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



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Top 10 students those obtained highest marks in GA .Those became PO in 2022



Name-PRIYA
Roll No-3161002146
Bank-PO IN CBI
Roll no-2811001773
Bank - CLERK IN PNB



Name - Bistangi Vijaya
Roll no - 1391000343
State - Andhra Pradesh
Bank - Central Bank of India
Post - PO
Roll no- 1233001730
Post - tbps rrb clerk
Bank - santalabri gramena bank



Name-- Shakshi
Roll No -- 2611000443
Bank po in cbi



NAME - PRIYADARSHINI KALIYAMOORTHY
ROLL NO - 2120036944
LECTED IN - RRB PO SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BAN
STATE - TAMILNADU



Name- Nipun
lected as - RRB PO CLERK ,SBI CLERK ,IDBI EXECUTIVE
Roll No 1811001761



Name- Prabhu Dayal Sa
Roll no - 4351001578
Bank- SBI PO
Banka, Bihar



Name- Rashmi Ranjan Behera
Roll no- 2521007395
State- Odisha
Bank- Union Bank of India
Post- PO



Name :Sonu
Roll no.- 2671013546
lected in - UCO po, pnb clerk & sb



Name - E Srinivash
ared - SBI JA & TBPS PO (Central Bank Of Ind
Roll No - 2511000770



NAME - PRAVEEN
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STATE - KARNATAKA

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DEFENCE NEWS AUGUST 2024

Indian Army launched the first phase of Project NAMAN.

About Project NAMAN:

It is designed to provide dedicated support and services to Defence Pensioners, Veterans and their families. It is centered around the implementation of the SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), digital pension system, which streamlines pension related processes for Defence Pensioners, addressing the critical need for accessible facilitation points for Veterans and Next of Kin (NOK) across the country.

In the first phase of Project NAMAN, 14 CSCs have been established at key locations across India, including New Delhi, Jalandhar, Leh, Dehradun, Lucknow, Jodhpur, Bengdubi, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Secunderabad, Saugor, Guntur, Ahmedabad and Bangalore.

Financial assistance: HDFC Bank also supports the VLEs with a monthly monetary grant of ₹ 20,000 for the first 12 months, assisting in the stabilisation and sustainability of the centres.

President of Ukraine recently announced that Ukraine has successfully tested its first ballistic missile, Hrim-2, manufactured by the country's defence industry.

About Hrim-2:

Hrim-2, Grim, Grom, or OTRK Sapsan, also known as Operational-Tactical Missile System Hrim is a Ukrainian short-range ballistic missile system.

It is designed to combine the features of a tactical missile system and a multiple rocket launcher.

The Hrim-2 version, developed for export, has a range limited to 280 kilometers in order to fall within the 300-kilometre limit set by the Missile Technology Control Regime

Union Ministry of Defence recently signed a repeat order for 73,000 SIG716 rifles from Sig Sauer of the U.S., and deliveries are expected to be completed by end-2025.

About SIG 716 Rifle:

It is an American-made automatic assault rifle.

It is manufactured by the United States firearms maker, Sig Sauer.

The rifle has a total length of 34.39 inches and a barrel length of 15.98 inches.

Its total weight is 3.58 kg.

It has a higher recoil and higher calibre, meant to shoot-to-kill targets at 600 metres.

These rifles have a high-powered 7.62x51mm caliber, offering longer range and greater lethality than the existing INSAS and AK-47 rifles currently in service of Indian armed forces.

India achieved a significant milestone in its space journey with the launch of its first reusable hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1, recently.

About RHUMI-1:

It is India's first reusable hybrid rocket.

It was developed by the Tamil Nadu-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group.

It stands out for its innovative hybrid propulsion system, combining the advantages of both liquid and solid fuels.

RHUMI-1's hybrid design, which uses solid propellant and liquid oxidizer, reduces the risk of accidental detonation by combining these components only during combustion.

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mumbai will arrive at the port of Colombo for a three-day maiden visit to Sri Lanka.

About INS Mumbai:

INS Mumbai is the third of the Delhi-class guided missile destroyers, indigenously built and commissioned

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into the Indian Navy on 22 January 2001.

It was constructed at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

She was adjudged the 'Best Ship' thrice and the 'Most Spirited Ship' twice, which is a rare feat for any warship.

The ship has been at the forefront of major Naval Operations like Op Parakram (2002), Op Sukoon (2006: evacuation of Indian, Nepalese, and Sri Lankan citizens from Lebanon), and Op Rahat (2015: evacuation of Indian and foreign nationals from Yemen).

United States of America (USA) recently approved a USD 52.8 million government-to-government deal for the sale of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Sonobuoys that will be integrated with the Indian Navy's Romeo helicopters.

Pakistani military recently conducted the successful training launch of its surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-II.

About Shaheen-II Missile:

It is a Pakistani medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.

It is believed that the Shaheen 2 is derived from the People's Republic of China (PRC)-developed M-18, though this has not been confirmed.

Specifications:

It is a solid-fueled, two-stage missile with an estimated range of 1,500–2,000 km.

DRDO recently handed over the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of 'Nipun' munition to Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA).

About Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA):

DGQA is an Inter-Service Organisation functioning under the Department of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence.

This organisation is more than a hundred years old and is responsible for second-party Quality Assurance (QA) of all defence stores and equipment, both imported as well as indigenous, for the Army, Navy (excluding Naval Armaments), and common user items for the Air Force procured from Private Sector, Public Sector Undertakings, and Ordnance Factories.

Union Minister of Port Shipping and Waterways officially launched the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP).

About Green Tug Transition Program:

GTTP was launched on May 22, 2023, is a key initiative under the 'Panch Karma Sankalp'.

It is designed to phase out conventional fuel-based harbour tugs operating in Indian Major Ports and replace them with green tugs powered by cleaner and more sustainable alternative fuels.

Implementation phases

Phase 1 of the GTTP will begin on October 1, 2024, and continue until December 31, 2027.

During this phase, four Major Ports—Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Deendayal Port Authority, Paradip Port Authority, and O. Chidambaranar Port Authority will procure or charter at least two green tugs each, based on standardized designs and specifications issued by the Standing Specification Committee (SSC).

Nodal Agency: National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) will act as the nodal entity for this programme.

India aims at becoming a 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030 with the launch of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP).

US Navy has introduced the AIM-174B aiming to counter China's aerial dominance.

About AIM-174B Missile:

It is an air-launched variant of the versatile SM-6 missile of the US Navy.

It became operational in July, 2024 and is derived by Raytheon, an Aerospace and defense company.

It is an extremely long-range air-to-air missile.

It is capable of striking targets up to 400 km (250 miles) away and it surpasses the range of China's PL-15 missile.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out a successful maiden flight test of a Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB), GAURAV from the Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

About Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB):

It is an air-launched 1,000 kg class glide bomb capable of hitting targets at long distances.

Features

It is an Air to Surface LRGB with conventional warheads to destroy enemy airstrips, bunkers, hard installations, buildings etc.

It is designed to integrate with fighter aircraft.

It consists of an Inertial Navigation based guidance system with Digital Control.

GAURAV has been designed and developed indigenously by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.

India is now all set to commission its second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighat, armed with nuclear missiles for strategic deterrence.**About INS Arighat:**

It is India's second indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), following India's first nuclear submarine, INS Arihant, commissioned in 2018.

It was constructed at the Indian Navy's Ship Building Centre (SBC) in Visakhapatnam.

It represents a critical component of India's nuclear triad, enabling the nation to launch nuclear missiles from land, air, and sea.

Features:

It measures 111.6 meters in length, has a beam of 11 meters, a draught of 9.5 meters, and a displacement of 6,000 tonnes.

It will have one seven-blade propeller powered by a pressurized water reactor.

It can achieve a maximum speed of 12–15 knots (22–28 km/h) when on surface and 24 knots (44 km/h) when submerged.

It can carry up to four nuclear-capable K-4 SLBMs (Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile) with a range of over 3500 kilometers or twelve conventional warheads K-15 SLBMs with a range of about 750 kilometers.

Indian Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force participated in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024.**About Exercise Udara Shakti:**

It is the joint air exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) at Kuantan, Malaysia.

It was aimed at bolstering operational efficiency, technical experts of both Air Forces engaged in exchange of their maintenance practices.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is equipping India with a formidable new weapon: the Pinaka-MK3, which is currently under development.**What is Pinaka?**

Pinaka is a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).

It is designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a laboratory of the DRDO.

It delivers lethal and responsive fire against a variety of area targets, such as exposed enemy troops, armoured and soft-skin vehicles, communication centres, air terminal complexes, and fuel and ammunition dumps.

The range of the Pinaka Mk-1 is 48 kilometers, the Pinaka Mk-I Enhanced has a range of 60 kilometres and the Pinaka Mk-II has a range of 90 kilometer.

DRDO developing Pinaka-MK3, long-range rocket launcher to boost India's strike range to 300 km.

Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army will kick off their joint exercise, "Mitra Shakti," at Maduruoya in Sri Lanka's Southern Province.**About Exercise Mitra Shakti:**

It is a joint military exercise between India and the Sri Lankan army.

This year it is the 10th edition of the exercise.

A unit of 120 soldiers from the Indian Army's Rajputana Rifles (Raj Rif) will participate in this exercise.

The focus of this year's exercise is on joint operations in semi-urban environments, aligning with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which deals with actions regarding threats to peace and security.

A Bangladesh-registered C-130J Hercules jet became the most tracked flight on Flightradar24.com amid reports of Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina quitting and leaving her country.

About C-130J Super Hercules:

It is a four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft.
It is the US Air Force's principal tactical cargo and personnel transport aircraft.
It was developed by Lockheed Martin, a US security and aerospace company.

Indian Air Force (IAF) has given clearance to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) to produce 200 Astra air-to-air missiles for its Su-30 and LCA Tejas fighter aircraft.

About Astra Missile:

Astra is a Beyond-Visual-Range (BVR) air-to-air missile designed to be mounted on fighter aircraft.
It is indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd. (BDL) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
The missile was built to engage and destroy aerial targets, which have high maneuverability and supersonic speed.
Astra is 3.6 m long and with a diameter of 178 mm, weighing 154 kg.
It has a range of 80 to 110 km in a head-on chase and can travel at 5 Mach speed (almost hypersonic).

Indian Army's Madras Engineer Group or Madras Sappers built a "Bailey bridge", which was assembled at Chooralmala, to reach Mundakkai village — one of the sites worst hit by the landslides.

About Bailey bridge:

It is a type of modular bridge, one whose parts are pre-built so that they need minimal construction work and can be assembled quickly when needed.
Origin: A US Army Engineer School manual notes that the Bailey bridge originated during wartime. Donald Coleman Bailey, an English civil engineer, invented it during World War 2 (1939-45).

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has successfully conducted a demonstration and trial of the formidable Typhoon vehicle at its Transport Battalion in Chandigarh.

Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has successfully conducted a demonstration and trial of the formidable Typhoon vehicle at its Transport Battalion in Chandigarh.

About Typhoon-K Vehicle:

Kamaz-53949 Typhoon-K is a Russian-made 4x4 Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle.
It was developed by Remdiesel, a subsidiary of KamAZ.
It was developed for the safe transportation of troops and military cargo in areas with a high risk of mines.
It has a maximum road speed of 100 km/h and a range of up to 1,000 km without refueling

A Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between India and Russia in St. Petersburg.

About Maritime Partnership Exercise:

It was conducted between Russia and India on the occasion of the 328th Russian Navy Day.
Participating Naval ships: It involved INS Tabar naval ship from India and Soobrazitelny from Russia.
It marks a significant milestone in the maritime cooperation between India and Russia, reinforcing the commitment of both nations to maintain peace, stability and security in the region.

The Indian Naval Submarine (INS) Shalki recently arrived at the port of Colombo for a two-day formal visit.

About INS Shalki:

It is a Shishumar-class diesel-electric submarine.
It is also the first-ever submarine that was built in India.
It was constructed under licence by the Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

Indian Air Force is grappling with significant delays in the delivery of Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) from the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, raising concerns over its combat readiness and operational capabilities.

About Tejas Light Combat Aircraft:

It is a 4.5-generation single seat supersonic multirole fighter aircraft.
The Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) led the design and development of the aircraft under the light combat aircraft (LCA) programme, with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) working as the prime industrial contractor

India will host the international air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in two phases, taking place in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

About Exercise 'Tarang Shakti':

It will be the largest international air exercise ever conducted in India, with invitations extended to 51 countries.

This exercise aims to strengthen strategic relations with our friends from the international community.

Objective: The plan is to invite friendly foreign countries with whom the IAF interacts regularly and has a certain degree of interoperability.

DEFENCE NEWS JULY 2024

The Indian Army contingent departed to take part in India- Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE.

About Exercise MAITREE:

It is the 13th edition of India- Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE.

The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 1st to 15th July 2024 at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand.

India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise NOMADIC ELEPHANT is scheduled to be conducted from 03rd to 16th July 2024 in Umroi, Meghalaya.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken up a preliminary study on the design and development of an indigenous conventional submarine under Project-76.

About Project-76:

Under Project 76, the Warship Design Bureau of the Indian Navy is working on designing and developing the country's first indigenously conventional diesel-electric submarine.

The Indian Navy wants to build 12 submarines under Project 76.

Envisioned as air-independent propulsion (AIP)-equipped diesel-electric attack submarines, these submarines, expected to have a submerged displacement of 3,000 tons, represent a leap beyond their foreign-designed predecessors like Project-751 (India) and Project-75 submarines.

It aims to succeed the Sindhughosh (Kilo) class, emphasizing the Navy's commitment to maintaining a robust 3,000-ton class of submarines.

The objective is to initiate the construction of the prototype by 2028.

India has successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, the Rudram-1, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

About Rudram-1 Missile:

It is an air-to-surface missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

It is integrated with the IAF's Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, serving as the launch platform.

Range: The missile can be launched from varying altitudes, ranging from 500 meters to 15 kilometers and has a range of up to 250 kilometers depending on the launch conditions.

Speed: Up to Mach 2

This flexibility allows the IAF to adapt to different operational scenarios, enhancing its combat effectiveness.

The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a joint venture between India and Russia, has successfully delivered 35,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Army.

About AK-203 Rifle:

It is a modern firearm originating from Russia, designed by the renowned engineer Mikhail Kalashnikov between 2007 and 2010.

It is a gas-operated, magazine-fed, select-fire assault rifle.

It is a version of the AK-200 rifle chambered for the 62x39mm cartridge used in the Indian Army.

The weapon has the traditional advantages of Kalashnikov assault rifles: reliability and ease of maintenance.

These AK-203 rifles are produced in India using proprietary Russian technologies and certified equipment, ensuring high product quality and adherence to specifications.

It will be manufactured by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).

Indian "Iron-Dome" Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) is competing against Chinese-made Sky Dragon-50 air defense systems to secure an order from Brazil.

About Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM):

It is a Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile system to protect vulnerable areas and vulnerable points from air attacks.

It was indigenously designed and developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is produced by Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).

It is designed to protect vulnerable areas from multifarious air threats.

It has the capability to neutralise aerial targets like fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles, as well as ballistic missiles.

It is in operational service with the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.

Features:

It is 5.8 m long, has a diameter of 350 mm and a wingspan of 1,105mm.

It has a launch weight of 720 kg.

The missile can fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5 and has a height ceiling of 18 km.

It can target aircraft up to 45 km away

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent is participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024 which is scheduled to be conducted from 12 July 24 to 02 August 24 in Australia.

About Exercise Pitch Black:

It is a biennial and multi-national exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)

The name 'Pitch Black' was derived from the emphasis on night time flying over large unpopulated areas.

The 2024 edition is slated to be the largest in the 43-year-long history of Ex Pitch Black, which includes participation by 20 countries, with over 140 aircraft and 4400 military personnel of various air forces.

Armenia's reported interest in acquiring India's Pralay missile is a great opportunity for India.

About Pralay Missile:

'Pralay' is a 350-500 km short-range, quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile with a payload capacity of 500-1,000 kg.

The solid-fuel, battlefield missile is based on the Prithvi Defence Vehicle.

The missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in view of the country's defence requirements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Line of Control (LoC).

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) recently launched the first indigenously-built Talwar class frigate, 'Triput'.

About INS Triput:

It is the first indigenously built Talwar-class frigate.

Project:

In October 2016, India and Russia signed a deal to buy four stealth frigates of the Admiral Grigorovich class (also known as Project 1135.6 class).

Two of these frigates, 'Tushil' and 'Tamal', will be directly imported, and the remaining two frigates will be built in India by GSL through a transfer of technology (ToT).

Triput is the first ship built by GSL under this. The second frigate, 'Tamal', will be delivered by February 2025.

The Indian Army contingent departed for the Exercise KHAAN QUEST which is scheduled to be conducted from 27th July to 9th August 2024 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

DEFENCE NEWS JUNE 2024

Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, mission deployed in the South China Sea and North Pacific Ocean, has reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.

About Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise:

It is the world's largest international maritime exercise, being held in Hawaii.

It is being held under the theme of Partners: Integrated and Prepared, which runs until August 1.

It is led by the US Navy, approx 29 countries are participating in the current edition of the multi-dimensional exercise.

The harbour phase of the exercise from 27 Jun to 07 Jul 2024 will see participation in multiple

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symposiums, exercise planning discussions, sports competitions and reciprocal deck visits. The sea phase of RIMPAC-24, divided into three sub-phases will witness ships undertaking basic and advanced level integration exercises during the first two sub-phases.

Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched the mobile application-Sangyaan App.

About Sangyaan App:

It is designed and developed by the tech team of RPF.

It is a practical tool for anyone seeking to stay informed about the latest legal developments in India.

It aims to educate and empower RPF Personnel by providing comprehensive information to understand the provisions of both new and old criminal laws, while highlighting the relevance of these new acts in the context of RPF operations.

It will provide in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023.

DRDO handed over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy at a ceremony held in New Delhi.

About Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket:

Microwave Obscurant Chaff (MOC) is a niche technology developed by DRDO's Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur

It obscures radar signals and creates a microwave shield around platforms and assets, thus reducing radar detection.

DRDO has indigenously developed three variants of this critical technology namely Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR).

DRDO has successfully completed six consecutive developmental trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS' in Chandipur, Odisha.

About ABHYAS:

It is a High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT).

It has been designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru, and developed through Production Agencies - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited & Larsen & Toubro.

Indian Air Force (IAF) recently proposed to the central government the purchase of 10 TAPAS drones.

About TAPAS UAV:

The Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance Beyond Horizon-201, or Tapas BH-201, is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) drone.

It was previously referred to as Rustom-II.

It was developed indigenously by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

It also projects a range of 250 km, which can carry a variety of payloads up to a maximum of 350 kg with a wing span of 20.6 metres.

Maximum speed: 225 kmph.

Russian Black Sea Fleet (BSF) recently attacked Ukrainian infrastructure, using its sea-launched Kalibr cruise missiles.

About Kalibr Missile:

It is a family of Russian cruise missiles that can be launched from ships, submarines, containers, airplanes, or transport erector launchers.

It has variants designed for anti-ship, anti-submarine and land attack purposes.

They were developed and produced by Russia's Almaz-Antey corporation.

Range: It varies between 200 km and 2500 km, depending on the type.

Indian Air Force and Egyptian Air Force participated in the Exercise HOPEX 2024.

About Exercise HOPEX:

It is the fourth joint exercise of IAF (Indian Air Force) and EAF (Egyptian Air Force) which was held in Egypt from 21 to 26 June.

The aim of this exercise is to promote bilateral and regional cooperation, which is a symbol of the long-standing relations between the two countries

India and the US recently held discussions on the co-production of American javelin missiles in India to meet the requirements of the Indian military.

About Javelin Anti-Tank Missile:

It is a man-portable antitank guided missile (ATGM) system.

It is developed and produced jointly by American defence majors Raytheon and Lockheed Martin.

It was designed to defeat heavily armored vehicles, such as main battle tanks and lighter-skinned military vehicles.

It has a qualified maximum range of 2,500

India and the United States are in advanced talks for the joint manufacture of the latest generation of Stryker armoured infantry combat vehicles (ICVs).

About Stryker armoured infantry combat vehicles (ICVs):

The Stryker is a family of eight-wheel-drive combat armoured infantry combat vehicles (ICVs).

It is jointly developed by General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) Canada and the General Dynamics Land Systems Division in the United States.

INS Sunayna entered Port Victoria, Seychelles on 15 Jun 24 in the company of Seychelles Coast Guard Ship (SCGS) Zoroaster and aims to strengthening the camaraderie and mutual cooperation between Indian Navy and Seychelles Coast Guard in line with the vision of SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region).

The Indian Air Force will host an air exercise, Tarang Shakti-2024 in August.

About Exercise Tarang Shakti:

It is a first multinational air exercise to be hosted by the Indian Air force.

Objective: The plan is to invite friendly foreign countries with whom the IAF interacts regularly and has a certain degree of interoperability.

Participating countries: Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Germany will deploy fighter jets and also an A-400M transport aircraft.

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent participated in the Exercise Red Flag 2024 conducted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska of the United States Air Force, from 04 Jun to 14 Jun 24.

This was the second edition of Ex Red Flag 2024, which is an advanced aerial combat training exercise, held four times in a year by the US Air Force.

Participation of the Indian Air Force along with Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), Royal Air Force (RAF) of the United Kingdom, Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf), German Luftwaffe, and the US Air Force (USAF).

JIMEX exercise-24 commenced at Yokosuka in Japan.

About JIMEX- 2024:

This is the eighth edition of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.

The exercise includes both harbour and sea phases.

The harbour phase will comprise professional, sports and social interactions.

Russia claimed to have targeted the Ukrainian military airbase in Mirgorod using the nuclear-capable Iskander-M missile system.

About Iskander-M:

The Iskander (Western reporting name: SS-26 Stone) is a road-mobile short-range ballistic missile system developed by Russia.

It has a range of 400-500 km and uses both inertial and optical guidance systems.

Israel Aerospace Industries unveiled a new air-launched variant of its Lora ballistic missile.

About Air LORA:

It is an air-launched variant of the Long-Range Artillery (LORA) ballistic missile.

It is designed and developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

According to a recent report, the Bundeswehr, Germany's armed forces, lost an Iris-T missile, sparking serious concerns about the crucial technology being compromised.

About Iris-T Missile:

It is a next-generation short-range air-to-air missile.

The IRIS-T is a six-nation program under German lead, with Diehl BGT Defence (a German defense company) acting as industrial prime contractor.

DEFENCE NEWS MAY 2024

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent recently arrived at the Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska to participate in the prestigious multi-national exercise, Red Flag 24.

About Red Flag 24:

It is a two-week advanced aerial combat training exercise aimed at integrating aircrew in a multinational environment.

There are two distinct Red Flag exercise locations: Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada and Eielson Air Force Base in Alaska.

India's Make-in-India defence projects, include K-9 Vajra Howitzers and fighter jet engines.

About K-9 Vajra:

It is a 155 mm, 52-caliber tracked self-propelled artillery system.

It can fire shells at great elevation angles to hit targets far away.

It is built by Larsen & Toubrow with technology transferred from South Korean defence major Hanwha Défense based on its K9 Thunder platform.

DRDO successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha.

About RudraM-II Missile:

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 several state-of-the-art indigenous technologies developed by various DRDO laboratories that have been incorporated into the missile system.

France Conducts Successful Test of ASMPA Supersonic Nuclear Missile Amid Global Tensions.

About ASMPA Missile:

The Air-Sol Medium Range (ASMP/ASMP-A) is an air-launched land-attack supersonic cruise missile that carries a nuclear payload. It is a central component of France's nuclear deterrent.

ASMP-A, an upgraded version of the ASMP, arrived into French service in 2009. This version had an extended range of up to 500 km, and supported a new 300 kt thermonuclear warhead.

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.

About Project Udbhav:

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.

Aim: This initiative aims to bridge the gap between age-old wisdom and contemporary military education.

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.

About Igla-S:

It is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) developed by Russia.

India-U.S joint exercise in conducting coordinated operations in urban counter terrorism contingencies will conclude in Kolkata.

About Exercise Tarkash:

It is the seventh edition of the Indo-U.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 7th edition of India-France Joint Military Exercise SHAKTI commenced at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya recently.

About Exercise Shakti:

It is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in India and France.

Aim: To enhance the joint military capability of both sides to undertake multi-domain operations in a Sub-Conventional scenario under Chapter VII of the United Nations Mandate.

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.

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).

Aeronautical Development Establishment, a Bengaluru-based 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 the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), for the Indian Armed Forces.

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.

A Rs 60,000 crore contract to modernize the Indian Navy submarine fleet to build six stealth submarines equipped with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) technology has started.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is using the fuel cells-based AIP System. It is unique as hydrogen is generatedThe plant was operated in endurance mode and max power mode as per the user requirements. The system is being developed by the Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL) of DRDO.

What is AIP?

With the emergence of submarines, there was a problem finding satisfactory forms of propulsion underwater.

Traditional diesel-electric submarines need to surface frequently to charge their batteries and have an underwater endurance of only a few days.

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.

In September 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.

Russia's government recently published new footage claiming to show the targeting of two Ukrainian High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS).

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.

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).

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) tested a next-generation torpedo release system.

About Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) System:

It has been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

It was launched from a ground mobile launcher from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.

This missile-based mechanism to launch lightweight torpedoes can target submarines hundreds of kilometres away — far beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedoes.

India has kickstarted the process of unifying its four airspace regions into one spanning the entire nation under Project ISHAN.

About 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.

DEFENCE NEWS APRIL 2024

Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully carried out a test firing of the Crystal Maze 2 missile.

About Crystal Maze 2:

Also referred to as ROCKS, it is an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile. It is of Israeli origin.

It is designed to target high-value stationary and relocatable assets, such as long-range radars and air defense systems, of potential adversaries.

India successfully tests new 250 km strike range air-launched ballistic missile.

The Crystal Maze 2 boasts extended stand-off range capabilities as an air-to-surface missile.

It is capable of hitting targets over 250 kilometers.

The Indian Navy recently conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast.

About Exercise Poorvi Lehar (XPOL):

It is a maritime exercise conducted by the Indian Navy along the East Coast, under the operational direction of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

Israel recently used the Rampage, an efficient air-to-surface missile, in an attack on an Iranian military base.

About Rampage Missile:

It is a long-range, supersonic, air-to-ground, seekerless, precision strike missile. It was developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and Israeli Military Industries Systems

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is reported to be testing a prototype of its DURGA-2 (Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array) system.

About DURGA-2:

It damages or destroys its target using focused energy by means of lasers, microwaves or particle beams.

They transmit lethal force at the speed of light (about 300,000 kilometers per second).

Their beams are not affected by the constraining effects of gravity or atmospheric drag.

Other countries which have this system: Russia, France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Israel, and China.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM).

About Indigenous technology cruise missile:

It is equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and reliable performance.

It is developed by Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) along with contribution from other laboratories and Indian industries.

It was monitored by several range sensors like radar, Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and

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telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path.

SPACE, a premier testing & evaluation hub for sonar systems for Indian Navy, set up by DRDO, inaugurated in Kerala.

Recently, a state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman DRDO in Kerala.

About Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation:

It is set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

It has been designed as a premier testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems destined for the Indian Navy onboard various platforms including ships, submarines and helicopters.

Supreme Court appreciates steps taken by Railways to roll out Kavach anti-collision system.

About KAVACH System:

The KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry.

It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards. It makes use of high frequency radio communication and operates on the principle of continuous update of movement to prevent collisions.

It is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red (which marks danger) and avoid collision.

Indian Army contingent departed for the 5th edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK, scheduled from 15th to 28th April 2024 in Termez, Uzbekistan

Israel for the first time deployed its ship-mounted defence system, called the C-Dome.

About C-Dome:

It is a naval version of Israel's Iron Dome air defence system, used to shield against rocket and missile attacks.

The Iron Dome, which was activated in 2011 and has an effectiveness of about 90%, works by using radars to detect short-range rockets before destroying them with its own missiles.

The U.S., Britain and Australia are set to begin talks on bringing new members into their AUKUS security pact.

About AUKUS:

It is a trilateral security partnership between the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Australia agreed in 2021.

It is intended to strengthen the ability of each government to support security and defense interests, building on longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has accomplished a significant milestone by establishing connectivity on the Nimmu-Padam-Darcha Road in Ladakh.

About Nimmu-Padum-Darcha Road:

It serves as a vital link between the Indian Union territory of Ladakh and the state of Himachal Pradesh, traversing through the picturesque region of Zaskar, Ladakh.

It is an all-weather road from Manali (Himachal Pradesh) to Leh (Ladakh) through Darcha and Nimmu on the Kargil-Leh Highway. It was constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

It crosses only one pass—Shinkun La (16,558 feet)—on which tunnel work is about to commence by the BRO.

NATO Foreign Ministers recently gathered at NATO Headquarters to mark 75 years since the signing of the Washington Treaty.

About Washington Treaty:

The Washington Treaty, or North Atlantic Treaty, forms the basis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It was signed in Washington D.C. in 1949, by 12 founding members.

Key Facts about NATO:

It is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty. It currently has 32 alliance members from North America and Europe.

Its fundamental goal is to safeguard the Allies' freedom and security through political and military means.

Headquarter: Brussels, Belgium

The new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime was successfully flight-tested from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

It was conducted jointly by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The launch aligns with India's strategic goals, as part of its 'Mission Divyastra' program, further solidifying its position among nations with formidable strategic capabilities.

Agni Prime is a nuclear-capable new-generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles. It is a two-stage canister missile with a maximum range of 1,000 to 2,000 km.

The Indian Army has initiated the induction of control and reporting systems under 'Project Akashteer' to bolster its air defense capabilities.

About Project Akashteer:

It is a cutting-edge initiative designed to automate air defense control and reporting processes by digitizing them.

It is developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

The new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime was successfully flight-tested by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) along with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

About Agni-Prime Missile:

It is a nuclear-capable new-generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles. It is a two-stage canisterised missile with a maximum range of 1,000 to 2,000 km.

The Manali-Leh highway was blocked due to fresh snowfall near the Atal Tunnel in Lahaul and Spiti districts recently.

About Atal Tunnel:

Atal Tunnel, formerly known as Rohtang Tunnel, is the world's longest high-altitude tunnel, situated at an elevation of approximately 3,100 meters (10,171 feet) above sea level.

It is located in the Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas, in Himachal Pradesh. It passes through Rohtang pass.

It stretches 9.02 km, connecting Manali to Lahaul and Spiti Valley

APP & PORTALS AUGUST 2024

Union Ministry of Women and Child Development recently launched the new SHe-Box portal.

About SHe-Box Portal:

It is a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women in the workplace.

It serves as a centralized repository of information related to Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) formed across the country, encompassing both the government and private sectors.

It offers a common platform to file complaints, track their status, and ensure time-bound processing of complaints by ICs.

Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has mandated the registration of exotic pets listed under Schedule IV of the Wildlife Act with state wildlife departments via the PARIVESH 2.0 portal within 6 months.

About Exotic Species:

Definition: Exotic species refer to animals or plants that are moved from their natural habitat to a new location, often due to human activities.

Criteria: According to the Living Animal Species (Reporting and Registration) Rules, 2024, any individual possessing species listed under Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, must report and register them.

Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022: It mandates the registration of the possession, transfer, birth, and death of species listed in the CITES Appendices and Schedule IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

About the PARIVESH 2.0 Portal:

PARIVESH 2.0 (Pro-Active and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous, and Environmental

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Single Window Hub) is a web-based workflow application developed by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for the online submission and monitoring of proposals related to environmental, forest, wildlife, and coastal regulation zone clearances.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti launched Version 2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application developed by the Central Water Commission (CWC).

About FloodWatch India:

It gives information related to the flood situation and forecasts for up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.

The in-house developed user-friendly app has readable and audio broadcast and all the information is available in 2 languages, viz. English and Hindi.

Other feature of the app includes real-time flood monitoring where users can check up-to-date flood situations throughout the country.

APP & PORTALS JULY 2024

Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed an eSankhyiki portal.

About eSankhyiki Portal:

It provides real-time inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and the public at large.

The objective of this portal is to establish a comprehensive data management and sharing system for ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country.

It has two modules namely:

Data Catalogue Module: This module catalogues the major data assets of the Ministry at one place for ease of access.

It allows users to search within datasets, including within tables, and download data of interest to increase its value and re-usability.

Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched Ideas4LiFE at IIT Delhi.

About Ideas4LiFE portal:

It was launched for inviting ideas related to products and services, which induce behavioral changes related to environment-friendly lifestyles.

It aims to encourage and motivate students, faculty and research scholars to contribute their innovative ideas to the global initiative of Mission LiFE.

It is a remarkable opportunity for inspired minds to participate in a global movement dedicated to environmental sustainability.

Rashtrapati Bhavan will auction selected gift items, presented to the President and former Presidents on various occasions, through an online portal called E-Upahaar.

About E-Upahaar Portal:

It is an auction portal of the President's Secretariat (office of the President of India), Rashtrapati Bhavan for auctioning of gift items presented to Hon'ble President and former Presidents of India.

The portal was launched by the President of India, on July 25, 2024,

It is conceptualized, designed, developed and hosted by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The aim of this initiative is not only to increase citizen engagement but also to support noble causes. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to help children in need.

Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, launched SIMS 2.0, the upgraded Steel Import Monitoring System.

About Steel Import Monitoring System' 2.0 Portal:

It features API integration with multiple government portals, enhancing quality control and streamlining processes for improved efficiency and effectiveness.

The portal boasts a robust data entry system, ensuring consistent and authentic data, which promotes transparency and accountability. Integration of various databases enable stakeholders to locate areas of risk and, thereby, permit better risk management.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines launched Mineral Exploration Hackathon and the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Portal.

About National District Mineral Foundation Portal:

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It is a centralized platform to gather the information on the District Mineral Foundations across the country.

Aim: The aim for launching this portal is to facilitate the access to the DMF data and track the developments and utilizations thereunder.

This portal provides details of 645 DMFs in the country with enhanced transparency, featuring centralized visibility of activities, project oversight, and dynamic analytics, as well as a repository of best practices for effective implementation.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre at Geological Survey of India (GSI) Kolkata and also launched the Bhusanket Web Portal and Bhooskhalan Mobile App.

About Bhusanket Web Portal:

This web portal will facilitate the dissemination of relevant data and information on landslide hazards, initiating short-range and medium-range landslide forecasting in the country.

Integrated with the Bhusanket Web Portal, the user-friendly Bhooskhalan Mobile App will enable quick dissemination of daily landslide forecasts and allow stakeholders to share and update spatial and temporal information on landslide occurrences.

The app is available on Bhusanket web portal and will soon be available on Google Play Store.

Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence has notified the fifth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) consisting of 346 items. The items will only be procured from the Indian Industry after the timelines of indigenisation as indicated in the list available on the Srijan portal.

About Srijan Portal:

It is an indigenization portal developed by the Department of Defence Production.

It will give information on items that can be taken up for indigenization by the private sector.

On this portal, DPSUs/OFB/SHQs can display the items which they have been importing or are going to import which the Indian Industry can design, develop and manufacture as per their capability or through a joint venture with OEMs.

The Indian Industry will be able to show their interest. The concerned DPSUs/OFB/SHQs, based on their requirement of the items and their guidelines & procedures will interact with the Indian industry for indigenization.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Defence

APP & PORTALS JUNE 2024

RPF launches Sangyaan App- A Comprehensive application for legal reference.

About Sangyaan App:

It is designed and developed by the tech team of RPF.

It is a practical tool for anyone seeking to stay informed about the latest legal developments in India.

It aims to educate and empower RPF Personnel by providing comprehensive information to understand the provisions of both new and old criminal laws, while highlighting the relevance of these new acts in the context of RPF operations.

It will provide in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023.

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches two Geoportals namely 'Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0)' portal for rural land record and "National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0)" developed by Indian Space research Organization (ISRO).

About Bhuvan Panchayat geoportal 4.0:

It is an online geospatial data and services dissemination platform to support integration and utilisation of space-based information into governance and research initiatives involving spatial planning up to Gram Panchayat level.

Developed by: This WebGIS platform developed by NRSC, ISRO.

It enables visualisation, analysis, sharing of web map service (WMS) services of all thematic data products generated at 1:10k under the Space based Information Support for Decentralized Planning (SISDP) project.

Days ahead of the implementation of the three criminal laws, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is testing eSakshya (e-evidence) app.

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About eSakhsya App

It is a mobile-based application to help police record the scene of crime, search and seizure in a criminal case and upload the file on the cloud-based platform.

Working

The police official will have to upload a selfie after the procedure is complete.

Each recording could be a maximum four minutes long and several such files could be uploaded for each First Information Report (FIR).

This mobile application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) will be available to all police stations which register and download the App.

Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development urged the state governments to encourage more and more farmers to register on e-Samridhi portal so that they can avail the facility of assured procurement.

About e-Samridhi Portal:

It was launched through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India Limited (NCCF).

It is for registration of farmers and the government is committed to procure pulses at Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for farmers registered on the portal.

Portal registration of farmers can be done directly or through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and FPO.

e-Shram portal showcased during 112th International Labour Conference at Geneva, Switzerland.

About e-Shram Portal:

It was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2021 for registration and creation of a comprehensive National Database of Unorganized Workers.

It allows an unorganised worker to register himself or herself on the portal on self-declaration basis, under 400 occupations in 30 broad occupation sectors.

It is a "One-Stop-Solution" for Unorganised Workers of the country.

The portal is presently integrated with National Career Service (NCS) Portal, Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), myScheme portal and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhaan (PMSYM) scheme.

Ministry of External Affairs and the SBI have signed an MoU to provide an additional digital payment service of the bank through its payment gateway SBIPay to users of the eMigrate portal.

About eMigrate Portal:

It was launched in 2014 and it has been instrumental in making the emigration process online and transparent for Indian workers heading to countries where emigration checks are required.

The portal connects foreign employers, registered recruiting agents, and insurance companies issuing the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna, facilitating seamless, safe, and legal migration.

The portal also has a mechanism for voluntary registration of emigrants holding ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) category passports proceeding for overseas employment.

It is integrated with the external affairs ministry's Passport Seva Project to validate the passport details of ECR category workers

APP & PORTALS MAY 2024

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.

About DigiLocker:

It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (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.

APP & PORTALS APRIL 2024

The Election Commission recently said its Suvidha portal has received over 73,000 applications since the Lok Sabha polls were announced.

About Suvidha Portal:

It is developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure a level playing field upholding the democratic principles of free, fair and transparent elections.

It streamlined the process of obtaining and acting upon requests for permissions and facilities from political parties and candidates during the election period.

It caters to a diverse range of permission requests transparently on the First in First Out principle.

Union Health Ministry launches myCGHS iOS app.

About myCGHS app:

It is designed to enhance access to Electronic Health Records, information and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.

It is developed by the technical teams of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.

AWARDS AND HONOURS AUGUST 2024

For the second consecutive year, the Global Finance Central Banker Report 2024 has rated the performance of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das as A+.

The performance of the central bank governors is rated by the Global Finance magazine's "Central Banker Report Cards 2024 on four criteria: controlling inflation, managing interest rates, promoting economic growth, and maintaining stability in the domestic currency's exchange rate.

Three central bank governors - Shaktikanta Das, Christian Kettel Thomsen of Denmark and Thomas Jordan of Switzerland- were rated A+.

The Central Banker Report Cards is released annually by the New York, USA-based Global Finance Magazine.

70th National Film Awards for the year 2022 were announced on 16 August 2024.

Best Feature Film - Aattam (Malayalam), Director: Anand Ekarshi

Best Direction -Uunchai (Hindi), Director: Sooraj R. Barjatya

Best Actor in a Leading Role- Rishab Shetty for the film Kantara

Best Actress in a Leading Role- Nithya Menen for film Thiruchitrambalam (Tamil), Manasi Parekh - Kutch Express (Gujarati),

Best Male Playback Singer -Arijit Singh for the film Brahmastra

Best Female Playback Singer -Bombay Jayashri for film Chaayum Veyil (Malayalam)

Best Music Direction - Pritam for the film Brahmastra

Best Hindi Film- Gulmohar Directed by Rahul V. Chittella.

President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the highest civilian award of Timor Leste - Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste.

President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with Fiji's highest civilian award- Companion of the Order of Fiji.

The Chandrayaan 3 team of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has won the Vigyan Team Award of the first Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar.

Kashmir City received the Certificate of World Craft City from the World Crafts Council International

Kerala Tourism Clinches prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024 for Innovative 'Holiday Heist' Campaign.

FICCI Honours Ayushmann Khurrana and Neeraj Chopra as Youth Icons of India.

Ayushmann Khurrana: Bollywood superstar and versatile actor

Neeraj Chopra: Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw

Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad has once again been recognized as the Best Airport at the prestigious India Travel Awards.

Bollywood's charismatic 'King Khan', graced the 77th Locarno Film Festival with his presence, receiving a career achievement award that further gilds his storied career.

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United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has inscribed several iconic South African sites associated with Nelson Mandela as World Heritage Sites

Google CEO Sundar Pichai Honored with Honorary Doctorate from IIT-Kharagpur

AWARDS AND HONOURS JULY 2024

15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee has announced that Maharashtra has won the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024.

HCL Technologies chairperson Roshini Nadar has been conferred with France's highest civilian award, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur or the Knight of the Legion of Honour.

The Andhra Pradesh government initiative, Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), has won the 2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity. The APCNF will share the one million euro prize money with the renowned soil scientist Rattan Lal and the SKEEM of Egypt.

Space scientists Prahlad Chandra Agrawal and Anil Bhardwaj were honoured by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) at its biannual meeting in Busan, South Korea, for their contributions to space research.

The 45th COSPAR scientific assembly is being held in Busan, South Korea, from 13 -21 July 2024.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) has awarded its prestigious Olympic Order to the ace Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra.

AWARDS AND HONOURS JUNE 2024

Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy has been chosen for the 2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize for her courageous and unswerving writing.

Arundhati Roy will receive her award at a ceremony to be held in October in London, England.

Arundhati Roy joins a list of literary giants like Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood, Tom Stoppard, Carol Ann Duffy and Malorie Blackman, who have previously won the prize.

About Arundhati Roy

Arundhati Roy is the first Indian to win the prestigious Booker Prize in 1997 for her fiction 'The God of Small Things'.

Her second novel, 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' was published in 2017.

She is also the author of Capitalism: A Ghost Story and The Algebra of Infinite Justice.

PEN Pinter Award

The PEN(Poet, Playwright, Editors Essayist, Novelist) Pinter Award was instituted in memory of playwright Harold Pinter in 2009. Harold Pinter, who was a citizen of Great Britain, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005.

The annual award is given to a writer who is a resident of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, or the Commonwealth.

Nistha Jain's 'Golden Thread' film won the prestigious Golden Conch award for the best documentary at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2024.

The award carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs, a citation and a Golden Conch as a trophy.

wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu was conferred with the 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award at the inauguration of the 18th MIFF 2024.

Indian entrepreneur Vellayan Subbiah was conferred the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024 at a ceremony held in Monaco's Salle des Etoiles.

Vellayan Subbiah became the fourth Indian to win this prestigious award in its 24 years of history.

He joined the illustrious list of NR Narayana Murthy of Infosys, Uday Kotak of Kotak Finance, and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw of Biocon Limited.

At present, Vellayan Subbiah is the Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and the Chairman of the Non-Banking Finance Company Cholamandalam (Chola) Investment and Finance Limited.

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), has won the United Nations World Summit of Information Society (WISS) 2024 "Champion" award.

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The award to C-DOT was announced at the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event 2024, which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 27 to 31 May 2024.

The C-DOT project “Mobile-Enabled Disaster Resilience through Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting” received the ‘Champion’ award under the AI, C-7, E-environment, in the category of “Benefits in all aspects of life—E-environment.”

WHO Nelson Mandela Award for Health Protection 2024 for NIMHANS.

National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru has been conferred with the World Health Organization’s (WHO) 2024 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion.

Dr. Pratima Murthy, the director of NIMHANS, received the award.

The 2024 award was won jointly by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), India and Professor Bontle Mbongwe of Botswana.

Woman Police Station in Itanagar, under Capital Police, has achieved ISO 9001:2015 certification.

GRSE wins 'Sustainable Governance Champion Award 2024.

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. received the "Sustainable Governance Champion Award" at the Outlook Planet Sustainability Summit & Awards 2024.

GRSE is recognized for driving innovation in sustainable shipbuilding practices.

Dr. Usha Thakur was awarded the 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman (World Hindi Conference) at a Hindi Samvad event organized by the Embassy of India in Nepal.

The award recognized her contributions to the development of Hindi literature.

Dr. Thakur has translated over 40 works into Hindi and Nepali, strengthening the Hindi language.

The 12th World Hindi Conference was held in Fiji in 2023.

Bilan Media, Somalia's pioneering all-women news team, received the prestigious 2024 One World Media Press Freedom Award.

The award acknowledges Bilan's fearless journalism over the past two years, which has tackled sensitive topics and empowered female journalists in Somalia.

About Bilan Media

Established in 2021 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bilan Media has been supported by the European Union (EU) through UNDP funding since 2024.

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) Honored with National Award for Atal Pension Yojana Enrolment Excellence.

Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), sponsored by Canara Bank, received the National Award from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for highest enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

About Atal Pension Yojana (APY):

APY is a voluntary old-age income security scheme aimed at addressing longevity risks among workers in the unorganized sector.

Implemented by PFRDA under the National Pension System (NPS) framework.

Minimum age for enrolment is 18 years, maximum age is 40 years, and the age of pension commencement is 60 years.

Beneficiaries receive a guaranteed minimum monthly pension ranging from Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 based on their contributions.

Indian documentary 'The Golden Thread' won the Best Documentary in the international category with the Golden Conch Award at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival.

In the special category of ‘India in Amrit Kaal’, director Edmond Ranson received the Best Short Film award for ‘Life In Loom’.

Vinod Ganatra became the first Indian to win the Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award.

Vinod Ganatra, a noted filmmaker and editor hailing from Gujarat and now based in Mumbai, Maharashtra, is the first Indian to be honoured with South Africa's prestigious 'Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award'.

