organises 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivar' to encourage Defence R&D.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) have formed a partnership to create an Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System for the submarines in the Indian Navy.
- DRDO Industry Academia Centre of Excellence inaugurated at IIT Hyderabad.



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- Indian Navy and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) collaborated to conduct the first successful test trial of a locally-made Air Droppable Container called 'ADC-150' from the IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa .
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated its 66th foundation day on 1st January 2024.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) initiative:**

**1. It is a mandatory disclosure mechanism for top 1000 listed companies to report their performance on environmental, social and governance.**

**2. It is an initiative of the World Bank.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) welcomed the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) initiative by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ It is a mandatory disclosure mechanism for top 1000 listed companies or businesses to report their performance on environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects and demonstrate their commitment to responsible business practices.
- ✓ It was introduced in May 2021 by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ This initiative was intended to provide policymakers and investors with robust data to make informed decisions.
- ✓ The disclosure requirements are grouped into nine core categories, based on the principles of the National Guidelines for Responsible Business Conduct introduced by SEBI:



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- ✓ Environmental protection: Key performance indicators cover electricity consumption, water usage and air emissions.
- ✓ Human rights: Focus on human rights violations and minimum and fair wages.
- ✓ Integrity: Performance indicators include anti-corruption, anti-bribery and conflicts of interest policies.
- ✓ Employee well-being: Metrics focused on parental benefits, employee accessibility and the percentage of unionized workers.
- ✓ Inclusive growth: Policies favoring vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- ✓ Sustainable goods and services: Information on investments in social and environmental impacts.

**Q. Which two banks were penalized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for non-compliance with regulatory directives?**

- A) State Bank of India and HDFC Bank
- B) YES Bank and ICICI Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank and Axis Bank
- D) Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bank of Baroda

**Answer : B**

- ✓ RBI penalises YES Bank, ICICI Bank for regulatory breaches.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalties on two prominent banks, YES Bank Ltd and ICICI Bank Ltd, for non-compliance with regulatory directives.
- ✓ YES Bank incurred a penalty of ₹91 lakh for failing to adhere to RBI's directives on 'customer service in banks' and the 'unauthorised operation of internal/office accounts'.
- ✓ Similarly, ICICI Bank faced a penalty of ₹1 crore for contravening RBI's directions on 'loans and advances — statutory and other restrictions.' The penalty stemmed from the bank's failure to exercise due diligence in sanctioning term loans to entities, leading to potential financial risks

### PENALTY IN NEWS 2023-24

- ICICI Bank faced a penalty of ₹1 crore for contravening RBI's directions on 'loans and advances — statutory and other restrictions.'
- YES Bank incurred a penalty of ₹91 lakh for failing to adhere to RBI's directives on 'customer service in banks' and the 'unauthorised operation of internal/office accounts'.
- SEBI imposes ₹11.90 crore fine on 19 entities for Superior Finlease 'pump and dump



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- IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on IDFC First Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
- RBI imposes Rs 1.31 cr fine on Tamilnad Mercantile Bank for non-compliance.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.4 crore on Bank of India for non-compliance with certain regulatory norms.
- Paytm's trouble escalated further with the Financial Intelligence Unit-India slapping a ₹5.49 crore penalty on Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) for violating Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) obligations
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on Bank of Baroda.
- RBI imposes Rs 8.8 lakh penalty on Power Finance Corporation for non-compliance.
- Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has fined Air India ₹1.1 crore for safety violations on certain flights.
- RBI took regulatory action imposing penalties on Bank of America, N.A. and HDFC Bank Ltd. for violations of specific norms.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs. 10,000 on Bank of America, N.A. for violating the reporting requirements under the liberalized Remittances Scheme of FEMA 1999.
- HDFC Bank Ltd also faced a penalty of Rs.10,000 for violating directions related to the acceptance of deposits from non-residents.
- RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance.
- This penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company.
- RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank.
- Paytm Payments Bank was penalized for “non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016’.”
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of ₹12.19 crore on ICICI Bank and ₹3.95 crore on Kotak Mahindra Bank for non-compliance of certain regulatory norms.



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**Q. Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on which bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'?**

A) Axis Bank

B) Yes Bank

C) ICICI Bank

D) HDFC Bank

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on ICICI Bank for non-compliance with certain directions on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

## ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- ICICI Bank introduces UPI for NRIs through international mobile numbers.
- Pradeep Kumar Sinha to take over as Non-Executive Part-time Chairman of ICICI Bank.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- ICICI Bank Canada Launches 'Money2India (Canada)' Mobile Banking App.
- iVIS, a subsidiary of Magellanic Cloud, has announced its empanelment with ICICI Bank for the delivery of e-surveillance services across branches.
- ICICI Bank receives RBI's nod to make Securities a wholly-owned subsidiary.
- ICICI Bank Introduces 'iFinance,' A One-Stop Solution for Multi-Bank Account Access.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken strict measures against two prominent banking institutions, Kotak Mahindra Bank penalty of Rs 3.95 crore and ICICI Bank penalty of Rs 12.19 crore, by imposing significant penalties.
- RBI approves reappointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO for three more years till October 2026.
- ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- Founded : 1994
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka.



**Q. Campi Flegrei, recently seen in the news, is an active volcanic area located in which one of the following countries?**

- A) Chile  
B) Philippines  
C) Italy  
D) United States of America

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The strongest earthquake to hit Italy's Campi Flegrei supervolcano region in decades struck recently.
- ✓ About Campi Flegrei:
- ✓ Campi Flegrei (known as Phlegrean Fields in English) is an active volcanic area located in the vicinity of Naples, Italy.
- ✓ Unlike the nearby Mount Vesuvius, Campi Flegrei is not characterised by a single volcano.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ZiG currency:**

- 1. It is a new gold backed currency launched by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.**
- 2. It is launched with an aim to prevent currency devaluation.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A) 1 only  
B) 2 only  
C) Both 1 and 2  
D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Recently, to address its long-standing economic instability, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has launched a new gold-backed currency called the ZiG.
- ✓ About ZiG:
- ✓ The Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) is a new gold-backed currency launched by Zimbabwe.
- ✓ The ZiG, now the sixth currency used by Zimbabwe, has been in circulation since April 5, 2024.
- ✓ Key features of ZiG
- ✓ The ZiG stands out as a new currency backed by gold reserves, ensuring its value is supported by the physical gold held by the government.
- ✓ ZiG notes and coins will be available and issued in denominations: 1ZiG, 2ZiG, 5ZiG, 10ZiG, 20ZiG, 50ZiG, 100ZiG, and 200ZiG, with the gold backing aims to provide stability and prevent currency devaluation.
- ✓ Reasons for launching new currency







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**Q. Which state topped the list for the addition of transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24 according to the Central Electricity Authority?**

A) Gujarat

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Maharashtra

D) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh tops in addition of Transmission line in 2023-24.
- ✓ According to the recently released statistics of the Central Electricity Authority, Uttar Pradesh emerged as the number one state in terms of the addition of transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24. In 2022-23 also, Uttar Pradesh topped the list amongst the state utilities.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the state government-owned Uttar Pradesh Power Transmission Corporation Ltd (UPPTCL) added 1,460 ckm(Circuit Kilometer) of transmission lines of 220kV or above.
- ✓ Gujarat was in second place. The state-run Gujarat Energy Transmission Corporation Ltd (GETCO) added 898 ckm of transmission line in 2023-24.
- ✓ At the third place was Tamil Nadu. The state-run utility company Tamil Nadu Transmission Corporation Limited (TANTRANSCO) added 753 ckm of transmission line

**Q. Which commodity became the fourth-largest export item from India in FY24 with a 42% growth?**

A) Motor gasoline

B) Petroleum products

C) Smartphones

D) Textiles

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Smartphones become India's fourth largest export item with 42% growth.
- ✓ Smartphones are now the fourth-largest export item from India with 42 per cent growth to \$15.6 billion in FY24, up by one notch in the ranking from the preceding year.
- ✓ India started collecting data for smartphones separately from April 2022. While India's top export items are dominated by petroleum products, smartphones replaced motor gasoline to become the fourth-largest exported commodity in FY24.
- ✓ According to commerce department data, the spike in smartphone exports was driven by a 158 per cent increase in shipments to the US at \$5.6 billion, followed by the United Arab Emirates (\$2.6 billion), the Netherlands (\$1.2 billion), and the UK (\$1.1 billion).