He received the honour at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival held in Johannesburg, South Africa, recognising his significant contribution in the field of children's cinema.

Vinod Ganatra is the first Indian to receive the prestigious award.

RBI Wins 'Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024'.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) received the 'RiskManager of the Year Award 2024' at the Central Banking Awards 2024.

The awards were presented by Central Banking Publications, a London-based financial publisher owned by Infopro Digital.

Central Bank of the Year : Central Bank of Brazil

Governor of the Year : Andriy Pyshnyy, National Bank of Ukraine.

SEBI Honored as 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' in Asia Pacific by The Asian Banker.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been awarded the 'Best Conduct of Business Regulator' in the Asia Pacific by The Asian Banker.

This recognition highlights SEBI's commitment to transparency, fairness, and investor protection in India's securities markets.

Kamlesh Chandra Varshney, Whole Time Member of SEBI, received the award at the Asian Banker Summit 2024 held on May 23, 2024, in Hong Kong.

The summit's theme was "Bridging Innovation and Resilience in Finance."

All India Tennis Association (AITA) has honored Delhi-based tennis coach Nar Singh with the prestigious Dilip Bose Award for Lifetime Achievement in Coaching

AWARDS AND HONOURS MAY 2024

German author Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann have won the prestigious International Booker Prize for their novel "Kairos."

The International Booker Prize recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English and published in the UK or Ireland.

The £50,000 (\$64,000) prize money is divided equally between the author and the translator

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.

Actress Anasuya Sengupta created history at the Cannes Film Festival by winning the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard segment for her film Shameless.

Payal Kapadia's directed film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the Grand Prix award.

"Sunflowers were the first ones to know" directed by Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) student Chidananda S Naik wins the 'La Cinef' Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival.

Payal Kapadia becomes the first Indian filmmaker to win the Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Kapadia's film "All We Imagine as Light" won the Grand Prix, the second-most prestigious prize after the Palme d'Or.

The film is the first Indian film in 30 years and the first ever by an Indian female director to be showcased in the main competition at Cannes.

POWERGRID Receives Third-Time ATD Best Award 2024 for Excellence in Learning & Development.

The ATD BEST Awards are established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA.

Uttar Pradesh teenager Aarti wins Amal Clooney Women Empowerment Award in London.

Arti, an 18-year-old rickshaw driver hailing from Uttar Pradesh (UP), has been honored with the prestigious Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award at the Prince's Trust Awards in London, UK.

The Pink E-Rickshaw Initiative was introduced under the Mission Shakti scheme by the Indian government.

McGill Awards Honorary Doctorate to Dr. Soumya Swaminathan.

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, former WHO Chief Scientist, is set to receive an honorary doctorate from McGill University during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.

United Nations has selected the Indian Army Major Radhika Sen for the prestigious 2023 Military Gender Advocate of the Year award.

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Major Radhika Sen becomes the second Indian to be awarded the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.

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).

NHPC Honoured with 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'.

NHPC, India's premier hydropower company, has been bestowed with the prestigious 'The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25'.

Scientist Srinivas Kulkarni Honoured With 2024 Shaw Prize In Astronomy.

Srinivas R Kulkarni, an Indian-origin American scientist and professor at California Institute of Technology (Caltech), has been awarded the 2024 Shaw Prize in astronomy.

The Shaw Prize, known as the 'Nobel of the East', honours Kulkarni's discoveries on millisecond pulsars, gamma ray bursts, supernovae, and other transient astronomical phenomena.

Kulkarni, brother of author and educator Sudha Murty.

NTPC secures 3rd rank at ATD BEST Awards 2024 for Talent Development.

NTPC was awarded the third rank in the world for the Talent Development category at the ATD BEST Awards 2024.

The award ceremony was held in New Orleans, United States of America, on 21 May 2024.

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 eminent Indian author Ruskin Bond has been conferred with the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest literary honour bestowed by the Sahitya Akademi.

Honours Received : Padma Shri (1999), Padma Bhushan (2019), Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar (2012), and Sahitya Akademi Award (1992).

"The Blue Umbrella," "Rusty, the Boy from the Hills," and "The Room on the Roof," which won the John Llewellyn Rhys Prize, are some of his most famous works.

Chandrakant Satija Honoured with Global Excellence Award 2024

Chandrakant Satija, the renowned educationist and Founder/CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, was honored with the Global Excellence Award 2024.

With 21+ years in education, Satija guides students' careers with quality education, counseling, and admission guidance.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited's CMD Cmde Hemant Khatri Honored with 'PSU Samarpan Award'.

Cmde Hemant Khatri, the Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD) of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), was bestowed with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect.

Pawan Sindhi Honored with Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024.

Pawan Sindhi was bestowed with the prestigious Global Pride of Sindhi Award 2024 at an event attended by esteemed saints, Mahatmas, and sadhus.

Oxford Bookstores has announced Bhavi Mehta as the winner of the 9th edition of Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize.

Mehta won the prize for the book jacket of "The Book Beautiful" published by Hachette India and authored by Pradeep Sebastian.

UNESCO Guillermo Cano Prize 2024 Awarded to Palestine Journalists in Gaza.

Palestinian journalists covering the Gaza crisis receive the 2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize as a show of solidarity and recognition for their dedication

Purnima Devi Barman gets the 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024.

Dr Purnima Devi Barman, a wildlife biologist from Assam, 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.

This is the second time that Dr Barman has been honoured with the Whitley Gold Award. She was also awarded the prize in 2017.

Dr. Bina Modi Honoured for Outstanding Contribution to Corporate Social Responsibility.

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 (CSR)'.

AWARDS AND HONOURS APRIL 2024

Alok Shukla get's 2024 Goldman Prize for his Hasdeo Arand movement.

Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Alok Shukla has been selected for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize.

The Goldman Environmental Prize, also popularly known as the Green Nobel Prize, is awarded annually to grassroots environmental champions worldwide.

Hasdeo Arand forest area of Chhattisgarh is considered to be the lungs of Chhattisgarh.

To save the forest area and its ecosystem, Alok Shukla founded Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti.

Till now, seven indian have been awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize .

Medha Patkar was the first Indian to get the Goldman Environmental Prize in 1992. She was associated with Narmada Bachao Andolan.

Goldman Environmental Prize

The Goldman Environmental Prize was founded by American couple Richard and Rhoda Goldman in 1989.

The first Goldman Environmental Prize was announced in 1990.

Every year, grassroots environmental leaders are selected from six regions of the world: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South and Central America and Islands and Islands Nations.

India Today Group's AI anchor Sana won two awards at the International News Media Association Global Media Awards held in London.

Sana, an AI-powered news anchor developed by India Today Group, has won the first prize in the 'Best Use of AI in Customer-Facing Products' category at the International News Media Association's 2024 Global Media Awards.

Sharjah Teacher Gina Justus Wins Regional Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Award.

Gina Justus, an English High School teacher at the Sharjah Girls Branch in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), has been named the regional winner for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region at the prestigious 2024 Cambridge Dedicated Teacher Awards.

Dinanath Mangeshkar Natyagrih, actor Randeep Hooda was bestowed with the Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award. This honor recognizes his remarkable contributions to Indian cinema and his recent film "Swatantrya Veer Savarkar".

2024 Laureus Sports Awards

Sportsman of the Year Award : Novak Djokovic

Sportswoman of the Year Award : Aitana Bonmati

Comeback of the Year Award : Simone Biles

Breakthrough of the Year Award : Jude Bellingham

Team of the Year Award : Spain Women's Football Team

Action Sportsperson of the Year Award : Arisa Trew

Laureus Sport for Good Award : Fundaci³n Rafa Nadal

Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability Award : Diede de Groot.

Novak Djokovic, the world's top-ranked tennis player, was named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year for the fifth time, matching Roger Federer's record for the most decorated male athlete in this category.

Djokovic had previously won this award in 2012, 2015, 2016, and 2019.

The Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award (2000-2020).

Neeraj Chopra, an Indian Tokyo Olympics gold medalist, is the third Indian after Vinesh Phogat and Sachin Tendulkar who was nominated for the Laureus World Sports Awards.

Ratan Tata receives prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award.

Renowned industrialist Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata was honoured with the prestigious KISS Humanitarian Award 2021.

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Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft and co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was honoured with the KISS Humanitarian Award 2023 for his remarkable and philanthropic work.

Mohammed Salem's Award-Winning Photograph at World Press Photo 2024.

Mohammed Salem is a Palestinian photographer who works for the news agency Reuters. In 2024, he won a very important award called the World Press Photo of the Year award.

Pavuluri Subba Rao Founder and CEO, Chairman of Ananth Technologies has been received with the 'Aryabhatta Award'.

The Aeronautical Society of India (ASI) has instituted an award to recognize outstanding contributions made to the promotion of astronautics in India.

Cash Prize Rs. 100000 Citation.

World's First 'Miss AI' Beauty Pageant Announced Featuring AI Judges.

For the first time in the world, models and influencers that are solely created through artificial intelligence will be competing in a beauty pageant called "Miss AI".

The winner of the contest will receive a prize money of \$20,000, making it the world's first AI beauty pageant.

GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd (GHIAL) has been honored with the 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax.

Hamad International Airport (DOH), located in Doha, Qatar, has been awarded the "World's Best Airport" title by the esteemed Skytrax World Airport Awards.

Amitabh Bachchan will receive Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar award.

Famous Hindi cinema actor Amitabh Bachchan will be honoured with the third Lata Deenanath Mangeshkar Award to be held this year.

The award was announced at a press conference organized by the Master Deenanath Mangeshkar Smriti Pratisthan Public Charitable Trust and the Mangeshkar family.

This award was started by the Trust and the Mangeshkar family in the year 2022 in the memory of Bharat Ratna and Swara Kokila late Lata Mangeshkar.

Bhumi Pednekar & 4 Indians in WEF Young Global Leaders Class of 2024.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced its 20th edition of Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024 on 4 April 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The list includes nearly 90 young people under 40 years of age from diverse fields of politics, business, civil society, the arts, and academia.

Indians included in the WEF Forum of Young Global Leaders 2024

Serial Number	Person	Category	Designation
1.	Bhumi Pednekar	Art and Culture	
2	Adwaita Nayar	Business	Chief Executive Officer, Nyka Fashion
3.	Arjun Bhartia	Business	Director Jubilant Group
4.	Priya Aggarwal Hebbar	Business	Non-Executive Director at Vedanta Limited
5.	Sharad Vivek Sagar	Social Entrepreneurs	Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global

Kannada poet Mamta G Sagar receives an international literary 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) in April 2024. Mamta is currently a facilitator at Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Indian-American actress Avantika Vandanapu, has been honored with the prestigious "South Asian Person of the Year" award by Harvard University.

Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni has become the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President's Gold Volunteer Service Award.

Prestigious John Dirks Gairdner global health award for Dr Gagandeep Kang.

Dr. Gagandeep Kang, presently serving as the Director of Global Health at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has been honored with the esteemed John Dirks Global Health Award.

The award, provided by the Gairdner Foundation of Canada, recognizes Dr. Kang's significant contributions to child health in India.

Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital Wins 'Best Scientific Poster Award' 2024.

Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital's research team has been honoured with the prestigious 'Best Scientific Poster Award' at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS).

Yulia Navalnaya to receive DW Freedom of Speech Award 2024.

The late Russian dissident Aleksei Navalny and his wife, Yulia Navalnaya, will receive the Freedom Prize of the Media from a leading German forum, the Ludwig Erhard Summit

GAIL Wins 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award for Barauni – Guwahati Pipeline.

GAIL (India) Limited has been honored with the prestigious 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award in the 'Achievement Award for Best Construction Projects' category for its remarkable accomplishment in the

Barauni – Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline project (BGPL).

The Barauni – Guwahati Natural Gas Pipeline project spans 718 km

SJVN receives 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for CSR Contribution.

SJVN Limited was awarded the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024 for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Contribution.

SJVN has received two prestigious awards at the CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024 instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council.

SJVN has been awarded the 'Achievement Award for Social Development and Creating Impact' and 'CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy'.

Dr. Karthik Kommuri Honoured at National Fame Awards 2024.

SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in RE Financing Category Won by REC.

REC Limited under the Ministry of Power won the SKOCH ESG Award 2024 in the 'Renewable Energy Financing' category.

The SKOCH ESG Awards recognize organizations which demonstrate outstanding performance in the field of environment, social and governance (ESG).

The SKOCH ESG Awards and Assessment serves as an important benchmark for evaluating organizations' commitment to India 2047.

Vineet Jain Honoured with ENBA Lifetime Achievement Award 2023.

Vineet Jain, the managing director of the Times Group, received the prestigious Exchange4Media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 for his significant contributions to Indian television news.

Prof. Meena Charanda honored with 'International Culture Award'.

Professor Meena Charanda, Principal of Kalindi College, Delhi University, was given the 'International Culture Award' for the year 2024.

Prof. Meena Charanda has been given this honor for her remarkable work in the field of education and social service

Vijay Jain, the Managing Director of Star Estate, was awarded the prestigious Times Power Icon 2024 Award.

Abel Prize 2024 awarded to Michel Talagrand.

Michel Talagrand of the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris, France, has been honored with the 2024 Abel Prize by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

Michel Talagrand was recognized for his pioneering work in probability theory and functional analysis.

Talagrand received the prestigious prize “for his groundbreaking contributions to probability theory and functional analysis, with outstanding applications in mathematical physics and statistics.”

About Abel Prize

First awarded in 2003, the Abel prize “recognises pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics”.

The award carries a monetary prize of 7.5 million kronor (about \$720,000) and a glass plaque designed by Norwegian artist Henrik Haugen.

The prize is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters on behalf of the Ministry of Education.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AUGUST 2024

Mastercard, a global technology in the payments industry announced the worldwide launch of its new Payment Passkey Service.

About Payment Passkey Service:

It uses device-based biometric authentication methods such as fingerprints or facial scans.

It will provide customers with a non-OTP-based solution for transaction management.

Working

Passkeys work using algorithms to encrypt data so users can verify their identity fast and securely.

When users first sign into an account, their device creates a pair of keys: one that is public and shared with the website to validate the passkey, and one that is private on your device to unlock the passkey to access your account.

President of Ukraine recently announced that Ukraine has successfully tested its first ballistic missile,

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Hrim-2, manufactured by the country's defence industry.

About Hrim-2:

Hrim-2, Grim, Grom, or OTRK Sapsan, also known as Operational-Tactical Missile System Hrim is a Ukrainian short-range ballistic missile system.

It is designed to combine the features of a tactical missile system and a multiple rocket launcher.

The Hrim-2 version, developed for export, has a range limited to 280 kilometers in order to fall within the 300-kilometre limit set by the Missile Technology Control Regime.

However, for Ukrainian military needs, the system's range has been extended to 700 km.

The Sapsan system comprises a 10-wheeled Transporter-Erector-Launcher (TEL) capable of carrying two containerized missiles simultaneously.

As the world grapples with the urgent need to transition to renewable energy, solar paraboloid technology is emerging as a potentially transformative solution.

About Solar Paraboloid Technology:

It is an advanced form of concentrating solar power (CSP) technology.

It not only enhances the efficiency of solar energy capture but also addresses the limitations that have long plagued traditional photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Researchers from Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), an autonomous institute of Department of Science and Technology, in collaboration with scientists from National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune have developed a security alert system based on piezoelectric polymer nanocomposite.

Union Ministry of Defence recently signed a repeat order for 73,000 SIG716 rifles from Sig Sauer of the U.S., and deliveries are expected to be completed by end-2025.

About SIG 716 Rifle:

It is an American-made automatic assault rifle.

It is manufactured by the United States firearms maker, Sig Sauer.

In India, the army has extensively integrated the SIG 716 into its ranks, particularly for troops operating in mountainous areas and critical border regions.

Features:

The rifle has a total length of 34.39 inches and a barrel length of 15.98 inches.

Its total weight is 3.58 kg.

It has a higher recoil and higher calibre, meant to shoot-to-kill targets at 600 metres.

These rifles have a high-powered 7.62x51mm caliber, offering longer range and greater lethality than the existing INSAS and AK-47 rifles currently in service of Indian armed forces.

South Korea's president recently ordered a crackdown on an epidemic of digital sex crimes targeting women and girls who become the unwitting victims of deepfake pornography.

About Deepfakes:

Deepfakes are synthetic media, including images, videos, and audio, generated by Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology that portray something that does not exist in reality or events that have never occurred.

The term deepfake combines deep, taken from AI deep-learning technology (a type of machine learning that involves multiple levels of processing), and fake, addressing that the content is not real.

It can create people who do not exist, and it can fake real people saying and doing things they did not say or do.

Background: The origin of the word "deepfake" can be traced back to 2017, when a Reddit user with the username "deepfakes", posted explicit videos of celebrities.

The Indian government has recently banned 156 Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) drugs.

What are Fixed-Dose Combination (FDC) drugs?

Fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs are medications that combine two or more Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in a single dosage form, such as a pill, capsule, or injection.

These drugs are often prescribed for conditions requiring multiple medications, such as tuberculosis, diabetes, and hypertension, to enhance patient compliance by reducing the number of pills taken daily.

India achieved a significant milestone in its space journey with the launch of its first reusable hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1, recently.

About RHUMI-1:

It is India's first reusable hybrid rocket.

It was developed by the Tamil Nadu-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group. It stands out for its innovative hybrid propulsion system, combining the advantages of both liquid and solid fuels.

RHUMI-1's hybrid design, which uses solid propellant and liquid oxidizer, reduces the risk of accidental detonation by combining these components only during combustion.

This technology promises improved efficiency and reduced operational costs.

NASA has launched a satellite to track methane emissions.**About Tanager-1 Satellite:****Launch details:**

Launch vehicle: SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

Launch site: Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.

Development collaboration: Jointly developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and other partners.

Mission purpose:

Primary Objective: Detection of major carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) emissions.

Environmental Focus: Targeting key greenhouse gases that significantly contribute to global warming.

The recent findings from India's Chandrayaan-3 mission have sparked renewed interest in the Lunar Magma Ocean (LMO) theory, a crucial concept in planetary science that explains the moon's early formation.**Chandrayaan-3's discovery:**

Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover identified a rock type known as ferroan anorthosite in the lunar south pole region.

This discovery is significant as it aligns with earlier observations made by the Apollo and Luna missions, confirming the theory that these rocks are remnants of an ancient magma ocean that once covered the moon.

Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW) introduced a unique innovative centralized pension processing software called 'Bhavishya' for all central government Ministries/Departments.**About Bhavishya Software:**

It is an online Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System launched by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare.

It was made mandatory for all central civil Ministries and Departments w.e.f 01.01.2017.

It was launched to address the problems of delay & clerical errors in processing the pension cases, as well as financial loss and harassment to the pensioners.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the EOS-08 Earth Observation Satellite onboard the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.**About Small Satellite Launch Vehicle:**

It is a three-stage Launch Vehicle configured with three Solid Propulsion stages.

It also has a liquid propulsion-based Velocity Trimming Module (VTM) as a terminal stage, which can help adjust the velocity as it prepares to place the satellite.

Aim: The aim behind SSLVs is to produce low-cost launch vehicles with short turnaround times and minimal infrastructural requirements.

It can launch satellites weighing up to 500 kg and accommodate multiple satellites.

India is now all set to commission its second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighat, armed with nuclear missiles for strategic deterrence.**About INS Arighat:**

It is India's second indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), following India's first nuclear submarine, INS Arihant, commissioned in 2018.

It was constructed at the Indian Navy's Ship Building Centre (SBC) in Visakhapatnam.

It represents a critical component of India's nuclear triad, enabling the nation to launch nuclear missiles from land, air, and sea.

Features:

It measures 111.6 meters in length, has a beam of 11 meters, a draught of 9.5 meters, and a displacement of

6,000 tonnes.

It will have one seven-blade propeller powered by a pressurized water reactor.

Nasa's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) has concluded its mission, marking the end of a journey spanning over a decade.

About NEOWISE Telescope:

It was launched in 2009 by NASA as the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE.

The space telescope was originally designed to survey the sky in infrared, detecting asteroids, stars and some of the faintest galaxies in space.

It had completed its primary mission in February 2011.

Observations resumed in December 2013, when the telescope was taken out of hibernation and re-purposed for the NEOWISE project as an instrument to study near-Earth objects, or NEOs, as well as more distant asteroids and comets.

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Indore has designed special shoes for soldiers equipped with a Tri-boelectric Nanogenerator (TENG) Technology.

About Tri-boelectric Nanogenerator (TENG) Technology:

It is a self-powered, feasible solution to convert mechanical energy into electricity.

The electricity will get stored in a device fixed in the soles and can be used to operate small appliances

Features: It is equipped with a global positioning system (GPS) and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technologies, these shoes can help determine the location of personnel in real-time.

ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite-8 (EOS-8) is expected to be launched by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 on August 15 from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.

About Earth Observation Satellite-8:

It will be launched by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3.

Objective: The primary objectives of the EOS-08 mission include designing and developing a microsatellite, creating payload instruments compatible with the microsatellite bus, and incorporating new technologies required for future operational satellites.

It is built on the Microsat/IMS-1 bus .

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JULY 2024

European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) is gearing up for a pivotal maneuver in its mission to the gas giant and it is scheduled to fly past Earth on August 20, 2024.

About Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer:

It is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission to explore Jupiter and three of its icy moons: Europa, Callisto and Ganymede.

Objective: The probe aims to explore the possibilities of life in space and the origins of Jupiter.

It will monitor Jupiter's complex magnetic, radiation, and plasma environment in depth and its interplay with the moons.

GROWTH-India Telescope made a remarkable observation, capturing a 116-meter, building-sized asteroid as it made its closest approach to Earth.

About GROWTH-India Telescope:

It is India's first fully robotic optical research telescope.

The telescope's primary mission is to observe explosive transients and variable sources, including near-Earth asteroids.

Location: The telescope is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory site at Hanle, Ladakh. Situated at 4500 meters above mean sea level, this is one of the highest observatory sites in the world and one of the best telescope locations in the country.

It joins the Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT), the gamma-ray array telescope (HAGAR), and the imaging Cherenkov telescope (MACE) at this site.

NASA's Perseverance rover recently made an intriguing discovery that could shed light on the ancient history of Mars and the possibility of past microbial life.

About Perseverance Rover:

Perseverance, nicknamed "Percy", is a semi-autonomous rover the size of a small car designed to explore the surface of Mars.

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It is part of NASA's ongoing Mars 2020 Mission.

Launch: It was launched on July 30, 2020, from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Landing: Successfully landed on the surface of Mars's Jezero Crater on February 18, 2021.

The European Space Agency recently announced that its new Ramses spacecraft may accompany the asteroid Apophis before and after its safe, albeit rather close, pass of Earth.

About Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES):

It is a planetary defence mission of the European Space Agency (ESA).

It will intercept the asteroid 99942 Apophis and accompany it through its safe but exceptionally close flyby of Earth in 2029.

Roughly 375 m across, Apophis will pass within 32,000 km from Earth's surface on 13 April, 2029.

China's APSTAR-6E satellite has officially begun operating after successfully passing technical reviews both in orbit and on the ground in Hong Kong.

About APSTAR-6E Satellite:

It is China's first all-electric propulsion communication satellite.

Developed by the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), this satellite operates in geostationary orbit.

Launched via a Long March-2C rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center on January 13, 2023, APSTAR-6E completed its journey to geostationary orbit after separating from its independent propulsion module.

Indian scientists have developed an open-source tool to generate an infrared star catalogue for the Adaptive Optics System (AOS) of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)

About Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT):

It is a revolutionary class of extremely large telescopes that will enable us to explore deeper into space and observe cosmic objects.

It is an ambitious international project involving India, the United States, Canada, China and Japan that aims to significantly advance our understanding of the universe.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY JUNE 2024

Australian government entered into an \$18 million memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under the space MAITRI mission.

About Space MAITRI Mission:

Space MAITRI (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation), represents a major step forward in the strategic partnership between the two nations in the space domain.

It aims to foster closer ties between commercial, institutional and governmental space organizations from India and Australia.

Under this agreement, NewSpace India Limited will launch Australia's Space Machines Company's second Optimus spacecraft in 2026.

The 450kg Optimus spacecraft, the largest Australian-designed and built spacecraft to date, will be launched on ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Bengaluru-based SpacePixxel Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

The contract is for designing and developing a Miniaturised Satellite capable of carrying multiple advanced payloads up to 150 kgs for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

This marks the 350th contract under the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative, part of MoD's flagship program.

ISRO has achieved a third consecutive success in the Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX) with the Pushpak vehicle.

The third and final test in the series, RLV LEX-03, was conducted at 07:10 IST on June 23, 2024 at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga, Karnataka.

The winged vehicle 'Pushpak' was released from an Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter at an altitude of 4.5 km.

Wärtsilä Oyj Abp, a Finland-based company, has launched the world's first large-scale 100% hydrogen-

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ready engine power plant to support net-zero power systems.

In a first, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its latest large satellite, GSAT 20, on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

About GSAT 20 Satellite:

It is India's latest communications satellite.

It is a hi-tech, heavy-weight satellite weighing 4,700 kg.

It will have a high throughput capacity of 48 GBPS.

The satellite made by ISRO has 32 spot beams, and it has been made to cover all of India, but with a special emphasis on providing connectivity for Northeastern India.

The satellite will be owned and operated by ISRO's commercial arm New Space India Ltd. (NSIL).

DRDO has successfully completed six consecutive developmental trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS' in Chandipur, Odisha.

About ABHYAS:

It is a High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT).

It has been designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru, and developed through Production Agencies - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited & Larsen & Toubro

DRDO handed over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy at a ceremony held in New Delhi.

About Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket:

Microwave Obscurant Chaff (MOC) is a niche technology developed by DRDO's Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur

It obscures radar signals and creates a microwave shield around platforms and assets, thus reducing radar detection.

DRDO has indigenously developed three variants of this critical technology namely Short Range Chaff Rocket (SRCR), Medium Range Chaff Rocket (MRCR) and Long Range Chaff Rocket (LRCR).

Indian Air Force (IAF) recently proposed to the central government the purchase of 10 TAPAS drones.

About TAPAS UAV:

The Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance Beyond Horizon-201, or Tapas BH-201, is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) drone.

It was previously referred to as Rustom-II.

It was developed indigenously by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of DRDO.

It also projects a range of 250 km.

Maximum speed: 225 kmph.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently developed Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named PraVaHa.

About PraVaHa Software:

Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa) is a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software developed in ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

It can simulate external and internal flows on launch vehicles, winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles

India and the United States are in advanced talks for the joint manufacture of the latest generation of Stryker armoured infantry combat vehicles (ICVs).

About Stryker armoured infantry combat vehicles (ICVs):

The Stryker is a family of eight-wheel-drive combat armoured infantry combat vehicles (ICVs).

It is jointly developed by General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) Canada and the General Dynamics Land Systems Division in the United States.

Department of Telecommunications (DoT) announced two proposals—5G Intelligent Village and Quantum Encryption Algorithm (QEA)—aimed at catalysing innovation and technological advancement in the telecom sector.

About 5G Intelligent Village Initiative:

This initiative responds to the pressing need for equitable technological advancement by harnessing the transformative power of 5G technology to uplift rural communities.

It aims to enable effective utilisation of Ultra-Reliable Low-Latency Communication (URLLC) and

massive Machine Type Communication (mMTC) aspects of 5G in selected villages, showcasing the advantages of 5G connectivity.

India set to be the 6th country to have its own Deep Sea Mission; 1st Stage of harbor trail (40-50m) deep of deep sea mission planned by September 2024; The Mission has the potential to contribute greatly to the overall growth of Indian economy.

About:

The Matsya 6000 is a three-person submersible that will be able to go 6,000 metres under the sea. The vessel is being developed by Chennai's National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

Structure: Made of 80mm-thick titanium alloy, it will be able to withstand a pressure 600 times greater than that at sea level. The Matsya 6000 will be able to operate from 12 to 16 hours straight and will have an oxygen supply of 96 hours.

The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is an ambitious Indian initiative to explore and harness the depths of the ocean.

It is a five-year mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021, with a budget of nearly ₹4,077 crore.

A Woman-led Start-up Developed 'Divya Drishti', a cutting-edge AI Tool for Personal Identification, under a Technology Development Fund.

About:

The AI tool "Divya Drishti" integrates face recognition with immutable physiological parameters such as gait and skeleton.

It was developed by Ingenious Research Solutions Pvt Ltd., a start-up established by a woman entrepreneur, Shivani Verma.

Israel Aerospace Industries unveiled a new air-launched variant of its Lora ballistic missile recently.

About Air LORA:

It is an air-launched variant of the Long-Range Artillery (LORA) ballistic missile.

It is designed and developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

US recently conducted an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile test from the Californian Vandenberg Space Force Base.

About Minuteman III:

The LGM-30G Minuteman III is a solid-fueled, intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which the United States Air Force (USAF) first deployed in the 1960s.

It was designed and manufactured by the Boeing Corporation

China's space agency said that China landed an uncrewed spacecraft on the far side of the moon on 2nd of June.

About Chang'e-6:

The Chang'e-6 craft successfully landed in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the back of the moon.

It is the first human sampling and return mission from the far side of the moon.

It was launched by a Chinese Long March-5 rocket from Wenchang Space Launch Center on the southern island of Hainan before 53 days.

Chang'e-6 consists of an orbiter, a returner, a lander and an ascender

The Bundeswehr, Germany's armed forces, lost an Iris-T missile, sparking serious concerns about the crucial technology being compromised.

About Iris-T Missile:

It is a next-generation short-range air-to-air missile.

The IRIS-T is a six-nation program under German lead, with Diehl BGT Defence (a German defense company) acting as industrial prime contractor.

The IRIS-T programme sees Germany, Greece, Norway, Italy, Spain and Sweden unite to provide access to technology and expertise. Diehl Defence is the main contractor.

Indian space agency ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and the American space agency NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) will jointly develop and launch the Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite. The satellite will map the entire Earth twice every 12 days, which will be helpful in combating climate change and other global challenges;
 NASA will provide training to the ISRO astronauts in space flights and human space missions.
 India will participate in the U.S. Space Command's Global Sentinel Exercise at Vandenberg Space Force Base, to be held in February 2025.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MAY 2024

Agnikul Cosmos launches Agnibaan SOrTeD with world's first 3D printed engine.

Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited successfully launched Agnibaan SOrTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator) from Agnikul Launch Pad 1 (ALP-1), located within the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC)-SHAR in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, India.

This marked the maiden flight of Agnibaan SOrTeD, propelled by the world's first single-piece 3D printed semi-cryogenic engine.

Agnibaan SOrTeD stands as India's second privately developed rocket, equipped with the world's pioneering 3D printed engine technology.

DD Kisan, the government TV channel, is set to introduce two AI anchors, AI Krish and AI Bhoomi.

ISRO has inaugurated the carbon reduction initiative by SFO Technologies, Kochi-based flagship company of the NeST Group.

The initiative aligns with the UN's goal of achieving a 50% carbon reduction by 2035 and zero emissions by 2040.

The Indian government envisions the space industry to grow to a USD 9 to 10 billion industry within the next 5 to 10 years, compared to its current valuation of USD 2 billion.

Kadet Defence Systems (P) Limited (KDS) introduces India's first Loitering Aerial Munitions (LAM) for the Indian Armed Forces.

India's First Commercial System on Chip (SoC) Launched.

Mindgrove Technologies Private Limited, in collaboration with IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation and IIT Madras Incubation Cell, introduced India's first commercial System on Chip (SoC) called Secure Internet of Things.

Japan to launch world's first wooden satellite to combat space pollution.

In a world-first, Japanese researchers have built a tiny wooden satellite named LignoSat that will be launched into space in September.

About LignoSat:

LignoSat", a fusion of "ligno" (the Latin word for wood) and "satellite",.

It is developed by collaborative research and development by a team comprising members from Kyoto University and Sumitomo Forestry Co.

DRDO successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha.

About RudraM-II Missile:

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.

Indian-American astronomer Shrinivas Kulkarni was awarded the Shaw Prize for Astronomy in 2024 for his work on the physics of astronomical transients.

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.

Known as 'AI agents', GPT-4o and Project Astra have been touted as far superior to conventional voice assistants such as Alexa, Siri, and Google Assistant.

About AI agents:

These are sophisticated AI systems that can engage in real-time, multi-modal (text, image, or voice) interactions with humans.

India-Japan partnership for their joint moon mission, Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), is likely to take flight in a few years, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in an interview recently.

About Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX):

It is a collaborative endeavor between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).

The mission is scheduled to launch in 2025.

This mission will take off aboard Japan's H3 rocket.

A NASA PREFIRE polar mission is set to be launched from New Zealand on May 22.

About PREFIRE Polar Mission:

The Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment (PREFIRE) polar mission consists of twin satellites, each carrying one instrument and measuring the poles about six hours apart.

Objective: The objective of the mission is to reveal the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth's polar regions for the first time, making climate models more accurate.

The ChatGPT, OpenAI has brought the capabilities of GPT-4 through its latest model named GPT-4o.

About GPT-4o:

GPT-4o ("o" for "omni") offers GPT-4 level intelligence and it is much faster and improves its capabilities across text, vision, and audio.

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.

About DigiLocker:

It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (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.

ISRO achieved another milestone in design and manufacturing by successfully conducting a long duration test of the PS4 engine of the PSLV stage.

About PS4 engine:

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, 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.

Recently, 3AI Holding Limited and SML India, announced the launch of 'Hanooman', India's homegrown multilingual GenAI platform.

About Hanooman AI Platform:

It is the largest multilingual and most affordable Gen AI platform.

It is available in 98 global languages, of which, 12 are Indian languages.

USA has indicted Russian national Dmitry Yuryevich Khoroshev and announced a \$10 million reward for his alleged involvement with LockBit ransomware.

About LockBit Ransomware:

It is malicious software designed to block user access to computer systems in exchange for a ransom payment.

It was formerly known as "ABCD" ransomware, but it has since grown into a unique threat within the scope of extortion tools.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY APRIL 2024

NASA successfully launched its Advanced Composite Solar Sail System spacecraft from New Zealand recently.

About Advanced Composite Solar Sail System (ACS3):

It is a NASA technology demonstration mission designed to characterize solar sail structures technologies for future small spacecraft to engage in deep space missions requiring long-duration, low-thrust propulsion. Launched in 2024, ACS3 will deploy a sail about the size of a small apartment from a toaster oven-size spacecraft.

Microsoft unveiled the latest version of its 'lightweight' AI model – the Phi-3-Mini.

Voyager 1 probe is returning usable information to ground control, the NASA announced recently.

About Voyager 1 Spacecraft:

It is a space probe launched by NASA on September 5, 1977, about two weeks after its twin Voyager 2 to study the outer Solar System and beyond.

According to NASA, Voyager 1 has enough fuel to keep its instruments running until at least 2025. By then, the spacecraft will be approximately 13.8 billion miles (22.1 billion kilometers) away from the sun.

Meta introduced its most capable Large Language Model (LLM), the Meta Llama 3.

About Llama 3:

Llama or Large Language Model Meta AI is a family of LLMs introduced by Meta AI in February 2023.

NASA confirmed Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's organic compound-rich moon Titan with a budget of \$3.35 billion and a launch date set for July 2028.

About Dragonfly Mission:

It is a "dual quadcopter" designed to fly across the surface of Titan, Saturn's largest moon. It will explore a variety of locations on Saturn's moon Titan.

It will spend most of its time on the moon's surface making science measurements. It will use a radioisotope power system like the Curiosity rover on Mars

NASA is now publicly distributing science-quality data from its newest Earth-observing PACE satellite.

About PACE Satellite:

The Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) satellite is placed in Sun-synchronous orbit. The primary science instrument for PACE is the Ocean Colour Instrument(OCI) which is designed to measure the ocean's colour across a spectrum from ultraviolet to shortwave infrared.

It features two polarimeters – the Spectro-polarimeter for Planetary Exploration(SPEXone) and the Hyper Angular Research Polarimeter (HARP2).

China National Space Administration (CNSA) recently said its launch of the Queqiao-2 satellite was a "complete success".

About Queqiao-2:

It is a relay satellite launched by China to serve as a communications bridge between ground operations on earth and upcoming lunar probe missions on the far side of the moon until at least 2030.

A fleeting visit by the BepiColombo mission to Venus has revealed surprising insights into how gases are stripped away from the upper layers of the planet's atmosphere.

About BepiColombo:

It is an international mission consisting of two spacecraft riding together to Mercury to orbit and study the planet from unique vantage points.

It is a joint project between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japanese counterpart JAXA.

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) recently announced the successful deployment in space of its sub-metre resolution optical satellite, TSAT-1A, by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.

About TSAT-1A:

It is an optical sub-metre-resolution Earth observation satellite.

It was built by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) in collaboration with Latin American company Satellogic Inc, following a collaboration agreement between the two companies in late 2023.

TSAT-1A was assembled in TASL's Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) plant at its Vemagal facility in Karnataka.

It was launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, in the US.

Astronomers are looking forward to posting high-resolution telescopes on the moon and in orbit around it, including one from India called PRATUSH.

About PRATUSH Telescope:

Probing Reionization of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen (PRATUSH) is a radio telescope to be sited on the moon's far side.

It is being built by the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru with active collaboration from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) in Bengaluru has developed a new platform called OptiDrop.

About OptiDrop Platform:

It is an innovative microfluidic chip-based platform that simplifies and reduces the cost of studying single cells. It employs a novel approach that enables precise and cost-effective analysis of single cells encapsulated in droplets.

The platform's unique features include live data visualisation, a smaller data footprint, and a 'closed' system design that prevents external contamination.

Recently, a New York-based research lab and technology company Hume, has introduced what can be called the 'first conversational AI with emotional intelligence.'

About Hume AI:

It is the world's first emotionally intelligent voice AI. It accepts live audio input and returns both generated audio and transcripts augmented with measures of vocal expression.

It is essentially an API that is powered by its proprietary empathic large language model (eLLM). This eLLM reportedly understands and emulates tones of voices and word emphasis to optimise human-AI conversations

Intel Corporation, a leading semiconductor manufacturer, unveils 'Hala Point,' the world's largest neuromorphic system.

Codenamed 'Hala Point,' the system is designed to advance sustainable Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives.

Israel has introduced its maritime defense system, known as the C-Dome, for the first time in Eilat, Israel's southernmost city.

The C-Dome is essentially a naval adaptation of the Iron Dome, a renowned air defense system designed to safeguard against rocket and missile threats.

Angara-A5 successfully launched on April 11, 2024, from Vostochny Cosmodrome, replacing Proton M as Russia's heavy-lift rocket.

Space Exploration Technologies Corporation (SpaceX) conducted the launch of Bandwagon-1.

This marks the first rideshare mission to low-Earth orbit, facilitated by a Falcon 9 rocket.

The launch took place from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Kennedy Space Center in Florida, United States of America (USA).

Romania unveils world's most powerful laser.

Developed by a research center in Romania as part of the EU Infrastructure Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) project.

Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2018 for their pioneering work in laser technology.

Microsoft and OpenAI have announced the introduction of 'Stargate,' a cutting-edge AI supercomputer with a price tag of \$100 billion.

The first phase of the world's largest copper manufacturing plant in Mundra, Gujarat was launched by the Adani-led group.

The company plans to invest \$1.2 billion in this phase

The Gaia telescope, led by Khyati Malhan, reveals two ancient star streams: Shiva and Shakti.

Khyati Malhan is from the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy (MPIA) in Germany.

Grok-1 is an AI chatbot developed by xAI, a company founded by Elon Musk.

Agnikul Cosmos Private Limited, one of Tamil Nadu's space companies, is preparing to launch its first rocket, Agnibaan Sub Orbital Technology Demonstrator (SOrTeD), from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE AUGUST 2024

The annual meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) started on August 26 in Nuku'alofa, the capital of Tonga.

PIF is an intergovernmental organization with 18 member states in the Pacific region.

The forum aims to boost economic growth, improve political governance, and enhance regional cooperation.

PIF members are working to raise funds for climate action, with the Pacific Resilience Facility currently \$380 million short of its \$500 million goal.

India to Host First World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Goa.

The Government is gearing up to host the inaugural World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES), aiming to bolster India's Media and Entertainment industry and extend its global influence.

The Summit will be being held in Goa from 20th of November to 25th of November this year.

WAVES is poised to become a significant platform for icons of the Media and Entertainment fraternity worldwide, focusing on entertainment economics and technology.

The 3rd India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue of the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers of both countries was held in New Delhi on 20 August 2024.

The 2+2 Dialogue is a mechanism for both countries to discuss bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual importance. It was started in 2019 to deepen and enhance India and Japan's security and defence cooperation.

Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hosted the 3rd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue. The Japanese side was led by Defence Minister Kihara Minoru and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Yoko Kamikawa.

India holds 2+2 Dialogues with the United States of America, Russia, Japan, Australia, and Brazil

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024.

The Summit is being held in a virtual format, and many leaders of the Global South are participating in the meeting.

The Voice of Global South is an Indian concept rooted in the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

It provides a platform for the countries of the Global South to raise issues that are vital to them.

India hosted the first Voice of Global South Summit in a virtual format from 2 to 13 January 2023.

PM Modi announced that India will start a special fund of 2.5 million dollars to strengthen trade promotion activities amongst the Global South countries.

123 country leaders and ministers from Asia, Africa, Latin America and Oceania attended the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit meeting.

China and Pakistan were not invited to the Summit meeting.

"An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future" is the theme of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit.

New Delhi host the first BIMSTEC Business Summit meeting.

The first BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Business Summit meeting is being held in New Delhi from 6 to 8 August 2024.

The Summit will facilitate discussions on key areas of cooperation and bring together all BIMSTEC stakeholders on one platform.

The first BIMSTEC Business Summit was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar in New Delhi on 6 August 2024.

The Ministry of External Affairs, in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), has organized the first Business Summit meeting of BIMSTEC.

Thailand will host the 6th BIMSTEC Summit Meeting in September 2024.

New Delhi hosted the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's Retreat (meeting) on July 11 and 12, 2024.

The 4th BIMSTEC Security Chiefs meeting was held on 27 July 2024 in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar.

About BIMSTEC

BIMSTEC was established as a regional group in 1997 to promote cooperation among the littoral states of

the Bay of Bengal regions. Its members are India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, and Myanmar.

BIMSTEC headquarters is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Secretary General - Indra Mani Pandey (Indian Citizen).

5th meeting of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement Joint Committee held in Jakarta.

The 5th AITIGA Joint Committee and related meetings for review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) were held in ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, Indonesia from 29th July to 1st August 2024, marking a significant milestone in enhancing economic cooperation between ASEAN and India.

ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations):

ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, was established in 1967 when the founding nations signed the ASEAN Declaration (also known as the Bangkok Declaration).

It comprises ten countries: Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Brunei, Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia, Malaysia and Myanmar

5th Global Fintech Fest Held in Mumbai.

The 5th Global Fintech Fest was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra, from 28-30 August 2024.

The festival, which started in 2021, aims to establish itself as the premier global conference for the global fintech ecosystem, promote collaboration, and influence the future of the Fintech industry.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 5th Global Fintech Fest on 30 August 2024.

Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das and Chairman of Global Fintech Fest (GFF) Kris Gopalakrishnan were also present at the occasion.

The Global Fintech Fest is always held in Mumbai.

The Global Fintech Fest is organised by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), the Payment Council of India and the Fintech Convergence Council.

The theme of the 5th Global Fintech Fest was 'Blueprint for the next decade of finance: Responsible AI| Inclusive| Resilient.'

Reserve Bank of India organised the Global Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies in Bengaluru on 26-27 August 2024.

It was organised as part of its RBI@90 initiative.

During his inaugural address, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said the RBI will soon launch the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) technology platform across the nation.

The Russian capital city of Moscow on 28 August 2024 hosted the 2nd Meeting of the Joint Russian-Indian Commission on Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management 2024.

The Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanad Rai.

The Russian Minister for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters, Kurenkov Aleksandr Vyacheslavovic, led the Russian delegation.

Singapore hosts the 2nd India- Singapore Ministerial Roundtable(ISMR).

The ISMR is a high-level platform that provides a mechanism for both countries to discuss the entire gamut of relationships and set future agendas for bilateral relationships.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi on 21 August 2024.

The CII India Africa Business Conclave is an initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

The theme of the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave is - Creating One Future.

President Droupadi Murmu presided over the 52nd Conference of Governors at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 2 August 2024.

In 2021, the 51st Conference of Governors was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The conference was presided over by the then President Ram Nath Kovind.

The 4th edition of the Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was held in the Madhya Pradesh capital, Bhopal, on 30 and 31 July 2024.

The Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan's main purpose is to provide a platform for researchers to present and discuss their work in Hindi, enrich science and technology-based research in Hindi and popularise science and technology through Hindi medium.

The conference featured six sessions on diverse topics of Science, Technology, Ayurveda, Engineering, and

Science Communication.

The 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI), Bhopal.

The theme of the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was "Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal."

Amrit Kaal is the Prime Minister's vision to make India a developed country by 2047, which will allow the country to fulfil its aspirations.

The GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) Division of the Union Ministry of Culture has organised a three-day (1-3 August 2024) 'State Museum Conclave on the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum' in New Delhi.

The conclave will discuss ways and means by which the state governments and other stakeholders can contribute to the central government's project to build the world's largest museum -Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum in New Delhi.

The 'State Museum Conclave on the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum' was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 1 August 2024.

28th COCSSO Conference Held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

The 28th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) was organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath, New Delhi, from 12th to 13th August 2024.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Rao Inderjit Singh, MoSPI, inaugurated the conference.

The conference's theme was "Use of Data for Decision Making: Strengthening State Statistical Systems."

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE JULY 2024

India will host the prestigious International Conference of Agricultural Economists after a 66-year gap. NITI Aayog Member Prof. Ramesh Chand gave this information in New Delhi on 30 July 2024.

India will host the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists at the Pusa Institute New Delhi from 2 to 7 August 2024.

The International Conference on Agricultural Economics is held every three years.

"Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems" is the theme of the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists to be held in New Delhi.

The 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists is being organised by the International Association of Agricultural Economists in collaboration with the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, the International Food Policy Research Institute, the Agricultural Economics Research Association (India), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, and the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research.

The 4th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Security Chiefs meeting was held in the capital city of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, on 27 July 2024.

At the meeting, India was represented by the National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.

BIMSTEC was established in 1997 as a regional group to promote cooperation among the littoral states of the Bay of Bengal regions.

It currently has seven members - India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Thailand and Myanmar.

BIMSTEC headquarters is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

India Hosts 6th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in Mumbai.

The 6th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra from 4th to 5th July 2024.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI).

Partnered with the Governments of Australia and Indonesia.

New Delhi to host the 46th World Heritage Committee session of UNESCO.

The Indian capital, New Delhi, is all set to host the 46th World Heritage Committee session of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) from 21 -31 July 2024.

This is the first time such an event is being held in India.

The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the function on 21 July 2024 in the presence of the Union Minister for Culture, G.Kishan Reddy.

The Union Ministry of Culture is organising the event in association with UNESCO. The event, which will be held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, will also include the participation of UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay . During the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a \$1 million grant to support UNESCO's global conservation efforts.

India takes over the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre Chairmanship.

India assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for 2024-25 at the meeting of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center held in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 25, 2024.

India took over the chairmanship from China, which was the chairman of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for 2023-24.

Rajendra Singh, Head of the Department of National Disaster Management Authority, representing the government of India, assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

As chairman, Rajendra Singh also chaired the 5th Board of Trustee meeting of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, which was held in Bangkok on 25 July 2024.

About Asian Disaster Preparedness Center

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center was set up in 1986 as a non-profit, autonomous, regional organisation.

Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand

Global INDIAai Summit 2024 concludes in New Delhi.

The two-day 'Global IndiaAI Summit, organised by the government of India, successfully concluded at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

The 'Global IndiaAI Summit, held on 3 and 4th July 2024, was attended by over 2,000 global artificial intelligence (AI) experts, Policy makers, Artificial Intelligence (AI) practitioners, Industry/Startups, and Academia.

Along with the Global IndiaAI Summit, India also organised the 6th Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Ministerial Council meeting on 3 July 2024 in a hybrid mode.

As the lead chair of the GPAI for 2024, India organised the 6th GPAI Ministerial Council meeting.

The Global INDIAai Summit 2024 was organised by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The 6th GPAI Ministerial Council Meeting was also organised by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The focus of the Global INDIAai Summit 2024 summit was on advancing AI development in areas like Compute Capacity, Foundational Models, Datasets, Application Development, Future Skills, Startup Financing, and Safe AI.

The IndiaAiMission was approved by the Union Cabinet in March 2024 with an outlay of USD 1.25 Billion.

About Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence(GPAI)

The Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence was launched on 15 June 2020 with 15 countries, including India, as its founding member.

At present, the GPAI has 29 member countries.

Secretariat of the GPAI: The GPAI is hosted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) at its secretariat in Paris, France.

First International Conference on Steel Slag Road was jointly organized by CSIR-CRRI (Central Road Research Institute) and PHDCCI (PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

It took place in New Delhi on 29th June 2024.

The theme of the 1st International Conference on Steel Slag Road was "A Sustainable Green Infrastructure Transforming Waste to Wealth".

24th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit was organized by Kazakhstan and took place in Astana on July 3-4, 2024.

During the summit, Belarus was officially admitted as the 10th member state of the organization.

"Sahkar Se Samridhhi" conference on the occasion of the 102nd 'International Day of Corp.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah addressed the "Sahkar se Samridhhi" (Prosperity through Cooperation) program in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Here are the key highlights:

Date: July 6, 2024

Location: Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Theme: "Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All".

Nano-Fertilizer Assistance Scheme: Shri Amit Shah launched a scheme providing 50% assistance to farmers for purchasing nano-fertilizers under the AGR-2 Scheme for FY 2024-25.

Bharat Organic Atta: Shri Shah inaugurated the launch of "Bharat Organic Atta," produced by the National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL).

Rupay KCC Distribution: Zero-interest rate Rupay Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) were distributed to women cooperative members in Banaskantha district.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently held a conference for the Statutory Auditors and Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) of Commercial Banks and All India Financial Institutions on July 9, 2024, in Mumbai.

The theme of the conference was "Shared Vision, Shared Responsibility: Advancing Assurance in Banking Supervision."

22nd Annual Bilateral Summit between Russia and India.

During the 22nd Annual Bilateral Summit, which took place in Moscow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid an official visit to the Russian Federation at the invitation of President Vladimir Putin on 8th-9th July 2024.

Highest Civilian Honour: President Putin conferred Russia's highest civilian honor, the "Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle," upon Prime Minister Modi.

2024 World Leaders Summit was held in the UK Parliament's House of Lords.

The 2024 World Leaders Summit, held on July 15, 2024, at the UK Parliament's House of Lords, focused on the theme "Global Collaboration for Sustainable Development."

57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) took place in Vientiane, Lao PDR on 26th July 2024.

The 57th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) was hosted and chaired by H.E. Saleumxay Kommasith, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR.

Dr. S. Jaishankar, the External Affairs Minister of India, actively participated in this meeting.

Under the theme of "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience,"

Vision 2045: Developing strategic plans for the ASEAN Political-Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community, and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community to ensure resilience, innovation, dynamism, and people-centeredness by 2045

The Tech Leaders Forum of India was indeed launched at the World Education Conference 2024, held in Dubai on 29th July 2024.

Launched by: The Federation of Economic Development Association (FEDA)

Location: Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, Dubai.

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) successfully hosted its inaugural Annual Operational Sea Training Conference in Visakhapatnam on July 30, 2024.

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE JUNE 2024

64th International Sugar Organisation Council Meeting in New Delhi.

The 64th International Sugar Organisation Council meeting commenced on 25th June 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Delegates from more than 30 countries and representatives of many international organisations are expected to participate in the meeting to be held from 25-27 June 2024, to discuss issues related to the sugar industry and biofuels sectors.

India was elected as the chairman of the International Sugar Council for 2024 at the 63rd International Sugar Organisation Council meeting held in London, the United Kingdom last year.

India is the Chairman of the International Sugar Organisation.

The largest producer of sugar in the world is Brazil followed by India, European Union, China and the United States of America.

India is the largest consumer and second largest producer of sugar in the world, with a share of about 15 per cent in global sugar consumption and about 20 per cent in sugar production.

India is also the 3rd largest country producer of ethanol in the world after the USA and Brazil.

Uttar Pradesh is the leading sugarcane-producing state in India, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.

NSA of India & US Co-chair 2nd India- US meeting on ICET In New Delhi.

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The 2nd meeting of the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) was held between the two countries on 17 June 2024 in New Delhi.

The meeting was co-chaired by the National Security Advisor (NSA) of India, Ajit Doval and the United States (U.S) NSA Jake Sullivan.

Jake Sullivan is the first high-ranking official of the American government to visit India after the Narendra Modi government was sworn in for the third consecutive time.

The first iCET meeting was held in Washington, D.C., USA, in January 2023.

PM Modi returns after a successful G7 Outreach meeting in Italy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned home on 15 June 2024 after his first official foreign visit after being sworn in as the Prime Minister of India for the third successive term.

He was on a one-day visit to Italy to attend the Group of Seven (G7) Outreach session held in Borgo Egnazia, Apulia, Italy, on 14 June 2024.

The first summit meeting took place in France in 1975.

The next 51st summit meeting will be held in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, in 2025

1st BRICS Ministerial meeting held with expanded membership in Russia.

The first ministerial meeting of the BRICS group of countries with the newly added members took place in the Russian city of Nizhny Novgorod on 10 June 2024.

The two-day (10 and 11 June 2024) meetings of the BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs/International Relations was hosted by Russia, as it is the current chairman of the BRICS.

Russia took over the chairmanship of BRICS from South Africa on 1 January 2024.

Russia will host the 16th annual BRICS summit from 22 to 24 October 2024.

The first summit meeting of the leaders of the BRIC countries was held in June 1996 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.

Six countries—Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—were invited to join the BRICS group.

Argentina declined to join the group, while Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined the group on 1 January 2024.

India, the United States of America, South Korea, Japan and the European Union have launched a Biopharmaceuticals Alliance.

The first meeting of the Alliance was held in San Diego, the United States of America, during the Bio International Convention 2024, the world's largest pharmaceutical exhibition.

The BIO International Convention was held in San Diego, United States of America from 3 to June 2024.

The Bio International Convention is considered to be the world's largest event in the field of biotechnology with the participation of more than 18,500 industry leaders from across the globe.

First IPEF Clean Economy Investor Forum meeting Held in Singapore.

Singapore hosted the first Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum meeting on 5& 6 June 2024.

Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial meeting.

The Indian delegation was led by Sunil Barthwal, Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)

The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is an American-led initiative that was launched after the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted the world's supply chain.

It was formally launched by American President Joe Biden on 23 May 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.

The IPEF consists of 14 member countries.

21st Shangri La Dialogue Ends in Singapore.

The 21st edition of the Asia Pacific premier defence meet, the Shangri La Dialogue or the Asian Security Summit, ended in Singapore on 2 June 2024.

The Shangri La Dialogue was held at the Shangri La Hotel in Singapore from 31 May to 2 June 2024.

The 112th International Labour Organization (ILO) was held in Geneva from 3-14 June 2024.

International Labour Organization (ILO) is a United Nations agency .

It is founded in October 1919

The ILO has 187 member states.

It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

The 2024 G7 Summit took place from June 13-15 in Borgo Egnazia, Fasano, Apulia, Italy.

This was the 50th summit since the group's inception, marking a significant milestone.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni hosted the event, which included leaders from the seven member states: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, along with the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.

The 2024 G7 Summit, centered on the theme "Building a Sustainable and Secure Future."

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) Forum High-Level Event 2024 was held in Geneva, Switzerland from 27th to 31st May 2024.

The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary (Telecom) Shri Niraj Verma.

India will host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 in New Delhi from 15-24 October 2024

The event is co-organized by the ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, and UNCTAD.

3rd Indian Analytical Congress (IAC) held at Dehradun.

The 3rd Indian Analytical Congress (IAC-2024) was held at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) in Dehradun. The event took place from 5th to 7th June 2024.

The theme of the conference was "Role of Science and Technology in Green Transitions".

The congress was jointly organized by CSIR-IIP and the Indian Society of Analytical Scientists (ISAS-Delhi Chapter).

Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy (CCRYN), in collaboration with Svyasa, Deemed to be University, organized a Conference on "Yoga for Space" at S-Vyasa University in Bengaluru.

This event took place in observance of the International Day of Yoga 2024 with the theme "Yoga for Self & Society."

First International Dairy Federation Asia-Pacific Summit held in Kochi from June 26 to 28.

The conference focused on the theme "Farmer Centric Innovations in Dairying"

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE MAY 2024

India to host the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting.

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 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 signed the Antarctic Treaty in 1983. India enacted the Antarctic Act in 2022.

A Ministerial round table conference was held on April 24th, 2024, during the 26th World Energy Congress in Rotterdam, Netherlands.

The 26th World Energy Congress is an important event that aims to promote clean and inclusive energy transitions worldwide.

The Congress will focus on the theme of 'Redesigning Energy for People and Planet' to mark the World Energy Council's centenary in world energy.

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 Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, at the 2019 UN Climate Summit.

16th World Future Energy Summit started in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The 16th World Future Energy Summit has recently commenced in Abu Dhabi, gathering global leaders, policymakers, and experts in the field of sustainable energy and climate initiatives.

UN's 1st International Conference on DPI held under India's Leadership in New York.

United Nation's First International Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) was held, April 28,

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2024, in New York, USA.

The conference was organized by the Permanent Mission of India and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in collaboration with iSPIRT.

World Press Freedom Day Conference is a global event that takes place annually to celebrate World Press Freedom Day on 3rd May.

The conference for the year 2024 is being hosted by Chile and UNESCO from 2nd to 4th May.

The theme for the 2024 conference is "A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the face of the Environmental Crisis".

The UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize 2024 was awarded to Palestinian journalists Yousef Al-Helou and Sami Abu Salem for their fearless reporting during the Israeli offensive against Gaza.

India has set up its pavilion at the 2024 World Hydrogen Summit.

World Hydrogen Summit 2024 is a landmark event taking place from 13th to 15th May 2024 at Rotterdam Ahoy, Netherlands.

For the first time, India has set up its own pavilion at the Summit, showcasing the progress made by the country in the field of Green Hydrogen.

India launched its National Green Hydrogen Mission in January 2023 with an ambitious target to achieve a green hydrogen production capacity of 5 Million Metric Tonnes by the end of the year 2030.

Cold Chain and Logistics Summit organized by FICCI in New Delhi.

The Cold Chain and Logistics Summit was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi on 29th May 2024.

The summit aimed to foster collaboration and innovation in developing an integrated, sustainable, and efficient cold chain ecosystem for India's perishable goods industry.

Grant Thornton Bharat was the Knowledge Partner for the summit

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE APRIL 2024

Parivartan Chintan Tri-Service Conference, organised by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff, was held in New Delhi on 8 April 2024.

The conference was initiated by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, who highlighted the need for developing a Joint Culture for the Armed Forces.

The main objective of the Parivartan Chintan Tri-Service Conference was to generate new and fresh ideas, initiatives, and reforms to further propel Jointness and Integration in the Armed Forces.

World Hepatitis Summit 2024 is scheduled to take place from 9th to 11th April in Lisbon, Portugal.

This summit is the only global hepatitis conference that focuses on a multi-stakeholder, multi-sector public health approach.

The theme for the 2024 summit is "Integrate, Accelerate, Eliminate".

The summit is organized by the World Hepatitis Alliance with the support of the Ministry of Health of Portugal.

The Retail Summit (TRS) 2024 was held in Dubai on the 23rd and 24th of April.

Since its inception in 2018, TRS has been focused on bringing together the brightest minds in the global retail community.

The 2024 edition was aimed to be the most relevant, inspirational, thought-provoking, and fun yet.

The event was organized in partnership with Dubai Chambers.

World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2024 was inaugurated by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar 2024, at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.

The summit was organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

The theme of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2024 was 'Leadership for Sustainable Development and Climate Justice'.

The 7th Indian Ocean Conference was held in Perth, Australia 2024.

The theme of this edition of the conference was "Towards a Stable and Sustainable Indian Ocean".

13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) took place from 26 to 29 February 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates..

The general theme for the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) was "The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment".

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The 21st edition of BioAsia Summit 2024 has begun in Hyderabad, India.

The theme for this year is “Transforming Life Sciences with Data and AI,”

The 19th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit commenced in Kampala, Uganda .

The summit was held under the theme 'Deepening Cooperation for Shared Global Affluence'.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar represented India at the summit.

The COP29 summit will be held in Azerbaijan in November.

APPOINTMENTS IN NEWS AUGUST 2024

India's longest-serving cabinet secretary, Rajiv Gauba, retired after five years of service on 30 August 2024. He was replaced by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan.

TV Somanathan is the 33rd cabinet secretary of the government of India.

CS Setty takes over as the 27th Chairman of SBI.

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, or CS Setty, became the 27th Chairman of India's largest commercial bank, State Bank of India (SBI), on 28 August 2024.

He succeeded Dinesh Khara, who retired after the closing of banking hours on 28 August 2024.

According to the State Bank of India Act 1955, the chairman's tenure can be a maximum of five years. The government of India has also fixed 63 years as the chairman's retirement age.

CS Setty has been appointed for a term of three years, starting 28 August 2024.

Senior IPS officer B. Srinivasan Appointed as Director General of National Security Guard (NSG).

B Srinivasan will replace CRPF Director General Anish Dayal Singh.

The NSG is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of the government of India.

It is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Jay Shah:5th Indian and the youngest person to head the ICC.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah has been elected unopposed as the next Independent Chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on 27 August 2024.

He will replace New Zealand's Greg Barclay, whose term will end on 30 November 2024.

Jay Shah is the 5th Indian to head the ICC and, at the age of 35, is the youngest Chair of the ICC.

Jay Shah will begin his term as Independent Chair of ICC on 1 December 2024.

A person is elected as the Independent Chair of the ICC for two years and a maximum of three terms.

Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan assumed charge as the Union Ministry of Home Affairs secretary on 22 August 2024.

He replaced Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who retired after five years as home secretary on 22 August 2024.

Rajesh Kumar appointed next Defence Secretary by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) .

Rahul Navin new Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED).

He replaced Sanjay Kumar Mishra.

Rahul Navin has been appointed for a term of two years.

Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair: First woman DG of Medical Services (Army).

In a boost to women empowerment in the Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair assumed the office of the Director General of Medical Services (Army) on 1 August 2024.

She is the first woman to hold this prestigious post in the Indian Army's Medical Services.

Sanjay Shukla assumed charge as the Managing Director of the National Housing Bank .

Preeti Sudan :2nd Woman to be appointed Chairperson of UPSC.

President of India Droupadi Murmu has appointed Preeti Sudan, a 1983 batch IAS officer and former Union Health Secretary, as the new Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on 31 July 2024.

She will replace Dr Manoj Soni, who resigned earlier this month.

Preeti Sudan is the second woman to be appointed as the Chairperson of the UPSC after Mrs. R.M.Bathew (Kharbuli)(1992-96).

Subhasri Appointed MD & CEO Of Shriram Capital.

Satish Kumar Appointed as Railway Board Chairman and CEO.

Mr. Kumar will be taking over from Jaya Verma Sinha, who has held the distinction of being the first lady Chairperson of the Railway Board.

National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom) Appoints Sindhu Gangadharan as New Chairperson.

Union Minister Chirag Paswan was re-elected as the national president of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) for the next five years.

Deepti Gaur Mukherjee has taken over as the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).

Rajesh Nambiar has been appointed as the president-designate of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), succeeding Debjani Ghosh, whose tenure concludes in November 2024.

Amardeep Singh Bhatia Appointed as

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) Secretary.

He succeeds Rajesh Kumar Singh.

Satya Prakash Sangwan Appointed as Chef de Mission for Paris Paralympics 2024.

S Ashok Kumar Singh took over the charge of Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of Salee Sukumaran Nair as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank (TMB) for a three-year term.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra Becomes Thailand's Youngest Prime Minister

Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra assumed charge as the Ambassador of India to the United States.

Kwatra succeeds India's former envoy to the United States, BJP leader Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

Sandeep Poundrik Assumes Role as Secretary of the Ministry of Steel

Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI).

NPCI Spins Off BHIM into a Separate Arm; Lalitha Nataraj Appointed CEO.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is spinning off its Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app into a standalone subsidiary to bolster its presence in the digital payments market.

Lalitha Nataraj, previously with IDFC FIRST Bank and ICICI Bank, has been appointed as CEO of this new entity.

Rwanda's all-powerful President Paul Kagame was sworn for a fourth term.

Raj Kumar Chaudhary Takes Helm as Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Ltd.

Harish Dudani Appointed As Member of Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)

DBS Appoints Tan Su Shan As First Female CEO.

Indian-origin top Singapore banker Piyush Gupta is set to step down as the Chief Executive Officer of the DBS Group in March 2025.

He will be succeeded by Tan Su Shan

SEBI Approves Praveena Rai as New MD & CEO of MCX.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved Praveena Rai's appointment as the Managing Director and CEO of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), India's largest commodity exchange.

Lt General Vikas Lakhera assumed charge as the new Director General of the Assam Rifles, an organization fondly known as the "Sentinels of the Northeast".

Lt Gen Lakhera succeeds Lt General P C Nair.

Dr. Grinson George has assumed the role of Director at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has re-approved the appointments of Inderjit Camotra and Govind Singh as MDs and CEOs of Unity Small Finance Bank and Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, respectively

APPOINTMENTS IN NEWS JULY 2024

President Murmu Appoints Governors in 9 states & the LG of Puducherry.

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Governors to nine states and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.

In a communique issued by the office of the President, the President has also accepted the resignation of Banwarilal Purohit as Governor of Punjab and Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

Newly Appointed Governors

Jishnu Dev Varma- Governor of Telangana.

Om Prakash Mathur- Governor of Sikkim.
 Santosh Kumar Gangwar- Governor of Jharkhand.
 Ramen Deka- Governor of Chhattisgarh.
 C H Vijayashankar- Governor of Meghalaya.
 Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde- Governor of Rajasthan.
 C.P. Radhakrishnan- Governor of Maharashtra (He was earlier Governor of Jharkhand with Additional Charge of Telangana).
 Gulab Chand Kataria- Governor of Punjab. He has also been appointed as Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh (He was earlier Governor of Assam).
 Lakshman Prasad Acharya- Governor of Assam and has also been given additional charge of the Governor of Manipur (He was earlier the Governor of Sikkim).
 K. Kailashnathan- Lt. Governor of Puducherry

Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur Appointed International Film Festival of India (IFFI) Festival Director.

Veteran filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, known for films such as "Mr India", "Bandit Queen" and "Elizabeth", has been appointed festival director for the International Film Festival of India (IFFI).

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) appointed senior IPS officer Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal as the new Director General of Police of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

KV Subramanian Appointed As Federal Bank MD & CEO.

He replaced Shyam Srinivasan.

Sanjeev Krishan has been re-elected as the chairperson of PwC India for a second term, set to begin on April 1, 2025

Manolo Marquez was appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's football team by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

Captain Supreetha C.T. has etched her name in history by becoming the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence to be operationally deployed at the Siachen Glacier.

Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the United States.

HSBC Holdings Plc has appointed its Chief Financial Officer Georges Elhedery as its next CEO.

Former Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, Manoj Saunik, has been appointed as the next Chairman of the Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority (MahaRERA).

He will succeed Ajoy Mehta, whose term ends in September 2024.

The Supreme Court now has two more judges after President Droupadi Murmu cleared the appointments of Justice N Kotiswar Singh and Justice R Mahadevan.

The Supreme Court Collegium had earlier recommended the elevation of these two judges. With these two appointments, the Supreme Court has its sanctioned strength of 34 judges, including Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud.

K.P. Sharma Oli was sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for the fourth time.

Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of One97 Communications (OCL), has appointed Arun Kumar Bansal as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Surinder Chawla resigned from Paytm PB in April for personal reasons.

Robert Jerard Ravi as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

Justice Aalia Neelum took oath as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan (Lahore), making her the first woman to be elevated as the court's top judge.

Olympian PV Sindhu Joins Wellness Brand Hoop as Investor, Brand Ambassador.

Rajat Sharma, the esteemed Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of India TV, has been unanimously elected as the President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA).

Prof. (Dr.) Soumya Swaminathan has been appointed as the Principal Adviser for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme at the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Govind Singh as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (Utkarsh SFB).

His new term will commence on September 21, 2024, and will last for three years.

The board of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has approved the reappointment of Satyanarayan Goel as

its Chairman and Managing Director for a three-year.

Rachel Reeves has become the first woman finance minister of UK.

Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico has assumed the presidency of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for a two-year term from July 2024 to June 2026.

Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has redesignated its chairman Siddhartha Mohanty as chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD).

Dhirendra K Ojha has been appointed as the principal spokesperson of the central government.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Smt. Charulatha S Kar as Executive Director.

Justice Sheel Nagu has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Sujata Saunik Appointed Maharashtra's First Woman Chief Secretary.

SBI General Insurance has appointed Naveen Chandra Jha as its new MD & CEO, succeeding Kishore Kumar Poludasu.

Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) chief Rajinder Khanna has been promoted to Additional National Security Adviser (NSA).

T V Ravichandran and Pavan Kapoor have also been appointed as Deputy NSAs.

Dr. B.N. Gangadhar named as Chairperson of the National Medical Commission.

Akhilesh Pathak has assumed office as the new Chief General Manager of the Southern Region Transmission System-I (SRTS-I) of the Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd (PGCIL) .

Ravi Agrawal has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He succeeds Nitin Gupta

Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) has selected Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI).

Ashwini Tiwari and Vinay Tonse were two other contenders to the post.

Setty will succeed the current chairman, Dinesh Khara, when he turns 63, the upper age limit for the position of SBI Chairman.

Setty would join as the 27th Chairman of SBI

Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa has been formally appointed to take on the second highest job in the European Union, that of President of the European Council.

Ursula Von der Leyen has been reinstated for a second term as President of the European Commission

Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan is set to assume the role of Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on August 1, 2024.

This appointment is made under Article 316 A of the Constitution.

Ms. Sudan, who is currently serving as a member of the Commission, will be stepping into the shoes of Manoj Soni, the outgoing Chairperson.

Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro Becomes President For Third Time.

Manoj Mittal has taken charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

APPOINTMENTS IN NEWS JUNE 2024

Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri will take charge as the Foreign Secretary.

Mr. Misri, who is a former Indian ambassador to China, will succeed current Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

Mrs. Aksha Mohit Kamboj has been appointed as the Vice President of the India Bullion Jewellers Association (IBJA).

India's first artificial intelligence university, Universal AI University (UAIU), has appointed international strategist and multiple award-winning professor Simon Mak as its vice-chancellor.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president and Union Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda has been named Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha.

Mr. Nadda replaces Union Minister Piyush Goyal.

Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani is set to be the next Vice Chief of Army Staff.

The government has appointed Girija Subramanian as chairman and managing director (CMD) of New India Assurance, the largest general insurer in India.

Anuj Tyagi as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC ERGO General Insurance.
Sony Pictures Networks India Appoints Gaurav Banerjee As New MD & CEO.
Paul Thomas, MD & CEO of ESAF Small Finance Bank, has been elected as Chairperson of the board of Sa-Dhan
The government has appointed Atul Kumar Chaudhary, as the new Secretary, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). He replaced V Raghunandan.
Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has appointed Manoj Jain as the new Chairman and Managing Director of the company.
Sudhakar Rao Papa has been appointed as the Director (Enterprise) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
Paytm has named Rajeev Krishnamuralilal Agarwal, former whole-time director of SEBI, as its non-executive independent director for a five-year term.
Ajith Kumar KK has been appointed as the Managing Director and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank for a three-year.
Janasena chief Pawan Kalyan was named the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
P K Mishra has been re-appointed as the Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
The Centre reappointed Ajit Doval as the National Security Adviser (NSA).
Prem Prabhakar Appointed MD and CEO of SBICAP Ventures Limited.
The Cellular Operators' Association of India (COAI) has announced its new leadership for the 2024-25 term. Abhijit Kishore, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Vodafone Idea (VI), has been appointed as the Chairman, while Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer (CRO) of Bharti Airtel, will serve as the Vice Chairman.
Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi will take over as the next Chief of the Army Staff (COAS).
Prem Singh Tamang Sworn in as Sikkim Chief Minister.
InderPal Singh Bindra will soon take charge as the Secretary of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
Raj Priy Singh has been appointed as the Director in the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Rural Development.
PNB MetLife India Insurance has announced Sameer Bansal as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
UN General Assembly (UNGA) elected former Cameroonian Prime Minister Philemon Yang as president of the 79th UNGA session.
Bisleri Limonata Appoints Aditya Roy Kapur as Brand Ambassador.
Rakesh Mohan Joshi has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT).
India's First Female UN Ambassador, Ruchira Kamboj, Retires after 35 years. India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj, has retired from the post.
Badminton Star PV Sindhu Appointed Brand Ambassador for Tobacco Control.
Rakesh Ranjan has been appointed as the Chairman of the Staff Selection Commission (SSC).
IRDAI has granted approval for the appointment of Sandeep Batra as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company

APPOINTMENTS IN NEWS MAY 2024

Shah Rukh Khan Appointed as New Brand Ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group.
The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), India's state-owned bad bank, has appointed P Santhosh as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer.
Jetha Ahir has been elected uncontested as the chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

Rushabh Gandhi Appointed as MD and CEO of IndiaFirst Life Insurance.
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its nod for the appointment of Pradeep Natarajan as Whole Time Director on the Board of IDFC FIRST Bank.
Kapil Sibal has been elected as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).
NASA has given a new role to David Salvagnini as the agency's Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer.
Meghalaya has made history by appointing Idashisha Nongrang as the state's first woman Director General of Police (DGP).
IRDAI approves Keki Mistry as HDFC Life Chairman following Deepak Parekh's resignation.
Visa Appoints Sujai Raina as India Country Manager.
Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has been appointed as the National Ambassador for UNICEF India.
Retired Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra has been appointed as the President of the Goods & Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) by the Centre.
Pratima Singh Appointed as Director in Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) Approves Hitesh Sethia as Jio Financial Services' MD and CEO for 3 Years.

APPOINTMENTS IN NEWS APRIL 2024

Yuvraj Singh Named ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador.
Narsingh Yadav Elected Chairman of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).
The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of T. Rabi Sankar as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for a one-year term.
Axis Bank Re-appoints Amitabh Chaudhry as MD & CEO for Three More Years.
President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Professor Naima Khatoon as the first woman Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).
India's Gita Sabharwal Appointed as UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia.
French carmaker Citroen has engaged cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.
Santhosh Viswanathan has been appointed as the Vice President and Managing Director for the India region.
Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi Appointed as Next Chief of the Naval Staff.
BharatPe Appoints Nalin Negi as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
SPACE India named Sanjana Sanghi as its Brand Ambassador.
Jagjit Pavadia Re-elected to International Narcotics Control Board.
Sushil Sharma Appointed Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of SJVN Limited.
Former Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj to Head US-India Tax Forum.
Harendra Singh Appointed as Coach of Indian Women's Hockey Team Until 2028 Olympics.
Love Kumar has been appointed as the Inspector General (IG) in the Special Protection Group (SPG) .
Wipro, the IT giant, has announced the resignation of its CEO, Thierry Delaporte.
Srinivas Pallia as the new Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director (MD & CEO).
Meenesh Shah Elected as Chairman of National Cooperative Dairy Federation of India Ltd. (NCDFI).
Rakesh Mohan Appointed to World Bank Economic Advisory Panel.
Tata International has announced the appointment of Rajeev Singhal as its new Managing Director (MD).
Election Commission of India (ECI) has roped in popular actor Ayushmann Khurrana to encourage the youth to exercise their franchise in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.
Sandeep Jain elected as the President of the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) for the year 2024-25.
Santosh Kumar Jha Appointed as New CMD of Konkan Railway Corporation.
Lieutenant General JS Sidana has taken over as the 33rd Director General of the Department of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (DGEME).
Sanjay Nayar Appointed as New President of Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM).

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Nayar has replaced Ajay Singh, the Co-Founder of SpiceJet airline.

Sheyphali Sharan Takes Charge as Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau (PIB).

Axis Capital has appointed Atul Mehra as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Joyshree Das Verma has taken over as the 41st National President of the FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) for the year 2024-25.

Girija Subramanian has been selected as the next CMD of New India Assurance.

AGREEMENT, SIGN & MOU AUGUST 2024

India and Saint Kitts and Nevis have signed an agreement with India STACK, which will enable cooperation in digitalisation in Saint Kitts and Nevis.

India And Malaysia Sign MoU For Strengthening Co-Operation In The Field Of Tourism.

GAIL to optimise RVUN Gas-based Power Plant in Rajasthan.

GAIL(India) Limited has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (RVUN) to optimise operations of RVUN gas-based power plants in Rajasthan.

Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUN), based in Jaipur, was established by the Rajasthan Government

India and the Maldives have decided to strengthen their bilateral relations by signing two memorandums of understanding (MoU) during the visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishnakar. Dr S. Jaishanker was on a three-day visit to the Maldives from 9 to 11 August 2024.

Indian Ministry of External Affairs has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with New Space India Limited (NSIL) for the launch of the Nepalese satellite Munal.

Under the MoU, the Ministry of External Affairs will provide NSIL with a grant to launch the satellite.

India and Poland have agreed to elevate their bilateral relations to a Strategic Partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Poland..

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Ukraine, both countries signed four Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/agreements to strengthen their bilateral relations.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-nation visit to Poland and Ukraine from 21-23 August 2024.

India and the United States of America (USA) have signed two new defence agreements—a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) and a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison—during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's official visit to the USA from 23 to 26 August 2024.

United States and Peru have signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in the sector of critical minerals.

Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) has signed an agreement with ICICI Bank to provide financing for solar units to residential and corporate customers.

Flipkart's Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA) exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) at the Samarth event with the mission to upskill thousands of employable youth across India.

Indian Navy has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BEML Ltd., a leading defence and heavy engineering manufacturer.

MoU Signed Between Ministry of MSME And SBA, Government of USA.

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, MSME has signed a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU with the Small Business Administration (SBA) of the Government of the United States of America to promote Cooperation on Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs).

State Government and SBI General Insurance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS).

Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, and the World Health Organization signed a crucial Donor Agreement.

AGREEMENT, SIGN & MOU JULY 2024

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) Signs Agreement With IIT, Roorkee And Mandi.

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Goal for the development of 'Cell-Free' 6G Access Points.
Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Tie-Up With IISc, Bengaluru To Promote Standardisation.
India Prepares to Sign Headquarters Agreement with Global Biofuels Alliance.
Jammu & Kashmir Elevates Agricultural Partnership with New Zealand
Peru and Slovakia sign the Artemis Accords for Peaceful Moon Exploration.
IIT Kanpur, in collaboration with the Centre of Excellence for UAVs and DFI, has unveiled UDAAN, a pioneering drone startup acceleration initiative.
Indian Army has joined hands with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for demonstration trials of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology.

AGREEMENT, SIGN & MOU JUNE 2024

J&K advances strategic partnership with New Zealand to enhance sheep sector.
Peru and Slovakia Become Newest Members of the Artemis Accords. NASA has signed two more countries to the Artemis Accords, welcoming Peru and Slovakia at separate signing ceremonies in Washington, D.C. Peru became the 41st country to sign the Artemis Accords and Slovakia the 42nd.
IIT Kanpur, Centre of Excellence for UAVs, and DFI launch UDAAN. UDAAN is a collaborative effort between the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) at IIT Kanpur, the Centre of Excellence for Capacity Building, Training, and Design of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at IIT Kanpur (Drone CoE Kanpur), and the Drone Federation of India (DFI). UDAAN aims to accelerate the growth of drone startups by providing them with access to state-of-the-art facilities.
Indian Army has joined hands with the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for demonstration trials of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology.

AGREEMENT, SIGN & MOU MAY 2024

India to operate a terminal of Iranian Chabahar Port for next 10 years. India and Iran have signed an agreement under which India will operate the strategically important Shahid Beheshti terminal of Chabahar Port of Iran for the next 10 years . Till now India operated the Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar on a short term contract which was renewed periodically . This is the first international terminal which will be operated by India. The Chabahar Port of Iran has two terminals, Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari. India has got the contract to operate the Shahid Beheshti terminal only.
Coast Guard, Hindalco ink MoU for manufacturing indigenous marine-grade aluminum for ships. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Hindalco Industries aims to promote the manufacturing and supply of indigenous marine-grade aluminium for ship construction.
Japan and Nagaland Inaugurate Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park. In Nagaland, ambassador of Japan to India, Hiroshi Suzuki and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio jointly inaugurated the Kohima Peace Memorial and laid the foundation stone of Eco Park Kohima.

AGREEMENT, SIGN & MOU APRIL 2024

Air India has signed a codeshare agreement with All Nippon Airways (ANA), Japan's largest airline. Under the codeshare agreement, Air India will add its 'AI' designator code to ANA's flights between Tokyo Haneda and Delhi, as well as Tokyo Narita and Mumbai. Similarly, ANA will add its 'NH' code to Air India's flights between Tokyo Narita and Delhi.
IIM Mumbai and Starburst Forge Strategic Collaboration to Boost Aerospace, New Space, and Defence Startups in India.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AUGUST 2024

Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand has launched the Mukhyamantri Maiyaan.

Samman Yojana to provide financial assistance to eligible women in the state.

The Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana was earlier called Jharkhand Behan Beti Swavalamban Protsahan Yojana.

The Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme in which eligible women beneficiaries receive Rs 1000 per month from the state government directly in their bank accounts.

Women in the age group of 21-50 years are eligible for the scheme.

PMAY- U 2.0 approved by Union Cabinet with 10 lakh crore investment.

Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 in a meeting on 9 August 2024, which envisages an investment of Rs 10 lakh crores.

The PMAY-U 2.0 will replace the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which was launched on 25 June 2015 and ended on 31 December 2024.

The duration of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 is five years.

It aims to facilitate the construction of one crore houses in urban areas for the urban poor and middle-class families.

Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will be the nodal body for implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 scheme.

The total investment required under the PMAY-U 2.0 scheme to build one core house is Rs 10 lakh crore over five years.

The central government/state government/Union Territories will provide Rs 2.30 lakh crore assistance under the scheme.

The government will provide Rs 2.50 lakh of assistance per house constructed in the BLC and AHP component of the scheme.

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana' to provide nutritious foods to schoolchildren and a scheme to provide free Tablets to primary school teachers to boost digitalisation in the state educational and administrative system.

Department of Post under the Union Ministry of Communication has launched the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to promote research and scholarship in stamps amongst the country's students.

About the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana

The Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana is an all-India scheme open to class VI, VII, VIII & IX students of a recognised school.

Only students who are members of a philately club or have a Philately Deposit Account will be selected for the scholarship.

920 scholarships will be awarded at all India levels to students who are pursuing Philately as a hobby.

Every postal circle in the country can award a maximum of 40 scholarships to 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII, and IX.

The scholarship amount is Rs 6000 per year and will be paid quarterly.

Selections for the scholarship will be made for one year, and students can apply next year, subject to fulfilling the terms and conditions of the Yojana.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra and Rajasthan on 25 August 2024 to participate in the Lakhpati Didi Sammelan in Jalgaon, Maharashtra, and the closing ceremony of the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Rajasthan High Court in Jodhpur.

During his visit to Jalgaon, Prime Minister Modi will participate in the Lakhpati Didi Sammelan, distribute certificates, and facilitate the 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis.

Lakhpati Didi Scheme

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Lakhpati Didi scheme in his address to the nation on 15 August 2023 from Red Fort.

The scheme aims to create three crore 'Lakhpati Didis' in villages through the collective power of Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Self-Help Group (SHG) members with household incomes of Rs one lakh or more per year are considered Lakhpati Didi.

The Lakhpati Didi scheme aims to financially empower poor women and lift them from the vicious cycle

of poverty.

The Union Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Lakhpati Didi scheme, which is the outcome of the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana—National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.

The annual income of the woman's family shall not be more than Rs 3 lakh.

Union Cabinet, in a meeting held on 24 August 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Unified Pension System (UPS) for its employees.

The new scheme will replace the existing National Pension System (NPS).

The National Pension System was mandatory for central government employees except for the armed forces, which joined the service on 1 January 2004. Later, many state governments implemented the NPS for their employees.

According to the government of India the Unified Pension Scheme is proposed to be implemented from 1 April 2025.

The new Unified Pension Scheme will have an assured pension with inflation indexation benefits and greater contributions from the central government.

Mains points of the Unified Pension Scheme:

A person who has worked for the central government for at least 10 years is eligible for a pension.

The minimum assured pension will be Rs 10,000 per month.

Central Government employees with at least 25 years of service will get an assured pension of 50 per cent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to retirement.

Pension will be proportionate to the duration of the employee's employment.

Family members will get 60% of the employee's pension immediately before her/his demise.

The benefit of inflation indexation is that the pension amount will be increased based on the increase in the inflation rate.

The scheme will use the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for inflation indexation purposes.

After retirement, the employee will get a lump sum amount according to a fixed formula

Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, in a meeting at Shimla chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has approved a new scheme, "Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana".

The scheme aims to provide financial support to identified socially and economically vulnerable women and parents of disabled children so as to enable the education and well-being of their children.

Parents of children under 18 years will receive monthly financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month from the state government to cover the child's educational, nutritional, and health expenses.

The world's largest financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completed 10 years on 28 August 2024.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched by the government of India on 28 August 2014 with the aim of bringing the unbanked population within the formal banking system.

The government of India launched the Swabhiman campaign in 2010 as part of its National Mission for Financial Inclusion.

The Dr Manmohan Singh government launched the Swabhiman scheme on the recommendation of the 2009 RBI's High-Level Committee on Lead Bank Scheme, which was headed by Usha Thorat.

The Swabhiman Scheme was later renamed Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and officially launched on 28 August 2014.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a comprehensive financial inclusion programme of the government which aims to encourage saving habits amongst the public by opening bank accounts, access to cheap credit, fund transfer facilities, insurance facilities and pension facilities.

Following are the features of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)

Open a bank account for every adult who doesn't have a bank account.

A specially designed Basic Saving Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) is offered with no minimum balance requirement.

According to the RBI, a person can open only one BSBDA account in a Bank.

A free RuPay Debit card is provided to the PMJDY account holder.

The RuPay Debit card under PMJDY provides accidental death insurance coverage of Rs two lakhs to the

account holder.

A Rs 10,000 overdraft facility is available to eligible account holders.

PMJDY accounts are eligible to receive funds from the government under their Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme,

PMJDY offers two insurance schemes: Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY),

It also provides a pension scheme through the Atal Pension Yojana.

The total number of account holders was 53.13 crore, of which 55.6 per cent, or 29.56 crores, were women, and 66.6 per cent, or 35.37 crores, Jan Dhan accounts were in rural and semi-urban areas.

The total deposit under PMJDY Accounts was Rs 2,31,236 crore.

The average deposit per account is Rs. 4,352.

36.14 crore RuPay debit cards issued.

The Central Government recently expanded the scope of the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme to make it more attractive, as part of its objective to strengthen farm-related infrastructure facilities in the country.

About Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme:

It is a Central Sector Schemewhich was launched in 2020.

Objective: The scheme shall provide a medium- to long-term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.

The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2032 (10 years).

Exclusions: Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are not directly eligible under the scheme, but projects sponsored by them under PPP are eligible.

All scheduled commercial banks, scheduled cooperative banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) may participate to provide this financing facility.

If required, need-based refinance support will be made available by NABARD to all eligible lending entities, including cooperative banks and RRBs, as per its policy.

All loans up to a limit of ₹ 2 crores under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 3% per annum. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of 7 years.

An applicant can put up to 25 projects in different locations, and each of such projects will be eligible under the scheme for a loan upto ₹ 2 crore.

This limit of 25 projects is applicable to private sector entities, such as farmers, Agri entrepreneurs, and start-ups.

This limitation of 25 projects will not be applicable to state agencies, cooperatives, national and state federations of cooperatives, FPOs, federations of FPOs, SHGs, and federations of SHGs.

Multiple projects in one location are also eligible with an overall cap of ₹2 crore.

Union Cabinet recently approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes merged into a unified central sector scheme called “Vigyan Dhara” under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

About Vigyan Dhara Scheme:

It is a new central sector scheme unifying three umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The scheme has three broad components:

Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building,

Research and Development and

Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment.

These three schemes have been merged into the unified scheme ‘Vigyan Dhara’.

This initiative, managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), is designed to enhance India's S&T capabilities through a streamlined approach.

The proposed outlay for the implementation of the unified scheme ‘Vigyan Dhara’ is 10,579.84 crore during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

All the programs proposed under the ‘Vigyan Dhara’ scheme would be aligned with the 5-year goals of DST towards realising the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The R&D component of the scheme will be aligned in line with the Anusandhan National Research

Foundation (ANRF).

Western Railway has announced the inclusion of Kandivali and Dahisar railway stations in the recently launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).

About Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:

It is an ongoing Indian Railways mission launched in February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways to redevelop railway stations across India.

It is designed for the ongoing development of railway stations with a long-term perspective.

It involves the creation of master plans and their phased implementation to improve various aspects of station facilities.

The development plan takes into account the unique needs of each station, promoting a holistic approach to railway station enhancement.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES JULY 2024

Union Finance Minister recently announced a revision to the model skill loan scheme, which will now facilitate loans up to Rs 7.5 lakh backed by a guarantee from a government-promoted fund.

About Skill Loan Scheme:

It was introduced in July, 2015, to offer institutional credit to individuals pursuing skill development courses aligned with National Occupations Standards and Qualification Packs.

These courses are conducted by training institutes following the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and lead to certifications, diplomas, or degrees.

The Scheme applies to all member banks of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and other banks and financial institutions as advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Courses: Aligned with NSQF.

Duration of Course: No minimum duration.

Quantum of Finance: 5,000-1,50,000. Now, it has increased to Rs 7.5 lakh.

Moratorium: Duration of the course.

Repayment Period:

Loans up to Rs. 50,000: Up to 3 years.

Loans between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh: Up to 5 years.

Loans above Rs. 1 lakh: Up to 7 years.

Finance minister recently made the announcement of a new pension scheme under the National Pension Scheme (NPS), called NPS Vatsalya.

About NPS Vatsalya Scheme:

It is a scheme under the National Pension Scheme (NPS).

It is designed to help parents and guardians plan for their children's future financial needs.

Under this scheme, parents or guardians can open an account for their minor children and make contributions towards their retirement savings.

The funds will accumulate until the child turns 18.

Once the child reaches adulthood, the accumulated amount will be transferred to the standard NPS account.

This plan could be seamlessly converted into a non-NPS plan when the child becomes an adult.

The scheme operates similarly to the existing NPS.

The government has issued operational guidelines for the implementation of incentives to DISCOMs under the PM-Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana.

About PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:

It is a government scheme launched on February 15, 2024, that aims to provide free electricity to households in India.

Under the scheme, households will be provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs.

The subsidy will cover up to 40% of the cost of the solar panels.

The scheme is expected to benefit 1 crore households across India.

It is estimated that the scheme will save the government Rs. 75,000 crore per year in electricity costs.

The scheme has an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore and is to be implemented till FY 2026-27.

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Eligibility:

- The household must be an Indian citizen.
- The household must own a house with a roof that is suitable for installing solar panels.
- The household must have a valid electricity connection.
- The household must not have availed any other subsidy for solar panels.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has sanctioned seven new projects for the private sector under the Technology Development Fund scheme.

About Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme:

It has been established to promote self-reliance in Defence Technology as a part of the 'Make in India' initiative.

It is a programme of the Ministry of Defence.

This programme is executed by the DRDO to meet the requirements of the Tri-Services, Defence Production and DRDO.

The Scheme encourages the participation of public/private industries, especially MSMEs and startups, so as to create an ecosystem for enhancing cutting-edge technology capability in the defence sector.

Funding Support:

The project cost of up to INR 50 crore will be considered for funding.

The funding may be up to 90% of the total project cost.

Industry may work in collaboration with academia or research institutions. The work involvement of academia cannot exceed 40% of the total project cost.

Project Duration: The maximum development period will be four (4) years.

Ministry of Culture, Government of India, on the occasion of the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting, which is being held in New Delhi from 21st-31st July 2024, has initiated Project PARI (Public Art of India).

About Project PARI:

The Project PARI (Public Art of India) aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation.

It provides a platform to uplift the aesthetic and cultural outlook of Delhi while adding grandeur to the rich historical legacy of our national capital.

The representation of Art in public spaces is particularly significant as it showcases the nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Women artists have been an integral part of Project PARI and their participation in large numbers is a testimony of Bharat's NARI SHAKTI.

This initiative is being executed by the Lalit Kala Akademi, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.

Union Minister for Coal and Mines recently launched the portal "Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN)".

About NIRMAN Scheme:

Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of the National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN) is a unique Corporate social responsibility (CSR) scheme by Coal India Limited (CIL) designed to support meritorious candidates from its operational districts.

The NIRMAN scheme is tailored to provide financial assistance of ₹1,00,000 to candidates who have successfully cleared the preliminary round of the UPSC Civil Services and Forest Service Examinations in 2024.

The eligible beneficiaries include those with an annual family income of less than ₹8 lakhs, and who are permanent residents of the 39 districts where CIL operates.

This support extends to individuals from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), as well as female and third-gender candidates.

The application process for NIRMAN is fully digital and facilitated through a dedicated portal.

RBI recently joined Project Nexus, an initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by linking domestic Fast Payment Systems.

About Project Nexus:

It is a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking

domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).

Rather than requiring FPS operators to establish multiple custom connections for each country, Nexus provides a standardized, single-connection solution that enables seamless transactions across borders.

With Nexus, an FPS operator can connect to a single network, enabling instant access to other countries within the network.

It was conceptualized by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

It aims to connect the FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India, who would be the founding members and first mover countries of this platform.

The platform, which can be extended to more countries, is expected to go live by 2026.

When a new country joins Nexus, existing members are automatically connected to that country and vice versa.

GOVERNMENT SCHEME JUNE 2024

Cabinet clears scheme for forensic infra with outlay of Rs 2,200 crore.

About National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES):

It is a Central Sector Scheme with a financial outlay of Rs 2,254.43 crore during the period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.

It aims to enhance forensic infrastructure in the country.

Components under this Scheme:

Establishment of campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in the country.

Establishment of Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLS) in the country.

Enhancement of existing infrastructure of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU.

Meghalaya Lokayukta recently issued notifications to the former chief secretary and other former officials of the Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited (MeECL) for their alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Saubhagya scheme in the state.

About Saubhagya Scheme:

The Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) in October, 2017

Objective: Achieving universal household electrification, by providing electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas and all poor households in urban areas in the country.

Under the Saubhagaya scheme, LED bulbs, wire, holders, switches, etc are to be provided to BPL families free of cost.

Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as its nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.

Ministry of Mines recently launched the Scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for Holders of Exploration Licences (EL) in a bid to accelerate mineral exploration and alleviate the high associated costs.

About Scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for Holders of Exploration Licences (EL):

It was launched by the Ministry of Mines to offer partial reimbursement of exploration expenses to licence holders.

It offers a 50 percent reimbursement on expenses incurred during the exploration of critical minerals, with a maximum cap of Rs 20 crore.

The maximum cap can be increased to Rs 24 crore if the EL holder hands over a G2 (general exploration) block for auction for the grant of a mining lease within three years from the execution of the exploration licence and it is successfully auctioned.

The incentives for all selected licensees will be provided from the Rs 5,000 crore National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) fund.

Central Government is conceiving a “new project” to ensure that rural households, which were provided taps under the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission but had not yet been able to avail water, would soon be provided potable water.

About Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

JJM is envisioned to provide safe and adequate drinking water through individual Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) by 2024 to all households in rural India.
JJM will be based on a community approach to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as key components of the mission.
The Mission was launched on August 15, 2019.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Jal Shakti.

Funding Pattern: The fund sharing pattern is in the proportion of:

50:50 between Centre and States

90:10 for Himalayan and North-Eastern States.

In case of UTs, 100% of the funding is provided by the Central government
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Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) has approved 7 startup proposals under the GREAT scheme.

About GREAT Scheme:

Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) encourages young innovators, scientists/technologists, and startup ventures in the field of Technical Textiles to translate their ideas into commercial technologies/products and make India self-reliant.

It supports individual entrepreneurs or start-ups for functional prototypes or commercialization of their technologies for Technical Textile

Funding:

A grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months will be provided.

The newly formed Cabinet has decided to further expand the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and construct 3 crore additional rural and urban houses.

About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a credit-linked subsidy scheme initiated to provide affordable housing to low and moderate-income residents across the country.

The newly formed government has approved the proposal to provide 3 crore additional rural and urban houses under PMAY.

The scheme has two components: PMAY-U for the urban poor and PMAY-G and PMAY-R for the rural poor.

About:
The Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS) is a national initiative by the National Health Authority (NHA) aimed at promoting the adoption of digital health practices in India.

It was launched on January 1, 2023, under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) to create a robust digital health ecosystem and enhance the quality of care for patients.

With this extension, the scheme will now remain in effect till June 30, 2025.

PMAY-U (Urban)

Objective: To provide housing for all in urban areas.

Beneficiaries: Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low-Income Group (LIG) and Middle-Income Group (MIG).

Subsidy Schemes:

Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme: Offers interest subsidy on home loans for EWS, LIG, and MIG categories.

PMAY-G (Gramin)

Objective: To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families who are homeless or living in kutcha or dilapidated houses.

Beneficiaries: Identified using the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011.

Features:

Financial Assistance: 1.2 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.3 lakh in hilly, difficult and Integrated Action Plan (IAP) areas.

Construction: Houses are to be constructed by beneficiaries with technical assistance from the government.

Solar Energy Corporation of India issues RfS for selection of Green Ammonia Producers under SIGHT Programme of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM).

About SIGHT

It is a subcomponent of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE)), aimed at bolstering domestic electrolyser manufacturing and green hydrogen production.

Financial commitment: The programme has an outlay of ₹ 17,490 crore until 2029-30.

Dual incentive mechanisms: Incentive for Electrolyser Manufacturing

Implementation: The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is responsible for executing the scheme.

National Green Hydrogen Mission

It was launched on 4th January 2023 with an outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores up to FY 2029-30.

It will contribute to India's goal to become Aatmanirbhar (self-reliant) through clean energy and serve as an inspiration for the global clean energy transition.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) recently started automatic electronic payment of duty drawback amounts directly into exporters' bank accounts.

About Duty Drawback Scheme:

It is a trusted and time-tested scheme administered by CBIC to promote exports.

It rebates the incidence of Customs and Central Excise duties, chargeable on imported and excisable material, respectively, when used as inputs for goods to be exported.

The duty drawback provisions are described under the Customs Act, 1962.

This WTO compliant scheme ensures that exports are zero-rated and do not carry the burden of the specified taxes

GOVERNMENT SCHEME MAY 2024

The Ministry of Renewable Energy recently issued a warning to farmers on PM-KUSUM website against fake websites and mobile applications that provide fake online application forms and demand registration fees for installing solar water pumps under PM Kusum scheme.

About PM-KUSUM Scheme:

It was launched in 2019 for de-dieselisation of the farm sector and enhancing the income of farmers.

It is aimed at ensuring energy security for farmers in India, along with honouring India's commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030 as part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).

It aims to add Solar capacity of about 34,800 MW by March 2026 with the total Central Financial support of Rs 34,422 crore.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). It is being implemented by the designated departments of the State Government.

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.

Australian 'MATES' scheme to facilitate mobility of Indian early-career professionals.

About MATES Migration Scheme:

On May 23, 2023, Australia and India entered into a Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA).

The MMPA is a bilateral framework that supports and promotes two-way migration and mobility between our two countries while addressing issues pertaining to illegal and irregular migration.

The Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-Professionals Scheme, or 'MATES', is a new scheme established under the MMPA to enable the temporary mobility of Indian university graduates and early career professionals.

MATES aims to encourage mutually beneficial skills and knowledge transfer between Australia and India. Under the scheme, Indian graduates and early career professionals (aged 18 to 30 years) with knowledge and skills in targeted fields of study will be offered a new temporary mobility pathway, to live and work in Australia for up to two years.

GOVERNMENT SCHEME APRIL 2024

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to launch a mobile application aimed at facilitating seamless investment under the RBI Retail Direct Scheme.

About RBI Retail Direct Scheme:

It was initially introduced in November 2021. It gives access to individual investors to maintain gilt accounts with the RBI and invest in government securities.

The scheme enables investors to buy securities in primary auctions as well as buy/sell securities through the NDS-OM platform.

Negotiated Dealing System - Order Matching system (NDS-OM) means RBI's screen based anonymous electronic order matching system for trading in Government securities in the secondary market.

It provides the following facilities to retail investors in government securities market through an online portal:

Open and maintain a 'Retail Direct Gilt Account',
access to primary issuance of government securities, and
access to NDS-OM.

Eligibility: Retail investors can register under the scheme and maintain an RDG account, if they have the following:

Rupee savings bank account maintained in India,
PAN, any officially valid document for KYC purpose,
valid email-ID and registered mobile number.

An Indonesian delegation is exploring collaboration with India on various initiatives including mid-day meal scheme and digital inclusion.

About Mid-Day Meal scheme:

It is the largest school feeding programme of its kind in the world which covers children across Classes 1 to 8 (age group 6 to 14).

Background:

In 1925, a Mid Day Meal Programme was introduced for disadvantaged children in Madras Municipal Corporation.

It was started in India on 15th August 1995 as the 'National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE)'.

It was renamed the 'National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools' in October 2007, also known as the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme.

Implementation: Each State/UT has to set up State Steering-cum Monitoring Committees(SSMCs) at the State, District and Block level to oversee its implementation.

Funding: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Hence, the cost is shared between the Centre (60%) and States (40%) with states and UTs with a legislature, and 90:10 with the Northeastern states, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, while the Centre bears 100% of the costs in UTs without legislature.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Education

In September 2021 it was renamed as the Pradhan Mantri POSHAN Scheme.

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SPORTS NEWS AUGUST 2024

Rajgir, Bihar, will host the 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament 2024.

The Asian Hockey Federation President, Dato Fumio Ogura, announced India as the host of the 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament 2024 on 29th August 2024.

The 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament 2024 will be hosted by Hockey India and the Bihar government from November 11 to 20, 2024. The tournament will be played at the newly developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Rajgir.

South Korea is the most successful team, having won it three times, followed by India and Japan, which have each won twice.

Hockey India has announced a new look national men's hockey squad, led by Harmanpreet Singh for the 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024.

The 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 will be held at Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, People's Republic of China, from 8-17 September 2024.

China, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Pakistan are participating in the 8th edition.

Jay Shah: 5th Indian and the youngest person to head the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Secretary Jay Shah has been elected unopposed as the next Independent Chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC) on 27 August 2024.

He will replace New Zealand's Greg Barclay, whose term will end on 30 November 2024.

Jay Shah is the 5th Indian to head the ICC and, at the age of 35, is the youngest Chair of the ICC.

Jay Shah will begin his term as Independent Chair of ICC on 1 December 2024.

A person is elected as the Independent Chair of the ICC for two years and a maximum of three terms.

The Indian men's surfing team won a historic silver medal at the 3rd Asian Surfing Championships 2024, held at Thulusdhoo, Maldives.

Maldives is hosting the 3rd Asian Surfing Championships 2024 at the picturesque island of Thulusdhoo from 17-27 August 2024.

The 3rd Asian Surfing Championships is also a qualifying event for the 2026 Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

The surfing game will be introduced for the first time in an Asian Games at the 2026 Asian Games.

Gold for Japan and Silver for India in the Maruhaba Cup.

14-year-old Tanvi Patri of Odisha won the women's singles title of the Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024 by defeating Vietnamese Nguyen Thi Thu Huyen in the final. She is the third Indian to win the Asian U-15 women's singles title.

Samia Imad Farooqui in 2017 and Tasnim Mir in 2019 won the singles title in the Asian U-15 championship.

Bangladesh won its maiden SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Men's U-20 Championship by defeating host Nepal 4-1 in the final.

The final was played at the ANFA Complex in Lalitpur, Nepal.

The Bangladeshi team, also famous as the Bengal Tigers.

Karthik Venkataraman becomes champion of 61st National Open Chess Championship.

Karthik Venkataraman defeated Surya Sekhar Ganguly and Nilash Saha by a narrow margin and got a better score (78) in the Buchholz system tie-breaker to clinch his second National Chess Championship title.

Diana Pundole became the first Indian women racer to win national championship.

Diana Pundole, a teacher and mother from Pune won the national championship in the saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 in Chennai.

Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second in Lausanne Diamond League.

Neeraj Chopra delivered an impressive performance at the Lausanne Diamond League, securing his second-best javelin throw ever with a season-best distance of 89.49 meters on his final attempt.

This result placed him second behind Grenada's Anderson Peters, who threw 90.61 meters.

ICC Moves Women's T20 World Cup 2024 to UAE Due to Bangladesh Unrest.

The ICC has moved the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 from Bangladesh to the UAE due to safety concerns amid severe unrest in Bangladesh.

The tournament will now be held in Dubai and Sharjah from October 3 to 20.

Para Shuttler Pramod Bhagat Suspended For Breaching Anti Doping Regulations.

Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat has been suspended by the Badminton World Federation for a period of 18 months for breaching the anti-doping regulations. Now, Pramod will miss the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.

The Federation announced that Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medal winner Pramod Bhagat has been suspended on account of where about failure.

Hockey India (HI) has officially announced that retiring goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will be the new head coach for the Indian junior men's hockey team.

This decision follows India's recent bronze medal victory at the 2024 Olympics.

Prasar Bharati-BCL Sign Landmark Deal to Promote Cricket.

The Big Cricket League (BCL) is set to make its debut on the Indian cricket landscape, promising a unique blend of local talent and cricketing legends.

The first-ever Global Women's Kabaddi League will commence next month (September) in Haryana.

Indian Olympic Association has selected hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and pistol shooter Manu Bhaker as co-flag bearers for India at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games closing ceremony.

Aman Sehrawat became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal after he won a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg wrestling event at the Paris Olympics.

Aman Sehrawat broke the record of PV Sindhu, who won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics at the age of 21 years, 1 month, and 14 days.

India has so far won 6 medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics - 1 silver and 5 bronze medals

Serial number	Players	Event	Medal
1	Manu Bhaker	Women's 10m air pistol	Bronze
2	Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh	10m air pistol Mixed Team Shooting	Bronze
3	Swapnil Kusale	Men's 50m rifle 3 Positions	Bronze
4	Men's Hockey Team	Men's Hockey	Bronze
5	Neeraj Chopra	Javelin	Silver
6	Aman Sehrawat	Wrestling 57 kg freestyle	Bronze
Total			6 medals

Neeraj Chopra has clinched the silver in men's javelin at the Paris Olympics 2024 with a season-best throw of 89.45m at Stade de France.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, upstaged him by setting the Olympic Record to win the gold

medal. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem broke the Olympic Record in the men's javelin throw final with a monster heave of 92.97 metres.

Anderson Peters of Granada took the bronze medal with a best throw of 88.54 metres.

The Indian men's hockey team led by **Harmanpreet Singh** won the bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics, beating Spain 2-1. The match to decide the bronze medal was held at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium in Paris, France, on 8 August 2024.

This is the **second back-to-back bronze medal** for the Indian men's hockey team after their bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The match against Spain was also the last international match for the veteran Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who had an outstanding Olympics.

Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh scored both goals in the match, and Miralles scored the only goal for Spain.

The Indian captain finished the Paris Olympics as the highest goal scorer in the Paris 2024 men's hockey tournament with ten goals.

The bronze medal at the Paris Olympics was the 13th medal won by the Indian men's hockey team in the Summer Olympics.

It was the first time since the 1972 Munich Olympics that India had won back-to-back medals in the Olympics.

Indian men's hockey team has won 8 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze in the Olympics.

Paris Olympics- Heartbreak for Vinesh Phogat Disqualified Before Final.

In a heartbreak for women's wrestler Vinesh Phogat and India, she has been disqualified from the 2024 Paris Olympics. She was to compete in the final of the women's 50 kg category on 7 August 2024.

Phogat was disqualified for being overweight in her category. Although she usually competes in the 53 kg category, she competed in the 50 kg event at the Paris Olympics.

Before her disqualification, Vinesh was the first Indian women wrestler to reach the final of the Olympics.

Before her, Sakshi Malik is the only Indian women's wrestler to have won a medal -bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Three-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist Vinesh Phogat won her opening round against Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Yui Susaki of Japan.

Vinesh was to face Sarah Hildebrandt of the USA in the final on 7 August 2024. Now, the American Sarah Hildebrandt will face Yusneylis Guzman for the gold medal.

Vinesh Phogat, one of India's most promising wrestlers, has announced her retirement from the sport following a devastating turn of events at the Paris Olympics 2024.

India and Saint Christopher & Nevis have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the field of sports.

American sprinter Noah Lyles clinched gold in the men's 100-meter sprint at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

The race was one of the closest in Olympic history, with Lyles finishing just 0.005 seconds ahead of Jamaica's Kishane Thompson.

Lyles' time of 9.784 seconds narrowly beat Thompson's 9.789 seconds.

Team USA's Fred Kerley secured bronze with a time of 9.81 seconds.

Serbian Tennis legend Novak Djokovic became the fifth tennis player in history to claim the.

He joined the list of Rafael Nadal of France, Serena Williams and Andre Agassi of the United States, and Steffi Graf of Germany, winning the singles title of the four Grand Slam and an Olympic Gold Medal.

Novak Djokovic won the men's singles gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets, 7-6(3), 7-6(2), in the final on 4 August 2024.

In the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Djokovic won a bronze in the men's singles. He failed to win a medal in the 2012 London Olympics, 2016 Rio de Janeiro and again in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Novak Djokovic is the only male tennis player to win 24 Grand Slam singles titles. He shares the record with Australian female tennis player Margaret Court.

six-member student teams from India have secured the country its best performance ever in the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 2024.

Adhitya Mangudy (Grade 11 from Pune), Ananda Bhaduri (Grade 12 from Guwahati), Kanav Talwar (Grade 10 from Noida), and Rushil Mathur (Grade 12 from Mumabi) bagged the gold medal. Arjun Gupta (Grade 12, from Delhi) won the Silver medal, and Siddharth Choppara (Grade 12 from Pune) clinched an

honourable mention.

Globally, Team USA, China, and South Korea finished as the top three winners in that order. At fourth place, India's total score at the Olympiad is 167 just one mark behind South Korea's at third spot. The winning team USA's total score is 192.

It is the World Championship Mathematics Competition for High School students and is held annually in a different country.

The first IMO was held in 1959 in Romania, with 7 countries participating. It has gradually expanded to over 100 countries from 5 continents.

This year it was the 65th IMO held at Bath, United Kingdom.

SPORTS NEWS JULY 2024

Manu Bhaker of Haryana opened the medal account for India at the 33rd Summer Olympics, being held in Paris, France. She won the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol event held on 28 July 2024.

She became the first Indian women shooter to win a medal in the shooting event at the Summer Olympics.

The gold medal was won by South Korean Oh Ye Jin, with an Olympic record of 243.2 points, and the silver medal was bagged by fellow South Korean Yeji Kim, with 241.3 points

Women's Asia Cup Final 2024: Sri Lanka beat India for Title

The host Sri Lankan women's cricket team upset the favourite and defending champion Indian women's team to lift their maiden Women's Cricket Asia Cup. In the final of the 9th Women's Cricket Asia Cup played at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, on 28 July 2024, the host beat India by 8 wickets with 8 balls to spare.

Sri Lanka became the third team in the history of the Asia Cup to win the Women's Cricket Asia Cup, with India having won it seven times and Bangladesh once.

Nita Ambani has been unanimously re-elected as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) from India at the 142nd IOC session in Paris.

Vani Kapoor excelled at the 2024 Dutch Ladies Open in the Netherlands, finishing tied for 20th place with a score of 2-under 70.

Atiqa Mir, a nine-year-old racing prodigy, became the first female racer to win a race in the Rotax Challenge International Trophy at the prestigious Le Mans Kart International circuit.

Nagaland Madrigal Singers, representing India, won two Gold Medals at the World Choir Games 2024 held in Auckland, New Zealand.

Yuki Bhambri of India and Albano Olivetti from France won the men's doubles title at the ATP Swiss Open.

Nuno Borges played the match of his life to beat Rafael Nadal 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the Swedish Open.

Australian racer Oscar Piastri won his first Formula 1 title at the Hungarian Grand Prix.

Argentina Tops FIFA Rankings as India Holds Steady at 124th Position.

Indian team participated in the 35th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2024 and achieved remarkable success.

One student won a GOLD medal and three students secured SILVER medals.

Vedant Sakre from Mumbai, Maharashtra won a gold medal.

Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik won the Golden Sand Master Award and a gold medal at the International Sand Sculpture Championship/Festival.

The championship was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, from July 4 to July 12.

India won the World Championship of Legends by defeating Pakistan.

Pakistan scored 156 runs for 6 wickets in their innings.

Argentina clinched their second consecutive Copa America Championship with a 1-0 victory over Colombia at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami.

Spain won its record fourth European soccer championship by defeating England 2-1 in the finals of Euro 2024 in Berlin

Carlos Alcaraz ,Barbora Krejickova wins 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Title.

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Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Barbora Krejickova of Czech Republic won the men's and women's single title respectively at the 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Championships .

It was the second consecutive Wimbledon singles title for Carlos Alcaraz and first Wimbledon singles title for Barbora Krejickova.

The 137th edition of the All England Championship ,famous as Wimbledon Championship, was held at Wimbledon in England from 1-14 July 2024.

It is the third Grand Slam event of a calendar year after the Australian Open and the French Open.

Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam tournament that is played on natural grass.

Second Wimbledon Single title for Alcaraz

The 2024 men's single final was the repeat of the previous year where the eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz took on Novak Djokovic of Serbia .

Like last year, this year also, 21-year-old Carlos Alcaraz beat 37-year-old Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) in two hours and 28 minutes in the final played on 14 July 2024.

This was the fourth Grand Slam singles title for Alcaraz having won the French Open in 2024, the US Open in 2022 and Wimbledon in 2023 and 2024.

The Serbian great was looking for his 8th Wimbledon singles title to equal Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon men's singles titles.

Novak Djokovic holds the record of winning the maximum number of Grand Slam singles titles. He has won 24 singles titles.

He is the sixth man to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year.

Second Grand Slam Singles Title for Barbora Krejickova

Barbora Krejickova of the Czech Republic won her second Grand Slam singles title after beating Jasmine Paolini of Italy in the final of the 2024 Wimbledon Championship played on 13 July 2024.

Barbora Krejickova had earlier won the 2021 French Open women's singles title, and the 2024 Wimbledon crown was her first singles title win at Wimbledon.

About Wimbledon

The All England Championship which is more famous as Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and was held for the first time in 1877.

It is organised by the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club Limited at Wimbledon, London, England.

Martina Navratilova of the USA holds the record for winning 9 singles titles in the women 's section.

In the men's, Roger Federer of Switzerland holds the record of winning 8 singles titles

Winners of the 2024 Wimbledon Championship

Event	Winner's (their Nationality)	Runners Up (their Nationality)	Trophy Name
Men's Single	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Gentlemen's Singles Trophy
Women's Single	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)	Jasmine Paolini (Italy)	Ladies Singles Trophy (also known as Rosewater Dish or Venus Rosewater Dish)
Men's Double	Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson (Both Australian)	Harri Heliövaara (Finland) and Henry Patten (Britain)	Gentlemen's Doubles Trophy or Silver Challenge Cup
Women's Double	Taylor Townsend (USA) and Katrenia Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Gabriella Dabrowski (Canada) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)	Ladies Doubles Trophy or Duchess of Kent Challenge Cup
Mixed Doubles	Santiago Gonzalez And Giuliana Olmos (both of Mexico)	Jan Zieliński (Poland) and Hsieh Su-Wei (Taiwan)	Silver Challenge Cup

Indian badminton players Tasnim Mir and Tharun Manneppalli won the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024.

PV Sindhu and Sharath Kamal have been confirmed as India's flag bearers for the Paris Olympics 2024.

Gautam Gambhir has been appointed as the Head Coach of Team India (Senior Men).

Avinash Sable broke the Indian national record in the men's 3000m steeplechase with a time of 8:09.91 at the Paris Diamond League 2024 on July 7, 2024.

Abhay Singh, representing India, won both the men's doubles and mixed doubles titles at the Asian Doubles Squash Championships in Johor, Malaysia.

Dhruv Sitwala triumphed over Pankaj Advani in the 2024 Asian Billiards Championship final held in Riyadh.

Indian chess legend Viswanathan Anand, the 15th World Chess Champion, has won the 37th edition of the Magistral Tournament "Ciudad de León" (Leon Masters).

Anand defeated Grand Master (GM) Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain (3-1) in the Finals.

This victory marks Anand's 10th Leon Masters title.

India emerged as the top-performing nation at the Under 23 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 in Amman, Jordan.

Indian wrestlers secured a total of eight medals in freestyle wrestling: four gold, two silver, and two bronze.

SPORTS NEWS JUNE 2024

Tech Mahindra Global Chess League to host its second edition in London.

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Global Chess League, a joint initiative between the International Chess Federation (FIDE) and Tech Mahindra, a leading global provider of technology consulting and digital solutions to enterprises across industries, is set for a highly anticipated second edition in London.

Renowned Indian cricketer and ardent amateur golfer Kapil Dev has been elected as the new president of the Professional Golf Tour of India(PGTI).

Kapil Dev, the captain of the 1983 Men's Cricket World Cup winning team has been the vice president and member of PGTI's governing body for the last three years.

Kapil Dev, nicknamed Haryana Hurricane for his all-around cricket ability.

India wins 11 medals at the U-17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024.

Indian wrestlers have ended their campaign in the Under- 17 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 with a total of 11 medals- four gold, two silver, and five bronze.

The annual Under 17 & Under 23 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024 is being held in the Jordanian capital city of Amman from 22-30 June 2024.

Serial Number	Medal winner	Medal	Event
1.	Dipanshi	Gold	46kg
2.	Muskan	Gold	53 kg
3.	Rajnita	Gold	61 kg
4.	Mansi Lather	Gold	69 kg
5.	Raja Bala	Silver	40kg
6.	Samarth Gajanan Mhakave	Silver	55 kg
7.	Akash	Bronze	65 kg
8.	Sachin Kumar	Bronze	71 kg
9.	Bikash Kacchap	Bronze	48kg
10.	Tushar Tukaram Patil	Bronze	60 kg
11.	Ronak	Bronze	110 kg

Dhiraj Bommadevara won two bronze medals for India at the Archery World Cup 2024 stage 3 in Antalya, Turkiye on 23 June 2024.

The Indian team finished their campaign at Antalya with four medals- one gold,one silver and two bronze.

The Indian women's compound team of Aditi Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Parneet Kaur won its third consecutive gold medal of the season at the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, Turkey.

Priyansh gets Silver in the Individual Compound event.

Olympics medalist Bajrang Punia suspended by NADA for anti-doping rule violation.

Bajrang Punia was born into a wrestler family in Jhajjar, Haryana.
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.
He won a gold medal at the 2016 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.
He won a gold medal at the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.
He won a gold medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games
Bajrang Punia was awarded India's highest sports award Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in 2019.

Indian Table Tennis Stars Shine with 9 Medals at WTT Contender Lagos 2024.

Indian contingents secured a total of 9 medals (3 gold, 1 silver, and 5 bronze) at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender Lagos 2024, held from June 19th to 23rd at Sir Molade Okoya Thomas Indoor Sports Hall, Lagos, Nigeria.

Winners at WTT Contender Lagos 2024:

Women's Singles:

Champion (Gold): Sreeja Akula (India).

Women's Doubles:

Champions (Gold): Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath (India).

Men's Doubles:

Champions (Gold): Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar (India).

Sreeja Akula made history as the first Indian player to clinch the Women's Singles title at a WTT Contender event.

Rutuja Bhosale of India and Fangran Tian of China won the ITF Women's World Tennis Tour in Tauste, Spain.

Neeraj Chopra Clinches Gold at World Athletics Continental Tour in Finland.

Olympic and World Champion Neeraj Chopra won the Gold medal in the men's javelin throw at the World Athletics Continental Gold Tour.

Chopra topped an eight-man field with a best effort of 85.97 meters.

Neeraj Chopra was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in March 2022.

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, India's top-rated chess player, clinched the Stepan Avagyan Memorial 2024 title in Jermuk, Armenia

India won its first medal in women's table tennis at the ongoing BRICS Games in Kazan, Russia.

The women's table tennis team, consisting of Poymantee Baisya, Moumita Dutta, and Yashini Sivasankar, clinched a bronze medal.

Diksha Dagar secured a sixth-place tie at the Ladies Italian Open Golf.

Diksha finished four shots behind the winner, Amy Taylor of England.

Amy Taylor won the title with scores of 70, 67, and a closing 69.

Likith SP and Dhinidhi Desinghu from India won two bronze medals at the 2024 Singapore National Swimming Championship.

Shruti Vora becomes first Indian rider to win a 3-Star Grand Prix event in Equestrian.

Shruti Vora made history by becoming the first Indian rider to win a three-star Grand Prix event in equestrian sports.

She achieved this milestone riding Magnanimous at the CDI-3 event of the FEI Dressage World Cup in Lipica, Slovenia.

Shruti surpassed Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco.

Divya Deshmukh Wins World Junior Girls' Chess Championship.

The tournament took place at the Gift City Club in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

In the final round, Divya defeated Beloslava Krasteva from Bulgaria.

Puja Tomar Becomes First Indian to Win in UFC.

Puja Tomar became the first Indian to win a bout in the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC), defeating Brazil's Rayanne Amanda dos Santos via split decision at UFC Louisville.

Puja Tomar in Budhana village, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh.

She is a five-time national wushu champion.

Tomar became the third person from India and the first woman to get a UFC contract

India's Gulveer Singh won the silver medal in the men's 5000m race at the Portland Track Festival High-Performance Meet in Portland, USA.

He became the fastest Indian in the men's 5000-metre race.

Gulveer set a new national record with a timing of 13 minutes 18.92 seconds.

This timing surpassed the previous record of 13 minutes 19.30 seconds, set by Avinash Sable last year.

Winners:

Gold medal: Dylan Jacobs (USA)

Silver medal: Gulveer Singh (India).

Sumit Nagal won the Heilbronn Neckarcup Challenger.

Nagal defeated Switzerland's Alexander Ritschard with scores of 6-1, 6-7, 6-3 in the men's singles final.

This victory marks Nagal's 6th ATP Challenger title.

Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat won the silver medal at the Polyak Imre and Varga Janos Memorial 2024 wrestling tournament in Budapest, Hungary.

Sehrawat lost the men's 57kg final to Japan's Rei Higuchi, a former world champion and Rio 2016 silver medallist, with a score of 11-1.

Sift Kaur Samra won a bronze medal in the Women's 50m Rifle 3-Position event at the ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol in Munich..

DP Manu from India won the gold medal in Javelin throw at the Taiwan Athletics Open 2024, achieving a distance of 81.58 meters.

Praggnanandhaa defeated Magnus Carlsen in a classical chess event for the first time

Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Iga Swiatek of Poland won the 2024 French Open men's and women's Tennis Single titles, respectively.

It was the first French Open singles title for Alcaraz and the fourth singles title for the world no.1 Iga Swiatek.

The 123rd edition of the French Open, also known as Roland Garros, was held at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, from 26 May to 9 June 2024. It is the second Grand Slam event of a calendar year after the Australian Open.

The Stade Roland Garros is a stadium which has many courts. The finals are always played on the Philippe Chatie Court. The French Open is played on clay court.

Third Singles Grand Slam Title for Alcaraz .

The 21 year old Spaniard won his career's third Grand Slam title by winning the French Open single title. Carlos Alcaraz had previously won the US Open in 2022 and the Wimbledon in 2023.

In the 2024 French Open, Carlos Alcaraz defeated Tokyo Olympic Champion Alexander Zverev of Germany in five sets, 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

Iga Swiatek wins her fourth French Open Singles Title

World no.1 Iga Swiatek of Poland defended her French Open singles title for the third time in a row. Iga Swiatek defeated Jasmine Paolini of Italy 6-2, 6-1 in the final played on 8 June 2024.

Iga Swiatek has now won the French Open singles title four times, in 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

American Tennis great Chris Evert holds the record for maximum women's singles title - seven times.

This was the fifth Grand Slam title for 23 year old Iga Swiatek . She has also won the US Open women's singles title in 2022

Most singles titles:- Rafael Nadal (14).

Event	Winner	RunnersUp	Trophy Name
Men's Single	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)	Musketeers' cup
Women's Single	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Jasmine Paolini (Italy)	Suzanne-Lenglen cup
Men's Double	Mate Pavic (Croatia) and Marcelo Alevaro (El Salvador)	Andrea Vavasorri and Somen Balloli (Both Italian)	Jacques-Brugnon cup
Women's Double	Coco Gauff (USA) and Katerina Siniakova (Czech)	Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini (Both Italian)	Simonne-Mathieu cup
Mixed Doubles	Desirae Krawczyk (USA) and Neal Skupski (Britain)	Laura Siegemund (Germany) and Édouard Vasselin (France)	Marcel Bernard cup

Divya Deshmukh Wins World Junior u-20 Girls' Chess Championship .

18-year Nagpur girl and women's chess International Master Divya Deshmukh won the FIDE under -20 Girl's World Chess Championship.

The FIDE World Junior Chess Championship 2024 was held in Gujarat's capital city of Gandhinagar.

Divya Deshmukh is the fourth Indian to win the FIDE under -20 Girl's World Chess Championship after Koneru Humpy, Harika Dronavalli and Soumya Swaminathan.

In the men's section, Grand Master Kazybek Nogerbek of Kazakhstan won the 2024 FIDE World Junior Chess Championship.

Tata Communications Secures Five-Year Broadcasting Deal with World Athletics.

Tata Communications has secured a five-year deal with World Athletics to provide broadcasting services for major events, including the World Athletics Indoor Championships and World Athletics Relays

India will host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in December 2025.

The tournament, set to feature 24 teams for the first time, will be the 14th edition of the Junior Hockey World Cup.

Uttar Pradesh government has unveiled its plans for the MotoGP event as it will be hosted by the city of Noida from 2025 until 2029 and announced a collaboration with Spain's Dorna Sports and the Indian partner which is Fairstreet sports.

MotoGP is the pinnacle of World Championship Road Racing.

UP govt agrees to raise ₹80cr for 2025 edition of MotoGP Bharat.

PV Sindhu Invests in and Becomes Brand Ambassador for Greenday's 'Better Nutrition'

Real Madrid lifts the Champions League Trophy for the 15th time.

The Spanish football giant Real Madrid defeated Borussia Dortmund, the German football club, 2-0 in the final to win the 2023-24 UEFA Champions League for the 15th time.

Real Madrid football club, which is also popularly called Los Blancos.

SPORTS NEWS MAY 2024

Wang Zhi Yi Clinches Malaysia Masters Title, P.V. Sindhu Settles for Runner-Up.

Two-time Olympic gold medallist and world No. 15 in women's singles badminton, PV Sindhu was the runner-up in the women's singles category at the Malaysia Masters 2024.

She lost the final match to Wang Zhi Yi of China.

Malaysia Masters 2024 Winners and Runners-up List:

Category	Men's Singles	Women's Singles	Men's Doubles
Winner	Viktor Axelsen (Denmark)	Wang Zhi Yi (China)	Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen (Denmark)
Runner-up	Lee Zii Jia (Malaysia)	P. V. Sindhu (India)	Jin Yong and Na Sung-seung (South Korea)

Dipa Karmakar Clinches India's First-Ever Gold Medal In Women's Vault At Asian Championships.

Dipa Karmakar secured India's inaugural gold medal in the women's Vault event at the Asian Championships held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

The victory marks a significant milestone in Indian gymnastics history, as it is the first gold medal won by an Indian gymnast in any event at the Asian Championships.

She was the first Indian female gymnast to compete in the Olympics, showcasing her talent at the Rio 2016 Games.

Simran Sharma of India clinched the gold medal in the Women's 200 meters T12 category at the Para-Athletics World Championship in Kobe, Japan.

Other Indian Medal Winners

Deepti Jeevanji won her first gold medal in the women's 400m T20 event.

Sachin Sarjerao Khilari clinched the gold medal in the men's shot put event.

Ekta Bhyan clinched the gold medal in the women's F51 club throw competition.

Kashish Lakra secured the silver medal with a throw measuring 14.56 meters.

Yogesh Kathuniya achieved a season's best mark of 41.80 meters, earning silver in the Men's Discus Throw F56 Final.

Nishad Kumar grabbed silver in Men's High Jump T47 with a season-best jump of 1.99 meters.

India's total medal tally at the Para-Athletics World Championships reached 17, the highest in its history.

The medal haul includes six gold, five silver, and six bronze medals, showcasing India's growing prowess in para-athletics.

India secured the Gold medal in the compound women's team event at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Yecheon, South Korea.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur, and Aditi Swami achieved a remarkable feat by winning their third consecutive World Cup gold medal together.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) launches 'Let's Move India' campaign.

Aimed at inspiring people to celebrate athletes at the Paris Olympics.

The goal is to inspire and celebrate Olympians representing India in Paris 2024.

Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy secured victory in the Thailand Open 2024 badminton men's doubles final.

They defeated their Chinese opponents Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi with a scoreline of 21-15, 21-15 in a 46-

minute match.

This win marked Chirag and Satwik's second title of the 2024 badminton season and their second Thailand Open title.

Two-time World Champion Nikhat Zareen won gold in the women's 52kg category at the Elorda Cup 2024 by defeating Zhazira Urakbayeva of Kazakhstan with a unanimous decision (5-0).

India finished the Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals in total, held in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Medals tally: 2 gold, 2 silver, and 8 bronze.

Gold medals:

Nikhat Zareen (52kg).

Minakshi (48kg) defeated Uzbekistan's Rahmonova Saidahon (4-1) to win India's first gold medal in the women's 48kg final.

Silver medals:

Anamika (50kg) lost to China's Wu Yu (1-4).

Manisha (60kg) lost to Kazakhstan's Viktoriya Grafeeva (0-5).

Neeraj Chopra Secures Second Place at Doha Diamond League 2024.

Olympic and World Champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra claimed the second spot in the Doha Diamond League 2024, held on May 10, 2024, at the Qatar Sports Club, Doha, Qatar.

Czech Republic's three-time Olympian Jakub Vadlejch secured the top spot with a throw of 88.38 meters.

Neeraj Chopra narrowly missed the first spot by just 2 centimeters, with a throw of 88.36 meters.

Indian gymnast Srishti Khandagle wins silver medal in Asian Championships being hosted by Hong Kong.

Kazakhstan's Dolgoplova won the gold medal, while Hong Kong's S. Hung won the bronze medal.

Coca-Cola India and Hockey India form first partnership for National Women's Hockey League.

Anandana, Coca-Cola India Foundation has announced its first collaboration with Hockey India for the National Women's Hockey League 2024-2025.

The first phase of the tournament started on April 30, 2024, and is scheduled to end on May 9, 2024, in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Indian boxing team clinched a remarkable 43 medals at the Asian U-22 and Youth Boxing Championships 2024, held in Astana, Kazakhstan

Among these medals, there were 12 gold, 14 silver, and 17 bronze, demonstrating India's prowess in both youth and U-22 categories.

Indian wrestlers achieved a remarkable feat at the Asian Wrestling Championships (Senior) 2024 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Indian wrestlers won 9 medals, including 4 silver and 5 bronze medals

ICC names Shahid Afridi as Men's T 20 WC 2024 Brand Ambassador.

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.

Shahid Afridi joins Indian Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle of West Indies, and Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt as brand ambassadors for the event.

Shahid Afridi, nicknamed 'Lala', was an explosive batsman and a skilful leg spinner.

Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has confirmed Australia as the hosts for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2026.

Uzbekistan has been chosen to host the 2029 edition of the premier women's football continental tournament.

Brazil was declared the host of the 2027 Women's World Cup at the FIFA Congress.

Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra clinched the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event with a modest 82.27m effort at the Federation Cup 2024 athletics in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Alexander Zverev and Iga Swiatek win Singles Title of Italian open.

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.

This was the second Italian open title for Alexander Zverev, while it was the third Italian title for Iga

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Swiatek.

Second Italian Open title for Alexander Zverev

German Alexander Zverev defeated the first-time Masters finalist Nicolas Jarry of Chile in straight sets 6-4, 7-5 to win the 2024 Italian Open Masters 1000 title. This was also Zverev's second Italian Open title.

This was the third final for Alexander Zverev in the Italian Open. In 2017, he won the Italian Open by defeating Novak Djokovic.

Iga Swiatek wins her 3rd Italian Open title.

World no.1 Iga Swiatek of Poland defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in straight sets 6-2 6-3 to win her 21st career title.

This was the third Italian Open title for Iga Swiatek in the last four years.

Karnataka-based Nandini dairy to sponsor Scotland team at T20 World Cup 2024.

Sunil Chhetri to retire from International Football.

One of India's best-known sporting icons, Sunil Chhetri, has announced that he will retire from international football after India's match against Kuwait at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

This ends the illustrious career of Secunderabad-born Sunil Chhetri, who is currently the captain of the Blue Tigers (the Indian men's football team nickname). He wears Jersey No. 9 of the Indian men's football team.

3rd highest international goal scorer amongst active players.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo is the leading goal scorer in the world with 128 goals. Argentina's Lionel Messi is second on the list with 106 international goals.

Sunil Chhetri, with 94 goals in 150 international matches, is third on the list.

International Trophy won for India

Sunil Chhetri has played for the Indian men's football team that has won the Nehru Cup (2007, 2009, 2012) and the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Championship (2011, 2015, 2021).

Sunil Chhetri was crucial in India's 2008 AFC Challenge Cup win, which helped them qualify for the first AFC Asian Cup (2011) after 27 years.

Honour for Sunil Chhetri

Sunil Chhetri has been named the All India Football Federation(AIFF) Male Player of the Year seven times.

He was honoured with India's second-highest sports award, the Arjuna Award, in 2013

He was honoured with India's highest sports award, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021.

He was awarded India's third-highest civilian award, Padam Shri, in 2019.

In 2022, football's world governing body, FIFA, honoured Sunil Chhetri with a documentary titled "Captain Fantastic."

Tamil Nadu's Shyaamnikhil Becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster.

United Nations Declares May 25 as World Football Day.

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.

Japanese men's hockey team defeated Pakistan to claim its first Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy.

The Pakistani team, also popularly called the Green Shirts, was appearing in the final of the Azlan Shah for the 10th time.

India has won the Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy 5 times in 1985, 1991, 1995, 2009, 2010.

Amul Becomes 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka Men's Cricket Team for T20 World Cup 2024.

36th La Liga Title for Real Madrid football club.

The Spanish football club Real Madrid has been crowned the La Liga 2023-24 season title after beating Cadiz 3-0.

Real Madrid, also known as Los Blancos.

Girona football club defeated Barcelona 4-2 to ensure that Real Madrid won its 36th La Liga title.

Iga Swiatek, Andrey Rublev wins the Madrid Open Tennis Singles Title.

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.

World no.1 Iga Swiatek of Poland won the WTA 1000 Madrid Open title. In the final, she defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (9/7) to win her first Madrid Open title.

Andrey Rublev of Russia won the singles title of the ATP Madrid Open Masters 1000, beating Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, to win his second ATP Masters title.

China wins both Thomas and Uber Cup Badminton titles.

Chinese badminton team confirmed its domination of the sport by winning both the men's Thomas Cup and the women's Uber Cup.

Thomas and Uber Cup is held every two years and is organised by the world badminton governing body, the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

The 2024 edition of the Thomas and Uber Cup was held in Chengdu, China, from 27 April to 5 May 2024.

Thomas Cup 2024

China defeated Indonesia 4-1 to win the Thomas Cup for the 11th time.

Uber Cup 2024

The Chinese women's team defeated Indonesia 3-0 to win the Uber Cup for the 16th time.

About Thomas Cup

The Thomas Cup is also known as the World Men's Badminton Team Championship.

About Uber Cup

The Women's Badminton Team Championship is also popularly known as Uber Cup.

For the first time since 2012, Chinese badminton has won both the men's and women's titles at the world team championships.

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.

The 6th edition of the AFC U-23 Asian Cup was held in Qatar from April 15 to May 3, 2024, with 16 teams

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has announced that India will host the prestigious 2025 BWF World Junior Championships at the National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati.

Amul Becomes Lead Sponsor for USA and South Africa in T20 World Cup 2024.

Kenyan Athletes Dominate TCS World 10K Bengaluru 2024.

Kenyan athletes Peter Mwaniki and Lilian Kasait won the international elite men's and women's categories at the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru, respectively.

Mwaniki surged ahead of his compatriot Hillary Chepkwony at the 7.5 km mark, while Kasait distanced herself from Emmaculate Achol at the 7.1 km mark.

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Indian wrestlers achieved a remarkable feat at the Asian Wrestling Championships (Senior) 2024 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Indian wrestlers won 9 medals, including 4 silver and 5 bronze medals.

Badminton Asia Championship 2024

Singles Men

Winner : Jonatan Christie (Indonesia)

Runner-up : Li Shi Feng (China)

Singles Women

Winner : Wang Zhi Yi (China)

Runner-up: Chen Yu Fei (China)

Kazakhstan International Challenge 2024:

Men's Singles Championship:

Winner: Tharun Mannepli (India)

Runner-up: Soong Joo Ven (Malaysia)

Women's Singles Championship:

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Winner : Anupama Upadhyaya (India)

Runner-up: Isharani Baruah (India)

Sumit Nagal Makes History with First Indian Win in Monte Carlo Masters.

Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal achieved a historic feat by defeating 35th-ranked Matteo Arnaldi at the Monte Carlo Masters

Bindyarani Devi wins bronze medal at IWF World Cup 2024.

Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 silver medalist Bindyarani Devi won bronze at the IWF World Cup 2024 took place in Phuket, Thailand.

Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden Secure Miami Open Men's Doubles Title 2024.

44 years old star Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna along with his Australian partner Matthew Ebden won the 2024 Miami Open Tennis men's doubles title at the Hard Rock Stadium in Florida ,United States of America.

Bopanna became the fourth Indian to win the Miami Open, following in the footsteps of Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupati, and Sania Mirza.

At the age of 44 , Bopanna also broke his own record to become the oldest player to win an ATP 1000 Masters Championship.

In the women's singles American Danielle Collins won her first major title while in the men's singles Italian tennis player Jannik Sinner was crowned the champion.

Italian Jannik Sinner defeated Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov in the final to win the men's Miami Open Master 1000 title.

Arjun Erigaisi becomes India's number 1 chess player, reaches world top 10.

Arjun Erigaisi is the new top-ranked Indian chess player in the latest FIDE rankings released by chess's world governing body on April 1, ranking 9th globally with a standard rating of 2756.

Viswanathan Anand, a five-time world champion, follows Erigaisi as the second-ranked Indian with a rating of 2751, securing the 11th position globally.

Young talents like Praggnanandhaa R (14th), Gukesh D (16th), and Vidit Santosh Gujrathi (25th) also hold impressive spots in the FIDE rankings.

Magnus Carlsen continues to lead the global rankings with a rating of 2830.

Maharashtra emerged victorious in both the men's and women's categories at the 56th National Kho Kho Championship 2023-24.

Men's Category:

Maharashtra defeated the Indian Railway team in the championship game held at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

Women's category:

The Maharashtra women's team, led by Sampada Maurya, defeated the Airport Authority of India team in the championship match.

Pakistan cricket legend Sana Mir as the ambassador for the upcoming ICC Women's T20 World Cup Qualifier.

Legendary sprinter Usain Bolt has been named the official ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States .

Saurav Ghosal Retires from Professional Squash.

India's most successful male squash player, Saurav Ghosal, has announced his retirement from professional squash.

Saurav Ghosal was the first Indian player to be ranked junior World No. 1 in 2004.

Saurav Ghosal has been the National champion 13 times. He has won a total of nine medals at the Asian Games.

He won the first-ever squash medal for India in the Asian Games by winning a bronze medal at the 2006 Doha Asian Games.

Saurav Ghosal, along with Mahesh Mangaonkar, Harinder Pal Sandhu, and Kush Kumar, won the first-ever gold medal for India in the squash team event at the Incheon Asian Games.

Saurav Ghosal is the only Indian to win a single medal at the Commonwealth Games. He won the bronze medal at the 2022 Birmingham Games.

In 2007, Saurav Ghosal became the first ever squash player to be awarded country's second highest sport

award ,Arjuna Award.

Casper Ruud of Norway defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece to win the ATP Barcelona Open 500 tennis title's singles title.

Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan defeated Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine to win the singles title of the WTA Stuttgart Grand Prix.

Karnataka's Nandini dairy brand to sponsor Scotland, Ireland teams in T20 World Cup 2024.

17-year-old D Gukesh of India became the youngest male chess player to win the FIDE Candidate Tournament.

In the women's section, Tan Zhongyi of China won the 2024 FIDE Candidate Tournament.

D Gukesh will face the current FIDE World Champion, Ding Liren of China, later this year, and Tan Zhongyi will face the current female World Chess Champion, Ju Wenjun, to decide the 2024 FIDE World Chess Champion.

D Gukesh became the second Indian after Vishwanathan Anand to win the FIDE Candidate Tournament.

D. Gukesh is the third youngest player to play in the Candidate tournament after Bobby Fischer of the US and Magnus Carlsen of Norway.

Deepika Soreng Honoured with Asunta Lakra Award.

Deepika Soreng, the promising forward of the India Women's Hockey Team, has been honoured with the prestigious Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year during the Hockey India 6th Annual Awards 2023.

6 year old Vaghani from Ahmedabad made record of lowest limbo skating.

Six-year-old Takshvi Vaghani from Ahmedabad has made the record of shortest limbo skating by 25 metres.

This has been confirmed by Guinness World Records (GWR).

India got 2 silver and 2 bronze medals in the 13th EGMO 2024.

The 13th European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad (EGMO) was held in Tskaltubo, Georgia from 11 to 17 April 2024.

The 4-member Indian team has won a total of four medals including 2 silver and 2 bronze medals in the 13th EGMO 2024.

Student's Name	Location (State)	Award / Medal
Gunjan Agarwal	Gurgaon, Haryana	Silver Medal
Sanjana Philo Chacko	Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala	Silver Medal
Larissa	Hisar, Haryana	Bronze Medal
Saee Vitthal Patil	Pune, Maharashtra	Bronze Medal

25-year-old tennis player Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece defeated Casper Ruud of Norway in a straight set 6-1, 6-4 to win his third ATP Monte Carlo Masters 1000 title.

He also won the title in 2021 and 2022.

World No. 6 ranked Casper Rudd defeated world no. 1 Novak Djokovic in the semifinal to qualify for the final.

Rafael Nadal has won the Monte Carlo Masters a record 11 times.

Sumit Nagal first Indian to win a ATP Master 1000 match on clay.

India's top (number-1) tennis player Sumit Nagal has reached the second round of the Rolex Monte Carlo Masters.

95th-ranked unseeded Sumit Nagal has now become the third Indian to reach the main draw of the Monte Carlo Masters

Mykolas Alekna breaks oldest Athletics record in discus throw.

Mykolas Alekna of Lithuania broke the longest-standing men's world record in the discus throw event.

He threw the discus to 74.35 meters at the Oklahoma Throws Series meeting in Ramona, United States of America.

Rashmi Kumari wins national women's carrom title for the 12th time.

Three-time World Champion Rashmi Kumari beat K Nagajothi 25-8, 14-20, 25-20 in the women's final of the 51st National carrom championship organised by the Madhya Pradesh Carrom Association.

It was a record 12th national women's singles title for Rashmi, employed as the Chief Manager at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

The men's title was bagged by K Srinivas as he beat S Aditya 25-0, 19-6 in the final.

Indian women's junior Hockey team won its final match against England by 6-2 goals to secure the third spot in the 4 Nations Junior Men's Invitational Tournament held at Dusseldorf, Germany.

The India team captain was Preeti and the coach of the team was Tushar Khandker

Harendra Singh has been appointed national women's hockey coach.

Harendra Singh will replace Janneke Schopman of Holland Janneke Schopman, who is a former Dutch hockey player.

Bilquis Mir, the first Indian Woman Jury member at the Paris Olympics.

Bilquis Mir of Jammu Kashmir has become the first Indian to be appointed a jury member at the 33rd Summer Olympics to be held in Paris, France.

She is also the first woman from India to be made a jury member in the Olympics games. Bilquis Mir, who is a qualified jury member, was a jury member at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China, last year.

Bindyarani Devi wins Bronze in the IWF World Cup.

Bindyarani Devi, the Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 silver medallist, won a bronze medal at the IWF World Cup 2024, held in Phuket, Thailand, on 2 April 2024.

However, the Tokyo Olympics silver medalist Mirabai Chanu finished 12th in the 49 kg weightlifting category.

Bindyarani Devi and Mirabai Chanu were the only two Indians who were competing in the IWF World Cup 2024.

25 year old Bindyarani Devi, competing in the women's 55 kg category, recorded a lift of 196 kg.

North Korea's Kang Hyon Gyong won the gold medal with a lift of 234 Kg and silver was won by Romania's Mihaela Cambei.

Novak Djokovic breaks Federer's record to be Oldest No.1 Player.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia broke the Swiss tennis legend Roger Federer's record of being the oldest man to be ranked No. 1 in the ATP Tour's computerised rankings.

At 36 years and 321 days, Novak Djokovic surpassed Federer's record as the oldest No. 1 ranked men's tennis player.

Rohan Bopanna of India became the oldest-ranked men's double player at 43 years of age last year. He again reclaimed the No. 1 rank in doubles at 44 this year.

Iga Swiatek of Poland remains the WTA (Women Tennis Association) no.1 ranked women's single tennis player.

Novak Djokovic is the first male tennis player to win 24 Grand Slam singles titles. He holds the record jointly with Margaret Court (female tennis player) of Australia.

Hardik Singh & Salima Tete Player of the Year: Hockey India.

Salima Tete and Hardik Singh were named the women's and men's player of the year, respectively.

Hockey India started the annual Hockey India Awards in 2014 to honour India's best hockey players.

Hockey India Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award

Ashok Kumar, the son of Indian Hockey legend Dhyan Chand, was honoured with the Hockey India Lifetime Achievement Award. Ashok Kumar was a member of the Indian Hockey team, which won the bronze medal at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

The winner got a cash prize of Rs 30 lakhs and a trophy.

Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year - PR Sreejesh. He got a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a Trophy.

Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year - Harmanpreet Singh. He got a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a Trophy.

Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year - Hardik Singh. He received a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a Trophy.

Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year - Abhishek. He got a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh and a Trophy.

Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women – Under 21) - Deepika Soreng. She got a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and a Trophy.

Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men – Under 21) - Araijeet Singh Hundal. He got a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and a Trophy.

Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year (Women) - Salima Tete. She got a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh and a Trophy.

Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of The Year (Men) - Hardik Singh. He got a cash prize of Rs 25 lakh and a Trophy.

Sharfuddoula has created history by becoming the first Bangladeshi umpire to be appointed to the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires.

BANKING, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS AUGUST 2024

Union Budget 2024 has increased the loan limit under the scheme's Tarun category to Rs 20 lakh, targeting those who have successfully repaid previous MUDRA loans.

About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)

It is a flagship initiative by the Government of India that was launched in 2015 and aimed at providing affordable credit to micro and small enterprises.

It focuses on integrating underserved enterprises into the formal financial system by offering them easy access to credit.

Objective: The scheme is designed to "fund the unfunded," enabling small borrowers to secure loans from various financial institutions including Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Cooperative Banks, Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

Loan details:

Loan amount: Up to ₹10 lakh for non-farm income-generating activities in sectors such as manufacturing, processing, trading and services.

Eligibility: Any Indian citizen with a viable business plan for a non-farm sector income-generating activity requiring credit below ₹10 lakh can apply for a MUDRA loan through banks, MFIs, or NBFCs.

Categories of Loans:

Shishu: Loans up to ₹50,000, aimed at new and micro enterprises.

Kishore: Loans ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh, for businesses in the growth phase.

Tarun: Loans from ₹5 lakh to ₹20 lakh, for businesses looking to expand further.

Subsidy: There is no direct subsidy under PMMY. However, if a loan is linked to a government scheme that provides capital subsidies, the loan can be availed under PMMY with the associated benefits.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed mandatory Unified Payments Interface (UPI) block mechanism facility for secondary market trading using the UPI-based block mechanism to their clients.

About Unified Payments Interface (UPI) block mechanism:

It is similar to the Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) facility that allows trading with blocked amounts.

In the primary market, the facility ensures that money from an investor gets moved only when the allotment is completed.

In the UPI block mechanism, clients can trade in the secondary market based on blocked funds in their bank accounts, instead of transferring the funds upfront to the trading member.

The facility is currently optional for investors, and not mandatory for Trading Members (TMs) to offer as a service to clients.

Significance: It provides enhanced protection to the client's funds and securities.

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Reliance Industries Chairman recently announced a bonus issue for the company's shareholders in a 1:1 criterion.

About Bonus Issue:

A bonus issue, also known as a scrip issue or a capitalization issue, occurs when a company listed on a stock exchange decides to offer free additional shares to the existing shareholders.

The company decides the number of bonus shares to be allotted to every individual investor for holding a certain number of shares over a set period of time and accordingly rewards them.

For example, a company may give one bonus share for every five shares held.

The ex-chairman of UIDAI Nandan Nilekani gives described the idea of 'Finternet' at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) in Mumbai.

About Finternet:

It refers to the multiple financial ecosystems interconnected with each other, much like the internet.

It would lower barriers between different financial services and systems, drastically reducing the complex clearing and messaging chains and other frictions that hinder financial system.

Working: It would be built on unified ledgers which will bring multiple financial markets such as tokenized assets, shares, bonds, real estate, on a single programmable platform.

Positioned as a platform to transform the lending space, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is currently running a pilot of the Unified Lending Interface (ULI).

About Unified Lending Interface (ULI):

It is a technological platform that aims to provide a friction-less credit by cutting down the time taken for appraisal, especially for rural and small borrowers.

It serves as a bridge, connecting banks, Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), fintech firms, and borrowers, enabling a more efficient and transparent credit disbursement process.

It is expected to cater to a large unmet demand for credit across various sectors, particularly for agricultural and MSME borrowers.

It facilitates seamless flow of digital information, including land records of various states, from multiple data service providers to lenders.

It has common and standardised Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) designed for a plug-and-play approach to ensure digital access to information from diverse sources, i.e., information relevant to a lender giving out a loan to a potential borrower.

The entire system is consent-based, i.e., based on the consent of the potential borrower.

It reduces the complexity of multiple technical integrations.

It promotes transparency by allowing borrowers to track their loan applications in real-time.

Union Ministry of Education has defined 'literacy,' and what it means to achieve 'full literacy,' in the light of the renewed push for adult literacy under the New India Literacy Programme (NILP).

About New India Literacy Programme (NILP):

It aims to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above.

It is a centrally sponsored scheme with a financial outlay of Rs.1037.90 crore for implementation during FYs 2022-23 to 2026-27.

It aims to onboard one crore learners per year above 15 years across all States and Union Territories.

India's first quantum computer set for launch under National Quantum Mission.

Objective: After a delay of nearly four years, the National Quantum Mission is set to advance India's quantum technologies across four key verticals: quantum computing, communication, measurement and sensing.

Funding & Structure: The mission has been allocated nearly ₹6,000 crore, with plans to establish four Section 8 companies under the aegis of premier institutions like IITs and IISc. These companies will spearhead activities across the identified verticals.

KVIC and Department of Posts collaborate to boost PMEGP Implementation across India.

About PMEGP:

PMEGP is a central sector scheme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Eligibility:

Individuals above 18 years of age.

There will be no income ceiling for assistance for setting up projects under PMEGP.

For setting up of projects costing above 10 lakh in the Manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakh in the Business /Service sector, the beneficiaries should possess at least VIII standard pass educational qualification.

Implementing Agency: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

India is progressing towards its goal of 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2025-26.

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry announced the introduction of the Diamond Imprest Licence at the 40th edition of the India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) 2024 organised by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

About Diamond Imprest Licence:

The licence allows eligible exporters to import cut and polished diamonds, including semi-processed, half-cut, and broken diamonds.

Under this exporters can import diamonds up to 5 per cent of their average turnover from the past three years, with a requirement to add 10 per cent value.

These imports must be used by the importer and cannot be transferred, even after exports are completed.

This licence was earlier there in the foreign trade policy of 2002 and 2009.

Significance: This will provide a level playing field for Indian MSME diamond exporters. It will stop the flight of investment and also introduce more employment opportunities.

Union Finance Minister introduced the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which proposes to enable the transfer of unclaimed dividends, shares and interest or redemption of bonds to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).

About Investor Education and Protection Fund:

It has been established under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 by way of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.

The following amounts that remained unpaid and unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date they became due for payment are credited to the Fund:

This fund is managed by the Investor Education Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)

IEPFA was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, of 2013.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

India's first round-the-clock grain ATM was opened at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

About Grain ATM:

It is known as Annapurthi Grain ATM which was designed and developed by the World Food Programme India.

The Annapurthi provides universal access: anyone with a Public Distribution System ration card valid in India, regardless of the State and Union Territory, can access their entitlement.

It can dispense grain up to 50 kilograms in five minutes 24 hours a day, reducing waiting time by 70 percent.

Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said that RBI has been reviewing the investment limit for foreign investors in the Overnight Index Swap (OIS) market.

About Overnight Index Swap (OIS):

It is a derivative instrument where returns under a fixed rate asset are swapped against a pre-determined published index of a daily overnight reference rate for an agreed period of time.

Purpose: The primary purpose of an OIS is to manage interest rate risk, particularly the risk associated with fluctuations in the overnight lending rate.

It is calculated each day.

This interest rate is based on the average interest rate institutions with loans based on the overnight rate have paid for that day.

Ministry of Textiles has empowered cotton ginner across the country to produce the Kasturi Cotton Bharat brand, based on the QR code certification technology, as per stipulated protocol.

About Kasturi Cotton Bharat:

It is an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles, Textile Trade Bodies, and Industry to create premium value for cotton grown in India as per benchmarked specifications.

It is a pioneering effort in traceability, certification and branding of Indian cotton.

It was formalised through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Cotton

Corporation of India and the Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council on 15 December 2022. To provide complete traceability of Kasturi Cotton Bharat-tagged bales across the supply chain, QR-based certification technology is being used at each stage of the processing, and a Blockchain-based software platform will provide end-to-end traceability and transaction certificates. In this regard, a Microsite with QR code verification and Blockchain technology has been developed.

Minister of Cooperation informed the Rajya Sabha about the Nandini Sahakar Scheme.

About Nandini Sahakar Yojana:

It is aimed at assisting women cooperatives to take up business model-based activities under the purview of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

It is women focused framework of financial assistance, project formulation, hand-holding and capacity development.

Funding: There is no minimum or maximum limit on financial assistance to projects by women cooperatives.

NCDC provides a 2% interest subvention on its rate of interest on term loan portion for new and innovative activities.

1% interest subvention on its rate of interest on term loan portion for all other activities resulting in lower borrowing costs of women cooperatives.

Eligibility

Any cooperative society with three months in operation is eligible to apply for assistance which will be in the form of credit linkage for an infrastructure term loan.

Women cooperatives are those which are registered as women cooperatives under any State / Central Act or those cooperatives which have a minimum of 50% women as primary members.

Significance

The scheme is a framework of assistance to improve the socio-economic status of women.

Central Government appoints Shri Harish Dudani as Member in Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

About Central Electricity Regulatory Commission:

It is a statutory body established by the Government of India under the provisions of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998.

It is the Central Commission for the purposes of the Electricity Act, 2003, which has repealed the ERC Act, 1998.

Composition: The Commission consists of a Chairperson and four other members including the Chairperson, Central Electricity Authority, who is an ex-officio Member of the Commission.

The Commission intends to promote competition, efficiency and economy in bulk power markets, improve the quality of supply, promote investments, and advise the government on the removal of institutional barriers to bridge the demand-supply gap and thus foster the interests of consumers.

Fintech companies are looking to join the Indian central bank's digital currency project by allowing their users to transact in e-rupee via Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

About e-rupee:

The e-rupee, or the digital rupee, is a digital currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The digital rupee was launched on a pilot basis in December 2022. At the time, the currency was offered by a select group of public and private banks in a few major cities and could be used for both person-to-person and person-to-merchant transactions.

It is aimed at creating an additional option for using money. The digital rupee is available entirely in electronic form and does not leave a computer network.

It is like banknotes issued by the RBI and is a legal tender that can be used to make transactions. The only difference is that they can only be transacted online.

The digital rupee in users' wallets does not attract interest payments from the central bank. However, deposits held in banks can be converted into digital rupees and vice versa for ease of use.

RBI has demarcated the digital rupee into two broad categories: general purpose (retail) and wholesale.

This demarcation is based on the usage and the functions performed by the digital rupee and considering the different levels of accessibility.

CEOs, Managing Directors (MD), or any equivalent officials of Asset Management Companies (AMC) will be held responsible and accountable for implementing mechanisms to deter potential market abuse,

SEBI said in a circular recently.

About Asset Management Companies (AMCs):

An AMC is a financial institution that pools funds from multiple investors and invests in various financial instruments, such as stocks, bonds, and real estate, to generate returns for the investors in exchange for a fee.

AMCs are commonly referred to as money managers or money management firms.

AMCs come in many different forms and structures, such as:

Hedge funds

Mutual funds

Index funds

Exchange-traded funds

Private equity funds

Other funds

Those that offer public mutual funds, or ETFs, are also known as investment companies or mutual fund companies.

In addition, they invest on behalf of various types of clients, such as:

Retail investors

Institutional investors

Public sector (government organizations)

Private sector

High-net-worth clients

The role of an AMC is to make investment decisions on its investors' behalf and manage the assets in their portfolios. This involves choosing a suitable mix of investments and helping investors grow their money.

The distinguishing factor for AMCs is their Assets Under Management (AUM). It indicates the total value of investments that the AMC manages on investors' behalf.

When the AUM of an AMC grows, it represents the faith and confidence that investors have in the AMC to manage their money.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the Indian Capital Market Regulator which governs and controls every AMC in India.

The Centre is unlikely to extend the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme that was made available for two years beyond its March 2025 deadline.

About Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) Scheme:

This is a one-time scheme announced in Budget 2023 and will remain available for a two-year period, i.e., up to March 2025.

It is a risk-free scheme dedicated towards women and girls of all age groups.

The scheme offers a maximum deposit facility of up to Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenure of 2 years.

Benefit: It will encourage more women to adopt formal financial saving instruments.

Eligibility:

Any individual women.

The minor account can also be opened by the guardian.

Investment:

The deposit amount under this scheme is limited.

A minimum of Rs. 1000 and any sum in multiples of one hundred rupees may be deposited in an account subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs.

Interest Rate: It offers a fixed interest rate of 7.5 percent. Interest shall be compounded every quarter and credited to the account.

The Maturity period/Lock-in period of the scheme is 2 years from the date of opening of the account.

However, the account holder can withdraw up to 40% of the account balance after one year from the account opening date as a partial withdrawal.

There is a provision for multiple account opening under this scheme with a condition that a woman can open a second MSSC account after a minimum gap of three months from the opening of the existing account.

However, the total deposit, including all the accounts, should not exceed Rs 2 lakh.

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There are no tax benefits

Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New and Renewable Energy launched Version 4.0 of the Price Monitoring System (PMS) Mobile app.

About Price Monitoring System App:

The Price Monitoring Division (PMD) in the Department of Consumer Affairs is responsible for monitoring prices of selected essential commodities.

To improve the quality of price data, the department launched a Mobile App in 2021 - the PMS App - for the reporting of daily prices by the price reporting centres.

Source of price data: Retail and wholesale prices of commodities from 550 centers are received daily from the State Civil Supplies Departments of the respective State Governments through Mobile App developed by the Department.

Total commodities monitored

At present the price is monitored for 22 essential commodities (Rice, Wheat, Atta, Gram Dal, Tur (Arhar) Dal, Urad Dal, Moong Dal, Masur Dal, Sugar, Gur, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati, Sunflower Oil, Soya Oil, Palm Oil, Tea, Milk, Potato, Onion, Tomato and Salt).

The newly added 16 items included are Bajra, Jowar, Ragi, Suji (wheat), Maida (wheat), Besan, Ghee, Butter, Brinjal, Egg, Black Pepper, Coriander, Cummin seed, Red chillies, Turmeric powder and Banana.

The 38 commodities constitute close to 31% of the total CPI weights as against 26.5% of CPI weights captured by the 22 commodities.

Significance: The price data monitored by the Department provides advance inputs for policy decisions for the Government, RBI and analysts regarding CPI inflation.

Union Minister of Cooperation, informed Rajya Sabha about Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL).

About Bhartiya Beej Sahkari Samiti Limited (BBSSL):

It was set up under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.

It is promoted by IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and NCDC. The initial paid up capital of BBSSL is Rs. 250 Cr with contribution of Rs. 50 Cr each by the five promoters and authorized share capital is Rs. 500 Cr.

Functions

It will undertake production, procurement & distribution of quality seeds under a single brand through a network of cooperatives to improve crop yield and develop a system for preservation and promotion of indigenous natural seeds.

It will help in increasing the seed replacement rate, and varietal replacement rate by ensuring the role of farmers in production of certified seeds.

This society will focus on production, testing, certification, procurement, processing, storage, branding, labelling and packaging of two generations of seeds i.e. foundation and certified through Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) by leveraging various schemes and policies of different ministries of Government of India.

Nodal agency: Ministry of Cooperation.

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) unveiled the Women Entrepreneurship Program to empower women entrepreneurs and spur economic growth.

About Women Entrepreneurship Program:

It is designed to address the distinct challenges that women face when starting and growing businesses.

This initiative aims to empower approximately 25 lakh women across India, providing them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to start and grow successful businesses.

It is in partnership with Britannia Industries Limited.

The initiative will also offer financial grants and feature their products and services on the Skill India Digital Hub, reflecting a strong commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for women entrepreneurs.

NSDC, with support from the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), will offer free online self-learning entrepreneurship courses through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).

Centre recently allowed state governments to directly buy rice from the Food Corporation of India

(FCI) without participating in e-auction under the open market sale scheme (domestic).

About Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS):

The Food Corporation of India (FCI), on the instructions from the government from time to time, sells surplus food grains from the central pool, especially wheat and rice, in the open market to traders, bulk consumers, retail chains, etc., at predetermined prices.

This is in addition to maintaining buffer stocks and making a provision for meeting the requirements of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS),

The FCI does this through e-auctions, where open market bidders can buy specified quantities.

An eligible bidder can bid for a minimum quantity of 10 metric tons (MT) to a maximum of 100 MT in the case of wheat. In the case of rice, traders are eligible and can bid a minimum quantity of 10 MT and a maximum quantity of 1000 MTs.

States allowed to buy rice from FCI without e-auction at Rs 2,800/quintal

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, or CS Setty, became the 27th Chairman of India's largest commercial bank, State Bank of India (SBI), on 28 August 2024.

He succeeded Dinesh Khara, who retired after the closing of banking hours on 28 August 2024.

Kolkata-based Indian Private sector bank Bandhan Bank launched an exclusive savings account, Avni, for women customers

Announcing the third bi-monthly monetary policy of the financial year 2024-25 on 8 August 2024 in Mumbai, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has voted by a 4:2 majority to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the ninth consecutive times.

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee met on August 6, 7, and 8, 2024. The next meeting will be held on October 7 to 9, 2024.

According to the RBI Act 1934, the Monetary Policy Committee has to meet at least four times in a financial year.

Policy rates and Ratios after the 3rd bi-monthly monetary policy

Policy Repo Rate	6.5%
Fixed Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Bank Rate	6.5%
Standing Deposit Facility(SDF)	6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility(MSF)	6.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio(CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio(SLR)	18%

RBI has not changed its forecast for the Indian economic growth rate for the financial year 2024-25 and expects the Indian GDP to grow by 7.2%.

The growth rate of the Indian economy in 2023-24 was 8.2 per cent

Sanjay Shukla assumed charge as the Managing Director of the National Housing Bank.

Mastercard Launches Payment Passkey Service in India.

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Mastercard has globally debuted its Payment Passkey Service in India, aiming to enhance online shopping security and convenience.

Unveiled at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, this service, initially piloted with Indian payment leaders like Juspay, Razorpay, and PayU, along with banks such as Axis Bank, leverages biometric authentication—replacing traditional passwords and OTPs with more secure fingerprint or facial recognition methods.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied penalties on two financial entities for regulatory non-compliance. UCO Bank has been fined Rs 2.68 crore for violating provisions related to current account openings, deposit interest rates, and fraud classification. Meanwhile, Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd faces a Rs 2.1 lakh penalty for failing to adhere to Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations.

LIC Pays ₹3,662 Crore Dividend to Indian Government.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) presented a dividend cheque of ₹3,662.17 crore to Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

This follows the shareholder approval of a final dividend of ₹6 per share for 2023-24, up from ₹3 per share in the previous fiscal year.

Earlier in March 2024, LIC had paid an interim dividend of ₹2,441.45 crore, bringing the total dividend payout to the government for the year 2023-24 to ₹6,103.62 crore.

The Indian government, which holds a 96.5 percent majority stake in LIC, received this dividend payment as part of LIC's annual returns.

ESAF Small Finance Bank Launches Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card.

ESAF Small Finance Bank, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has introduced the Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card.

Jana Small Finance Bank Sweeps 4 Awards At ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave.

Jana Small Finance Bank has once again cemented its status as a frontrunner in the Indian banking industry.

The bank's commitment to excellence and innovation was recognized at the prestigious 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards, where it clinched four coveted awards.

Jana Small Finance Bank was honoured with the titles of Best Small Finance Bank, India, Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management.

RBI Adds FASTag, NCMC Auto-Replenishment to E-Mandate Framework.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has updated its e-mandate framework to include the auto-replenishment of balances in FASTag and the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC).

RBI has revised its e-mandate framework to exempt auto-replenishment of FASTag and NCMC balances from the 24-hour pre-debit notification requirement. This change aims to simplify the process for recurring transactions that are irregular in timing.

PhonePe's 'Credit Line On UPI' Revolutionizes Digital Transactions.

RBI Forecasts Private Capex to Rise to ₹2.45 Trillion in FY25.

RBI forecasts private capital expenditure to rise significantly to ₹2.45 trillion in FY25, up from ₹1.59 trillion in FY24, driven by strong investment intentions and a focus on infrastructure, particularly roads and power.

Airtel Payments Bank has launched Face Match, an AI-driven security feature that uses facial recognition to enhance account protection.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been ranked as the top central banker globally for the second consecutive year, receiving an 'A+' grade from Global Finance magazine.

This recognition highlights his success in managing inflation, economic growth, currency stability, and interest rates.

Alongside Shaktikanta Das, Denmark's Christian Kettel Thomsen and Switzerland's Thomas Jordan were also awarded the 'A+' grade.

Reserve Bank of India recently issued a framework to recognise self-regulatory organisations in the financial markets.

About Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs):

An SRO, is generally a non-governmental entity created by members of a particular industry or sector to

help govern the companies in that industry.

An SRO sets and enforces rules and standards relating to the conduct of entities in the industry (members) to protect the customer and promote ethics, equality and professionalism.

SROs typically collaborate with all stakeholders in framing rules and regulations.

Their self-regulatory processes are administered through impartial mechanisms such that members operate in a disciplined environment and accept penal actions by the SRO.

An SRO is expected to address concerns beyond the narrow self-interests of the industry, such as to protect workers, customers, or other participants in the ecosystem.

Although SROs are private organizations, they are still subject to government-imposed regulation to a degree. However, the government does delegate some aspects of the industry oversight to SROs.

The ability of an SRO to exercise regulatory authority does not stem from a grant of power from the government.

Instead, SROs often accomplish control through internal mechanisms that regulate the flow of business operations.

The authority may also come from an external agreement between businesses.

The purpose of these organizations is to govern from within while avoiding ties to a country's governance.

RBI sets Rs.10 cr minimum net worth for financial market SROs.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently issued the Framework for Recognising Self-Regulatory Organisation for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT) for better self-governance and compliance by firms in this space.

About SRO-FT Framework:

The framework defines fintech as entities providing technological solutions for delivery of financial products and services to businesses and consumers or encompassing regulatory and supervisory compliance in partnership with traditional financial institutions or otherwise.

The SRO-FT would be industry-led and will be responsible for establishing and enforcing regulatory standards, promoting ethical conduct, ensuring market integrity, resolving disputes, and fostering transparency and accountability among its members.

The applicant should be set up as a not-for-profit company, and its shareholding should be sufficiently diversified, with no entity holding 10% or more of its paid-up share capital, either singly or acting in concert.

Applicants will need to have a minimum net worth of ₹2 crore within one year after recognition as an SRO-FT or before commencement of operations, whichever is earlier.

Axis Bank and Visa Launch Exclusive 'PRIMUS' Credit Card for India's Elite.

PNB Launches Special Braille Debit Card for Visually Impaired Customers.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced the PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card, a new initiative aimed at enhancing financial accessibility for visually impaired individuals.

This contactless National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) debit card operates on the RuPay network and is designed to improve financial independence for its users.

RBI setting up a committee under deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra on benchmarking the statistics regularly disseminated by it against global standards.

The 10-member 'Expert Committee on Benchmarking of its Statistics' has been asked to submit report by the end of November 2024.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced stricter regulations for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to bring their public deposit norms in line with those for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

Capital Small Finance Bank and Edelweiss Life Partner for Bancassurance.

RBI Revises NPA Provisioning Norms for Cooperative Banks.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised instructions for the **treatment of Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve (BDDR)** across cooperative banks, aiming for uniformity in the accounting and prudential treatment of non-performing assets (NPAs).

These new norms will apply to Urban Co-operative Banks, State Cooperative Banks, and Central Co-operative Banks, effective immediately.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the licenses of **78 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs)** since 2014.

Maharashtra has seen the highest number of cancellations, with 36 UCBs losing their licenses, followed by Uttar Pradesh (14) and Karnataka (8). In 2024 alone, 10 UCB licenses were canceled, affecting banks across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd has teamed up with GOQii to launch the Kotak – GOQii Smart Vital Plus smartwatch, revolutionising the way customers make payments.
RBL Bank has announced integration of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) services on RuPay Credit Cards it sells. RBL Bank said the new RuPay Credit Cards will allow users to make “seamless and secure” UPI payments, while facilitating hassle-free travel through the NCMC feature.
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that nearly 98% of ₹2,000 banknotes have been withdrawn from circulation as of July 31, 2024. The remaining ₹2,000 notes amount to ₹7,409 crore. ₹2,000 notes were introduced in November 2016 following the demonetization of ₹1,000 and ₹500 notes. The RBI announced the withdrawal of ₹2,000 notes in May 2023 as part of its “Clean Note Policy.” Despite the withdrawal, the ₹2,000 notes remain legal tender.
Infosys And NVIDIA Revolutionize Telecom With GenAI Solutions. Infosys has expanded its partnership with NVIDIA to develop generative AI solutions tailored for telecom operators. Utilizing NVIDIA's NIM inference microservices, NeMo Retriever models, NeMo Guardrails, and Riva.
Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has unveiled its fifth TCS Pace Studio in Manila, Philippines, aiming to drive digital innovation across the Asia-Pacific region.
Bharti Airtel has partnered with Apple to offer exclusive Apple Music and Apple TV+ deals to its Indian customers
Amazon, the global e-commerce giant, has announced the beta launch of Rufus, a cutting-edge generative AI-powered conversational shopping assistant, in India.
Piramal Finance, a subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited, has partnered with the Central Bank of India to expand co-lending operations aimed at supporting underserved markets.
Tata AIA Life Launches ‘Sampoorna Raksha Promise’.
GAIL (India) Limited and US-based Petron Scientech Inc signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the development of a 500 Kilo Tonne per Annum (KTA) bio-ethylene plant in India.
Zomato has approved the acquisition of Paytm’s entertainment and ticketing business for ₹2,048 crore in a cash deal.
NCLT Approves Slice-North East Small Finance Bank Merger The NCLT has approved the merger of fintech company Slice with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB), combining Slice's digital expertise with NESFB's grassroots banking.
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has unveiled a new feature called ‘UPI Circle’ on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform, allowing primary UPI account holders to securely delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users.
State-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has been awarded a significant contract by Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) to set up a 1,600 MW thermal power project. This project, known as the Koderma Supercritical Thermal Power Project (STPP), will be implemented on an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) basis in the Koderma district of Jharkhand
Amazon India and Gentari Green Mobility India have announced a strategic partnership aimed at significantly boosting Amazon’s electric vehicle (EV) fleet for last-mile deliveries. This collaboration aligns with Amazon’s goal of scaling up its EV adoption across more than 400 cities in India and increasing its fleet to 10,000 units by 2025.
Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, is set to acquire a 24.5% stake in the British telecom giant BT Group plc for approximately \$4 billion.
UPI Merchant Transactions In Nepal Cross 100000 Milestone. NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has achieved a major milestone by surpassing 100,000 cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions in Nepal, the NIPL said

in a statement.

NIPL is an international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Boeing announced Robert “Kelly” Ortberg as its new CEO, effective, replacing David Calhoun.

Setu, a Pine Labs-owned API infrastructure provider, has launched UPISetu in collaboration with Axis Bank.

Tata Group Unveils ₹27,000 Crore Semiconductor Facility in Assam.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has achieved a milestone by advancing two positions in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list, securing the 86th spot.

Rapido Becomes Unicom With Fresh \$120 Million Funding.

In a display of growth, India’s space technology sector has reached new frontiers, securing a record-breaking \$126 million in funding for 2023.

This represents a 7% increase from 2022 and an impressive 235% jump from 2021, according to the latest Tracxn Space Tech Geo Report 2024.

ADB Provides \$200 Million Loan for Solid Waste Management in India.

Asian Development Bank has approved a \$200 million loan to improve solid waste management and sanitation in 100 Indian cities under the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0.

BANKING, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS JULY 2024

The central government said that the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024 will provide further impetus to the green mobility and development of electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

About Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme:

It aims to further accelerate the adoption of Electric Vehicles in the country.

Funding: It is a fund limited scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 500 crore for the period of 4 months.

It is for faster adoption of electric two-wheeler (e-2W) and three-wheeler (e-3W) to provide further impetus to the green mobility and development of electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing ecosystem in the country.

Scheme duration: The Scheme duration is 4 months i.e. April 01, 2024 till July 31, 2024.

Eligible Electric Vehicle categories

Two Wheelers (electric) (e-2W)

Three-wheeler (electric) including registered e-rickshaws & e-carts and L5 (e-3W)

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries.

International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) is now engaged in strengthening the reporting structure of Sustainability and Environment, Social and Governance (ESG).

About International Organisation of Securities Commission:

It was established in 1983.

It is the international body that brings together the world's securities regulators and is recognized as the global standard setter for financial markets regulation.

Objectives:

Enhance investor protection

Ensure markets are fair and efficient

Promote financial stability by reducing systemic risk

Its objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation are endorsed by both the G20 and the Financial Stability Board (FSB).

The Securities and Exchange Board of India is a member to this commission.

Secretariat: Madrid, Spain

As a sub-scheme under the Central Sector Scheme “Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)”, the Ministry of MSME launched “MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative” (MSME-TEAM Initiative).

About MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative (MSME-TEAM Initiative):

It aims at assisting five lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to onboard the Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, through awareness workshops which will include hand-holding assistance for onboarding onto ONDC.

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It aims to provide financial assistance to Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) through Seller Network Participants, for catalogue preparation, account management, logistics, and packaging material and design.

Of the total five lakh MSEs to be benefited, two and a half lakh MSEs would be women owned

The objective of the Initiative is to provide assistance to MSEs all across the country.

However, awareness workshops will be conducted preferably in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and MSME Clusters, for greater outreach, especially among women and SC/ST owned MSMEs.

The MSME TEAM Initiative, being a sub-scheme, is for a period of three years upto March 2027.

Key Facts about RAMP Scheme:

It is a World Bank-assisted program that aims to improve the performance of MSMEs in India.

It is a Central Sector Scheme launched on 30 July, 2022, by the Ministry of MSME.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently retained India's GDP growth forecast for the current financial year at 7%.

The government wants to increase the capital base of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, or NaBFID, to 1 trillion through support from banks.

About National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development:

It was set up in 2021, by an Act of the Parliament (The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021).

It is a specialized Development Finance Institution in India.

Objectives: Addressing the gaps in long-term non-recourse finance for infrastructure development, strengthening the development of bonds and derivatives markets in India, and sustainably boosting the country's economy.

Regulated by: It shall be regulated and supervised by RBI as an All-India Financial Institution (AIFI).

The principal idea behind the setup of NaBFID is to provide a dedicated and specialized institution focused on addressing the long-term financing needs of the infrastructure sector in India.

Recently, government officials have said that Non-performing assets (NPA) have been around 6 per cent under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).

About Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme:

It was launched by the Government of India in 2020 as a special scheme in view of the Covid-19 crisis.

Objective: To provide 100 percent guaranteed coverage to the banks, non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs), and other lending institutions to extend emergency credit to business entities that have suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are struggling to meet their working capital requirements.

It is under the operational domain of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services (DFS).

National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) has been set up by the Union Ministry of Finance to manage and provide guarantees to these loans.

No collateral is required for this scheme.

Only 6% of total ₹3.68-lakh crore loans under ECLGS are bad debts.

World Bank Group (WBG) guarantee platform was opened for business.

About World Bank Group Guarantee Platform:

It is housed at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and brings together products and experts from the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), and MIGA for simplicity, efficiency and speed.

It aims to boost WBG annual guarantee issuance to \$20 billion by 2030.

The platform will provide three types of coverages:

Credit guarantees for loans to the public or private sector;

Trade finance guarantees for trade finance projects involving public entities;

Political risk insurance against non-commercial risks for private sector projects or public-private partnerships.

NITI Aayog has announced the launch of the 'NITI GearShift Challenge' as part of the e-FAST India initiative.

About e-FAST India Initiative:

e-FAST was born from the recognition of the urgent need to decarbonize road-based freight transportation in India to realize its 2070 net zero commitments.

It was launched in September 2022.

It aims to galvanize the transition towards cleaner and greener freight transportation

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced an agri fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (Agri-SURE).

About Agri SURE' fund:

Agri fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (Agri-SURE) supports start-ups and agripreneurs.

It provides support through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and direct equity support to start-ups working in Agriculture and allied sectors.

This initiative aims to foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector through the establishment of a Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

While NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture are contributing ₹250 crore each, the rest ₹250 crore is from other institutions.

The fund is structured to support about 85 agri start-ups with investment sizes of up to ₹25 crore each by the end of its term

RBI recently issued the draft guidelines for banks on the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), essentially asking them to set aside higher stock of liquid securities as a buffer on deposits.

About Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR):

It refers to the proportion of highly liquid assets held by financial institutions to ensure that they maintain an ongoing ability to meet their short-term obligations (i.e., cash outflows for 30 days).

30 days was selected because, in a financial crisis, a response from governments and central banks would typically take around 30 days.

LCR in banking resulted from the Basel III agreement, which is a series of measures undertaken by the Basel Committee on Bank Supervision (BCBS).

In India, RBI issued Basel III liquidity guidelines in 2012.

RBI implemented LCR in January 2015, and as per a circular in 2020, banks should maintain sufficient HQLA at all times to meet unexpected withdrawals.

Calculation:

$LCR = (\text{High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA)}) / (\text{Total net cash outflows over the next 30 calendar days}).$

Union Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries, launched SIMS 2.0, the upgraded Steel Import Monitoring System.

About Steel Import Monitoring System' 2.0 Portal:

It features API integration with multiple government portals, enhancing quality control and streamlining processes for improved efficiency and effectiveness.

The portal boasts a robust data entry system, ensuring consistent and authentic data, which promotes transparency and accountability. Integration of various databases enable stakeholders to locate areas of risk and, thereby, permit better risk management.

Bolivia became a full time member of MERCOSUR groupings in order to increase trades with member countries.

About MERCOSUR:

Mercosur (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials) or the Southern Common Market is an economic and political bloc of Latin America.

Members: It originally comprised Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay as its members. Bolivia and Venezuela joined it later. (Venezuela has been suspended since December 1, 2016).

It was created in 1991 by signing the Treaty of Asuncion, an accord calling for the "free movement of goods, services, and factors of production between countries."

India and MERCOSUR signed the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in 2004, which allowed India to forge closer economic ties with one of the world's largest trade blocs.

Headquarter: Montevideo, Uruguay.

Union Minister for Finance proposed to abolish 'angel tax' for all classes of investors, while presenting the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament.

About Angel Tax:

It was levied on the capital raised via the issue of shares by unlisted companies from an Indian investor if

the share price of issued shares is seen in excess of the fair market value of the company.
 The aggregate amount of paid-up share capital and share premium of the Startup cannot be more than ₹25 crores. This amount does not include the money raised from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Venture Capital Firms, and specified companies.
 For angel investors, the amount of investment that exceeds the fair market value can be claimed for a 100% tax exemption.
 However, the investor must have a net worth of ₹2 crores or an income of more than ₹25 Lakh in the past 3 fiscal years.

Union Budget for 2024-25, the Finance Minister announced that the government would develop a 'climate finance taxonomy.'

About Climate Finance Taxonomy:

It is a system that classifies which parts of the economy may be marketed as sustainable investments. It helps guide investors and banks in directing trillions toward impactful investments to tackle climate change.
 Taxonomies are frequently used to set standards for classifying climate-related financial instruments (e.g., green bonds), but, increasingly, they serve other use cases where the benchmarking feature is viewed as beneficial, including in the areas of climate risk management, net-zero transition planning and climate disclosure.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in a notification issued recently allowed resident individuals to open Foreign Currency Accounts (FCAs) in International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs) at GIFT City in Gujarat under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).

About Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS):

It is a foreign exchange policy initiative introduced by the RBI in 2004.
 It is intended to simplify and streamline the process of remitting funds outside India.
 This scheme helped Indians overcome international fund transfer restrictions as set by the FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act), 1999.
 Under LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year (April–March).
 Only individual Indian residents are permitted to remit funds under LRS. Corporates, partnership firms, HUFs, trusts, etc. are excluded from its ambit.
 Only individual Indian residents are permitted to remit funds under LRS. Corporates, partnership firms, HUFs, trusts, etc. are excluded from its ambit.
 This can be for any permissible current or capital account transaction or a combination of both.
 The remittances can be made in any freely convertible foreign currency.
 Permissible current account transactions under LRS:
 Private visit (other than Nepal and Bhutan)
 Gift or Donation including a rupee gift to a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) / Person of Indian Origin (PIO), who is a close relative
 Emigration
 Investments over two years are considered long-term capital gains and impose a tax of 20% on the total profit.

Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for organic products between India and Taiwan has been implemented.

About Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with Taiwan:

The implementation of the MRA between India and Taiwan is a landmark achievement as it is the first bilateral agreement for organic products.
 The implementing Agencies for the MRA are the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India and the Agriculture and Food Agency, Ministry of Agriculture (AFA), Taiwan.

Inflows into India's equity mutual funds rose 17% sequentially to a record high of Rs 40,608 crore in June, data from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed recently.