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forest officials also counted more than 1000 Chinkaras, 30 Desert Cats, 150 Foxes and more than 100 Vultures

- ✓ The Great Indian Bustard bird, also known as Godawan, is the state bird of Rajasthan. The Great Indian Bustard is a critically endangered species which mainly lives in dry grasslands. It has been put into Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, which provides it with the highest level of legal protection.

**Q. Which organization has partnered with the Algorand Foundation to launch the first layer one blockchain protocol-backed Application Developer Course on NASSCOM's FutureSkills Prime platform?**

- A) IBM
- B) Microsoft
- C) AlgoBharat
- D) Google

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Algorand Foundation launches developer training platform with NASSCOM.
- ✓ AlgoBharat, Algorand Foundation's India-focused initiative, announced that it officially launching the first layer one blockchain protocol backed Application Developer Course on NASSCOM's FutureSkills Prime platform.
- ✓ NASSCOM's FutureSkills Prime, a joint initiative of India's IT Industry and the Government of India, aims to enhance digital skills across India and position the country as a leader in global innovation and growth.
- ✓ As the first blockchain platform to partner with NASSCOM, Algorand is creating original developer training content aligned with the National Occupational Standards (NOS) and National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), enabling India's young developers to acquire in-demand skills that NASSCOM has identified as being highly valued by employers

**Q. PhonePe's Pincode, a store-first commerce app, has partnered with which retailer to expand its online customer base?**

- A) Big Bazaar
- B) Reliance Fresh
- C) Simpli Namdhari's
- D) Spencer's

**Answer : C**

- ✓ PhonePe's Pincode partners with Simpli Namdhari's in Bengaluru to expand customer base.



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- ✓ Pincode, a homegrown store-first commerce app by PhonePe has reportedly announced it's partnered with Simpli Namdhari's, one of the country's 100 per cent veg omnichannel retailers, to reach a larger online customer base.
- ✓ The collaboration will bring a wide variety of groceries, fresh fruits, vegetables and other premium FMCG products on the Pincode app for people residing in Bengaluru, the company announced.
- ✓ The collaboration will bring a wide variety of groceries, fresh fruits, vegetables and other premium FMCG products on the Pincode app for people residing in Bengaluru

**Q. Barcelona recently clinched its third Women's Champions League title in four years by defeating which opponent?**

A) Bayern Munich

B) Manchester City

C) Lyon

D) Paris Saint-Germain

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Barcelona finally beats Lyon and retains Women's Champions League crown.
- ✓ With a triumph over the rival it could never beat, Barcelona made it clear who's in charge of women's soccer.
- ✓ Barcelona ended its losing streak against the game's most successful club, beating Lyon 2-0 to clinch its third Women's Champions League title in four years.

**Q. What is the goal of the new 'Investment Round' launched by the World Health Organization (WHO)?**

A) To raise funds for global health research

B) To raise funds for humanitarian aid

C) To raise funds to tackle global challenges such as climate change, displacement, poverty, and inequality

D) To raise funds for COVID-19 vaccine distribution

**Answer : C**

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a new 'Investment Round' aiming to raise 7 billion dollars of funds to support countries to tackle challenges like climate change, displacement, poverty and inequality.
- ✓ This initiative comes just before the 77th World Health Assembly, which begins at the United States agency's headquarters with 194 member states. WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced





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- ✓ South African regulator fines SBI's branch
- ✓ The Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank has imposed a financial penalty of 10 million rand (₹4.5 crore) on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch, the bank.
- ✓ This penalty was imposed under Section 45C of the country's Financial Intelligence Centre Act 38 of 2001 (FIC Act) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the FIC Act or other related orders or directives.
- ✓ The bank informed the stock exchange that the financial penalty consists of an immediately payable portion of 5.50 million rand, which the SBI branch in South Africa has already paid. The remaining 4.50 million rand is suspended for 36 months, contingent on compliance within this period

**Q. Who emerged as the champion of the Sharjah Challengers 2024?**

A) Daneshvar

B) Divya Deshmukh

C) Arjun

D) Leya Garifullina

**Answer : B**

- ✓ International Master Divya Deshmukh of Nagpur emerged champion of the Sharjah Challengers 2024, the other day. In the final round, Divya played out a draw against IM Leya Garifullina to emerge winner. Arjun became the sole Indian to make a top ten finish in the Masters. He secured seventh place.

**Q. The Pravaah portal, recently seen in the news aims to:**

A) facilitate retail investors to open their Retail Direct Gilt accounts

B) provide information about FinTech entities and their activities

C) seek authorisation or regulatory approval on any reference made to the Reserve Bank of India

D) enable the trading of G-Secs on mobile device

**Answer : C**

- ✓ RBI Governor recently unveiled three major initiatives of the Reserve Bank, namely the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App and a FinTech Repository.
- ✓ About Pravaah Portal:
- ✓ Pravaah (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and Authorisation) is a secure and centralised web-based portal for any individual or entity to seek authorisation, license, or regulatory approval on any reference
- ✓ made by it to the RBI.



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- ✓ The following are some of the key features available in the portal:
- ✓ Submit the application online on the portal.
- ✓ Track and monitor the status of the application/reference.
- ✓ Respond to any clarification/query sought by the RBI in connection with the application/reference; and
- ✓ Receive a decision from the RBI in a time-bound manner
- ✓ This portal will also enhance the efficiency of various processes related to the granting of regulatory approvals and clearances by the RBI.
- ✓ At present, 60 application forms covering different regulatory and supervisory departments of RBI have been made available on the portal.
- ✓ This also includes a general-purpose form for applicants to submit their requests, which are not included in any other application form.

**Q. Which portal has been launched by RBI where an applicant can apply for authorisation, license, or regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank?**

- A) UDGAM
- B) PRISM
- C) PRAVAAH
- D) FLAIR

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched three major initiatives on 28 May 2024: the PRAVAH portal, a mobile app for retail investors to trade in government securities, and a Fintech Repository.
- ✓ These three initiatives were launched by the RBI governor, Shaktikanta Das, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ About the PRAVAH Portal
- ✓ The PRAVAAH(Platform for Regulatory Application, VALidation and AutHorisation) is a centralised web-based portal that provides a secure platform for individuals or entities to seek authorisation, license, or regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank.
- ✓ An individual or entity can submit 60 application forms covering different regulatory and supervisory departments of the RBI online.
- ✓ Applicants can also track their applications online, monitor their status, and receive a decision from the RBI in a time-bound manner





### RBI PORTAL IN NEWS

- RBI launched UDGAM portal to track unclaimed deposits.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has planned to launch a secured web-based centralised portal named 'PRAVAAH' to simplify and streamline application processes.
- RBI to launch PRISM platform to strengthen compliance by supervised entities.
- RBI develops portal FLAIR for reporting of Foreign Liabilities and Assets (FLA).
- RBI launches CISBI portal for keeping track of Banking Outlets.
- RBI launches Mobile Aided Note Identifier (MANI) app for visually impaired persons

**Q. Where has the public sector company GAIL (India) Limited set up its first green hydrogen plant?**

- A) Madhya Pradesh                      B) Telangana  
C) Karnataka                              D) Tamil Nadu

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The government of India-owned GAIL(India) Limited's first green hydrogen plant has become operational at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ This marks the entry of India's largest natural gas transmission and distribution company in the green fuel business.
- ✓ The 10-megawatt proton exchange membrane electrolyser for the green-hydrogen producing unit at the Vijaipur complex has been imported from Canada.
- ✓ The plant was in line with the National Green Hydrogen mission that has set out a goal of 5 million tons of annual green hydrogen production capacity for the country by 2030.