About Equity Mutual Funds:

It is a type of investment fund that pools money from investors to trade primarily a portfolio of stocks, also known as equity securities.

They are also known as Growth Funds.

Equity Funds are either Active or Passive.

In an Active Fund, a fund manager scans the market, conducts research on companies, examines performance and looks for the best stocks to invest.

In a Passive Fund, the fund manager builds a portfolio that mirrors a popular market index, say Sensex or Nifty Fifty.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched an integrated tribal development programme in the Kulathupuzha grama panchayat in Kerala.

About Integrated Tribal Development Programme:

It is a flagship programme of NABARD for sustainable tribal livelihoods.

It is based on the 'wadi' model of tribal development, which has evolved with the support of national and international developmental agencies.

Projects under this programme are funded through Tribal Development Fund.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced that all credit card bill payments via third-party applications must now be routed through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).

About Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS):

It is a payment channel system conceptualized by the RBI and driven by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

It is a one-stop payment platform for all bills providing an interoperable and accessible "Anytime Anywhere" bill payment service to all customers across India with certainty, reliability and safety of transactions.

The system will provide multiple payment modes and instant confirmation of receipt of payment.

It is an integrated platform connecting banks and non-banks in bill aggregation business, billers, payment service providers and retail bill outlets.

BBPS offers bill collection categories like electricity, telecom, Mobile Postpaid, DTH, gas, water bills etc. through a single window.

Other types of payments, like school/university fees, municipal taxes/ payments, mutual funds and insurance premiums, various government taxes, etc. as decided from time to time by the RBI will be incorporated in BBPS

Japan issued its first new banknotes in two decades, yen packed with 3D hologram technology to fight counterfeiting.

About 3D Hologram Technology:

It is a virtual three-dimensional image created by the interference of light beams that reflect real physical objects. Holograms preserve the depth, parallax, and other properties of the original item.

Unlike conventional 3D projections, holograms can be seen with the naked eye.

Principle: It uses the principles of interference and diffraction of light waves to record and reconstruct 3D images of objects.

NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship platform and credit bure have collaborated to launch SEHER programme.

About SEHER Programme:

It is a comprehensive credit education program designed to enhance financial literacy and business skills among women entrepreneurs.

This initiative is expected to enable women to access the financial tools necessary for business growth and job creation.

It is an initiative of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL.

This initiative supports WEP's goal of improving financing access for women in India's 63 million MSMEs

11 PSU Banks Charge Rs 2,331 Crore From Account Holders.

Eleven public sector banks, excluding State Bank of India (SBI), have charged Rs 2,331 crore from account holders for their failure to maintain minimum balance in savings banks in FY2024. A rise of 25.63 per cent from Rs 1,855.43 crore in FY2023.

Punjab National Bank (PNB) collected the maximum amount of Rs 633.4 crore from their customers, followed by Bank of Baroda Rs 386.51 crore and Indian Bank Rs 369.16 crore, Ministry of Finance.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced 'SEVA,' an AI-powered chatbot designed to

assist investors with a range of functions.

SEVA provides investors with essential details about the securities market, including the latest master circulars.

Karnataka Bank Partners with ICICI Lombard General Insurance.**RBI Introduces PCA Framework To Improve Financial Health Of UCBs.**

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 26 prescribed a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for relatively weak urban co-operative banks (UCBs), with deposits above ₹100 crore (upper tier category), to nurse them back to health.

RBI has prescribed three risk thresholds for invoking PCA for breach of CRAR (10 per cent as of March-end 2024, 11 per cent as of March-end 2025 and 12 per cent as of March-end 2026) below the regulatory minimum – up to 250 basis points (bps); more than 250 bps but not exceeding 400 bps; and more than 400 bps.

AU Small Finance Bank's board has approved a proposal to transition from a Small Finance Bank (SFB) to a universal bank.

As per RBI's April 2024 guidelines, SFBs wishing to become universal banks must meet several criteria:

Minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore

Listing on a recognized stock exchange

Net profit in the last two financial years

Gross NPA ratio of $\leq 3\%$ and Net NPA ratio of $\leq 1\%$.

IndusInd Bank has introduced the 'Wrestle for Glory' program, a significant CSR initiative developed in partnership with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS).

SIDBI which received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund, will create a corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).

The board of the Green Climate Fund, which is an entity set up by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), approved a \$200 million loan and \$15.6 million grant for capacity building to SIDBI.

LIC Enters Into Tie-Up With IDFC First Bank Under Corporate Agency Arrangement.

Continuing with its endeavor to increase the contribution of bancassurance and its pursuit to provide life insurance coverage to all by 2047. Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has tied-up with one of the best technologically advanced and promising banks in the country, IDFC First Bank Ltd, under Corporate Agency Arrangement.

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a 444-day term deposit scheme, "Amrit Vrishti", with an interest rate of 7.25 per cent.

The "Amrit Vrishti" scheme is available for investment until March 31, 2025.

World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved \$1.5 billion in financing for a second operation to help India accelerate the development of low-carbon energy.**PNB Launches 'Safety Ring' to Enhance Internet and Mobile Banking Security.**

In response to rising cyber fraud incidents, Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced the 'Safety Ring' security feature.

The 'Safety Ring' allows customers to set a daily transaction limit for term deposits (TDs), specifically for online closure or overdraft facilities.

Kotak Mahindra Mutual Fund Launches BSE PSU Index Fund.

Kotak Mahindra AMC has introduced the Kotak BSE PSU Index Fund, a passive equity scheme mirroring the BSE PSU Index comprising 56 PSU stocks.

PSU Banks Pay ₹6,481 Crore Dividend to Govt for FY 2023-24.

Four public sector banks, including Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Bank of India, and EXIM Bank, have collectively paid a dividend of ₹6,481 crore to the government for the financial year 2023-24.

ICICI Lombard Introduces 'Elevate': Revolutionizing Health Insurance with AI.

ICICI Lombard, a leading private general insurer in India, has launched 'Elevate', a pioneering health insurance product integrating AI technology.

Bank of Baroda to Raise ₹7,500 Crore Through AT1 and Tier 2 Bonds.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) plans to raise up to ₹7,500 crore through Additional Tier-I (AT1) and Tier-II

bonds to meet regulatory requirements and support business growth. This capital will be raised in multiple tranches up to March 31, 2025, and beyond, depending on market conditions.

LIC Raises Stake in IDFC First Bank.

State insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has expanded its stake in IDFC First Bank to 2.68%, purchasing the lender's shares for ₹80.63 each. The overall acquisition cost is ₹1,500 Crore.

RBI Slaps ₹1.32 Crore Monetary Penalty on PNB.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.32 crore on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for violations related to loans and advances and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released its Financial Stability Report (FSR).

Financial Stability Report (FSR) is a half-yearly publication, with contributions from all financial sector regulators.

ICICI Bank Launches Pre-Paid Sapphire Forex Card for International Students.

ICICI Bank announced the launch of its 'Student Sapphire Forex Card', a premium forex prepaid card crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education. The card, powered by Visa.

The ICICI Bank Student Sapphire Forex Card comes with an array of joining benefits up to Rs 15,000, along with exclusive privileges

State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced "MSME Sahaj," a revolutionary online business loan solution tailored for MSMEs

This web-based platform allows MSMEs to obtain credit against their GST registered sales invoices swiftly and seamlessly.

Rapid Processing: MSMEs can access up to ₹1 lakh in less than 15 minutes, from application to disbursement, without manual intervention.

Union Bank of India has launched "Union Premier" branches tailored for high-value customers in rural and semi-urban (RUSU) markets.

Digital Payments Rise 12.6% by March-End 2024: RBI Data.

As of March 31, 2024, digital payments in India experienced a 12.6% year-over-year increase, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI). The index reached 445.5, marking an increase from 418.77 in September 2023 and 395.57 in March 2023.

Introduction of RBI-DPI

The RBI-DPI, introduced in March 2018, is a composite index designed to gauge the extent of digitization in payments across India. It includes five parameters to measure digital payment adoption and penetration.

Parameters of RBI-DPI

Payment Enablers (25%)

Payment Infrastructure Demand-side Factors (10%)

Payment Infrastructure Supply-side Factors (15%)

Payment Performance (45%)

Consumer Centricity (5%)

The RBI-DPI is published semi-annually, with a four-month reporting lag, and has been regularly updated since March 2021.

FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey projects a robust 7% GDP growth for India in the fiscal year 2024-25.

IMF Raises India's GDP Forecast to 7% for 2024-25.

In its latest World Economic Outlook, the IMF has increased India's GDP growth forecast for the ongoing fiscal year to 7%, up by 20 basis points from earlier projections.

The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India for June 2024, based on the 2011-12 base year.

In June 2024, India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) showed a provisional annual inflation rate of 3.36% compared to June 2023, driven by increased prices in food articles, manufactured food products, crude petroleum & natural gas, mineral oils, and other manufacturing sectors.

The overall WPI for all commodities rose to 153.9 (base year 2011-12=100), marking a month-on-month increase of 0.39% from May 2024.

Shriram Capital Receives RBI Approval to Launch ARC.

Shriram Capital has received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish

an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC). The approval, granted after Shriram Capital's application in November 2023, marks a significant step for the company.

Single National Software Network for PACS Computerization.

The Government of India is implementing a ₹2,516 Crore project for the computerization of functional Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS).

This initiative aims to integrate PACS with an ERP-based national software, linking them with NABARD through State Cooperative Banks (StCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs).

As of July 21, 2024, 25,904 PACS across 27 states and UTs are onboarded on this ERP system.

Amazon Pay, Adyen, and BillDesk Obtain RBI Cross-Border Payment License.

Three prominent payment companies—Amazon Pay, Adyen, and Mumbai-based BillDesk—have secured the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) cross-border payment aggregator license.

This follows Bengaluru-based Cashfree's earlier acquisition of the same license.

Cashfree received its license on July 22, Adyen and Amazon Pay on July 25, and BillDesk on July 29.

UltraTech Acquires 32.7% Stake in India Cements for ₹3,945 Crore.

UltraTech Cement, a flagship of the Aditya Birla Group, will acquire a 32.72% equity stake in India Cements for ₹3,945 crore.

The acquisition will be finalized through a Share Purchase Agreement with the promoters of India Cements, led by N. Srinivasan, pending regulatory approvals.

India's First Integrated Agri-Export Facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) is set to develop India's first integrated agricultural export facility at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai.

The project, approved by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, is valued at Rs. 284.19 crore and will cover an area of 67,422 square meters.

Airbus and Tata to Debut India's First H125 Helicopter by 2026.

Airbus and Tata are joining forces to manufacture India's first H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026.

This partnership aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and reflects Airbus's commitment to investing in the Indian aerospace market despite regulatory challenges.

RBI Forms Panel to Review Fee Structure for White-Label ATMs.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a committee to review the fee structure of white-label ATMs (WLAs).

This panel aims to evaluate current policies and recommend a balanced and sustainable model for all stakeholders.

India's ATM market is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.2% from 2024 to 2032.

WLA operators have suggested raising the interchange fee to ₹30 for financial transactions and ₹10 for non-financial transactions, along with considering access or convenience fees.

National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and Netflix India Collaborate to Train Voice-Over Artists.

Adani Ports Gets A Rating Upgrade From ICRA.

Ratings agency ICRA has upgraded the rating of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) to AAA/Stable from AA+/Stable.

ADB Approves \$240.5 Mn Loan For Rooftop Solar Systems In India.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 240.5 million to finance rooftop solar systems in India, aiding the government's efforts to expand energy access through renewable energy.

India aims to achieve about 50 per cent of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel energy sources by 2030.

The approved financing will be allocated to the State Bank of India (SBI) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Kantar's Brand Inclusion Index 2024 ranks Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio, and Apple as India's top inclusive brands.

The Kantar Brand Inclusion Index 2024 highlights significant issues of discrimination and the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) for Indian consumers.

The top five inclusive brands in India are Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio, and Apple.

Jio Financial Services Gets RBI Nod to Become Core Investment Company.

Jio Financial Services has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to transition from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) to a Core Investment Company (CIC).

Following this announcement, the company's shares saw an increase of over 2% on the NSE.

ICICI Prudential Launches India's First Oil & Gas ETF.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced its quarterly "Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilisation Survey" (OBICUS) for the manufacturing sector, aimed at informing monetary policy decisions.

LIC has launch of 'Jeevan Samarth', an initiative aimed at transforming the agency ecosystem.

BPCL Partners with Indian Olympic Association as Principal Sponsor.

BPCL has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association as the principal sponsor from 2024 to 2028, aiming to support Indian athletes' journey from Paris to Los Angeles Olympics.

Bajaj Auto introduces Freedom, the world's first CNG motorcycle, hailed by Nitin Gadkari for its eco-friendliness and cost efficiency.

Muthoot Finance Selected for FATF Mutual Evaluation Report 2023-24.

Muthoot Finance has been exclusively selected as the only Indian NBFC for the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Mutual Evaluation report for 2023-24.

Indiabulls Housing Finance Rebrands as Sammaan Capital Limited

Paytm has launched 'Health Saathi', a healthcare and income protection plan for its merchant partners, starting at ₹35 per month.

RBI Ups Financial Accommodation for States/UTs by 28% to ₹60,118 Crore.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the aggregate Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for State governments and Union Territories (UTs) by 28%, from ₹47,010 crore to ₹60,118 crore, effective from July 1, 2024.

BANKING, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS JUNE 2024

Ministry of External Affairs and the SBI have signed an MoU to provide an additional digital payment service of the bank through its payment gateway SBIPay to users of the eMigrate portal.

About eMigrate Portal:

It was launched in 2014 and it has been instrumental in making the emigration process online and transparent for Indian workers heading to countries where emigration checks are required.

The portal connects foreign employers, registered recruiting agents, and insurance companies issuing the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna, facilitating seamless, safe, and legal migration.

The portal also has a mechanism for voluntary registration of emigrants holding ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) category passports proceeding for overseas employment.

Consumer Price Index numbers on base 2012=100 for rural, urban and combined for the month of May 2024.

About Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI)

The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) is a measure of change in retail prices of food items consumed by the population.

It is a specific measure of inflation that focuses exclusively on the price changes of food items in a consumer's basket of goods and services.

The CFPI is a sub-component of the broader Consumer Price Index (CPI) and is used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to track inflation.

The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) started releasing CFPI for three categories -rural, urban and combined - separately on an all-India basis with effect from May 2014.

Methodology: Like Consumer Price Index (CPI), the CFPI is also calculated on a monthly basis and the methodology remains the same as CPI.

The base year presently used is 2012.

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The CSO has revised the Base Year of the CPI and CFPI from 2010 to 2012 in January 2015.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) recently started automatic electronic payment of duty drawback amounts directly into exporters' bank accounts.

About Duty Drawback Scheme:

It is a trusted and time-tested scheme administered by CBIC to promote exports.

It rebates the incidence of Customs and Central Excise duties, chargeable on imported and excisable material, respectively, when used as inputs for goods to be exported.

The duty drawback provisions are described under the Customs Act, 1962.

This WTO compliant scheme ensures that exports are zero-rated and do not carry the burden of the specified taxes.

RBI is planning to rationalise the Guidelines for Export and Import of Goods and Services under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

About Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999:

FEMA came into force on June 1, 2000, as a successor to the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, or FERA, of 1973, with changing economic conditions in a post-liberalisation India.

The main objective of FEMA is to facilitate external trade and payments and promote the orderly development and maintenance of the foreign exchange market in India.

FEMA deals with provisions relating to procedures, formalities, dealings, etc. of foreign exchange transactions in India.

The FEMA regulates various aspects of foreign exchange transactions, including the acquisition and holding of foreign exchange, the payment and settlement of foreign exchange transactions, the export and import of currency, and other related activities.

Securities Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) recently slapped a fine of Rs 7.75 crore on 11 individuals for allegedly operating a 'pump and dump' scheme.

About Pump and Dump Scheme:

In the stock market, a pump and dump scheme is a type of manipulation activity that involves artificially inflating the price of a stock through false and misleading information, only to sell the stock at the inflated price and leave investors with significant losses.

It is particularly prevalent in the micro-cap and small-cap sectors, where companies often have limited public information and trading volumes are lower

To tackle any impact on the price of a scrip because of a market rumour, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a framework centred around its 'unaffected price.'

About New Framework

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a framework centred around the concept of "unaffected price" to tackle the impact of market rumours on stock prices.

Purpose: The framework aims to maintain a reasonable price for a scrip, excluding any undesired influence before the rumour is confirmed or refuted, thereby helping both companies and investors.

Implementation: The framework will be implemented in phases:

Phase 1 (June 1): Applies to the top 100 listed entities.

Phase 2 (December 1): Applies to the top 250 listed entities.

Timeframe: The "unaffected price" must be determined within 24 hours of any material price movement excluding the rumour.

RBI Announces SAARC Currency Swap Framework For 2024-27.

Reserve Bank of India with the concurrence of the Government of India has decided to put in place a revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries for the period 2024 to 2027.

The total corpus of the Rupee support is ₹250 billion.

The RBI will continue to offer swap arrangement in US\$ and Euro under a separate US Dollar/ Euro Swap Window with an overall corpus of US\$ 2 billion.

Kotak Mahindra Bank in India plans to expand its branch network by 175 to 200 branches in FY25.

State Bank of India plans to open 400 new branches in 2024-25 .

SBI Distributes Rs 6,959 Crore Dividend to Government.

State Bank of India (SBI) paid a Rs 6,959 crore dividend to the government for FY 2023-24, declaring Rs

13.70 per share. Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) presented a Rs 857 crore dividend, declaring Rs 1.40
Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank Gets National Award for APY Implementation. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB), a regional rural bank sponsored by Canara Bank, has been honoured with a national award by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) for significant enrolment under the Atal Pension Yojana (APY).
India Post Payments Bank Partners with Ria Money Transfer to Revolutionize Rural Remittance Services.
Axis Bank Acquires Additional Stake in Max Life Insurance Subsidiary for ₹336 Crore. Axis Bank has decided to increase its shareholding in Max Life Insurance, investing up to ₹336 crore. This transaction will raise the aggregate shareholding of Axis Entities from 19.02% to 19.66%.
FIU Imposes Fine on Axis Bank for Failure to Detect NSG Fraud. The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has levied a penalty exceeding Rs 1.66 crore on Axis Bank for neglecting to implement adequate measures to identify and report suspicious transactions. This action stems from an incident where an Axis Bank employee allegedly colluded to create a fraudulent account in the name of the National Security Guard (NSG), facilitating illicit financial activities.
SBI Empowers Borrowers with ₹2,030 Cr in Co-Lending Endeavor. State Bank of India (SBI) partners with 23 NBFCs/HFCs, sanctioning ₹2,030 crore loans to over 2.79 lakh borrowers.
Bank of India Acquires 6.1% Stake in CCIL IFSC. The Bank of India has acquired a 6.125% stake in the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (IFSC) for ₹6.125 crore, aiming to enhance its strategic presence in GIFT City IFSC
RBI Launches Global Hackathon HaRBInger 2024 to Combat Financial Frauds. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated its third global hackathon, HaRBInger 2024 – Innovation for Transformation, aimed at developing innovative tech-based solutions to predict, detect, and prevent financial frauds in real-time. The hackathon features two key themes: ‘Zero Financial Frauds’ and ‘Being Divyang Friendly’. Prize Money: INR 40 Lakh for winners across each problem statement.
RBI Absorbs ₹44,430 Crore Through VRRR Auctions. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted two variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions totaling ₹44,430 crore, aiming to absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system. Despite the central bank’s readiness to absorb up to ₹1-lakh crore, banks utilized only a portion of the available amount.
King Charles III currency notes introduced in UK. Bank of England is replacing old banknotes featuring Queen Elizabeth with new ones featuring King Charles III.
SEBI Forms Committee to Review Clearing Corporations. SEBI has established a committee, chaired by Usha Thorat, former Deputy Governor of the RBI, to assess and propose enhancements to the ownership and economic framework of clearing corporations.
Axis Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance have formed a strategic bancassurance alliance to enhance insurance reach and financial inclusion in India.
PNB Board Approves 10% Stake Dilution in Canara HSBC Life Insurance via IPO. The Board of Punjab National Bank (PNB) has approved the initiation of the process to dilute 10% of its shareholding in Canara HSBC Life Insurance through an initial public offering (IPO). PNB currently holds a 23% stake in this life insurance joint venture.
Axis Bank and Mastercard Introduce NFC Soundbox.
RBI Penalizes SBM Bank (India) With Rs 88.70 Lakh Fine. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 88.70 lakh on SBM Bank (India) for non-compliance with specific regulatory norms. This includes licensing conditions and directives related to the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
Canara Bank to Dilute 14.50% Stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance via IPO. Bengaluru-headquartered Canara Bank has approved initiating the process of diluting a 14.50% stake in its subsidiary, Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company, through an initial public offering (IPO).

Currently, Canara Bank holds a 51% majority stake in the life insurance company, while HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) owns 26%, and Punjab National Bank holds the remaining 23%

The 53rd GST Council met under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi

Uniform IGST Rate on Aircraft Parts: A uniform rate of 5% IGST will apply to imports of parts, components, testing equipment, tools, and tool-kits of aircrafts to boost MRO activities.

Milk Cans GST Rate: All milk cans (steel, iron, aluminum) will attract a 12% GST rate.

Paper Products GST Rate Reduction: The GST rate on carton, boxes, and cases of both corrugated and non-corrugated paper or paper-board has been reduced from 18% to 12%.

Solar Cookers GST Rate: All solar cookers, whether single or dual energy source, will attract 12% GST.

Sprinklers GST Rate: All types of sprinklers, including fire water sprinklers, will attract 12% GST.

Defence Forces IGST Exemption: The IGST exemption on imports of specified items for defence forces has been extended for five years till 30th June 2029.

Government Monetises ₹1.56 Lakh Crore in FY24 under National Monetisation Pipeline.

The government monetised assets worth ₹1.56 lakh crore under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) in the financial year 2023-24, falling short of the target of ₹1.8 lakh crore.

This performance represents approximately 159% of the achievement in 2021-22.

The NMP aims to unlock the value of brownfield infrastructure assets, with a total monetisation potential estimated at ₹6 lakh crore over a four-year period from FY22 to FY25.

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Airports Authority of India (AAI) for development of Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi with an outlay of Rs 2,870 crore.

RBI grants Payment Aggregator License to SabPaisa.

SabPaisa (SRS Live Technologies Private Limited), a payment solutions provider, has announced that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted final approval to operate as a Payment Aggregator (PA) under the Payments and Settlement Systems Act of 2007.

UK Surpasses China to Become India's 4th Largest Export Market

The United Kingdom (UK) has overtaken China to become India's fourth-largest export market in May 2024, commerce department data showed.

The UK was India's sixth-largest export destination in May last year

RBI Raises Bulk Fixed Deposit Limit to Rs 3 Crore from Rs 2 Crore.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a revision in the threshold for bulk fixed deposits, increasing the limit from Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore.

Reserve Bank of India Cancels 10-Year Green Bond Auction for the First Time.

In a first, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the auction of 10-year green bonds as traders refused to pay the greenium, the premium for sustainability impact.

The RBI had planned to issue green bonds worth Rs 12,000 crore in the first half of the financial year, divided into two tranches of Rs 6,000 crore each.

Indian Economy Grew by 8.2% in FY 24: NSO.

India's GDP growth rate jumped to 7.8% in Q4 of FY24, leading to an annual growth rate of 8.2%, as reported by the National Statistical Office (NSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

RBI Projects Further Moderation in Bank NPAs to 2.5%.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected a further improvement in the gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), estimating it to decrease to 2.5% by March 2025.

This optimistic outlook is based on macro stress tests evaluating banks' resilience against potential economic shocks.

SBI Raises Rs 10,000 Crore via 15-Year Infrastructure Bonds at 7.36% Coupon.

State Bank of India (SBI) has successfully raised Rs 10,000 crore through its fifth infrastructure bond issuance.

The bonds, with a tenure of 15 years and a coupon rate of 7.36% payable annually, garnered significant investor interest, oversubscribed nearly four times the base size of Rs 5,000 crore.

Mindspace Becomes First Indian REIT to Issue Sustainability-Linked Bonds.

Mindspace Business Parks REIT, the owner and developer of quality Grade A office portfolio, has announced its ₹650 crore Sustainability Linked Bond issuance placed with the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

RBI Penalizes Central Bank of India and Sonali Bank PLC for Violations.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed fines on Central Bank of India and Sonali Bank PLC for breaches related to customer protection and KYC norms.

Central Bank of India faces a penalty of ₹1.45 crore for irregularities including improper sanctioning of loans and delays in reversing unauthorized transactions.

Meanwhile, Sonali Bank PLC has been fined ₹96.4 lakh for non-compliance with KYC Directions, 2016.

ATM Operators Push for Rs 2 Interchange Fee Hike Amid Viability Concerns.

ATM operators in India are advocating for an increase in interchange fees by Rs 2 per transaction, citing financial sustainability challenges.

The Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMI) has formally approached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to raise the current maximum fee from Rs 21 to Rs 23 per transaction, as reported by the Economic Times.

India's Wholesale Prices Accelerate to 15-Month High of 2.61% in May.

India's wholesale inflation, measured by the wholesale price index (WPI), surged to a 15-month high of 2.61% in May from 1.26% in April.

Jupiter Money Gets RBI Nod to Start Prepaid Wallet Business.

Tiger Global-backed neobanking startup Jupiter Money has received final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to offer digital wallet services.

RBI Grants Approval to Aurionpro Payments as Online Payment Aggregator.

Aurionpro Payments, a subsidiary of Aurionpro Solutions, has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator under the Payments Settlements Act, 2007.

Wipro Launches Lab45 AI Platform to Boost Efficiency Across Business Functions

Wipro has announced the launch of its Lab45 AI platform, designed to leverage generative AI (GenAI), machine learning (ML), and deep learning technologies to enhance efficiencies and transform business functions across industries.

Adani Defence and EDGE Group Forge Global Defence Partnership.

Adani Defence and Aerospace has announced a strategic cooperation agreement with UAE-based EDGE Group, aimed at integrating their defence and aerospace capabilities.

SBI Revolutionizes SME Lending with 'SME Digital Business Loans'.

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched 'SME Digital Business Loans', aiming to sanction loans within an astonishing 45 minutes.

Recognizing the pivotal role of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in its growth strategy.

SBI has streamlined the borrowing process, eliminating traditional credit underwriting and appraisal procedures.

Notably, for loans up to Rs 50 lakh, SBI has waived the requirement for financial statements.

RBI Approves Zurich Insurance's Acquisition of 70% Stake in Kotak General.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given the green light to Zurich Insurance Company's acquisition of a 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company for ₹5,560 crore.

Muthoot Microfin and SBI Join Forces to Empower Rural Women Entrepreneurs.

Nvidia Surpasses Apple to Become Second Most Valuable Company.

Nvidia's remarkable rally to record highs on Wednesday saw the artificial intelligence chipmaker's valuation soar past the \$3 trillion mark, eclipsing Apple and securing its position as the world's second most valuable company.

SBI Mutual Fund Becomes First to Top Rs 10 Trillion in Assets Under Management.

SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF) achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first fund house in India to surpass Rs 10 trillion in assets under management (AUM).

Nokia and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya join forces to explore 5G/6G applications in transportation and logistics.

This collaboration aims to advance industry standards, develop smart solutions.

State Bank of India Market Cap Crosses ₹8 Lakh Crore Milestone.

State Bank of India (SBI) achieved a significant milestone as its market capitalization surpassed ₹8 lakh crore, driven by a remarkable surge in its stock prices.

This achievement underscores the bank's robust performance and reflects investor confidence in the banking sector amid favorable market conditions.

SEBI Launches Saathi 2.0 Personal Finance App for Investors.

SEBI, the Securities and Exchange Board of India, has launched "Saathi 2.0," a mobile app designed to provide comprehensive tools for simplifying complex financial concepts and empowering investors with reliable information.

The app features modules on various financial aspects like KYC procedures, mutual funds, ETFs, buying and selling shares, investor grievances redressal, and an Online Dispute Resolution platform.

Adani Ports secures a 30-year concession agreement with the Tanzania Ports Authority to operate Container Terminal 2 (CT2) at Dar es Salaam Port, marking its third international port.**The Department of Commerce has extended the Interest Equalisation Scheme for pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit for Micro, Small and Medium-scale (MSME) exporters till August 31.****About Interest Equalisation Scheme:**

It was first implemented on 1st April 2015, to provide pre- and post-shipment export credit to exporters in rupees.

It was initially valid for 5 years, up to 31.3.2020. The scheme has been continued thereafter, including a one-year extension during COVID and further extensions and fund allocations.

Implementing agency: It is being implemented by the RBI through various Public and non-Public Sector banks that provide pre- and post-shipment credit to the exporters.

The Scheme has now been made fund-limited, and the benefit to individual exporters has been capped at Rs 10 Crore per annum per IEC (Import Export Code).

Central Electronics Limited (CEL) was recently granted "Mini Ratna" status (Category-1) at its Golden Jubilee celebration.**About Central Electronics Limited (CEL):**

It is a Govt. of India Enterprise under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology.

It was established in 1974, with the objective to commercially exploit indigenous technologies developed by National Laboratories and R&D Institutions in the country.

India's external debt was placed at \$663.8 billion, an increase of US\$ 39.7 billion over its level at end-March 2023, informed the Reserve Bank of India recently.**About India's External Debt:**

At end-March 2024, India's external debt was US\$ 663.8 billion, an increase of US\$ 39.7 billion over its level at end-March 2023.

The external debt-to-GDP ratio declined to 18.7 percent end-March 2024 from 19.0 percent at end-March 2023.

The Valuation effect due to the appreciation of the US dollar vis-à-vis the Indian rupee and other major currencies such as the yen, euro and SDR amounted to US\$ 8.7 billion.

RBI recently revised its priority sector guidelines to encourage banks to provide small loans in economically disadvantaged districts with low average loan sizes.**About Priority Sector Lending (PSL):**

PSL is a lending requirement administered by the RBI, requiring banks to give a minimum proportion of their loans to sectors of development importance or the sectors that have difficulty of getting loans.

The RBI is periodically updating the sectors that are eligible to get priority sector lending and the limits of loans.

Similarly, the regulations identify institutions that are obliged to provide these loans.

The categories of priority sectors are as follows:

Agriculture

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises

Export Credit

Education

Housing

Social Infrastructure

Renewable Energy

Others

The targets under PSL:

Domestic SCBs and foreign banks with 20 branches and above: 40 percent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) or Credit Equivalent Amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure (CEOBE), whichever is higher.

Foreign banks with less than 20 branches: 40 percent of ANBC or CEOBE, whichever is higher; out of which up to 32% can be in the form of lending to exports and not less than 8% can be to any other priority sector.

Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks: 75 percent of ANBC or CEOBE, whichever is higher.

Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks (UCBs): 40 percent of ANBC or CEOBE, whichever is higher, which shall be increased to 75 percent of ANBC or CEOBE, whichever is higher, with effect from FY2025-26.

BANKING, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS MAY 2024

Registrations by Indian companies for External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) almost doubled to \$49.2 billion in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24) from \$26.6 billion in FY23, according to data from the RBI.

About External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs):

ECBs refer to the borrowing of funds by Indian companies from foreign sources in the form of loans, bonds, or other financial instruments.

Purpose: It can be used to finance a variety of purposes, including the expansion of business, the acquisition of assets, and the repayment of existing debt.

Source of ECBs: ECBs can be obtained from a variety of sources, including foreign banks, international financial institutions, and foreign subsidiaries of Indian companies.

Regulation: ECB is subject to regulatory oversight by the RBI.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently issued the Framework for Recognising Self-Regulatory Organisation for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT) for better self-governance and compliance by firms in this space.

About SRO-FT Framework:

The framework defines fintech as entities providing technological solutions for delivery of financial products and services to businesses and consumers or encompassing regulatory and supervisory compliance in partnership with traditional financial institutions or otherwise.

Applicants will need to have a minimum net worth of ₹2 crore within one year after recognition as an SRO-FT or before commencement of operations, whichever is earlier.

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.

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.

India in trade deficit with nine of top 10 trading partners in 2023-24.

About India's Top Trading Partners:

China has emerged as India's largest trading partner with \$118.4 billion of two-way commerce in 2023-24, surpassing the US.

The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at \$118.28 billion in 2023-24. Washington was the top

trading partner of New Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23.

India has a trade surplus of \$ 36.74 billion with the US in 2023-24.

Airbus Helicopters and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India.

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.

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.

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.

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).

This index contains 30 companies that are not majorly impacted by economic instability and are in regular demand, making them a good investment option during economic downturns.

Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) domiciled at the GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) have been allowed to issue participatory notes.

About Participatory Notes:

These are often referred to as PNs or P-Notes. These are financial instruments used by investors and hedge funds to invest in the Indian securities, and no registration is required with the Security Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Investments flowing in through PNs are considered as offshore derivative investments.

These are issued by registered foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) public sector undertaking company was granted 'Navratna status' from the department of public enterprises.

About Navratna status:

The government categorises all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) into three categories, namely Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna.

The Government had introduced the 'Navratna' scheme in 1997.

Criteria for Navratna status

A PSU should be a Miniratna-I, Schedule 'A' company, should have obtained an 'excellent' or 'very good' MoU rating in three of the last five years, and must have a composite score of 60 in six performance indicators.

It must report a net profit of more than Rs 5,000 crore for three consecutive years, and maintain an average annual turnover of Rs 25,000 crore for three years, or have an annual average net worth of over Rs 15,000 crore for three years

Benefits

Financial Independence: They invest up to ₹1,000 crore without seeking approval from the central government.

Navratna companies are also allowed to invest up to 15% of their net worth on a single project, or 30% of their net worth in a given year, subject to a cap of ₹1,000 crore.

To incur capital expenditure on purchase of new items or for replacement, without any monetary ceiling.

To enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances

Asian Development Bank allocated \$2.6 billion in sovereign loans to India.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed \$2.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in 2023, aiming to bolster various sectors including urban development, power, industry, horticulture, connectivity, and

climate resilience.
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied a penalty of Rs 36.38 lakh on HSBC Limited for breaching regulations outlined in the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
RBI Imposes Penalty on ICICI Bank and YES Bank. ICICI Bank has been fined Rs 1 crore for its improper loan practices. YES Bank has been penalized Rs 91 lakh for charging customers for not maintaining minimum balances in savings accounts with insufficient or zero balances.
Poonawalla Fincorp and IndusInd Bank Launch Co-Branded RuPay Credit Card. Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, in partnership with IndusInd Bank, has introduced the co-branded 'IndusInd Bank Poonawalla Fincorp eLITE RuPay Platinum Credit Card'.
RBI Conducts Massive Liquidity Infusion Through Variable Rate Repo Auctions. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken proactive measures to address the prevailing liquidity deficit in the banking system. In its latest move, the central bank conducted a variable rate repo (VRR) auction of Rs 1.25 trillion, bringing the total liquidity infused through 9 VRR auctions in May 2024 to a staggering Rs 7.75 trillion
HSBC and SBI Acquire Stakes in CCIL IFSC. HSBC and State Bank of India (SBI) have made strategic investments in CCIL IFSC Limited, acquiring 6.125% stakes each, valued at ₹6.125 crore each. This move is aimed at bolstering their presence within Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City,
State Bank of India (SBI) has acquired a 6.125% stake in CCIL IFSC Limited for ₹6.125 crore, solidifying its role in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City.
YES Bank Launches YES Grandeur: Elevating Banking for Elite Customers. Under 'Yes Grandeur,' customers with an average monthly balance of ₹5 lakh or a Net Relationship Value (NRV) of ₹20 lakh gain access to a suite of exclusive benefits.
Bank of Maharashtra Tops Among PSU Banks in Business Growth in FY24. Bank of Maharashtra has emerged as a top performer among public sector banks, showcasing impressive growth in total business and deposit mobilization.
SBI General Unveils 'Surety Bond Bima' for Infrastructure Projects. SBI General Insurance, the non-life insurance arm of State Bank of India (SBI), has launched 'Surety Bond Bima' to support infrastructure development by providing a security arrangement for infrastructure projects.
SEBI has extended LIC's deadline to achieve a 10% public shareholding by three years, now set for May 16, 2027.
Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to Quant Mutual Fund (MF) to increase its stake in RBL Bank to 9.98% by May 12, 2025. This approval, subject to conditions and provisions under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, was disclosed in a regulatory filing.
YES BANK and EBANX join forces to simplify cross-border payments, offering tailored solutions for Indian merchants and facilitating global commerce opportunities.
RBI Lifts Restrictions on Bank of Baroda's 'BoB World' Mobile App. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the lifting of restrictions on Bank of Baroda's BoB World mobile application, permitting the bank to onboard customers immediately.
RBI has updated guidelines for custodian banks on issuing IPCs under the T+1 settlement regime for stocks. Banks' intraday risk exposure is capped at 30% of settlement amounts.
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Names Sanjeev Nautiyal as MD & CEO. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has announced the appointment of Sanjeev Nautiyal as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for a tenure of three years, effective from July 1, 2024.
HDFC Life Introduces "No Jhanjhat Life Insurance Fatafat" Campaign: Revolutionizing Insurance Purchase Experience.
YES Bank Collaborates with ANQ to Launch Pi and Phi Credit Cards.
Fi, a neobanking startup, secured an NBFC license from the RBI, enabling it to offer loans directly.

IRDAI has relaxed regulations for surety bonds, lowering the solvency requirement to 1.5 times and removing the 30% exposure limit.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repurchased government bonds worth only Rs 2,069 crore out of the notified Rs 60,000 crore.

India's internet economy is poised for significant growth, with industry experts predicting it will reach \$1 trillion by 2030.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R. Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director.

India and Ghana Strengthen Financial Integration for Enhanced Trade.

India and Ghana are poised to integrate their payment systems, UPI and GHIPSS, to facilitate instant and cost-effective fund transfers between the two nations.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has revised India's GDP growth projection upward to 6.6% for the fiscal year 2024-25.

Reliance and Tata Groups Recognized among TIME's World's Most Influential Companies.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Tata Group, two of India's prominent business conglomerates, have been named among the World's 100 'Most Influential Companies' by the renowned TIME magazine.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has been placed in the "Titans" category of TIME's list, acknowledging its status as a titan of Indian industry.

This is the second time RIL has been featured in the TIME 100 list, making it the only Indian company to receive this recognition twice.

The Tata Group, known for its vast and diversified business portfolio, has also been listed in the "Titans" category, further solidifying its position as a global business giant

Another Indian company that has been recognized is the Serum Institute, which has been placed in the "Pioneers" category for its pioneering role in vaccine manufacturing and distribution.

SEBI Shortens Commodity Derivatives Delivery Period to Boost Liquidity.

SEBI has reduced the deliverable period for commodity derivatives from the previous 5 days to 3 days.

This regulatory change is set to take effect from July 1, 2024.

IRDAI Mandates Shorter Audit Tenures to Boost Governance in Insurance Sector.

IRDAI has issued new guidelines that reduce the engagement period of statutory auditors with insurance companies from 10 years to 4 years.

Reliance Industries Partners with Norway's Nel to Boost New Energy Investments.

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has forged a significant technology partnership with Norway's Nel ASA to expedite its foray into new energy investments.

This alliance is poised to play a pivotal role in facilitating RIL's transition towards green energy, particularly through the production of green hydrogen.

Reliance Industries Strikes Deal with Rosneft for Rouble Payments.

Reliance Industries, India's major refining company, has inked a significant agreement with Russia's Rosneft.

Under this deal, Reliance will purchase at least 3 million barrels of oil per month from Rosneft, paying in Russian roubles.

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.

GAIL (India) Ltd. Commences India's First Green Hydrogen Plant.

GAIL (India) Ltd., the nation's leading natural gas transmission and distribution company, has achieved a significant milestone with the commissioning of its first green hydrogen plant. Located in Vijaipur, Madhya Pradesh.

Ghana Partners with Reliance Jio Arm and Others for Telecom Infrastructure.

Ghana's Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) collaborates with Reliance Jio's subsidiary, Tech Mahindra, and Nokia to bolster its 4G and 5G capabilities.

Government of India, being the largest shareholder in Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), will receive a dividend of Rs 3,662 crore following LIC's declaration of an interim dividend of Rs 6 per share.

Microsoft Unveils AI-Enhanced 'Copilot+' PCs with Unique 'Recall' Functionality.

Disney to Sell 30% Stake in Tata Play to Tata Group, Valuing Company at \$1 Billion.

Walt Disney Co. has struck a deal to sell its 30% minority stake in Tata Play Ltd. to Tata Group, valuing the company at approximately \$1 billion.

Google Invests \$350 Million in Walmart-Owned Flipkart.

Tech giant Google is investing \$350 million in Walmart-owned e-commerce firm Flipkart as part of a \$1 billion funding round.

This investment aims to support Flipkart's growth as it targets a \$60 billion valuation at the time of its initial public offering (IPO), planned for 2025-26.

Mahindra Finance Expands Services with IRDAI Approval.

Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services, a prominent player in India's non-banking finance sector, has secured a corporate agency license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).

IOCL Exports Premium Fuel XP100 to Sri Lanka.

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has marked a significant milestone by exporting its first-ever consignment of 100 octane premium fuel, XP100, to Sri Lanka.

Swiggy Fortifies Fraud Prevention with SHIELD Partnership.

Online food delivery platform Swiggy has partnered with SHIELD, a device-first risk AI platform, to bolster its fraud prevention and detection capabilities

Bank of Maharashtra Leads PSU Banks in FY24 Business Growth.

SEBI has introduced significant amendments to its Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements (LODR) regulations, focusing on the computation of market capitalization for listed companies.

Indian government has announced plans for public sector companies like Coal India, NMDC, and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) to actively seek critical mineral assets overseas.

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in the French capital, Paris.

Hero MotoCorp, India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer, has become the first in its sector to integrate with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Infosys, a global leader in digital services and consulting, has been awarded the ISO 42001:2023 certification by TUV India, for its Artificial Intelligence Management System (AIMS).

Hinduja Group's IndusInd International Holdings (IIHL) has obtained approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) for the acquisition of Reliance Capital.

Thomas Cook India has revolutionized international money transfers with the launch of TCPay, a user-friendly digital service designed to simplify and enhance the remittance process.

Zeta launches Digital Credit as a Service for Indian banks, leveraging NPCI's Credit Line on UPI scheme.

They aim to capture half of India's projected \$1 trillion credit market by 2030.

Bharti Enterprises, led by Sunil Bharti Mittal, divested 38.50 lakh shares of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company for ₹663 crore through open market transactions.

This sale reduced Bharti Enterprises' stake in ICICI Lombard from 2.43% to 1.63%

Reserve Bank of India recently conducted a buyback of government securities (G-Secs), receiving offers totaling ₹17,384.552 crore, but accepting only ₹10,513 crore, despite the notified amount being ₹40,000 crore.

Investments through participatory notes (P-notes) in the Indian capital markets reached a staggering Rs 1.5 lakh crore at the end of February 2024, marking the highest level in nearly six years.

HDFC Bank, in collaboration with Atal Innovation Mission, has allocated Rs 19.6 crore in grants to support 170 social startups in FY24.

National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai has sanctioned Sapphire Media's acquisition plan for Reliance Broadcast Network's Big 92.7 FM.

This approval follows a resolution process initiated in February 2023 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

India emerged as the global leader in remittances in 2022, receiving over \$111 billion, surpassing the \$100 billion mark for the first time.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) highlighted India, alongside Mexico, China, the

Philippines, and France, as the top five remittance recipient countries.

ICICI Bank Introduces UPI for NRIs Using International Mobile Numbers.

To activate UPI on their international mobile numbers, customers can follow a straightforward process through the iMobile Pay app.

Bajaj Auto Set to Revolutionize Transportation with World's First CNG Motorcycle.

Infibeam Avenues' CCAvenue, a leading payments platform, has entered into a strategic partnership with Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SFB) to enhance merchant access.

GetVantage, a start-up specializing in revenue-based finance (RBF), has achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a non-banking financial company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Paytm undergoes leadership changes to strengthen its financial services division, appointing Rakesh Singh as CEO of Paytm Money.

REC Ltd. has obtained approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to establish a subsidiary in Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT), Gandhinagar.

Atanu Chakraborty's re-appointment as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for three years, effective from May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027, has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

American Express is set to inaugurate its expansive new campus in Gurugram, spanning nearly one million square feet, showcasing the company's commitment to fostering a vibrant work environment.

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has successfully secured USD 400 million financing from a consortium of five leading international banks for its 750 MW solar projects in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

Micron India's Sanand unit gears up to unveil its inaugural batch of domestically manufactured semiconductor chips in 2025.

Former BharatPe COO Dhruv Dhanraj Bahl steps into the world of venture capital with the launch of his maiden fund, Eternal Capital, with a substantial corpus of Rs 240 crore, including a greenshoe option.

Worldline ePayments India has announced its receipt of approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payment aggregator.

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has announced a significant investment of Rs 5,215 crore to develop 1 gigawatt (GW) of renewable energy capacity in India.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revoked the license of Acemoney (India) Limited, a Delhi-based non-banking financial company (NBFC), citing irregular lending practices.

India has adjusted its windfall tax on petroleum crude, reducing it to 8,400 Indian rupees (\$100.66) per metric ton from 9,600 rupees, effective May 1.

This decision comes after a recent increase in the tax from 6,800 rupees to 9,600 rupees per metric ton on April 16

BANKING, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS APRIL 2024

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently issued the draft regulatory framework for loan products aggregated by lending service providers to ensure transparency for borrowers.

About Lending Service Providers (LSPs):

They are engaged by the Regulated Entities (REs) (banks or NBFCs) to carry out some functions of RE in connection with lenders' functions on digital platforms. They offer their services to REs for a fee or commission.

RBI defines an LSP as an agent of an RE that carries out one or more functions of the lender, including customer acquisition, underwriting support, pricing support, disbursement, servicing, monitoring, collection, and loan recovery on behalf of the RE.