**Q. What was the primary objective of NASA's Magellan Mission, recently seen in the news?**

- A) To study the atmosphere of Mars  
B) To study the asteroids  
C) To explore the outer solar system  
D) To map the surface of Venus

**Answer : D**



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- ✓ After analyzing the archived data from NASA's Magellan mission, scientists say they observed new lava flows on Venus, suggesting that the planet was volcanically active between 1990 and 1992.
- ✓ About Magellan Mission:
- ✓ It was a deep space mission launched by NASA on May 4, 1989, to explore the planet Venus.
- ✓ It was launched from Cape Canaveral aboard the space shuttle Atlantis. It was the first interplanetary mission launched from the Space Shuttle and the first spacecraft to use the Inertial Upper Stage booster.
- ✓ It was named after the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who was the first to circumnavigate the earth.

## NASA IN NEWS 2023-24

- NASA confirmed the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's moon Titan with a \$3.35 billion budget, launching in July 2028.
- NASA is now publicly distributing science-quality data from its newest Earth-observing PACE satellite.
- NASA has been tasked with establishing Coordinated Lunar Time (LTC) as a unified standard for timekeeping on the Moon and other celestial bodies
- American space agency NASA has discovered a "super-Earth" planet, dubbed TOI-715 b, that could potentially support life. It is located 137 light-years away and was found by NASA's planet-hunting Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) mission.
- NASA Re-Establishes Contact With Ingenuity Helicopter On Mars After Outage
- NASA has invited people to send their names to the surface of the Moon aboard the agency's first robotic lunar rover VIPER – short for Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover.
- NASA is gearing up to enhance our understanding of Earth's atmosphere with the upcoming Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, Ocean Ecosystem (PACE) mission, scheduled for launch in early 2024.
- NASA renames mission going to asteroid Apophis after returning rocks from Bennu.
- About OSIRIS-APEX:
- It is a mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter
- with Earth in April 2029.
- A NASA experiment on the Psyche spacecraft has beamed back a near-infrared laser that contains test data from almost 16 million kilometres away.



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- 16 Psyche:
- It is currently orbiting the Sun between Mars and Jupiter.
- NASA is set to launch the Atmospheric Waves Experiment (AWE) to study 'airglow' to understand space weather.
- NASA's James Webb Telescope recently discovered a new exoplanet named 'Wasp-107b', which is the size of Jupiter.
- NASA's Lucy spacecraft successfully completed its first flyby of an asteroid named Dinkinesh.
- About Lucy Mission:
  - It is a first-of-its-kind mission of NASA that will explore Jupiter's elusive Trojan asteroids.
  - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launched a sounding rocket as part of its INFUSE mission.
  - NASA's Subsurface Water Ice Mapping (SWIM) project released its fourth set of maps.
  - NISAR is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory jointly developed by NASA and ISRO.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
  - Founded : 1958
  - Headquarters : Washington, D.C
  - Administrator : Bill Nelson

**Q. Which company has been honoured with 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'?**

- A) NTPC Limited                      B) ReNew Power  
C) NHPC                                  D) JSW Energy

**Answer : C**

- ✓ NHPC, India's premier hydropower company has been conferred with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'.
- ✓ The Award was received by Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC along with Lucas Guria, Executive Director (HR) and a team of NHPC officers at the Awards Ceremony held in Mumbai.



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- ✓ The Award has been given to NHPC in recognition for its future preparedness in the areas of upskilling of its employees, ESG interventions, DE&I initiatives, constant technological upgradations, Employee Engagement processes, robust Corporate Governance strategies etc. which establishes it as a trusted brand amongst all its stakeholders.

**Q. The Government of India will get Rs \_\_\_\_ as dividend for being Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India's largest shareholder.**

- A) 3,262 crore                      B) 3,362 crore  
C) 3,662 crore                      D) 3,862 crore

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Government of India will get Rs 3,662 crore as dividend for being Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India's largest shareholder.
- ✓ This comes after the country's largest insurer declared an interim dividend of Rs 6 per share.
- ✓ The government owns 96.5 percent stake in the insurer or 6,10,36,22,781 shares.
- ✓ Gross non-performing asset (GNPA) stood at 2.01. percent against 2.56 percent in the year-ago period, LIC said

## LIC IN NEWS 2023-24

- Government of India will get Rs 3,662 crore as dividend for being Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India's largest shareholder.
- LIC gets 3-yr extension from SEBI to achieve 10% public shareholding
- LIC has emerged as the strongest insurance brand globally, according to a report Brand Finance Insurance 100 2024.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- LIC emerged as the most valued Indian PSU firm, surpassing SBI.
- (LIC) is planning to acquire up to 10 percent equity stake in a company promoted by the National Housing Bank (NHB)
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has appointed S Sundar Krishnan as Chief Risk Officer (CRO), replacing Pratap Chandra Paikarai
- LIC has launched a special scheme, named Jeevan Utsav.
- Siddhartha Mohanty appointed as Chairman of LIC Until June 2024.



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- LIC Raises Stake in Tech Mahindra to 8.88% Through Open Market Transactions.
- LIC to divest 60.72% share in IDBI Bank.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)
- Founded : 1956
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- Chairman : Siddhartha Mohanty
- It is India's largest life insurance company and also the country's largest investment company.
- Authorised Capital of LIC - Rs 25,000 Crore

**Q. Allamaye Halina has been sworn as new PM of which country?**

A) Zimbabwe

B) Ghana

C) Chad

D) Sudan

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Allamaye Halina named new PM of Chad
- ✓ Chad's newly elected president, Mahamat Idriss Deby, has been sworn in to succeed his late father after three years as an interim leader under military rule in the northcentral African country.

## NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS

- Allamaye Halina : Chad
- Lawrence Wong : Singapore
- Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah : Kuwait
- Simon Harris : Ireland
- Bjarni Benediktsson : Iceland
- Luis Montenegro : Portugal
- Mohammad Mustafa : Palestine
- Olzhas Bektenov : Kazakhstan
- Gabriel Attal : France
- Donald Tusk : Poland
- Luke Frieden : Luxembourg





**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Vivekananda Rock Memorial:**

**1. It is built on a small island off Tamil Nadu in honour of Swami Vivekananda.**

**2. It is surrounded by the Laccadive Sea.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ The Prime Minister will be visiting the Vivekananda Rock Memorial in Kanyakumari to meditate for 48 hours and mark the culmination of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.
- ✓ About Vivekananda Rock Memorial:
- ✓ It is located on a small island off Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The memorial stands on one of the two rocks located about 500 meters off the mainland of Vavathurai.
- ✓ The rock is surrounded by the Laccadive Sea, where the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian Sea form a confluence.
- ✓ It was built in 1970 in honour of Swami Vivekananda, who is said to have attained enlightenment on the rock.
- ✓ It comprises of the 'Shripada Mandapam' and the 'Vivekananda Mandapam'.

**Q. Archaeological Survey of India recently founded the neolithic age rock carvings in which state?**

**A) Goa**

**B) Uttar Pradesh**

**C) Haryana**

**D) Odisha**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ The Archaeological Survey of India confirms Neolithic rock carvings in Goa's Mauxi village.
- ✓ Carvings on meta basalt rock along the dry Zarme riverbed depict animals like zebus, bulls, and antelopes, as well as footprints and cupules.
- ✓ In India, prehistoric rock paintings span from the Upper Palaeolithic, featuring animal figures, to the Mesolithic, with human scenes, and the Neolithic-Chalcolithic, showing pottery and metal tools













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- ✓ REC Limited, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Sustainability Champion – Editor's Choice Award' at the 'Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024'. The Award ceremony was organised by Outlook Group, in collaboration with IIT Goa.
- ✓ This award recognizes REC's commitment to sustainability initiatives and its efforts in driving progress towards a greener future. The award highlights the corporation's pledge to sustainability initiatives, leading the path toward a greener future.
- ✓ The Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards is a prominent platform that brings together industry leaders, policymakers, and sustainability advocates to celebrate and promote excellence in sustainable practices. This year's summit featured insightful discussions, innovative ideas, and recognized the remarkable achievements of organizations dedicated to sustainability.

## REC LTD IN NEWS 2023-24

- REC wins 'Sustainability Champion – Editor's Choice Award' at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.
- REC gets RBI nod to set up subsidiary in GIFT City, Gujarat
- REC Limited, a Ministry of Power entity, clinched the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in 'Renewable Energy Financing'.
- REC Limited joins hands with UNISED to support Education of Children.
- REC Limited, a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, has been honoured with the 'Innovative Technology Development Award' at the 'Building India 2047: Technology for Better Tomorrow', an IIT Madras CSR Summit.
- REC Limited has been awarded the prestigious Best Green Bond – Corporate Award at The Asset Triple A Awards for Sustainable Finance 2024.
- REC will lend up to ₹1.2 trillion for the installation of rooftop solar panels under the Pradhan Mantri Suryoday Yojana.
- REC Limited issues inaugural Yen Denominated Green Bonds aggregating to 61.1 Billion Japanese Yen.
- REC sets ₹1 lakh crore sanction target for infrastructure space including roads and highways in FY24.
- REC Invests Rs. 35,000 Cr In Multi-Modal Projects With Rail Vikas Nigam For 5 Years.



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- REC Honoured with 'Best Employer in Diversity & Inclusion' Award by Assocham.
- RailTel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with REC Ltd extending up to Rs 30,000 crore as financial assistance for telecom, IT and railway signaling infrastructure projects.
- REC Ltd gets Golden Peacock Award for Disaster Management.
- REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise launched a SUGAM REC mobile application.
- REC Limited and Punjab National Bank have signed an MoU to explore funding possibilities in the Power Infrastructure and logistics sectors.
- The consortium arrangement will co-finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crores over the next three years.
- REC Ltd has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status
- REC Limited, formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
- Founded : 1969
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- CMD : Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- REC was formerly known as Rural Electrification Corporation Limited.
- REC Limited is an NBFC focused on financing and development of the power sector across India.
- REC Limited has also recently started services in the financing infrastructure and logistics sector.
- REC funding lights every fourth bulb in India. REC is a 'Maharatna' company under the Ministry of Power.

**Q. Which is the world's first single-piece 3D-printed rocket engine?**

A) Baffle

B) Agnilet

C) Ammunition

D) Valiant

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Agnikul launches world's first Rocket with 3D-printed rocket engine.
- ✓ Chennai-based startup Agnikul Cosmos has launched the world's first space rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine.
- ✓ After four failed attempts, Agnikul succeeded in launching its own rocket into space on its fifth attempt.



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- ✓ The rocket named Agnibaan is India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket launch, which was completely designed and manufactured indigenously.
- ✓ Agnikul used Inconel material to build the 3D-printed rocket. Inconel is an alloy that is oxidation-corrosion-resistant and well-suited for space travel
- ✓ Second private company to launch a rocket in Space
- ✓ Agnikul became the second Indian private company to launch its rocket in space. The first private company to launch a rocket was the Hyderabad startup Skyroot Aerospace. It launched its indigenously developed Vikram-S rocket from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Sriharikota launchpad.
- ✓ The Agnibaan rocket is a customisable two-stage rocket with a height of about 20 meters. The rocket can carry a payload of up to 300 kg to the low earth orbits (LEO) roughly 700 km above Earth. Agnibaan is a SOrTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator) that has a plug-and-play configuration.
- ✓ Agnikul's patented Agnilet engine is the world's first single-piece 3D-printed engine.
- ✓ Agmikul Cosmos was founded by Moin SPM and Srinath Ravichandran in 2017 and incubated at IIT Madras.
- ✓ Agnikul designed and developed India's first privately built rocket launchpad, 'Dhanush,' in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

**Q. Which is the first company in the world to launch the first space rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine?**

- A) Agnikul Cosmos
- B) Dhruva Space
- C) Skyroot Aerospace
- D) Bellatrix Aerospace

**Answer : A**

**Q. Reliance Industries Ltd has signed an agreement with which Norwegian company to accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production?**

- A) Statoil
- B) Equinor
- C) None of these
- D) Nel ASA

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's NE ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production, helping billionaire Mukesh Ambani move towards green energy.



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- ✓ Reliance (RIL) entered into a technology licensing agreement that provides the company with an exclusive license for Nel's alkaline electrolyzers in India and also allows it to manufacture the Norwegian company's alkaline electrolyzers for captive purposes globally.
- ✓ According to the agreement, Nel can procure equipment from Reliance for its own projects. Nel will continue to serve the Indian market with technology platforms that are not covered by the agreement.

**Q. How much sovereign loan has been sanctioned by the Asian Development Bank to India in 2023?**

A) \$1.6 billion

B) \$2.6 billion

C) \$3.6 billion

D) \$4.6 billion

**Answer : B**

- ✓ ADB approves \$2.6 billion in Sovereign lending to India in 2023.
- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned \$2.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in the calendar year 2023.
- ✓ The loan sanctioned by ADB in 2023 will be used to finance urban development projects, promote the power sector, support industrial corridor development, support horticulture, enhance connectivity and build India's climate resilience.
- ✓ Sovereign means supreme power, and in India the government of India is sovereign.
- ✓ Thus, a sovereign loan means a loan given to the government of India.
- ✓ It includes a loan the ADB gives for a project in a particular state.
- ✓ The loan is basically given to the government of India, and the repayment of the loan is the responsibility of the government of India, even though it may be used to implement a project in a state.
- ✓ Sovereign Loans extended by ADB in 2023
- ✓ According to the ADB, the sovereign loans sanctioned in 2023 focus on projects and programmes that will further India's structural transformation, create jobs, address infrastructure gaps, promote green growth, and promote social and economic inclusiveness while deploying smart technologies and innovations.
- ✓ The loans included funding for the Visakhapatnam–Chennai Industrial Corridor which will boost the industrial development of India.
- ✓ It provided loans to fund projects to improve urban services in the states of Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, and Tripura; road connectivity in Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, Boosting horticulture development in Himachal Pradesh and the expansion of the Delhi–Meerut rapid rail transit corridor.
- ✓ To date, ADB has provided loans, grants, and technical assistance totalling \$55.3 billion to India.



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- ✓ India is the fourth largest shareholder of the ADB.
- ✓ The top five largest shareholders of the ADB are:
- ✓ United States and Japan(each with 15.6% of total shares),
- ✓ People's Republic of China (6.4%),
- ✓ India (6.3%), and
- ✓ Australia (5.8%).