In simple terms, LSPs are loan aggregators which provide loans from their partner REs. In some cases, a RE can also act as an LSP.

They are technology-centric entities which have the client reach and are thus capable of offering a marketplace for both lenders and borrowers.

The Centre has extended Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) status to the gem and jewellery sector.

About Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) Programme:

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An AEO is a business entity involved in the international movement of goods requiring compliance with provisions of the national customs law.

It is approved by or on behalf of the national administration in compliance with the World Customs Organization (WCO).

The WCO in June, 2005, with a view to secure the international supply chain, adopted the SAFE Framework of Standards (WCO SAFE FoS). It is the basis of the Indian AEO programme.

AEO is one of the three pillars on which the SAFE FoS is formed. It helps to build a closer partnership between the customs department and the trade industry.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said Small Finance Banks (SFBs) should have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,000 crore to become universal banks in accordance with the on-tap licensing norms.

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) made an announcement regarding the launch of Bima Vistaar.

About Bima Vistaar:

It is an ambitious all-in-one affordable mass product aimed at the rural areas of the India which is priced at Rs 1,500 per policy.

It is designed to provide a basic social safety net cover with combined features of life, health, personal accident and property insurances.

The sum assured for life, personal accident and property covers is Rs 2 lakh each, while the health cover, known as hospi cash, offers a sum assured of Rs 500 for 10 days, with a maximum amount of Rs 5,000 available without producing bills or documents.

India has simplified the payment mechanism for traders importing pulses from Myanmar, requiring them to use the Rupee/Kyat direct payment system through the Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA).

About SRVA:

The settlement of international trade through Indian Rupees (INR) is an additional arrangement to the existing system of settlement that uses freely convertible currencies and works as a complimentary system.

Freely convertible currency is a currency which is permitted by the rules and regulations of the country concerned to be converted into major reserve currencies like the U.S. Dollar, Pound Sterling.

This will reduce dependence on hard (freely convertible) currency.

SRVA requires prior approval of RBI before opening, unlike Rupee Vostro account.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently green-lighted investments in the country's Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIS).

About Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs):

A green bond is a debt security that is issued to raise capital to support climate-related or environmental projects, according to the World Bank. SGBs are issued by governments to raise resources for such projects.

In India, the Union Budget 2022-23 announced the issue of SGrBs.

The NIIF has invested \$200 million in iBUS Network and Infrastructure Pvt Ltd., a connectivity technology firm, to support the growth of India's digital infrastructure.

About National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF):

It is a fund manager that invests in infrastructure and related sectors in India. It is India's first-ever sovereign wealth fund (SWF), which was set up in 2015.

It is a collaborative investment platform for international and Indian investors with a mandate to invest equity capital in domestic infrastructure.

It invests across asset classes such as infrastructure, private equity, and other diversified sectors in India, with the objective of generating attractive risk-adjusted returns for its investors. It invests in greenfield (new), brownfield (existing), and stalled projects.

NIIF is 49% owned by the Indian government and has more than \$4.9 billion in assets under management, making it the country's biggest infrastructure fund. It benefits from its association with the Government yet is independent in its investment decisions.

Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) has recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty on sodium cyanide (NaCN) imported from China, the European Union, Japan and Korea.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to launch a mobile application aimed at facilitating seamless investment under the RBI Retail Direct Scheme.

About RBI Retail Direct Scheme:

It was initially introduced in November 2021. It gives access to individual investors to maintain gilt accounts with the RBI and invest in government securities.

The scheme enables investors to buy securities in primary auctions as well as buy/sell securities through the NDS-OM platform.

Negotiated Dealing System - Order Matching system (NDS-OM) means RBI's screen based anonymous electronic order matching system for trading in Government securities in the secondary market.

Reserve Bank of India is considering establishing a Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) to combat cyber fraud and illegal lending apps.

About Digital India Trust Agency:

It will be responsible for stopping illegal lending apps from popping up. It will enable the verification of these digital lending apps and will maintain a public register of these verified applications.

Any app which will not carry the "verified" tag of DIGITA, will be considered unauthorised.

Significance: This will create an important and much-needed checkpoint in the fight against online financial fraud.

SEBI recently launched the new version of the SEBI Complaint Redress System (SCORES 2.0).

What is SCORES?

It is a web-based centralized grievance redress system of SEBI launched in 2011. It enables investors to lodge and follow up on their complaints and track the status of redressal of such complaints online from anywhere.

It enables market intermediaries and listed companies to receive complaints online from investors, redress such complaints, and report redressal online.

An investor who is not familiar with SCORES or does not have access to SCORES can lodge complaints in physical form at any of the offices of SEBI.

Such complaints would be scanned and also uploaded in SCORES for processing.

SCORES 2.0 will be integrated with the KYC Registration Agency database for easy registration of the investor on SCORES

IndusInd Bank's Pilot Program with RBI's Programmable CBDC: Revolutionizing Agricultural Finance.

IndusInd Bank, in collaboration with Circularity Innovation Hub India Private Limited (CIH), has achieved a significant milestone by successfully executing the Reserve Bank of India's pilot program on programmable Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

This pioneering initiative aims to revolutionize agricultural finance by targeting farmers for carbon credit generation.

SBI Card has introduced three variants of its travel-centric credit card, SBI Card MILES, catering to diverse travel needs.

The variants—SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES—are designed to offer curated benefits to travelers, from frequent flyers to enthusiasts.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a comprehensive master direction for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), which will come into effect from April 24, 2024.

ARCs are required to maintain a minimum capital of Rs 300 crore, a significant increase from the previous requirement of Rs 100 crore set on October 11, 2022. Existing ARCs are given a transition period until March 31, 2026, to meet this new minimum requirement.

ARCs with a minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs 1000 crore are eligible to act as resolution applicants.

Investments in short-term instruments by ARCs are capped at 10% of their Net Owned Fund (NOF), with specific criteria regarding credit ratings.

Bandhan Life Insurance, formerly known as Aegon Life Insurance, has rebranded itself with the tagline 'Bharat Ki Udaan, Bandhan Se', reflecting its commitment to empowering the aspirations of India.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) greenlights Ajith Kumar KK's appointment as Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank, marking a pivotal moment amidst the bank's preparations for a ₹300 crore rights issue.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) announced that its stake in FMCG major Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) has surpassed 5%.

The Corporation augmented its shareholding in HUL from 4.99% to 5.01% of the company's paid-up capital by acquiring additional shares from the open market.

India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation (IMGC) has entered into a strategic partnership with Bank of India (BOI) to introduce mortgage guarantee-backed home loan products.

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has implemented service charges for Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS) transactions, effective from June 15, 2022.

AePS is a bank-led model allowing online financial transactions at Point of Sale (PoS) terminals through Aadhaar authentication, enabling various banking services.

Transactions exceeding the free limit will incur charges: ₹20 plus GST per transaction for cash withdrawals and deposits, and ₹5 plus GST per transaction for mini statements.

Revolut India, backed by Tiger Global and Softbank, has secured in-principle approval from the RBI to issue Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI).

HDFC Bank Becomes First Private Bank to Open Branch in Lakshadweep.

Private lender HDFC Bank has opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the only private sector bank to have a presence in the Union Territory.

India's Ecommerce Market Set to Become Third Largest Globally by 2030.

SEBI has granted approval to CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of ESG ratings, marking a significant development in the realm of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) assessments in India.

UNCTAD forecasts India's GDP growth at 6.5% in 2024, a slight deceleration from the previous year's 6.7%.

Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) issuance of fresh guidelines, State Bank of India (SBI) and Standard Chartered Bank India conducted a Credit Default Swap (CDS) trade valued at ₹25 crore.

Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent survey conducted in March 2024 indicates a significant improvement in consumer confidence for the year ahead. The Future Expectations Index (FEI) rose by 2.1 points to reach 125.2, the highest level since mid-2019.

Hitachi Payment Services Introduces Upgradable ATMs in India.

Hitachi Payment Services has unveiled new upgradable ATMs in India, allowing banks to adapt their machines into Cash Recycling Machines (CRMs) as per evolving needs.

Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala Approved as India's First Transshipment Hub.

Aramco and FIFA have teamed up in a major partnership, with Aramco becoming FIFA's exclusive energy partner until 2027.

PayU Receives RBI's In-Principle Approval as Payment Aggregator.

PayU, the digital financial services provider, has obtained the coveted in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a Payments Aggregator (PA) under the Payment Settlements Act, 2007.

Razorpay and Airtel Payments Bank have introduced the UPI Switch, a cloud-based infrastructure set to transform digital payments..

CRED, the Bengaluru-based fintech start-up, has recently obtained in-principle approval for a payment aggregator license, as reported by the Economic Times.

Sany India, a leading manufacturer of mining and construction equipment, has launched the SKT105E Electric Dump Truck.

Adani family, led by Gautam Adani, has infused ₹8,339 crore into Ambuja Cements Ltd., increasing their stake to 70.3%.

Mahindra Susten, a subsidiary of the Mahindra Group, enters the hybrid renewable energy sector with a ₹1,200-Crore project in Maharashtra, combining 101 MW wind and 52 MW solar capacity.

Adani Green Energy Limited, an Adani Group company, is building the world's largest renewable energy park in Khavda, Kutch district of Gujarat.

BharatPe co-founder and former managing director Ashneer Grover is gearing up for a new venture in the fintech space with ZeroPe.

French automaker Citroën has become the first multinational car manufacturer to export electric vehicles (EVs) produced in India to the international market.

KABIL and CSIR-IMMT Forge Alliance for Critical Minerals Advancement.

Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Technical & Knowledge cooperation.

The agreement aims to leverage CSIR-IMMT's technical prowess in various domains crucial for mineral processing and metal extraction.

India aims to bolster its strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) by constructing its first privately managed storage facility in partnership with a private company by 2029-30.

This approach mirrors the models adopted by countries like Japan and South Korea.

PepsiCo India announces a massive investment of ₹1,266 crore to establish a cutting-edge flavour manufacturing facility in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh..**Tata Technologies and BMW Group join forces to establish automotive software and IT hubs in Chennai.****UPI Ends FY24 with Record Transactions Worth ₹199 Lakh Crore.**

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) concluded FY24 on a remarkable note, achieving new milestones in transaction volume and value during March 2024

Transactions worth ₹19.78 lakh crore processed in March 2024, surpassing the previous record set in January 2024.

Microsoft and OpenAI unveil plans for 'Stargate,' a \$100 billion AI supercomputer.**Government e Marketplace (GeM) has witnessed a remarkable growth, doubling its Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) to ₹4-lakh crore in fiscal year 2023-24****INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AUGUST 2024****WHO has declared Dhulikhel Municipality of Kavrepalanchok district as Nepal's first 'healthy city' and second healthiest city in Asia.**

Singapore Airlines Receives Approval For Vistara-Air India Merger.

Air India is owned by Tata Group and Vistara is a 51:49 joint venture between Tatas and Singapore Airlines.

Typhoon Shanshan Hits Southern Japan

Iran Appoints Fatemeh Mohajerani As First Female Government Spokesperson

India and Indonesia Resolve to Boost Anti-Terror Cooperation.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Arun Agarwal, a Dallas-based Indian-American entrepreneur, as the Chairman of the Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) Board of Directors.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un unveiled new "suicide drones" designed to crash into enemy targets with explosives.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Poland marked a historic moment as it was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 45 years.

India and Denmark Collaborate on Clean River Initiative

India overtook China as the world's biggest importer of Russian oil in July

India-New Zealand Sign Bilateral Customs Cooperation Agreement.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in collaboration with the Habitat Charitable Trust, has proposed the construction of a state-of-the-art faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) at Sarovaram.

China to Launch Satellite Constellation to Rival Musk's Starlink.

China is close to launching its first batch of satellites for a mega constellation aimed at rivaling US company SpaceX's Starlink Internet network

Australian government has unveiled the Maitri Research and Cultural Partnerships Grants.

India has made a breakthrough by exporting its first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland.

This follows the successful export of India's first commercial consignment of GI-tagged Purandar figs to Hong Kong in February 2023.

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus To Lead Bangladesh Interim Government.

Bangladesh's Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus will head the country's interim government after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stepped down and fled the country amid a mass uprising against her rule led mostly by students.

Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.

Pakistan has paid over USD 3.6 billion in interest on IMF loans over the past 40 years.

Film producer Janet Yang has been re-elected for a third term as the President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS JULY 2024

Japan Introduces New 3D Holographic Banknotes.

These banknotes feature cutting-edge holography, making the portraits of historic figures appear to rotate in 3D.

The new technology allows visually impaired people to feel and discern the banknotes they are holding. Japan is set to unveil a new series of banknotes, marking the first significant redesign in two decades. This update to the ¥10,000, ¥5,000, and ¥1,000 notes incorporates advanced anti-counterfeiting technologies and features prominent historical figures.

India Placed in 'Regular Follow-Up' Category by FATF.

India has been categorized under the 'regular follow-up' by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The FATF held its plenary meeting in Singapore from June 26-28, 2024.

Alongside India, Russia, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom were also placed in the 'regular follow-up' category.

FATF Evaluation of India:

India joined FATF in 2010 and underwent its first evaluation in the same year.

The next evaluation was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and occurred in 2023.

India must submit a report addressing FATF concerns by October 2027.

About FATF:

Established in 1989 by G-7 countries to set global standards on AML/CFT/PF.

Inter-governmental body issuing recommendations and assessing countries' actions against financial crimes.

Collaborates with IMF, World Bank, UN, and FATF-style regional bodies.

Headquartered in Paris, France, with 39 current members excluding Russia (suspended since 2023).

President: T Raja Kumar of Singapore.

Dick Schoof Elected as New Prime Minister of Netherlands.

Dick Schoof, former head of the Dutch intelligence agency and counterterrorism office, is sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the Netherlands by King Willem-Alexander.

The Netherlands has a new Prime Minister for the first time in 14 years.

About Netherlands

The Netherlands, also known as Holland, is a country located in northwestern Europe.

Monarch: King Willem-Alexander

Prime Minister: Dick Schoof

Capital: Amsterdam

Currency: euro

Russia has approved the schedule for creating a Russian orbital station by 2033.

Launch Schedule

2027: Launch of the scientific and energy modules.

2030: Launch of three core modules:

Universal nodal module.

Gateway module.

Base module.

2033 : Launch of two additional target modules.

Japan launched the Advanced Land Observation Satellite-4 "DAICHI-4" (ALOS-4) on July 1, 2024.

The launch took place from the Tanegashima Space Center using the third flight of the H3 Launch Vehicle (H3 F3).

ALOS-4 is designed for earth observation and was deployed into orbit from off the coast of Kyushu, Japan.

About H3 Rocket System:

Developed by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) in collaboration with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

India Launches UPI Payments at Galeries Lafayette, Paris.

India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) launched at the Galeries Lafayette flagship store on Haussmann Boulevard, Paris.

Highlighted the strategic partnership between Lyra and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

This launch is ahead of the Paris Olympics starting on July 26, 2024, expecting many Indian visitors.

Russian Cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko Becomes First Human to Spend 1,000 Days in Space.

Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko was announced by Russia's space agency, Roscosmos, as the first person to spend a total of 1,000 days in space.

Total Time in Space: By the end of his current mission on September 23, 2024, Kononenko will have spent a total of 1,110 days in orbit.

In February 2024, Kononenko broke the previous record of 878 days in space set by his colleague, Gennady Padalka.

U.K. PM Keir Starmer Appoints Rachel Reeves as the Country's First Female Chancellor.

Angela Rayner has been named Deputy Prime Minister, and Rachel Reeves has become the country's first female Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Keir Starmer has been appointed as the new UK Prime Minister.

Yvette Cooper has been appointed as Home Secretary.

David Lammy has been named Foreign Secretary.

John Healey has been appointed Defence Secretary.

Keir Starmer Takes Helm as UK's 58th Prime Minister, Succeeding Rishi Sunak.

Keir Starmer of the Labour Party became the 58th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on July 5, 2024, succeeding Rishi Sunak.

Labour secured 412 seats, an increase of 211, while the Conservative Party received 121 seats, a decrease of 250, in the 650-seat House of Commons.

Masoud Pezeshkian wins Iranian Presidential Election.

About Iran

Capital- Tehran

Currency - Iranian Rial

Ukraine and Poland Solidify Defense Partnership with New Security Agreement.

The agreement solidifies Poland's strong support for Ukraine amidst its conflict with Russia.

Dubai Hosts 4th India-GCC Food and Beverage Meet.

Dubai hosts the fourth edition of the India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Buyers Sellers Meet on Food and Beverages.

About GCC

Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Gulf Cooperation Council).

Members: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates

Headquarters: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

India-UAE Strengthen Defense Ties in 12th Joint Committee Meeting in Abu Dhabi.

The 12th India-UAE Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting took place in Abu Dhabi on July 9, aiming to enhance defense relations

KP Sharma Oli took oath as Nepal PM.

Oli was appointed PM for the third time to lead the new coalition government.

He will replace Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda.

About Nepal

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The kingdom of Nepal was established by the Shah dynasty.

It is a landlocked country in South Asia.

President - Ram Chandra Paudel

Capital - Kathmandu

Currency - Nepalese Rupee

Bangladesh Joins Colombo Security Conclave as 5th Full Member.

Bangladesh officially became the 5th full member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), joining India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and the Maldives.

The announcement was made during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) meeting of the CSC, hosted virtually by Mauritius on July 10, 2024.

Seychelles participated as an Observer state.

The 7th National Security Adviser (NSA)-level meeting of the CSC will be hosted by India in 2025.

About CSC:-

Established: 2011 as a trilateral maritime security group (India, Sri Lanka, Maldives).

Aim: Promote regional cooperation and shared security for littoral nations in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Secretariat: Established in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2021.

India and Marshall Islands Strengthen Ties with MoU on Community Projects.

India and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) signed an MoU at the Embassy of India in Tokyo, Japan.

The agreement is part of India's strategic Pacific outreach efforts.

It aims to strengthen bilateral ties under the Forum of India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).

Metsola from Malta Becomes First Female President to Secure Second Term in European Parliament.

Roberta Metsola was re-elected as President of the European Parliament on July 16, 2024, for another two and a half years, extending her term until 2027.

Metsola became the first woman to win a second term as President of the European Parliament.

About European Union (EU).

Founded : 1 November 1993

Founders : Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium

Members Country : 27

President of European Council : Antonion Costa (Portugal)

President of Commission : Ursula von der Leyen (Germany)

President of European Parliament : Roebtr Metsol (Malta).

The European Parliament has approved Ursula von der Leyen's bid for a second five-year term as President of the European Commission.

About Ursula Gertrud von der Leyen.

Leyen, born 8 October 1958, is a German politician.

She has been the 13th president of the European Commission since 2019.

Yaël Braun-Pivet from Emmanuel Macron's centrist party has been re-elected as the speaker of the National Assembly in France with 220 votes.

The National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) is the lower house of the French Parliament.

The upper house is the Senate (Sénat).

About France

President: Emmanuel Macron

Prime minister: Gabriel Attal

Capital: Paris

Currency : Euro.

Houston Zoo Administers First-Ever mRNA Vaccine to Combat Deadly EEHV in Elephants.

Tess, a 40-year-old Asian elephant at Houston Zoo, received the first-ever dose of an mRNA vaccine to prevent elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV) 1A.

The vaccine was created by virologists at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM).

About Houston Zoo

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Location: Houston, Texas, United States

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurated India's first overseas Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Mauritius.

The Jan Aushadhi Kendra is a health partnership project aimed at supplying cost-effective, Made-in-India medicines.

Jaishankar also inaugurated the Mediclinic project at Grand Bois village in Mauritius.

About Mauritius

Capital - Port Louis

Currency - Mauritian Rupee

Prime Minister - Pravind Jugnauth

China Unveils World's First Carbon Fiber-Only High-Speed Train.

China has unveiled the world's first carbon fiber-only passenger train, marking a significant advancement in high-speed rail technology.

The carbon fiber train is significantly lighter than traditional trains, contributing to reduced pollution.

China Launches Gaofen-11 05 Satellite.

China launched the 'Gaofen-11 05', a high-resolution optical Earth Observation Satellite (EOS), into space. The satellite was deployed aboard a Long March-4B carrier rocket from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center (TSLC) in Shanxi Province, China.

This launch represents the 528th mission of the Long March rocket series and China's 33rd orbital mission of 2024.

About China

Capital -Beijing

Currency - Renminbi

Official language - Mandarin

President -Xi Jinping

Kristen Michal Sworn in as Estonia's New Prime Minister.

President of Estonia Alar Karis swore in Kristen Michal, Chairman of the centrist Reform Party, as the new Prime Minister (PM) of Estonia.

About Estonia

Capital: Tallinn

Currency: Euro

President: Alar Karis.

South Africa Enacts First Climate Change Act.

South Africa has enacted its first Climate Change Act, marking a significant step in its climate response strategy

Zimbabwe Joins UN Water Conventions.

Zimbabwe, a Southern African country, has joined the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UN Water Convention).

This accession showcases Zimbabwe's political will for cross-border water cooperation.

Zimbabwe became the 54th Party to the UN Water Convention and the 11th African nation to join the treaty.

The UN Water Convention was adopted in Helsinki, Finland, in 1992 and came into force in 1996.

About Zimbabwe:

President - Emmerson Mnangagwa

Capital - Harare

Currency - Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG).

India Assumes Chairmanship of ADPC for 2024-25.

India has assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for the 2024-25 term.

Rajendra Singh, Member and Head of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), has taken over as ADPC Chair from China.

The transition occurred on July 25, 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand.

India, along with Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Thailand,

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are founding members of ADPC.

India also chaired the 5th Board of Trustees meeting of ADPC on July 25, 2024, in Bangkok.

About Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

Founded in 1986, ADPC focuses on disaster risk reduction and climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific.

Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS JUNE 2024

Paraguay Joins International Solar Alliance as 100th Full Member.

Spain joined the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as the 99th member, reaffirming its commitment to the solar energy initiative.

About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Formation: Established on 30 November 2015 in Paris, France.

Purpose: Unite over 120 nations, primarily within the Tropics, to promote solar energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

Headquarters: Located at the National Institute of Solar Energy in Gurugram, Haryana, India.

Director General: Led by Dr. Ajay Mathur, the alliance fosters clean energy, sustainability, public transport, and climate initiatives.

About Paraguay

Paraguay, a landlocked nation, is situated between Argentina, Brazil, and Bolivia

Capital:- Asunción

President:- Santiago Peña

Currency : Guarani

Wärtsilä Unveils World's First Large-Scale 100% Hydrogen-Ready Engine Power Plant.

Wärtsilä Oyj Abp, a Finland-based company, has launched the world's first large-scale 100% hydrogen-ready engine power plant to support net-zero power systems.

Ukraine Launches World's First Unmanned Systems Forces.

Ukraine has established the world's first stand-alone military branch solely dedicated to unmanned systems, known as the Unmanned Systems Forces (USF).

The symbol representing the USF is a "steel swallow," which was designed by a neural network.

Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected as the President of South Africa.

The PaintBrush Art Community, consisting of Indian diaspora artists in the UAE, organized the "Retro Revival" exhibition

Philemon Yang Elected President of the Upcoming General Assembly Session.

Renowned Indian artist Krishna Kanhai unveiled "The Golden Krishna" collection in Dubai.

Exhibition focuses on Lord Krishna, showcasing Kanhai's latest works.

Showcase includes a life-sized, 3D painting of Tirupati Balaji made with 24-karat gold.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS MAY 2024

India announces \$1 million relief assistance to landslide-hit Papua New Guinea.

Gitanas Nausėda has been re-elected as the President of the Republic of Lithuania, securing a second five-year term from 2024 to 2029.

About Lithuania

The Prime Minister of Lithuania is Ingrida Simonyte.

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Gitanas Nauseda serves as the President of Lithuania.
The capital city of Lithuania is Vilnius.
The currency used in Lithuania is the Lithuanian litas (LTL).
Purnima Shrestha Makes History: First Woman to Scale Everest Thrice in 13 Days.
Purnima Shrestha, a 32-year-old mountaineer and photojournalist from Gorkha, Nepal, has achieved a historic feat.
She is now recognized as the first woman in the world to climb Mount Everest three times in a single season.
This remarkable accomplishment was achieved within a span of just 13 days.
Nepali mountaineer and guide Kami Rita Sherpa has achieved a historic feat by becoming the first person to climb Mount Everest a remarkable 29 times
World Health Organization (WHO) has initiated a new 'Investment Round' with the objective of raising \$7 billion to address global challenges.
About WHO
Founded:- 7 April 1948
Headquarters:- Geneva, Switzerland
Founders:- United States, Brazil, Mexico, France, Australia, Türkiye,
Parent organization:- United Nations
Director-General:- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.
Mahamat Idriss Deby was sworn in as President of Chad.
Deby won the presidential election on May 6, 2024, and will serve a five-year term
Succes Masra was appointed Prime Minister in January 2024.
About Chad
Capital :- N'Djamena
Currency :- Central African CFA franc.
The 2568th Buddha Jayanti and Lumbini Day was celebrated in Nepal on April 23 and devotees gathered at the Maya Devi Temple in Lumbini, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to celebrate the occasion.
Spain becomes the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), marking its commitment to solar energy initiatives.
About Spain
King - Felipe VI of Spain
Prime Minister - Pedro Sánchez
Capital - Madrid
Lawrence Wong Shyun Tsai Becomes Fourth Prime Minister of Singapore.
Wong succeeded Lee Hsien Loong, who served as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2024.
The oath was administered by the President of Singapore, Tharman Shanmugaratnam.
India, Iran Sign 10-Year Deal for Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal.
India and Iran sealed a decade-long deal to manage the Shahid Beheshti Port Terminal at Chabahar Port, Iran, promoting regional connectivity and trade relations.
The agreement was inked between India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ), and the Port and Maritime Organisation (PMO) of Iran.

India has extended a credit line of USD 250 million for joint ventures aimed at bolstering infrastructure associated with Chabahar.
Chabahar Port, situated in the Sistan-Baluchistan province of South Eastern Iran, comprises two major ports: Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti.
The project is a joint initiative between India and Iran.
Climeworks launches world's largest DAC+S plant "Mammoth" in Iceland.
Climeworks AG, a Swiss startup, inaugurated Mammoth, the largest operational Direct Air Capture and Storage (DAC + S) facility globally, located in Iceland.
Mammoth's purpose is to extract carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere and sequester it underground in rock formations.
John Swinney Elected 7th First Minister of Scotland.
John Ramsay Swinney, leader of the Scottish National Party (SNP), was elected as the 7th First Minister of Scotland by the Scottish Parliament.
About Scotland
Capital - Edinburgh
Currency - Pound sterling
Fusion Micro Finance Secures \$25 Million Loan from US International DFC.
Fusion Micro Finance has obtained a \$25 million loan from the United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) to fuel its expansion plans, primarily focusing on empowering rural women entrepreneurs.
India has called for setting up a region-specific ocean observation centre for better forecasting and understanding of the deep sea ecosystem.
The Indian delegation led by Earth Sciences Secretary M Ravichandran made these observations at the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference held in Barcelona, Spain .
The first in-person Ocean Decade Conference was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 10 to 12 April 2024.
The theme of the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona was: Delivering the science we need for the ocean we want.
United Nations launched the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).
World Bank's new report "Water for Shared Prosperity," released at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, highlights the alarming global water crisis and its implications for human and economic development worldwide.
As of 2022, 2.2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services and 3.5 billion lack access to safely managed sanitation.
Eight out of ten people without basic drinking water and sanitation services reside in rural areas.
World's Highest Observatory Inaugurated in Chile by University of Tokyo
The Japanese University of Tokyo Atacama Observatory, or TAO, which was first conceptualized 26 years ago to study the evolution of galaxies and exoplanets, is perched on top of a tall mountain in the Chilean Andes at 5,640 meters (18,500 feet) above sea level. The facility's altitude surpasses even the Atacama Large Millimeter Array, which is at an elevation of 5,050 meters (16,570 feet).
Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will transition from his current role to become chairman of the board of trustees by January next year.
India will host the first dedicated discussions on regulating Antarctic tourism at the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting in Kochi.
World's First 6G Device Launched in Japan.
A Japanese consortium unveiled the world's first high-speed 6G prototype gadget, surpassing 5G by 20 times. Developed by DOCOMO, NTT, NEC, and Fujitsu, it can transmit data over 300 feet at 100 Gbps, tested successfully indoors and outdoors.

Venezuela Becomes First Country to Lose All Glaciers.
PhonePe Launches UPI in Sri Lanka in Partnership with LankaPay.
PhonePe has partnered with LankaPay to enable UPI payments in Sri Lanka, allowing PhonePe users to transact seamlessly at LankaPay QR merchants.
Dubai has unveiled the 'Dubai Gaming Visa' as part of the Dubai Program for Gaming 2033 to provide comprehensive support to skilled individuals and pioneers in the e-gaming industry.
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.
Mount Everest is the world's highest peak, with a height of 8,848.86 metres or 29,031.69 feet.
Kami Rita first conquered the Everest peak in 1994 and has been climbing the mountain peak almost every year.
He is popularly known as the Everest Man.
India Contributes \$500,000 to UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund.
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.
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 HNWI (High net worth individuals) who have a liquid investable wealth of USD 1 million or more
According to the report, New York City in the United States continues to be the world's wealthiest city with 349,500 millionaires having a combined total wealth of more than \$3 trillion.
Sri Lanka approves 20-year power purchase pact with Adani Green Energy.
Sri Lankan government has approved an agreement with Adani Green Energy, led by Gautam Adani, for the development of wind power stations in Mannar and Poonerini.
The deal follows Adani Green Energy's approval in February 2023 to invest \$442 million and develop 484 megawatts of wind power plants in the two towns of Mannar and Poonerini in Northern Sri Lanka.
India, 3rd-highest solar power generator in the world, overtakes Japan.
Top 10 Solar Power-Generating Countries in the World.
1. China
2. United States of America
3. India
4. Japan
5. Germany
6. Brazil
7. Australia
8. Spain
9. Italy
10. South Korea.
According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), if the world is to achieve a "Net Zero Emissions" scenario, solar power's contribution to total global electricity production must increase to 22 per cent by 2030.
At the United Nations COP28 climate change conference held in Dubai, UAE, in December 2023, an agreement was reached to triple the global renewable energy capacity by 2030.
India has committed to achieving 50 per cent of its cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

India and Nigeria have agreed to finalize the Local Currency Settlement System Agreement to enhance bilateral trade.

NPCI Partners with Bank of Namibia to Develop UPI-Like Instant Payment System.

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), 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.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS APRIL 2024

Sweden becomes 38th country to sign NASA's "Artemis Accords".

Switzerland preceded Sweden, becoming the 37th country to sign the Artemis Accords on April 15, 2024.

Hamad International Airport (HIA) in Doha, Qatar, clinched the title of World's Best Airport in the 2024 Skytrax World Airport Awards.

Singapore Changi Airport, previous winner of the 2023 Airport of the Year award, secured 2nd place overall and was recognized as the Best Airport in Asia.

Indian Airports in the 2024 Global Rankings:

Delhi Airport retained 36th place.

World's first 'Miss AI' beauty pageant launched by WAICAs.

World AI Creator Awards (WAICA) launches the inaugural Miss AI beauty pageant.

Open to AI creators around the world to showcase their models.

Appointment of Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah as Prime Minister of Kuwait.

About Kuwait

Capital - Kuwait City

Currency - Kuwaiti Dinar (KWD).

Israel has introduced its maritime defense system, known as the C-Dome, for the first time in Eilat, Israel's southernmost city.

The C-Dome is essentially a naval adaptation of the Iron Dome, a renowned air defense system designed to safeguard against rocket and missile threats.

The C-Dome Defense System is a product of Rafael Advanced Defense Systems, a state-owned Israeli defense corporation.

Angara-A5 successfully launched on April 11, 2024, from Vostochny Cosmodrome, replacing Proton M as Russia's heavy-lift rocket.

Avi Wigderson, an Israeli mathematician and computer scientist, was awarded the 2023 ACM A.M. Turing Award.

This award is widely regarded as the "Nobel Prize of Computing".

The ACM A.M. Turing Award carries a prestigious cash prize of USD 1 million.

Benediktsson took office as Prime Minister of Iceland on April 9, 2024, succeeding Katrín Jakobsdóttir.

Iceland

Capital : Reykjavík

Currency : Króna

President : Guðni Th. Jóhannesson.

Simon Harris becomes the youngest new Prime Minister of Ireland.

Simon Harris, aged 37 and leader of the Fine Gael party, elected as the new Taoiseach (Prime Minister) of the Republic of Ireland by members of the Dáil (Irish parliament).

Harris becomes the youngest Prime Minister in the history of the Republic of Ireland.
RBZ Launches Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) Currency Backed by Gold and Foreign Reserves.
Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has launched a new currency called "Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG)," which is backed by gold and foreign currencies, aiming to replace the local currency, Zimbabwe dollars (ZWS) Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) dollar.
Denominations of ZiG notes and coins include 1ZiG, 2ZiG, 5ZiG, 10ZiG, 20ZiG, 50ZiG, 100ZiG, and 200ZiG.
Valerie Adams Named International Ambassador for 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru.
Peter Pellegrini wins in Slovakia's Presidential Election.
About Slovakia
Capital - Bratislava
Prime Minister - Robert Fico
Currency - Euro.
Romania unveils world's most powerful laser.
Developed by a research center in Romania as part of the EU Infrastructure Extreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) project.
Operated by French company Thales.
Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2018 for their pioneering work in laser technology.
Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi Sworn in for Third Term.
Judith Suminwa Tuluka becomes the first female Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
Romania and Bulgaria formally joined, at least partially, Europe's visa-free Schengen travel area.
First ever Hindi language radio broadcast in Kuwait.
16th World Future Energy Summit started in Abu Dhabi, UAE.
The 16th World Future Energy Summit has recently commenced in Abu Dhabi, gathering global leaders, policymakers, and experts in the field of sustainable energy and climate initiatives.
Nigeria Become 1st country to roll out a Vaccine for Meningitis .
Nigeria has become the first country to administer the Men5CV/MenFive conjugate vaccine recommended by WHO, which protects from five strains of meningococcal bacteria.
This vaccine called MenFive is used to prevent meningococcal disease caused by Neisseria meningitidis groups A, C, Y, W, and X in people aged 9 months to 85 years.
The vaccine was developed by PATH and the Serum Institute of India
Kristalina Georgieva from Bulgaria Re-appointed as IMF Managing Director.
Kristalina Georgieva has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for another 5-year term starting October 1, 2024.
PhonePe partners with eSewa & Hotel Association of Nepal Pokhara for UPI Push at the Fewa New Year Festival.
PhonePe has partnered with e-Sewa and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara to popularize UPI on the Fonepay Network, as a part of the Fewa New Year Festival which will be held from April 11-14th.
China Surpasses India as Largest Importer of Russian Crude.
China has surpassed India to become the leading importer of Russian crude oil through maritime routes, with China importing 1.82 million barrels per day (bpd) in March compared to India's 1.36 million bpd.

The International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023, concluded with a closing ceremony held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome, Italy, on March 29th, 2024.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS AUGUST 2024

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman granted 'Navratna' status to four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs): NHPC, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN).

This brings the total number of Navratna CPSEs in India to 25.

Railtel Corporation: The 22nd Navratna, with a turnover of ₹2,622 crore and a net profit of ₹246 crore for FY24.

Solar Energy Corporation: The 23rd Navratna, reporting an annual turnover of ₹13,035 crore and a net profit of ₹436 crore for FY24.

NHPC: The 24th Navratna, with an annual turnover of ₹8,405 crore and a net profit of ₹3,744 crore for FY24.

SJVN: The 25th Navratna, posting an annual turnover of ₹2,833 crore and a net profit of ₹908 crore for FY24.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Maharashtra to lay the foundation stone of the Vadhvan Port project and address the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2024 in Mumbai.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has announced the results of its online human rights photography competition – 2024 organized in collaboration with MyGov.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the new GST Bhawan in Udaipur, located in the Hiran Magri area.

Union Government's 2024 guidelines streamline public grievance redressal by introducing a unified CPGRAMS platform, reducing response time to 21 days, and appointing dedicated nodal officers.

The timeline for grievance redressal has been shortened to 21 days from the previous 30 days.

Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to create five new districts in the union territory of Ladakh.

These districts are – Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang.

Ladakh currently has only two districts – Leh and Kargil.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed certificates to 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis in a function organised at Jalgaon in Maharashtra.

Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat, India, has reached full operational capacity with its second 700 MW nuclear reactor, KAPS-4.

The Union Ministry of Power launched three new online platforms—PROMPT, DRIPS, and JAL VIDYUT DPR—to enhance efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness in the power sector.

India's first Constitution Museum, named "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," is set to be inaugurated by OP Jindal Global University on November 26, 2024.

This initiative celebrates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution.

Union Cabinet has greenlit significant airport infrastructure projects in West Bengal and Bihar, with a total investment of approximately ₹2,962 crore.

The Cabinet has approved the construction of a second airport at the Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Bihta, Patna, with an estimated cost of ₹1,413 crore.

In West Bengal, a new terminal building will be constructed at Bagdogra airport at a cost of ₹1,549 crore.

India has reduced the windfall tax on petroleum crude oil to Rs 2,100 per metric tonne, effective August 17, down from Rs 4,600 per tonne.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will serve as the chief guest at the inaugural ET World Leaders Forum, scheduled for August 31 in New Delhi.

Theme: "Leadership for Global Prosperity"

Cyclone Asna has formed over the Kutch coast in Gujarat and adjoining areas of Pakistan, the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Asna name has been given by Pakistan.

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Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched its first indigenously developed Pollution Control Vessel, 'Samudra Pratap,' in Goa.

The vessel, built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL),

Odisha has launched India's first 24/7 grain ATM, the Annapurta Grain ATM, to modernize the Public Distribution System

NATIONAL AFFAIRS JULY 2024

Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has launched the 'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' in Goa.

'Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan' scheme is in alignment with the Prime Minister's Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

It aims to increase solar rooftop potential and empower residential homes to generate their own electricity.

Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana has a budget of Rs 75,021 crore.

The scheme will run until the fiscal year 2026-27.

Aims to boost solar energy adoption across India and reduce reliance on traditional power sources.

43rd UNESCO Heritage Site of India: Moidams of Assam.

Charaideo Maidam Becomes Northeast India's First Cultural UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Moidams of Assam, the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty, have been included in the cultural category of the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. It is the 43rd site in India to be included in UNESCO's World Heritage Site list.

3rd site of Assam to be included in UNESCO's Heritage List

The Moidams of Assam- the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty is the third site in Assam and North East to be included in UNESCO's World Heritage List and the first in the cultural category.

Kaziranga National Park of Assam and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary were included in the UNESCO list in 1985 under the Natural category.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually initiated the first blast for the Shinkun La Tunnel project in Kargil, Ladakh.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the Amrit Brikshya Andolan 2.0 app.

The app enables individuals to register or renew their participation in the tree-planting campaign.

Telangana CM Launches 'Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam' Scheme.

Anumula Revanth Reddy, the Chief Minister (CM) of Telangana, launched the 'Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam' scheme.

Under this scheme, financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh will be provided to Telangana's Civil Services aspirants who have qualified for the Mains exams of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Eligible Categories: SC, ST, OBC, Women, and EWS.

Income Limit: Family annual income must be less than Rs 8 lakh.

Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat, launched the 'Shramik Basera' scheme.

The scheme aims to provide temporary accommodation for around 15,000 construction workers at a daily rent of Rs 5.

Telangana Launches Innovative Project Swasthya Nagaram for TB-Free Municipalities.

A unique model for TB-Free Municipalities, under the Project Swasthya Nagaram, was launched in Hyderabad, Telangana.

The initiative involves the State Tuberculosis Cell, Municipal Corporations of Peerzadiguda, Boduppal, and Pocharam in Medchal Malkajgiri district, Central TB Division, WHO India, USAID, and other stakeholders.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma inaugurated the OTT platform 'Hello Meghalaya' on July 12 in Shillong.

The platform aims to support and promote local filmmakers, content creators, and musicians by providing them with a dedicated space to showcase their work

Haryana government has introduced the IT Saksham Yuva Scheme 2024 to enhance youth empowerment and employment.

The scheme's initial phase aims to create 5,000 job opportunities for young individuals.

New Plant Species Phlogacanthus Sudhansusekharii Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.

Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have identified a new plant species named *Phlogacanthus Sudhansusekharii* in the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Papum Pare district, Arunachal Pradesh.

Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of dogfish shark off the coast of Kerala.

Dehradun Opens State's First Bird Gallery Near Jolly Grant Airport.

The state's first bird gallery was recently opened in Dehradun near Jolly Grant airport by the research wing of the forest department.

Manvi Madhu Kashyap Becomes India's First Transgender Sub-Inspector.

Manvi Madhu Kashyap, from a small village in Bhagalpur, Bihar, has become India's first transgender sub-inspector.

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde Unveils 'Ladla Bhai Yojana' for Boys.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced the 'Ladla Bhai Yojana' for boys on Ashadhi Ekadashi at the Vitthal temple in Pandharpur.

The scheme aims to provide financial aid and skill development to the youth of Maharashtra.

Monthly Grant:

Graduate boys: Rs 10,000 per month.

Boys pursuing diploma: Rs 8,000 per month.

Boys who have passed the 12th standard: Rs 6,000 per month.

Uttarakhand Integrates eSwasthya Dham Portal with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

The eSwasthya Dham portal, launched by the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttarakhand, is now integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

This integration aims to create an integrated digital health infrastructure across India.

The portal monitors the health parameters of pilgrims on the Char Dham Yatra, which includes visits to Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath.

Pilgrims can create their Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), a 14-digit number, in just 1-2 minutes using the portal.

Amit Shah Inaugurates Prime Minister College of Excellence in MP.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Prime Minister College of Excellence in all 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh.

The initiative aims to provide excellent and high-quality education to students across Madhya Pradesh.

India Hosts 6th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in Mumbai.

The 6th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The conference was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India (GoI).

Partnered with the Governments of Australia and Indonesia.

Supported the EAS Plan of Action 2024-2028.

Karnataka Launches 'Digital Nagarik & AR-VR Skills'.

Karnataka minister for Information Technology (IT) and Biotechnology (BT), Priyank Kharge, has introduced the 'Digital Nagarik and Augmented Reality / Virtual Reality (AR-VR) Skills' Programmes in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The programme was launched in partnership with Meta Platforms Inc. (formerly Facebook).

Objective: To train over 1 lakh teachers and 10 lakh students across Karnataka in digital safety and AR-VR by 2025.

The programme will train 10 lakh students aged 18 to 24 from various schools, Pre-University (PU) colleges, and universities in Karnataka in digital safety and AR-VR skills.

Rajasthan aims to pioneer India's first ten-year action plan focused on enhancing road safety.

Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa announced the plan's goal: a 50% reduction in traffic accidents by 2030.

Vizhinjam Port arrival First Container Ship 'San Fernando'.

The Vizhinjam Port in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, achieved a historic milestone with the arrival of its first container ship, 'San Fernando'.

'San Fernando' departed from Xiamen Port in China and received a water salute upon arrival.

Uttar Pradesh government has implemented a policy to waive registration tax on strong hybrid cars, effective immediately as per a July circular.

This initiative offers a 100 percent waiver on registration fees, potentially saving customers up to Rs 3.5 lakh.

Manufacturers such as Maruti Suzuki, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, and Honda Cars India are set to benefit from this decision.

Tata Power Solar Systems Limited launched 'Ghar Ghar Solar, Tata Power ke Sang' initiative in Uttar Pradesh.

The initiative aims to provide rooftop solar solutions to every home in Uttar Pradesh starting from Varanasi.

The initiative promises substantial financial savings and environmental benefits through state-of-the-art Rooftop Solar Solutions (RTS).

Maharashtra has been awarded the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024 by the 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee.

The award recognizes Maharashtra's innovative agricultural and rural initiatives.

The Yogi Adityanath government announced the launch of 'Mitra Van' under the Tree Plantation Jan Abhiyan-2024.

The aim of the 'Mitra Van' initiative is to increase the green cover on the Uttar Pradesh-Nepal border.

The 'Mitra Van' initiative will be on the border of Uttar Pradesh and Nepal.

Madhya Pradesh Launches 'Lokpath Mobile App' to Expedite Road Issue Resolution.

Developed by Madhya Pradesh State Electronic Development Corporation Limited (MPSEDC), the app was created by the Public Works Department (PWD).

It allows the public to report road issues by submitting images directly to officials

Aims to improve 40,000 kilometers of roads in Madhya Pradesh, addressing national highways, state highways, and major district roads.

Andhra Pradesh Launches NTR Bharosa Pension Scheme.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme.

Increased Monthly Pensions:

Old-aged, widows, weavers, toddy tappers, fishermen, single women, traditional cobblers, transgenders, and artistes: Increased from ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 per month.

Disabled and multi-deformity leprosy patients: Increased from ₹3,000 to ₹6,000 per month.

Fully disabled (bedridden/wheelchair-bound), severe muscular dystrophy patients: Increased from ₹5,000 to ₹15,000 per month.

Chronic disease patients (e.g., kidney diseases, thalassemia): Increased from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 per month.

Uttar Pradesh government has passed the draft for the Uttar Pradesh Nodal Investment Region for Manufacturing (Construction) Area Bill (NIRMAN)-2024.

National Informatics Centre (NIC) and Spices Board of India signed an MoU to study cardamom diseases in Sikkim using AI.

The project is titled "Development and Deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Aided Tools for Detection and Classification of Large Cardamom Diseases."

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has extended the age limit for the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana to 65 years.

Eligible beneficiaries to receive ₹1500 monthly aid starting from July.

Eligible women aged 21 to 65 years will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 under this scheme.

Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state in India to generate one crore tokens through the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) ID.

ABHA ID:

Initiative by the National Health Authority (NHA) under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Features a unique 14-digit identification number linked to Aadhaar or mobile numbers.

Telangana Registers First FIR Under New Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Charminar Police Station.

The first FIR under the new Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS), which replaces the Indian Penal Code (IPC) from July 1, was registered at the Charminar police station in Hyderabad.