## ADB IN NEWS 2023-24

- ADB approves \$2.6 billion in Sovereign lending to India in 2023.
- ADB operations reach USD23.6 billion in 2023, achieve record climate finance of USD9.8 billion.
- Government of India and ADB have signed a \$23 million loan agreement to strengthen the fintech ecosystem in India.
- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have collaboratively signed a \$181 million loan agreement targeting the improvement of infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas surrounding Ahmedabad city in Gujarat.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently appointed Mio Oka as the new director of the bank in India, replacing Takeo Konishi.
- Vikas Sheel has been appointed as Executive Director of Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- India, ADB sign \$200 million loan agreement for Uttarakhand power system project.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a substantial \$170 million loan to catalyze the modernization of water supply services in Kochi, a rapidly growing city in the southern Indian state of Kerala.
- India & ADB sign \$400 million loan to support urban reform agenda.
- ADB to Support Improvement of Urban Infrastructure and Services in Peri-urban Areas of Ahmedabad, India.
- ADB Capital Management Reforms Bring \$100 Billion Benefits Over Next Decade to Asia-Pacific.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced the allocation of US \$ 400 million for welfare work with a special focus on women and girls in Afghanistan.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited (Fourth Partner) signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Indian rupees (about \$14.7 million) .





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- ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya.
- Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan.
- ADB approves \$295mn loan to improve Transport Connectivity in Bihar.
- ADB gives 130 million dollars to increase horticulture in Himachal Pradesh.
- ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (ADB)
- Founded : 19 December 1966
- HQ : Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines
- President : Masatsugu Asakawa (Japan)
- Vice President : Ashok Lavasa (Indian)
- Director of ADB for India : Mio Oka (Japan)
- Executive Director : Sameer Kumar
- Member Countries : 68 (Nuie).
- ADB has grown to encompass 68 members; of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.
- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.
- It is a regional multilateral financial institution focused on countries in the Asia and Pacific region.
- It currently has 68 members – of which 49 are from the Asia and Pacific region and 19 from outside.

**Q. Which bank has been fined Rs 36.38 lakhs by the RBI in May 2024 for violating the provision of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)?**

**A) Standard Chartered Bank**

**B) Citibank**

**C) HSBC Bank**

**D) Deutsche Bank**

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India fined HSBC Bank Rs 36.38 lakhs for violating the provision of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999.
- ✓ According to the RBI, the HSBC bank failed to follow the required reporting requirements under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of FEMA.



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- ✓ What is a Liberalised Remittance Scheme?
- ✓ The Liberalised Remittance Scheme was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2004 under the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999. Under this scheme, all resident individuals, including minors, can send up to \$2,50,000 in a financial year (April to March) abroad without the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ However the money which is remitted (transferred) has to be for activities which are allowed under FEMA.
- ✓ It currently permits current account transactions like travelling abroad for business purposes, medical purposes, tourism or supporting relatives living abroad.
- ✓ When the scheme was introduced in 2004, the upper limit for fund transfer was USD 25,000 per financial year. The RBI periodically raised this limit to USD 2,50,000 per financial year.
- ✓ The remittance can be made in any freely convertible foreign currency, and there is no limit on the number of transactions in a financial year.
- ✓ The scheme is only for resident individuals and is not available for corporations, partnership firms, Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), Trusts, etc.
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999
- ✓ The Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) was enacted in 1999 and was implemented on 1 January 2000. It replaced the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) 1973.
- ✓ Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited
- ✓ The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) is a British Bank that was established in Hong Kong in 1865.
- ✓ It started its Indian operation by buying the Mercantile Bank of India in 1959.
- ✓ HSBC is registered as a foreign bank and is regulated by the RBI.
- ✓ Global Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- ✓ Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India Operation: Hitendra Dave
- ✓ Tagline: The world's local bank.

**Q. Reliance Industries Ltd has signed an agreement with which Norwegian company to accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production?**

A) Statoil

B) Equinor

C) None of these

D) Nel ASA

**Answer : D**



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- ✓ Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's NE ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production, helping billionaire Mukesh Ambani move towards green energy.
- ✓ Reliance (RIL) entered into a technology licensing agreement that provides the company with an exclusive license for Nel's alkaline electrolyzers in India and also allows it to manufacture the Norwegian company's alkaline electrolyzers for captive purposes globally.
- ✓ According to the agreement, Nel can procure equipment from Reliance for its own projects. Nel will continue to serve the Indian market with technology platforms that are not covered by the agreement.

## RIL IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's NE ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production.
- Reliance Jio become the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic, ahead of China Mobile
- India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).
- Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of ₹20-lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification.
- Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire RS Sodhi, the former MD of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani



- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- Jio Payments Bank (70%).
- At Rs 19 lakh crore or \$250 billion, Indian billionaire Mukesh Ambani-promoted Reliance Industries's market capitalisation.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the RudraM-II missile:**

**1. It is an indigenously developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system.**

**2. It has a strike range of almost 3500-km.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**A) 1 only**

**B) 2 only**

**C) Both 1 and 2**

**D) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer : A**

- ✓ Recently, the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ It is an indigenously-developed solid-propelled air-launched missile system.
- ✓ It is meant for Air-to-Surface role to neutralise many types of enemy assets.
- ✓ It is designed to have a strike range of almost 350-km, from a Sukhoi-30MKI fighter of the IAF.
- ✓ It involves a number of state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by various DRDO laboratories have been incorporated in the missile system.
- ✓ The missile is a solid-propelled supersonic missile. According to the DRDO, the Rudram-II missile can carry a payload of 200 kg and attain a maximum speed of 6,791 km/h (Mach 5.5).
- ✓ The missile can be launched from an altitude of 3 to 15 km and has a strike range of 350 km.
- ✓ RudraM series missiles



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- ✓ These are being developed by the DRDO as new-generation anti-radiation missiles (NGARMs) for destroying a variety of enemy surveillance, communication, radars, and command and control centers on the ground.
- ✓ The 150-km range RudraM-I missile, with INS-GPS navigation with a passive homing head for the final attack, was first tested in Oct 2020.

**Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the eMigrate Project:**

**1. It aims to assist students who are going abroad for study purposes.**

**2. The eMigrate portal is integrated to Common Service Centre to facilitate registration of applicants.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Recently, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into between Ministry External Affairs (MEA), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Common Service Centre eGovernance Services India Limited to create a synergy between CSC SPV & MEA to provide the eMigrate services through CSCs in the country.
- ✓ It is undertaken to assist mainly the blue-collar workers going to Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries.
- ✓ The project was conceptualized to address issues faced by the migrant workers by making emigration process online seamless and also to bring foreign employers and registered recruitment agents and insurance companies on one common platform aimed at promoting safe and legal migration.
- ✓ Under this MoU, eMigrate Portal of MEA would be integrated with CSC's portal, to provide following eMigrate services to the citizens through CSCs
- ✓ Facilitate registration of applicants on eMigrate portal through CSCs.

**Q. PRAGATI- 2024, is an initiative recently launched by:**

A) NITI Aayog

B) DRDO

C) Reserve Bank of India

D) Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences

**Answer : D**



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- ✓ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Ayush, launched “PRAGATI- 2024”.
- ✓ About PRAGATI-2024:
- ✓ Pharma Research in AyurGyan And Techno Innovation (PRAGATI) aims to explore research opportunities and foster collaboration between CCRAS and the Ayurveda drug industry.
- ✓ Key facts about Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences
- ✓ It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India.
- ✓ It is an apex body in India for undertaking, coordinating, formulating, developing, and promoting research on scientific lines in Ayurvedic sciences.
- ✓ The research activities of the Council include Medicinal Plant Research (Medico-Ethno Botanical Survey, Pharmacognosy, and Tissue Culture), Drug Standardization, Pharmacological Research, Clinical Research, Literary Research & Documentation and Tribal Health Care Research Programme.
- ✓ It also does formulation, coordination, development and promotion of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda and Sowa-Rigpa system of medicine.
- ✓ Headquarter: New Delhi

**Q. Which Indian peacekeeper received the ‘United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year for 2023’?**

A) Lakshmi Sehgal

B) Radhika Sen

C) Sophia Qureshi

D) Priya Jhingan

**Answer : B**

- ✓ United Nations has selected the Indian Army Major Radhika Sen for the prestigious 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year award.
- ✓ The award will be conferred to Major Radhika Sen by the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres on the occasion of the International Day of the UN Peacekeepers. The International Day of the UN Peacekeepers is observed on 29 May every year since 2003.
- ✓ The United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award was created by the Office of Military Affairs within the Department for Peace Operations of the United Nations in 2016.
- ✓ Major Radhika Sen becomes the second Indian to be awarded the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.



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- ✓ Major Suman Gawani was the first Indian to be honoured with the UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award in 2019. Major Suman Gawani was deployed with the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS).
- ✓ Major Radhika, who is from Himachal Pradesh, was deployed with the Indian Rapid Deployment Battalion in South Sudan in 2023. She was working with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo MONUSCO.
- ✓ At present, 6,063 Indian personnel are working with the UN peacekeeping operations. Out of 6,603, 1,954 are with MONUSCO, of which 32 are women

**Q. Who is the first person to climb Mount Everest and Mount Lhotse in a single season?**

A) Krushnaa Patil

B) Satyadeep Gupta

C) Malavath Purna

D) Mohan Singh Kohli

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Satyadeep Gupta of India became the first person to climb Mount Everest, the world's highest peak, and Mount Lhotse, the world's fourth-highest peak, twice in a single season.
- ✓ He also set the record for being the first Indian to travel from Mount Everets to Mount Lhotse in 11 hours and 15 minutes.
- ✓ Mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta first conquered the world's highest mountain peak, 8,848.86 metres high, Mount Everest, on 21 May 2024 at noon. He then travelled to Mount Lhotse, which lies just south of Mount Everest. A ridge joins Mount Lhotse with Mount Everest at an elevation of about 25,000 feet (7,600 meters). Mount Lhotse is sometimes considered part of Everest.
- ✓ Mountaineer Satyadeep Gupta took 11 hours and 15 minutes to reach Mount Lhotse. He climbed the 8,849-metre-high Mount Lhotse at 12.45 am on 22 May 2024.
- ✓ This was the first time a person had performed Double Dual Ascent of the world's highest and the fourth highest peaks in a single season.
- ✓ Satyadeep Gupta was accompanied by Pastemba Sherpa and Nima Ungdi Sherpa
- ✓ Mount Lhotse
- ✓ Lhotse mountain in the Himalayas lies on the border of Nepal and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. It consists of three summits. The highest of which is Lhotse I at 27,940 feet (8,516 meters). It is the world's fourth tallest peak after Mount Everest, K2 and Kanchenjunga.



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✓ Fritz Luchsinger and Ernest Reiss of Switzerland were the first people to climb the Lhotse Peak on May 18, 1956.

**Q. What was the theme for the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Green Airports Recognition (GAR) 2024, and how were the recognised airports categorized?**

- A) Renewable Energy; Bronze, Silver, Gold
- B) Carbon Emissions Reduction; Silver, Gold, Platinum
- C) Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions; Platinum, Gold, Silver
- D) Waste Management; Gold, Platinum, Diamond

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific & Middle East announced the results of the Green Airports Recognition (GAR) 2024, recognising 12 airports in Asia-Pacific and the Middle East for their outstanding accomplishments in sustainability projects. The theme for the Green Airports Recognition 2024 is Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions.
- ✓ These airports were honoured at the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East / ACI World Annual General Assembly, Conference and Exhibition (WAGA 2024) in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ The recognised airports have been awarded into three categories – “Platinum”, “Gold”, and “Silver” recognition – based on various airport size categories and set criteria.
- ✓ The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has bagged the silver category award in the Airports handling between 15 million and 35 million passengers per year. The other Indian airports to win the GAR 2024 are New Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport (silver) in airports handling over 35 million passengers a year category and Lucknow’s Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (silver) in airports handling less than 8 million passengers a year category.

**Q. Who created the robot that set the Guinness World Record for solving a Rubik’s puzzle cube in 0.305 seconds?**

- A) IBM
- B) Google
- C) Mitsubishi Electric team
- D) Boston Dynamics

**Answer : C**

- ✓ According to the Guinness World Records, a robot has become the fastest in the world to solve the puzzle cube, doing so in just 0.305 seconds.





- ✓ The robot was created by the Mitsubishi Electric team in Japan.
- ✓ According to the Guinness World Records, a robot has become the fastest in the world to solve the puzzle cube, doing so in just 0.305 seconds.
- ✓ The robot was created by the Mitsubishi Electric team in Japan.

**Q. Who set the record by climbing Mount Everest three times in a single climbing season?**

- A) Nirmal Purja                                      B) Tenzing Norgay  
C) Pasang Lhamu Sherpa                              D) Purnima Shrestha

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Nepalese mountaineer and photojournalist, scripted history by becoming the first person to summit Mt Everest, the highest peak in the world, three times in a single climbing season.
- ✓ Purnima first summited the 8848.86-metre peak on May 12. She reached the summit again on May 19 with Pasang Sherpa and achieved her third summit.
- ✓ This was Purnima's fourth ascent to Everest. She climbed Everest for the first time in 2018. She ascended Mt. Manaslu (8,163 mt) the following year and summited the world's highest mountain with success the following year

**Q. What is the name of the anti-radiation missile developed by the Defence and Research Development Organisation (DRDO)?**

- A) ASTRA    B) RudraM-II  
C) Akash    D) Prithvi

**Answer : B**

**Q. What is the range of the RudraM-II missile?**

- A) 450 Km    B) 350 Km  
C) 250 Km    D) 500 Km

**Answer : B**

- ✓ The missile can be launched from an altitude of 3 to 15 km and has a strike range of 350 km.
- ✓ The RudraM-II missile is an air-to-surface missile which can be launched by a fighter aircraft to target ground-based targets



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**Q. Which bank will stop sending SMS alerts for UPI transitions up to Rs 100 from June 25?**

A) ICICI Bank

B) HDFC Bank

C) Yes Bank

D) Axis Bank

**Answer : B**

- ✓ HDFC Bank will stop sending SMS alerts for UPI transitions up to Rs 100 from June 25.
- ✓ The private lender said that SMS alerts won't be pushed for incoming payments up to Rs 500 from the said date either.
- ✓ UPI transactions require the authorisation of a Personal Identification Number (PIN), a 4-6 digit pass code set by the customers as a security measure to ensure safe and approved transactions. For normal UPI the transaction limit is up to Rs 1 Lakh per transaction.
- ✓ India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions reached an all-time high in 2023, with a total volume of 117.6 billion transactions and a value of Rs 183 trillion

## HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2023-24

- HDFC Bank will stop sending SMS alerts for UPI transitions up to Rs 100 from June 25.
- HDFC Bank exits Protean eGov Technologies; sells entire stake for ₹150 crore.
- International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$500 million loan to HDFC Bank for extending microloans to "underserved women" in rural and semi-urban India.
- HDFC Bank launches Pixel Play, India's First Virtual Credit Card with Cashback.
- HDFC Bank, Atal Innovation Mission empower social sector startups with Rs 19.6 crore grants.
- Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFG) will to acquire a 20 per cent stake in HDB Financial Services, a non-banking subsidiary of HDFC Bank, at a valuation of \$9-10 billion.
- HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep.
- HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education.
- HDFC Bank has appointed Sumant Rampal as Group Head of Mortgage Business, in the place of Arvind Kapil.
- HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million via Bond Issue to Fund Green Loans.
- HDFC Bank to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank.
- LIC gets RBI nod for 9.99% stake buy in HDFC Bank.
- HDFC Bank first lender to issue 20 million credit cards.



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- HDFC Bank approves re-appointment of Atanu Chakraborty as chairman for 3 years.
- HDFC Bank has recently raised Rs 7,425 crore through infrastructure bond issue.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as HDFC Bank MD & CEO for a period of three years.
- HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' in partnership with Marriott International.
- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan is highest paid bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55 crore pay.
- HDFC Bank overtakes SBI in CRISIL's corporate banking ranking for 2023.
- Food delivery platform Swiggy has joined hands with HDFC Bank to launch a co-branded credit card.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

**Q. At the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024, which organization received the “CSR Champion Award” in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel) business category?**

**A) Tata Power**

**B) Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC)**

**C) NTPC Limited**

**D) Adani Green Energy Limited**

**Answer : B**

- ✓ PFC receives “CSR Champion Award” at Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024
- ✓ Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) has been honoured with the Corporate Social Responsibility award in the NF (Non-Fossil Fuel) business category at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024, held in Goa.
- ✓ The Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024 brought together senior government policymakers and top management of Central Public Sector Enterprises to discuss and showcase exemplary initiatives in sustainability.
- ✓ The Summit honoured luminaries and pioneers in various categories for their outstanding contributions to sustainability.



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- ✓ PFC's CSR initiatives focus on impactful projects contributing to inclusive growth and equitable development in society through education and capacity building measures.

**Q. Which organization did India assume the chairmanship of for the term 2024-26, with the aim of promoting safe, orderly, and legal migration?**

- A) SAARC
- B) BRICS
- C) ASEAN
- D) Colombo Process

**Answer : D**

- ✓ India Assumes Chair Of Colombo Process For 2024-26.
- ✓ India assumed the Chair of Colombo Process for 2024-26, for the first time since its inception. India looks to promote safe, orderly and legal migration.
- ✓ The Colombo Process is a regional consultative forum consisting of 12 member states from South and Southeast Asia focused on the management of overseas employment and the protection of migrant workers.
- ✓ The Colombo Process serves as a platform for member states to share best practices and policies regarding overseas employment. It is a non-binding process that facilitates discussions on improving the management of migration and protecting the rights of migrant workers.

**Q. Which company is set to begin construction on India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai, a project conceptualized 12 years ago?**

- A) Tata Group
- B) Adani Group
- C) Larsen & Toubro
- D) Reliance Industries

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Reliance Industries to begin construction on India's first multimodal logistics park near Chennai
- ✓ Reliance Industries is set to begin construction on India's first Multimodal Logistics Park at Mappedu near Chennai in June, a project conceptualized 12 years ago.
- ✓ Despite initial setbacks, the project, valued at Rs 1,424 crore and spanning 184.27 acres in Tiruvallur district, is now ready to proceed, with potential to revolutionize the southern region's logistics landscape.
- ✓ Reliance Industries secured the bid for the Multimodal Logistics Park in 2022, surpassing the Adani Group.



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## RIL IN NEWS 2023- 24

- Reliance Industries to begin construction on India's first multimodal logistics park near Chennai.
- Reliance Industries Ltd's technology partnership with Norway's NE ASA will help accelerate its new energy investments, including green hydrogen production.
- Reliance Jio become the world's largest mobile operator in terms of data traffic, ahead of China Mobile
- India's largest private company Reliance Industries has entered in a binding agreement to buy Paramount Global's entire 13.01% stake in Viacom 18 Media for Rs 4,286 crore (\$517 million).
- Reliance Industries Limited and Walt Disney Company have officially signed a binding agreement to merge their media businesses in India.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) achieved a significant milestone on Indian stock exchanges by surpassing a market capitalization of ₹20-lakh crore.
- Reliance Industries Achieves India's First ISCC-Plus Certification.
- Reliance Industries and DBS Bank India have collaborated to introduce a financing initiative aimed at supporting the establishment of compressed biogas (CBG) plants.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to hire RS Sodhi, the former MD of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which is responsible for the popular Indian milk brand, Amul.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine (H2-ICE) technology solution for heavy duty trucks. This technology was flagged off by PM Modi at the India Energy Week in Bengaluru.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- CMD : Mukesh Ambani
- Owner : Mukesh Ambani (50.49%)
- Director : Nita Dalal Ambani
- Subsidiaries
- Jio Platforms (67.03%)
- Jio Payments Bank (70%).





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- IIT Madras has developed an indigenous electric standing wheelchair called 'NeoStand,' claimed to be India's most customizable wheelchair for the benefit of wheelchair users
- Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have collaborated to establish a Centre of Excellence and Industry Accelerator in the automotive and electric vehicle (EV) sector.
- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati) transferred swine fever vaccine technology to BioMed Pvt. Ltd.
- Uttar Pradesh government will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Roorkee for better disaster management in the state.
- Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) has successfully established and tested India's first Hypervelocity Expansion Tunnel Test Facility .
- IREDA has entered into an agreement with IIT Bhubaneswar to promote innovation and research in the renewable energy sector.
- IIT Madras to open new campus at Kandy in Sri Lanka.
- ArcelorMittal and ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India materials and engineering resources being deployed to construct Asia's first Hyperloop testing facility at IIT Madras, Chennai, India
- Reliance Jio Infocomm, India's largest telecom service provider, is working with the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay to launch 'Bharat GPT', a large language model specifically tailor for India's needs.
- IIT Guwahati recently developed an indigenous river model, BRAHMA-2D.
- IIT Kanpur, Indian Navy join forces to drive innovation through research partnership.
- SAMRIDHI conclave, a deeptech startup acceleration drive launched at IIT Ropar.
- The First Australia India Education and Skill Council (AIESC) meeting was held at IIT Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India.
- IIT Kanpur has signed an MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.
- IIT Guwahati have developed pharmaceutical and food products from tea factory waste.
- IIT Jodhpur scientists develop 'CODE' device for good air quality.



- IIT Madras-incubated space tech startup GalaxEye Space on 29 August 2023 launched their drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, Ahead of their planned satellite launch in 2024.
- IIT Bombay has received a donation of \$18.6 million from an alumnus towards the establishment of a Green Energy and Sustainability Research Hub.
- IIT Guwahati has signed MoU with the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) to build capacity/skills in international affairs and foreign policy.

**Q. Which Indian company has signed a one-year deal with Russia's Rosneft to purchase at least 3 million barrels of oil per month in roubles?**

- A) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)
- B) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
- C) Reliance Industries
- D) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Reliance signs deal with Russia's Rosneft purchasing oil in roubles
- ✓ India's Reliance Industries, operator of the world's biggest refining complex, has entered into a one-year deal with Russia's Rosneft to acquire at least 3 million barrels of oil a month in Roubles, revealed sources.
- ✓ The shift to rouble payments follows Russian President Vladimir Putin's push for Moscow and its trading partners to find alternatives to the Western financial system to facilitate trade despite U.S. and European sanctions.

**Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairperson of Committee A at the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA), announced by the World Health Organisation (WHO)?**

- A) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- B) Rajesh Bhushan
- C) Apurva Chandra
- D) V.K. Paul

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Apurva Chandra, Union health secretary, Government of India, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee A at the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA), announced by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The Committee A of WHA, the event scheduled to be held from May 27 to June 1 held at Geneva, is chaired by India





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- ✓ India's leadership in Committee A underscores its growing influence in global health governance. The World Health Assembly features sessions from three main committees: Plenary, Committee A, and Committee B. India's chairmanship of Committee A will continue until June 1.

**Q. Which country was highlighted by WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at the 77th World Health Assembly for establishing the Global Traditional Medicine Centre and co-hosting the first global summit on traditional medicine?**

A) China

B) Japan

C) India

D) South Korea

**Answer : C**

- ✓ World Health Organisation (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus mentioned the Global Traditional Medicine Centre established in India, and the first global summit on traditional medicine, organised by the WHO and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, India, in his address at the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva.
- ✓ Ghebreyesus noted that WHO continues to support member states to strengthen their regulatory systems. He said that WHO recognised Turkiye's system as having achieved maturity level 3, and Saudi Arabia's as level 4.
- ✓ He stated Singapore, South Korea and Switzerland were the first three countries to become WHO-Listed Regulatory Authorities, making them "regulators of reference." He added, "And just last week we listed a further 33 national and regional regulators."
- ✓ In his address, he said that WHO estimates that 777 million people will be better protected from health emergencies by 2025, three-quarters of the way to our target of 1 billion. He further said, "Of course, "better protected" does not mean completely protected, and as the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated, all Member States have much work to do, individually and together."

**Q. Which Disney songwriting legend, known for "Mary Poppins" and "It's a Small World," recently passed away at the age of 95?**

A) Alan Menken

B) Howard Ashman

C) Richard M. Sherman

D) Robert B. Sherman

**Answer : C**



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- ✓ Disney songwriting legend Richard M. Sherman, remembered for “Mary Poppins” and “It’s a Small World,” among many others, has died at 95 years old.
- ✓ Along with his brother Robert B. Sherman, who died in 2012 at age 86, Richard Sherman penned some of the most beloved songs in Disney’s soundtrack oeuvre.
- ✓ Richard garnered nine Academy Award nominations (winning two Oscars for his work on the 1964 classic Mary Poppins), won three GRAMMY Awards, and received 24 gold and platinum albums over the course of his 65-year career.

**Q. Poonawalla Fincorp Limited has partnered with which bank to launch the co-branded ‘IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card’?**

A) HDFC Bank

B) ICICI Bank

C) Axis Bank

D) IndusInd Bank

**Answer : D**

- ✓ Poonawalla Fincorp, IndusInd Bank launch co-branded RuPay credit card.
- ✓ Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, in association with IndusInd Bank, has launched the co-branded ‘IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card’. The company said the new card will offer customers rewards and other benefits.
- ✓ Users can earn rewards for every ₹100 spent, including UPI transactions, and benefit from 2.5 times reward points on e-commerce transactions.
- ✓ As it is a RuPay credit card, you can use it in any of the popular Unified Payments Interface (UPI) applications such as Google Pay, BHIM, Paytm, and PhonePe. Poonawalla Fincorp IndusInd Bank eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card will also have no joining fee or annual fee

**Q. Which company has appointed former Walt Disney executive Gaurav Banerjee as its new India CEO?**

A) Netflix

B) Amazon Prime

C) Sony

D) Zee Entertainment

**Answer : C**

- ✓ Sony appoints Walt Disney executive Gaurav Banerjee as new India CEO
- ✓ Japan’s Sony has appointed a Walt Disney executive, Gaurav Banerjee, as its new India chief executive to lead its television and other media businesses, two people familiar with the matter.



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- ✓ Banerjee has resigned from Disney's India unit where he was the head of content for its streaming service, Hotstar, and head of business for the company's TV channels in Hindi-speaking markets

**Q. Which insurance company has launched Surety Insurance Bonds to support the government's infrastructure development agenda, which has been allocated 3.3 percent of the GDP in FY 2024?**

- A) ICICI Lombard General Insurance    B) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance  
C) TATA AIG General Insurance        D) HDFC ERGO General Insurance

**Answer : C**

- ✓ TATA AIG launches Surety Insurance Bonds.
- ✓ TATA AIG General Insurance, a private general insurer, has rolled out Surety Insurance Bonds to support the government's ambitious agenda on infrastructure development, which has been allocated 3.3 percent of the GDP in FY 2024.
- ✓ TATA AIG's Surety Insurance Bonds have been designed to facilitate smoother execution of infrastructure projects and commercial contracts across both government and private sectors, catering to diverse project needs.

**Q. Who has been elected as the new Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) for the 2024-2029 term?**

- A) Dr. Monique Eloit  
B) Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran  
C) Dr. Margaret Chan  
D) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

**Answer : B**

- ✓ Dr Emmanuelle Soubeyran elected as new Director General of the World Organisation for Animal Health
- ✓ France applauds the election of Dr. Emmanuelle Soubeyran as Director General of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) for the 2024-2029 term. The year 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of WOAH.
- ✓ Dr Soubeyran's election brings an end to predecessor Dr Monique Eloit's successful 8-year tenure at the Organisation. She was elected to this position at the 91st World Assembly of Delegates, which was held in Paris.





- ✓ This will be a step ahead in BHEL's contribution to the 'National Green Hydrogen Mission' and 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'

**Q. Which country recently introduced the “One Person, One File” (OPOF) mass surveillance program?**

- A) China
- B) Japan
- C) Russia
- D) Mexico

**Answer : A**

- ✓ China introduced the “One Person, One File” (OPOF) mass surveillance program, intending to triple facial recognition camera deployment and compile extensive personal data on residents.
- ✓ This reflects China's push for comprehensive digital censorship, transcending mere surveillance to create a pervasive digital record for each citizen.
- ✓ The initiative encodes individuals' relationships, activities, and behaviors into data, enhancing Party oversight.

**Q. World No Tobacco Day is observed on which day?**

- A) 31 May
- B) 28 May
- C) 30 May
- D) 29 May

**Answer : A**

- ✓ World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) is observed every year on 31 May, globally to inform the public on the dangers of using tobacco and to discourage the use of tobacco in any form.
- ✓ The Day was created by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1987.
- ✓ The Day was created by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1987.



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IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD (🔥)

NAME - PRIYADARSHINI  
KALIYAMCORTHY  
ROLL NO - 2120035944  
SELECTED IN - RRB PO  
SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK  
STATE - TAMILNADU



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - GARVITA VARSHNEY  
ROLL NO - 2603003299  
SELECTED IN - ARYAVART  
GRAMIN BANK CLERK  
STATE - UTTAR PRADESH



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - ISHITA GARG  
ROLL NO - 2283004123  
STATE - PUNJAB  
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - NIPUN  
ROLL NO - 1533002831  
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK  
STATE - HARYANA



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - PRAVEEN  
ROLL NO - 1801005776  
SELECTED IN - RRB PO  
KARNATAKA GRAMMENA  
BANK  
STATE - KARNATAKA



Name: Bathina Maneesha  
Rollno: 2543024278  
Selected in : RRB clerk  
State : Telangana

👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA  
ROLL NO - 2543024278  
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK  
STATE - TELAGANA



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - NISHU SHARMA  
ROLL NO - 1523008901  
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK  
STATE - HARYANA



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - GURIVA KUMARI  
ROLL NO - 1373006773  
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK  
DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMEEN  
BANK



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - GURPREET KAUR  
ROLL NO - 2283002821  
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK  
STATE - FROM PUNJAB



👏👏 MY PAID GROUP  
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN  
IBPS RRB CLERK  
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE  
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - MANU YARGHESE  
ROLL NO - 2110710970  
BANK - KERALA GRAMEEN  
BANK CLERK