Enactment of three new criminal laws effective from 1 July 2024.

Bharatiya Nyaya (Second) Sanhita (BNS2) Act, 2023.

Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha (Second) Sanhita (BNSS2) Act, 2023.

Bharatiya Sakshya (Second) Adhiniyam Act, 2023.

These new laws replaced British-colonial era laws:

The Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860.

The Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973.

The Indian Evidence Act (IEA), 1872

Bihar Assembly passed the Anti-Paper Leak Bill, imposing strict penalties, including a 10-year minimum prison sentence and a ₹1 crore fine, to combat malpractices in government exams.

NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd. to set up Green Charcoal plant in Haryana.

NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVNL) will set up two green charcoal plants in Gurugram and Faridabad, Haryana.

The plant will be set up in Bandhwari, Gurugram, and Motuka in Faridabad.

Each plant will cost Rs 500 crore.

The combined capacity of the two plants will be to process 1,500 tonnes of daily collected waste materials into charcoal.

Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE) has inaugurated a centre of excellence on “Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G” at IITM Research Park, Chennai.

Haryana government announced a 10 per cent quota for Agniveers in select government jobs amid rising protests from students and political parties.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS JUNE 2024

Asia's First Health Research “Pre-Clinical Network Facility” Inaugurated in Faridabad.

Uttar Pradesh government has announced an ambitious plan to establish a bioplastic park in the Lakhimpur Kheri district.

Jaipur Military Station has become the second military station in India to have a road made from plastic waste.

Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved Tata Sons' proposal to build a 'museum of temples' in Ayodhya, a project worth Rs 650 crore to be funded through Tata's corporate.

Union Territory of Ladakh Achieves Full Functional Literacy Under ULLAS.

Ladakh has achieved full functional literacy, reaching over 97 percent literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram.

Madhya Pradesh cabinet, led by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, decided, that ministers will now pay income tax on their salaries and allowances themselves.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India inaugurated the 'Chadwick House: Navigating Audit Heritage' Museum at Shimla.

Bharat Centre of Olympic Research and Education (BCORE) was inaugurated at the Rashtriya Raksha University in Gujarat's Gandhinagar district.

India's First Coal Gasification Pilot Project Launched in Jamtara District of Jharkhand.

Srinagar has become the fourth Indian city to be recognised as a 'World Craft City' by the World Craft Council (WCC).

Three years after it was designated as part of the UNESCO Creative City Network (UCCN) for crafts and folk arts.

Haryana govt Increases Reservation for OBC Category from 15% to 27%.

Uttar Pradesh is set to establish the world's first conservation and breeding centre for Asian king vultures or red-headed vultures in Maharajganj.

Kozhikode made history by becoming the first UNESCO City of Literature in India.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated the National Yoga Olympiad 2024 in Mysuru.

Madhya Pradesh government has completed preparations for its ambitious cheetah reintroduction project at Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary.
This is slated to be the second home for cheetahs in India after Kuno National Park.
International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, has committed \$105 million (approximately Rs 871 crore) to Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan.
Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav launched an intra-State air service to promote tourism Raja Bhoj International Airport in the state capital Bhopal.
It is called 'PM Shri Paryatan Vayu Seva' and the first flight was flagged off from the capital Bhopal to Jabalpur.
Jammu & Kashmir Elevates Agricultural Partnership with New Zealand.
Assam Launches 'Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina' Scheme to Promote Girl Education.
Pema Khandu of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took the oath as the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third consecutive time.
Chandrababu Naidu Sworn In as Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister for 4th Term.
Mohan Charan Majhi as the new Chief Minister of Odisha. He becomes the 15th Chief minister of Odisha.
Bhajan Lal Sharma, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, has announced an ambitious plan to develop the Maharana Pratap Tourist Circuit with an investment of Rs 100 crore.
Uttarakhand government organized India's first-ever astro-tourism event called 'Nakshatra Sabha' in Mussoorie, the 'Queen of Hills',.
Kerala has introduced Artificial Intelligence (AI) learning in the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) textbook for Class 7 students.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS MAY 2024

According to the Central Electricity Authority's latest data, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top state in terms of adding transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24.
National Desert Park, Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, has revealed a significant presence of the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard.
Karnataka government has mandated a 33% reservation for women in outsourced government jobs.
Japan and Nagaland Inaugurate Kohima Peace Memorial and Eco Park.
IREDA, a state-owned entity promoting renewable energy, establishes a subsidiary in GIFT City's IFSC, Gujarat
Uttarakhand government has launched the 'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao' campaign to contain the raging forest fires in the state.
Manipur Launches "School on Wheels" Initiative for Students in Relief Camps.
Uttarakhand Tourism Announced India's First Astro Tourism Campaign Named 'Nakshatra Sabha'.
Uttarakhand government has suspended the manufacturing licenses of 14 products from Patanjali Ayurved, founded by Baba Ramdev.
In a collaborative effort between the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation Cell (SVEEP) of Kamrup Election District and the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, a groundbreaking 3D-printed dummy ballot unit has been unveiled.
The government of Tamil Nadu has launched a three-day survey of the Nilgiri Tahr, the state's iconic animal.
This initiative aims to better understand and conserve this endangered species that faces numerous challenges, including habitat loss and poaching

NATIONAL AFFAIRS APRIL 2024

The 34th Seng Khihlang festival, a revered event for adherents of the Khasi Indigenous Faith, recently

concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya.

Madhya Pradesh excels in implementing the Green Credit Programme, facilitating tree plantation across 10 states.

Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) stadium in Dharamshala has become the first BCCI-accredited venue to install a state-of-the-art 'hybrid pitch'.

Uttar Pradesh has unveiled its first-ever glass skywalk bridge, located at the enchanting Tulsi (Shabari) Waterfall in Chitrakoot.

Three traditional products from Tripura have recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The products are Matabari pera prasad, Rignai pachara textiles and Risa. With this, Tripura now has 4 GI Protected products.

Uttar Pradesh has taken the lead in having the highest number of Geographical Indication (GI) certified products in the country. With the recent addition of 15 new products, Uttar Pradesh now boasts a total of 69 GI-tagged products, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES AUGUST 2024

IIT-Madras retains Top Ranking in the 9th NIRF 2024 Overall Category.

Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Madras has retained its top spot in the recently released 9th India Rankings report which ranks the High Educational Institutions in India.

IIT Madras retained its first position in the Overall Category for the sixth consecutive year, from 2019 to 2024.

The 9th Indian Rankings report was released by the Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan on 12 August 2024 in New Delhi

Top Three Institutions in the 9th India Ranking 2024

Overall Categories

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State/Union Territory
1	IIT-Madras	1959	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
2	Indian Institute of Science	1909	Bengaluru	Karnataka
3	IIT Bombay	1958	Mumbai	Maharashtra

Universities

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State /Union Territory
1	Indian Institute of Science	1909	Bengaluru	Karnataka
2	Jawaharlal Nehru University	1969	New Delhi	Delhi
3	Jamia Millia Islamia	1920	New Delhi	Delhi

RIL top-ranked Indian Company on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List.

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) maintained its status as the top-ranked Indian company in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list.

Nine Indian companies were included in the 2024 list, with RIL improving its rank from 86 to 88.

Only eight Indian companies were included in the list in 2023, and HDFC Bank was included for the first time this year.

The 2024 Fortune Global 500 List was released by the global multi-platform media company Fortune on 5 August 2024. American company Walmart retained its top position on the list for the 11th consecutive year.

Indian Companies on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List

Serial Number	Company	2024 rank	2023 rank	Improvement (+)/decline in ranks (-) as compared to 2023
1	Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)	86	88	+2
2	Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)	95	107	+12
3	Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	116	94	-22
4	State Bank of India (SBI)	178	235	+57
5	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	180	158	-22
6	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	258	233	-25
7	Tata Motors	271	337	+66
8	HDFC Bank	306	Not included	-
9	Rajesh Export	473	353	-120

Top 10 Fortune Global 500 List

Rank	Company	Country
1	Walmart	United States
2	Amazon	United States
3	State Grid	China
4	Saudi Aramco	Saudi Arabia
5	Sinopec	China
6	China National Petroleum	China
7	Apple	United States
8	UnitedHealth Group	United States
9	Berkshire Hathaway	United States
10	CVS Health	United States

According to the Prime Global Cities Index (PGCI) Q2 2024 by Knight Frank.

Mumbai has secured the 2nd position with a 13% annual increase in prime residential property prices. while New Delhi is ranked 3rd with a 10.6% increase.

Manila topped the list with a remarkable 26% annual increase.

This index tracks the performance of luxury residential prices across 44 global cities.

Amul was ranked as the world's strongest food and dairy brand in 2024 according to Brand Finance's annual Food & Drink report.

Brand Strength Index (BSI): Amul scored 91 out of 100 on the BSI, earning an AAA+ rating.

Brand value: Amul's brand value increased 11% to \$3.3 billion in 2024

Top 5 Most Valuable Food Brands:

Rank	Brand Name	Country of Origin	Total Valuation (USD)
1	Nestlé	Switzerland	20.8 billion
2	Lay's	USA	12 billion
3	Yili	China	11.6 billion
4	Tyson	USA	8.2 billion
5	Danove	France	8 billion
22nd	AMUL	India	3.3 billion

Warriors

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is a key player in the global financial system, securing its place as the 12th largest central bank worldwide based on total assets.

According to the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI), central banks hold a variety of assets, including foreign exchange reserves, gold, and government bonds, which reflect their economic influence.

Top 10 richest global central banks in 2024.

- The top 10 wealthiest central banks in the world by total assets, as compiled by Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI).
- Federal Reserve System of North America topped in the list
- It is followed by People's Bank of China and Bank of Japan.
- India's Reserve Bank of India ranks 12th around the world.
- RBI balance sheet grew by 11.08% year on year to Rs 70.47 trillion as of March 31, 2024.

Rank	Name of the Bank	Country	Region
1	Federal Reserve System	USA	North America
2	People's Bank of China	China	Asia
3	Bank of Japan	Japan	Asia
4	Deutsche Bundesbank	Germany	Europe
5	Bank of France	France	Europe
6	Norges Bank	Norway	Europe
7	Bank of Italy	Italy	Europe
8	Bank of England	UK	Europe
9	Bank of Spain	Spain	Europe
10	Swiss National Bank	Switzerland	Europe

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3	Bank of Japan	Japan	Asia
4	Deutsche Bundesbank	Germany	Europe
5	Bank of France	France	Europe
6	Norges Bank	Norway	Europe
7	Bank of Italy	Italy	Europe
8	Bank of England	UK	Europe
9	Bank of Spain	Spain	Europe
10	Swiss National Bank	Switzerland	Europe



India Ranked 39th in the Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024.

World Economic Forum (WEF) recently released its Travel and Tourism Development Index (TTDI) for 2024, offering a comprehensive evaluation of India's standing in the global tourism landscape.

India has secured the 39th position among 119 countries in the 2024 TTD.

Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024 overall rankings

Rank	Country	Score
1	United States	5.24
2	Spain	5.18
3	Japan	5.09
4	France	5.07
5	Australia	5.00
6	Germany	5.00
7	United Kingdom	4.96
8	China	4.94
9	Italy	4.90
10	Switzerland	4.81
39	India	4.25

Parle, the biscuit brand owned by Parle Products, continues to be India's top FMCG brand.

Parle, the biscuit brand owned by Parle Products, continues to be India's top FMCG brand.

According to the latest edition of Brand Footprint, Kantar World panel's annual ranking of the most chosen consumer brands in India

Top 5 FMCG Bands in India of 2021:

Rank	Brand
1	Parle
2	Amul
3	Britannia
4	Clinic Plus
5	Tata Consumer Products

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INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES JULY 2024

Global Liveability Index 2024

Released By : Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)

TOP : Vienna, Austria

2nd : Copenhagen, Denmark

3rd : Zurich, Switzerland

4th : Melbourne, Australia

5th : Calgary, Canada

6th : Geneva, Switzerland

7th : Sydney, Australia

8th : Vancouver, Canada

9th : Osaka, Japan (Only Asian City)

10th : Auckland, New Zealand

India's rank on the Henley Passport Index improved by two places to 82, according to the recently released 2024 Henley Passport Index. Singapore displaced Japan to become the world's most powerful passport, while Pakistan remained the fourth-worst-ranked country for the fourth consecutive year.

At present, an Indian passport holder can travel to 58 countries without the requirement of any visa. Singapore improved its rank to become the world's most powerful passport. Singapore citizens can visit visa-free 195 of 227 travel destinations around the world.

At the joint second place were France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain, each with visa-free access to 192 destinations.

Afghanistan's passport is ranked at the bottom, at 103, in the 2024 Henley Passport Index. An Afghan citizen can travel only to 26 countries visa-free.

State of the World's Forests 2024, released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently, has brought both relief and concern regarding the state of the world's forests.

About State of the World's Forests 2024 Report:

It is published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

It provides a comprehensive analysis of forest conditions and trends.

Highlights of the Report:

It highlighted a decline in deforestation rates compared to previous decades, with several countries showing significant improvements.

The data also reveals a disturbing picture of the challenges forests face due to climate change.

In 2020, the global forest covered approximately 4.1 billion hectares (ha), or 31 per cent of the land area.

Russia, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America, and China account for 54 per cent of the global forest area, in descending order.

Virat Kohli Tops Celebrity Brand Valuation In 2023.

Cricketer Virat Kohli has reclaimed the top spot to become India's most valued celebrity, boasting a brand value of \$227.9 million in 2023. However, this value still falls short of his peak brand value of \$237.7 million in 2020, as reported by Kroll's Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023.

Bollywood star Ranveer Singh to second place at \$203.1 million.

India's population is projected to peak at 1.7 billion in the early 2060s before declining by 12%, as predicted by the United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024 report. Despite the decline, India will remain the world's most populous country throughout the 21st century.

India ranks fifth in Generative AI (GenAI) innovations with 1,350 patents, trailing China, the US, Republic of Korea, and Japan.

Tata Group has maintained its position as India's most valuable brand with a value of US\$ 28.6 billion, marking a 9% increase from last year.

Infosys ranks second, and HDFC Group has surged to third place following its merger with HDFC Ltd

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES JUNE 2024

Global Energy Transition Index 2024

Released By : World Economic Forum(WEF)

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TOP : Sweden
2nd : Denmark
3rd : Finland
4th : Switzerland
5th : France
INDIA : 63

Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024

TOP : Estonia
2nd : Luxembourg
3rd : Germany
4th : Finland
5th : United Kingdom
INDIA : 176

Global Gender Gap Report 2023

Released By : World Economic Forum (WEF)
TOP : Iceland
2nd : Finland
3rd : Norway
4th : New Zealand
5th : Sweden
INDIA : 129

Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024

Released By : World Economic Forum(WEF)
TOP : United States of America
2nd : Spain
3rd : Japan
4th : France
5th : Australia
INDIA : 39

Global Peace Index 2024

Published By : the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)
TOP : Iceland
2nd : Ireland
3rd : Austria
4th : New Zealand
5th : Singapore
INDIA : 116th

Infosys, a leading information technology company, has secured its position among the 100 most valuable brands in the world for the third consecutive year.

QS World University Rankings 2025

TOP : Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Cambridge, United States
2nd : Imperial College London, United Kingdom
3rd : University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) : 118th

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES MAY 2024

World Press Freedom Index 2024

Released By : Reporters without Borders
TOP : Norway
2nd : Denmark
3rd : Sweden
4th : Netherlands

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5th : Finland
INDIA : 159

A recent report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA) and Ember evaluates the progress of India's clean electricity transition at the state level.

Karnataka and Gujarat continue to excel in integrating renewable energy sources and decarbonizing their power sectors.

Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal, and Uttar Pradesh need to enhance renewable energy deployment and strengthen distribution companies

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES APRIL 2024

Bhumi Pednekar & 4 Indians in WEF Young Global Leaders Class of 2024.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced its 20th edition of Young Global Leaders Community: The Class of 2024 on 4 April 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The list includes nearly 90 young people under 40 years of age from diverse fields of politics, business, civil society, the arts, and academia.

Indians included in the WEF Forum of Young Global Leaders 2024

Serial Number	Person	Category	Designation
1.	Bhumi Pednekar	Art and Culture	
2	Adwaita Nayar	Business	Chief Executive Officer, Nyka Fashion
3.	Arjun Bhartia	Business	Director Jubilant Group
4.	Priya Aggarwal Hebbar	Business	Non-Executive Director at Vedanta Limited
5.	Sharad Vivek Sagar	Social Entrepreneurs	Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Dexterity Global

According to the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024 report, the pace of creation of unicorn startups in India has slowed since 2017. However, India is still the third largest hub of unicorns in the world after the United States of America and China.

The San Francisco Bay area, in California, the United States of America, maintained its status as the world's unicorn capital, The famous Silicon Valley is located in the San Francisco city.

Singapore emerged as the fastest-growing hub for unicorns.

Most Valuable Unicorn in India

According to the Hurun report, the Food delivery platform Swiggy and fantasy sports-focused Dream11 are the most valuable unicorns from India. They were valued at \$8 billion each.

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Swiggy and Dream11 were ranked 83rd in the world.

The third most valuable unicorn was Razorpay at \$7.5 billion. It was ranked 94th in the world

According to a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report published on 22 April 2024, India was the fourth largest military spender in the world in 2023 after the United States, China and Russia. The Indian expenditure on military 2023 was \$83.6 billion. In 2022 also India was the fourth largest military spender in the world

According to a recently released 13th Hurun Global Rich List report of Hurun India on 26 March 2024, India's financial capital, Mumbai, has emerged as the Asian billionaire capital, replacing China's capital, Beijing. Mumbai has also emerged as the fastest-growing billionaire capital in the world. According to the Hurun report, the number of billionaires in Mumbai increased from 66 to 92.

According to the report, India added the largest number of new billionaires to the list after the United States of America due to a booming stock market.

Rank of Cities

1. New York with 119 billionaires
2. London with 97 billionaires
3. Mumbai, with 92 billionaires
4. Beijing with 91 billionaires
5. Shanghai with 87 billionaires

According to a recent report by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Indian service sector exports grew by 11.4 per cent to \$345 billion in the calendar year 2023(January-December).

According to the UNCTAD, the service sector export in the world grew by 8.9% in 2023 and reached US\$ 7.9 trillion in 2023.

The main reason for the growth in the service sector export was the growth in the International travel sector. The travel service sector export grew by 40%.

The transport sector recorded a negative growth of 12 per cent.

According to the report, Services, many of which can be traded digitally, recorded a growth of over 7% in each quarter of 2023.

India is the 7th largest exporter of services in the world. The United States is the largest service exporter in the world, followed by the United Kingdom.

According to UNCTAD, India was the 9th largest service-importing country in the world. The United States was the leading service importer country in the world, followed by China.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS UNION BUDGET 2024-25

The Union Budget 2024-25:

On 23 July 2024, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the 7th consecutive budget of her tenure. Like last year, this budget is also a paperless budget

What is a budget?

According to Article 112 of the Constitution, the annual financial statement is called the Union Budget of the year

On 7 April 1860, the country's first budget was presented by the Finance Minister of the British Government, James Wilson

Union Budget: 2024-2025

After independence, the country's first budget was presented by the first Finance Minister R.K. Shanmukham Chetty on 26 November 1947

In 1958-59, the then Prime Minister of the country, Jawaharlal Nehru, presented the budget. At that time, the Finance Ministry was with him. He became the first Prime Minister of the country to do so.

The first woman to hold the post of Finance Minister and present the budget was Indira Gandhi and the second woman is Nirmala Sitharaman.

Till 2016, the budget was presented on the last day of February, but from 2017, the budget started being presented on 1 February

In 2017, the Railway Budget was merged with the General Budget

In 2020, Nirmala Sitharaman gave the budget speech from a tablet Had read

In 2020 Nirmala Sitharaman gave a budget speech of 2 hours 40 minutes

In 1977 H.M. Patel presented an interim budget of 800 words

9 priorities of the government in the budget:

1. Agriculture
2. Employment
3. Social Justice
4. Manufacturing and Service
5. Energy
6. Urban Development
7. Infrastructure
8. Innovation-Research and Development
9. Next Generation Reform

Focus on 4 main castes:

1. 'Poor'
2. 'Women'
3. 'Youth'
4. 'Annadaata'

Theme:

The theme of Union Budget 2024-25 is **"EMPLOYMENT"**.

E: Employment and Education

M: MSMEs

P: Productivity

L: Land

O: Opportunities

Y: Youth

M: Middle Class

E: Energy Security

N: New Generation Reforms

T: Technology

The Modi government has set a target to make India a developed country or a Vikshit Bharat by 2047

Agriculture and Allied Sectors

Allocation of **Rs 1.52 lakh crore for 2024-25.**

Allocation to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (Rs 60,000 crore), Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (22,660 crore), Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (14,600 crore) and Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Yojana (Rs 6,437 crore).

The target is to include **one crore farmers in Natural Farming.**

Ten thousand need-based bio-input resource centres will be set up for natural farming.

A Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Kharif crops will be started in 400 districts of the country to assess crop yields.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture will be implemented in three years to cover farmers and their lands.

Six crore farmers and their land details will be brought under farmer and land registries.

Jan Samarth-based Kisan Credit Cards will be enabled in 5 states. Jan Samarth is an online platform that connects lenders with beneficiaries.

New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops are to be released for cultivation by farmers.

The government will continue to work to achieve self-sufficiency in oil seeds such as mustard, groundnut, sesame, soybean, and sunflower. India is the world's largest edible oil importer, and it meets around 58 % of its edible oil requirements through imports.

The government will provide financial support to set up a Network of Nucleus Breeding Centres for Shrimp Broodstocks.

The National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development(NABARD) will facilitate shrimp farming, processing, and export financing.

Prime Minister Package for Employment, Skilling and Manufacturing in India

The budget announced five schemes and initiatives under the Prime Minister Package to boost employment opportunities, skilling, and the manufacturing sector in the economy.

Scheme 1

First Timers

The government will provide one month's wage in three instalments to workers who have joined the organised sectors.

The criteria are that the employee must be registered with EPFO(Employees Provident Fund Organisation), and the maximum salary shall be Rs 1 lakh.

The maximum benefit is Rs 15,000.

Scheme 2

Job Creation in the Manufacturing sector

Incentives will be provided to the employee and the employer for their EPFO contribution in the first four years of employment.

Scheme 3

Support to employers

To encourage job creation, the government will re-reimburse the employer Rs 3,000 per month for 2 years towards their EPFO contribution for new employees they employ. The condition is that the new employee's salary shall be not more than Rs one lakh per month.

Scheme 4

Skilling

1000 ITI (Industrial Training Institute) is to be upgraded through the hub-and-spoke model over five years, with a budgetary allocation of Rs 60,000 crores.

Twenty lakh youths will be skilled over five years.

The Model Skill Loan Scheme will be revised to facilitate loans up to `Rs 7.5 lakh with a guarantee from a government-promoted Fund. This measure is expected to help 25,000 students every year.

Scheme 5

Internship in Top Companies

Internship to one crore youth in the next five years in the top 500 companies of India.

The training period is one year,

The Central government will provide the youth with a stipend of Rs 5000 per month and one-time assistance of Rs 6000.

The Companies will pay for the training and 10 per cent of the internship costs from their CSR(Corporate Social Responsibility) fund.

Education Loan

Education loans up to Rs 10 lakh for higher education studies in India, with an interest subvention of 3 per cent.

Every year, one lakh students will be covered.

This scheme is for students who are not covered under any government scheme.

Purvodaya

A new plan, Purvodaya, will be launched for the all-round development of the eastern region of the country, covering Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

An industrial node at Gaya will be developed along the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

Three crore additional houses are to be built in rural and urban areas of the country.

Women-led Development

More than Rs 3 Lakh crore has been allocated in the budget for schemes benefitting women and girls.

Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan

A new scheme will be launched for the socio-economic development of tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts.

The scheme will cover 63,000 villages and benefit 5 crore tribal people.

Bank Branches in North Eastern Region

One hundred India Post Payment Bank branches will be set up in the northeastern region.

Mudra Loans

The limit of Mudra loans under the 'Tarun' category will be increased to Rs 20 lakh from the present Rs 10 lakh.

This new limit will apply to customers who have repaid their previous loans.

Under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana, micro units seeking loans have been categorised into Shishu, Kishore, and Tarun.

Under the Shishu category, the maximum loan amount is Rs 50,000, while in Kishore, it is more than Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh rupee,

After the announcement in the budget for the Tarun category, the loan amount will be more than Rs 5 lakhs and up to Rs 20 lakhs for certain borrowers.

Industrial Parks

The government, in partnership with the state government and the private sector, will set up in or near 100 plug-and-play industrial parks. These parks will have fully developed infrastructure.

Twelve industrial parks under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme also will be sanctioned.

Critical Mineral Mission

The government will launch a Critical Mineral Mission to increase domestic production, recycle critical minerals, and acquire critical mineral assets overseas.

Urban Housing

Under the PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0, one crore houses are to be built for urban poor and middle-class families in the next five years.

The total investment required Rs 10 lakh crore, and the centre will contribute Rs 2.2 lakh crore in the next 5 years,

Street Markets

New scheme to support the development of 100 weekly 'haats' or street food hubs every year for the next 5 years in select cities.

Research and development of Small and Modular Nuclear Reactors

The government, in partnership with the private sector, will set up Bharat small nuclear reactors.

The government will collaborate with the private sector for research and development of Bharat Small Modular Nuclear Reactor.

Advanced Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plants

NTPC and BHEL will set up a joint venture to set up a full-scale 800 MW commercial plant using Advanced Ultra SuperCritical (AUSC) technology.

Infrastructure investment by Central Government

Central government to spend Rs 11,11,111 crore (3.4 % of GDP) as capital expenditure for the infrastructure sector.

Infrastructure investment by State governments

The central government will provide Rs 1.5 lakh crore interest-free loans to the state governments for investment in infrastructure projects.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

The central government will launch phase IV of PMGSY to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.

Irrigation and Flood Mitigation

The government will assist Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Sikkim for floods, landslides, and other related projects.

Rs 11,500 crore to Bihar to support the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link project and 20 other projects.

Tourism

Comprehensive development of Vishnupad Temple Corridor In Gaya, Mahabodhi Temple Corridor in Bodh Gaya and Rajgir in Bihar

Assistance for developing temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes, and pristine beaches in Odisha.

Research & Development

Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development to be operationalised.

A financing pool of Rs 1 lakh crore will be set up for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at a commercial scale.

Space Economy

A Venture capital fund (VCF) of Rs 1,000 crore will be established to expand the space economy by fivefold in the next ten years.

NPS Vatsalya

A new scheme, NPS Vatsalya, will be launched for minors. The parent of the minor will contribute to the NPS Vatsalya.

When the child attains the age of 18, it can be converted into a normal NPS(National Pension System) account,

Special Provision for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar

Though the Narendra Modi government refused to grant special status to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, it has announced a spate of projects for both states.

Andhra Pradesh

Rs 15,000 crore will be arranged in 2024-25 through multilateral development agencies for the development of Andhra Pradesh's new capital, Amravati.

Full financing for the early completion of the Polavaram irrigation project on the Godavari River.

Funds for the development of infrastructure, such as railways, roads, etc., for the Koppaathy node on the Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and the Orvakal node on the Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.

The central government will provide grants for the backward regions of Rayalaseema, Prakasam, and the North Coastal Andhra area of Andhra Pradesh.

Bihar

The Budget has announced Rs 58,900 crore support to Bihar.

Financial support for Rs 11,500 crore for Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and 20 other ongoing and new schemes, including barrages, river pollution abatement and irrigation projects.

Rs 26,000 crore for four road projects

- (1) Patna-Purnea Expressway,
- (2) Buxar-Bhagalpur Expressway,
- (3) Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Vaishali and Darbhanga spurs and
- (4) additional 2-lane bridge over river Ganga at Buxar.

2400 MW Thermal Power plant projects at Pirpainti cost Rs 21,400 crore.

New airports, medical colleges, and sports infrastructure will be constructed in Bihar.

Central Government Finance 2024-25

The money received by the government through taxes and non-tax sources plus borrowings are called receipts.

Estimated Receipts in 2024-25

Rs 32.07 lakh crore. It doesn't include borrowings. Out of the total estimated receipts the ;

Revenue receipts, including tax and not tax -Rs 31.29 lakh crore

Non Debt capital receipts -Rs 78,000 crore

Expenditure

Total expenditure in 2024-25 -Rs 48.21 lakh crore

Revenue expenditure - ` 37.09 lakh crore (11.4 per cent of GDP).

Capital expenditure: Rs 11,11,111 crore (3.4 per cent of GDP). This also includes Rs. 1,50,000 crore of financial assistance to the States for capital expenditure.

Thus, India's government budget is a deficit budget as its receipts are less than its expenditures.

Deficits of the Government of India

All the figures are in percentage of India's Gross Domestic Product at Market prices.

	Provisional estimates 2023-24	Budget Estimates for 2024-25
Fiscal Deficit	5.6	4.9 or Rs ` 16.13 lakh crore
Revenue Deficit	2.6	1.8
Primary Deficit	2.0	1.4
Tax Revenue (Gross)	11.7	11.8
Central Government Debt	58.2	56.8

Borrowings of the Central Government

The government meets its fiscal deficit through borrowing. The government meets its fiscal deficit by borrowing through its long-term government securities, called dated securities, National Small Savings Funds (NSSF), which invest in special securities of the governments, State Provident Funds, and External borrowings.

Break up of the Borrowing plan for 2024-25

Borrowing through dated securities- gross borrowings target of Rs 14.01 lakh crore and net borrowings Rs 11.63 lakh crore,

Through NSSF- Rs 4.20 lakh crore

Through State Provident Fund - net borrowing of Rs 5000 crore

External Borrowings -Rs 15,952 crore.



Tax Relief and Revised Tax Slabs in New Tax Regime

0-3 lakh rupees	Nil
3-7 lakh rupees	5 per cent
7-10 lakh rupees	10 per cent
10-12 lakh rupees	15 per cent
12-15 lakh rupees	20 per cent
Above 15 lakh rupees	30 per cent

- Income tax saving of up to ₹ 17,500/- for salaried employee in new tax regime

Income Tax Relief for around Four Crore Salaried Individuals and Pensioners

- Standard deduction for salaried employees to be increased from ₹ 50,000/- to ₹ 75,000/-
- Deduction on family pension for pensioners to be increased from ₹ 15,000/- to ₹ 25,000/-

MCQs India's Union Budget 2024-25

Q. In which article of the Indian Constitution is the annual financial statement mentioned?

- A) Article 112
- B) Article 118
- C) Article 122
- D) Article 144

Answer : A

Q. When was the country's first budget presented by James Wilson, the Finance Minister of the British Government?

- A) 1870
- B) 1875
- C) 1860
- D) 1890

Answer : C

Q. Which budget of her tenure has Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented in July 2024?

- A) First
- B) Seventh
- C) Eighth
- D) Ninth

Answer : B

Q. Who presented the first budget of independent India?

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- B) Rajendra Prasad
- C) B. R. Ambedkar
- D) R. K. Shanmukham Chetty

Answer : D

Q. In which year did Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman give the longest budget speech ever?

- A) 2021
- B) 2022
- C) 2020
- D) 2019

Answer : C

Q. Which main castes have been focused on in Budget 2024?

- A) Annadaata
- B) Poor
- C) Women
- D) Youth
- E) All of the above

Answer : E

Q. How many priorities has the government mentioned in Budget 2024?

- A) 08
- B) 10
- C) 09
- D) 12

Answer : C

A) Employment
B) Skill training
C) MSME
D) Middle class
E) All of the above

Q. What percentage of expenditure has been made by the government on defence?

A) 8% B) 4%

C) 3% D) 2%

Q. How much budget has been provided by the government for the defence sector?

A) Rs 4,54,773 crore B) Rs 5,54,773 crore
C) Rs 6,54,773 crore D) Rs 3,54,773 crore

Q. How much budget has been provided by the government for the education sector?

A) Rs 3,25,638 crore
B) Rs 7,25,638 crore
C) Rs 1,25,638 crore
D) Rs 2,25,638 crore

Q. How much budget has been provisioned for farmers and agriculture sector in Budget 2024?

A) Rs 1.52 lakh crore
B) Rs 2.52 lakh crore
C) Rs 3.52 lakh crore
D) Rs 4.52 lakh crore

Q. What has been the growth rate of India in the financial year 2024?

A) 8.2% B) 7.5%

C) 2.8% D) 9.8%

Q. What is the fiscal deficit in FY 2024?

A) 1.3% B) 5.6%

C) 8.8% D) 9.5%

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Q. How much budget provision has been made for women and girls?

- A) 9 lakh crore rupees
- B) 8 lakh crore rupees
- C) 7 lakh crore rupees
- D) 3 lakh crore rupees

Answer : D

Q. What percentage of income tax will be levied on income of Rs 3 to 7 lakh in the new tax regime?

- A) 5%
- B) 8%
- C) 4%
- D) 9%

Answer : A

Q. In the new tax regime, what percentage of income tax will be levied on income of Rs 7 to 10 lakh?

- A) 5%
- B) 8%
- C) 4%
- D) 10%

Answer : D

Q. Duty on phones and chargers has been reduced to what percentage?

- A) 15%
- B) 4%
- C) 8%
- D) 12%

Answer : A

Q. How many industrial parks have been approved under the National Industrial Corridor Development Program?

- A) 18
- B) 25
- C) 35
- D) 12

Answer : D

Q. Which scheme will be launched for the development of Bihar, Jharkhand, Bengal, Odisha and Andhra?

- A) Purvodaya Scheme
- B) Success Scheme
- C) Sarvodaya Scheme
- D) Gyanodya Scheme

Answer : A

Q. How much package has been provided to Bihar in Budget 2024?

- A) 41000 crores
- B) 78000 crores
- C) 52000 crores
- D) 70000 crores

Answer : A

Q. What is the total resources transferred to the States in the Budget 2024-25, including devolution, grants, loans, etc.?

A) 22,22,264 crore

B) 4,13,848 crore

C) 2,97,328 crore

D) 44,90,486 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ In the fiscal year 2024-25, resources transferred to states, including devolution, grants, loans, and centrally sponsored schemes, amount to 22,22,264 crore (22.22 Lakh Crore).
- ✓ This represents a noteworthy increase of 4,13,848 crore over the Actuals of FY 2022-23.

Q. What is the percentage increase in Effective Capital Expenditure in Budget 2024-25 over the Revised Estimates for 2023-24?

A) 15.2%

B) 17.7%

C) 20.5%

D) 14.3%

Answer : B

- ✓ The effective capital expenditure for 2024-25 is projected at ₹14,96,693 crore, showcasing a substantial increase of 17.7% over the RE for 2023-24.

Q. Which category accounts for the highest expenditure in the Budget for 2024-25?

A) Pension

B) Interest

C) Defence

D) Tax Administration

Answer : B

- ✓ With ₹11,90,440 crore allocated, managing interest payments remains a critical component of fiscal planning.

Q. What is the projected fiscal deficit for the fiscal year 2024-25 as a percentage of Nominal GDP?

A) 5.1%

B) 2.0%

C) 3.0%

D) 1.5%

Answer : A

- ✓ The fiscal deficit for 2024-25 is projected at ₹16,85,494 crore, constituting 5.1% of the Nominal GDP

Q. Which sector receives the highest allocation in the Budget for 2024-25?

A) Education

B) Transport

C) Rural Development

D) Defence

Answer : D

- ✓ Defence Ministry receives the highest allocation with ₹6.1 lakh crore.

Q. What is the budget estimate for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program (MGNREGA) in the fiscal year 2024-2025?

- A) ₹60,000
- B) ₹80,000
- C) ₹86,000
- D) ₹90,000

Answer : C

- ✓ Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Program: ₹86,000 crore.

Q. What is the budget estimate for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY) in 2024-2025?

- A) 60,000 crore
- B) 80,671 crore
- C) 79,590 crore
- D) 54,103 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna (PMAY): ₹80,671 crore

Q. How much is allocated for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan) in the Revised Estimates for 2023-2024?

- A) ₹60,000
- B) ₹58,254
- C) ₹40,000
- D) ₹50,000

Answer : A

- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi: ₹60,000 crore

Q. How much is allocated for the Urea Subsidy in the year 2024-2025?

- A) ₹1,19,000
- B) ₹1,31,100
- C) ₹1,28,594
- D) ₹1,65,217

Answer : A

- ✓ Urea Subsidy: ₹1,19,000 crore

Q. What is the proposed budget allocation for the Scheme for Bhutan in the fiscal year 2024-2025?

- A) ₹2,467 crore
- B) ₹2,401 crore
- C) ₹2,399 crore
- D) ₹2,069 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ The government has allocated 2,069 Crore amount for the Scheme for Bhutan in the proposed budget, reflecting its commitment to bilateral relations and cooperation with Bhutan

Q. What is the proposed budget allocation for the Scheme for Nepal in the fiscal year 2024-2025?

- A) ₹434 crore
- B) ₹550 crore
- C) ₹650 crore
- D) ₹700 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ The government has earmarked 700 Crore amount for the Scheme for Nepal in the proposed budget, emphasizing the ongoing support and collaboration between India and Nepal
- ✓ **Other Allocation**
- ✓ Nepal – ₹700 crore
- ✓ Sri Lanka – ₹245 crore
- ✓ Seychelles – ₹30 crore
- ✓ Bhutan – ₹2,068.56 crore
- ✓ Myanmar – ₹250 crore
- ✓ Mauritius – ₹370 crore
- ✓ Mongolia – ₹5 crore
- ✓ Bangladesh – ₹80 crore
- ✓ Afghanistan – ₹200 crore
- ✓ Maldives – ₹400 crore

Q. What is the proposed budget allocation for the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) in the fiscal year 2024-2025?

- A) ₹1,683 crore
- B) ₹2,000 crore
- C) ₹1,501 crore
- D) ₹1,701 crore

Answer : C

- ✓ The government has allocated 1,501 Crore amount for NIIF in the proposed budget, aiming to support infrastructure development and investment in strategic projects

Q. What is the allocated budget for the Education sector in the fiscal year 2024-2025?

- A) ₹1,24,638 crore
- B) ₹1,30,000 crore
- C) ₹1,15,500 crore
- D) ₹1,40,000 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ Education: A significant allocation of ₹1,24,638 crore underscores the importance of investing in education for national progress

Q. What is the increased limit for mudra loans?

- A) Rs 10 Lakh
- B) Rs 15 Lakh
- C) Rs 20 Lakh
- D) Rs 25 Lakh

Answer : C

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

The economic survey is prepared under the guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser of the Finance Ministry.

The present Chief Economic Adviser is Dr. V Anantha Nageswaran.

First Economic Survey of India was presented in the year 1950-51. Up to 1964, it was presented along with the Union Budget. From 1964 Onwards, it has been delinked from the Budget.

What are the Key Takeaways from the Economic Survey for 2023-24?

State of the Economy:

- **Real GDP Growth:** India's real GDP grew by 8.2% in FY24, surpassing the 8% mark in three out of four quarters of FY24.
- **Retail Inflation:** Retail inflation decreased from 6.7% in FY23 to 5.4% in FY24.
- **Current Account Deficit (CAD):** The CAD improved to 0.7% of GDP in FY24 from 2.0% in FY23.
- **Tax Revenue:** Direct taxes contributed 55% of the total tax revenue, with indirect taxes making up the remaining 45%.
- **Capital Spending:** The government progressively increased capital expenditure and provided free food grains to 81.4 crore people.

Monetary Management and Financial Intermediation – Stability is the Watchword

Monetary Policy: The RBI maintained a steady policy repo rate at 6.5% throughout FY24.

Consequently, Core inflation declined by around 4% from April 2022 to June 2024.

Credit Growth: Credit disbursement by Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) reached Rs 164.3 lakh crore, growing by 20.2% by March 2024.

Banking Sector: Gross and net non-performing assets are at multi-year lows, and bank asset quality has improved.

- Data from the RBI's Financial Stability Report of June 2024 show that the asset quality of SCBs has improved, with the Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) ratio declining to 2.8% in March 2024, a 12-year low.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code has been recognised as an effective solution for the twin balance sheet problem, in the last 8 years, 31,394 corporate debtors involving a value of Rs 13.9 Lakh Crore have been disposed off as of March 2024.
- Twin Balance Sheet Problem refers to heavily indebted corporations and banks burdened with bad loans, creating a vicious cycle hindering economic growth.

Capital Markets: Primary capital markets facilitated capital formation of Rs 10.9 lakh crore, approximately 29% of the gross fixed capital formation of private and public corporates in FY23.

Insurance and Microfinance: India is poised to become one of the fastest-growing insurance markets and has the second-largest microfinance sector globally.

Prices and Inflation – Under Control:

Inflation Trends:

- 29 States and Union Territories recorded inflation below 6% in FY24.
- Core services inflation eased to a nine-year low in FY24
- Food inflation increased from 6.6% in FY23 to 7.5% in FY24.
- Price cuts on LPG, petrol, and diesel helped in keeping retail fuel inflation relatively low.

Future Projections: The RBI forecasts inflation to decline to 4.5% in FY25 and 4.1% in FY26.

External Sector – Stability Amid Plenty:

- **Exports:** India's services exports grew by 4.9% to USD 341.1 billion in FY24, with significant contributions from IT/software and other business services.

- **Remittances:** India remains the top global recipient, with remittances totaling USD 120 billion in 2023.
- **External Debt:** India's external debt to GDP ratio stood at 18.7% as of March 2024.
- **Logistics Performance:** India's rank in the World Bank Logistics Index improved to 38th in 2023 from 44th in 2014.
- **Tourism:** India's share in world tourism receipts increased from 1.38% in 2021 to 1.58% in 2022.

Medium-Term Outlook – A Growth Strategy for New India:

- **Growth Strategy:** To sustain a 7%+ growth rate, a tripartite compact between the Union Government, State Governments, and the private sector is required.
- **Key Focus Areas:** Job and skill creation, agriculture, MSME bottlenecks, green transition, and addressing the education-employment gap are crucial for medium-term growth.

Climate Change and Energy Transition – Dealing with Trade-Offs:

- **Renewable Energy:** As of May 2024, non-fossil sources accounted for 45.4% of installed electricity generation capacity.
- **Energy Needs:** India's energy needs are projected to grow 2 to 2.5 times by 2047.
- **Investment in Clean Energy:** The clean energy sector attracted investments of Rs 8.5 lakh crore between 2014 and 2023.

Social Sector – Benefits that Empower:

- **Welfare Expenditure:** Grew at a CAGR of 12.8% between FY18 and FY24.
- **Healthcare:** Over 34.7 crore Ayushman Bharat cards have been issued.
- **Housing:** 2.63 crore houses constructed under PM-AWAS-Gramin in the past 9 years.
- **Rural Infrastructure:** 15.14 lakh km of roads constructed under the Gram Sadak Yojana since 2014-15.

Employment and Skill Development – Towards Quality:

- **Unemployment Rate:** Declined to 3.2% in 2022-23.
- Net payroll additions under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) have more than doubled to 13.15 million in the past five years, indicating robust growth in formal employment.
- **Youth Unemployment:** Fell from 17.8% in 2017-18 to 10% in 2022-23.
- **Female Labor Force Participation:** Rising for six consecutive years (37.0% currently).
- **Gig Economy:** Workforce expected to reach 2.35 crore by 2029-30.

Agriculture and Food Management

- **Agricultural Growth:** The sector registered an average annual growth rate of 4.18% at constant prices over the last five years.
- **Credit and Micro Irrigation:** Credit disbursed to agriculture amounted to Rs 22.84 lakh crore.
- 90 lakh hectares covered under micro-irrigation since 2015-16.
- **Kisan Credit Cards:** 7.5 crore cards issued with a Rs 9.4 lakh crore limit.

Industry – Small and Medium Matters:

- **Industrial Growth:** Economic growth of 8.2% in FY24 is supported by an industrial growth rate of 9.5%.
- **Pharmaceutical and Clothing Sectors:** India's pharmaceutical market is the world's third-largest by volume, valued at USD 50 billion.
- It is the second-largest clothing manufacturer globally, with textile and apparel exports reaching Rs 2.97 lakh crore in FY24.
- **Electronics Manufacturing:** India's electronics sector accounts for an estimated 3.7% of the global market share.
- Domestic production increased to Rs 8.22 lakh crore, with exports rising to Rs 1.9 lakh crore in

FY23.

Services – Fuelling Growth Opportunities:

- **Sector Contribution:** The services sector accounted for 55% of the economy in FY24 and grew by 7.6% during the year.
- **Digital Services:** India's share in global digitally delivered services exports increased to 6% in 2023.
- Globally, India's services exports constituted 4.4% of the world's commercial services exports in 2022 & accounted for 44% of India's total exports in FY24.
- **Aviation:** 15% YoY increase in total air passengers in FY24.
- **E-commerce:** Expected to cross USD 350 billion by 2030.
- **Start-ups:** Increased from around 2,000 in 2014 to approximately 31,000 in 2023.

Infrastructure – Lifting Potential Growth:

- **National Highways:** The pace of National Highways construction increased from 11.7 km per day in FY14 to approximately 34 km per day by FY24.
- **Railways:** Capital expenditure on Railways increased by 77% over the past five years.
- **Aviation:** 21 new airport terminal buildings operationalised in FY24.
- **Logistics:** Rank in the International Shipments category improved to 22nd in 2023 from 44th in 2014.
- **Space:** India has 55 active space assets, including 18 communication, 9 navigation, 5 scientific, 3 meteorological, and 20 earth observation satellites.
- **Digital Infrastructure:** The DigiLocker platform has over 26.28 crore registered users and over 674 crore issued documents.
- **Telecommunication:** The overall teledensity (number of telephones per 100 population) in India increased from 75.2% in March 2014 to 85.7% in March 2024.
- The internet density also increased to 68.2% in March 2024.

Climate Change and India:

- Current global strategies for climate change are flawed and not universally applicable.
- The Western approach does not seek to address the root of the problem, i.e., overconsumption, but rather chooses to substitute the means to achieve overconsumption.
- A one-size-fits-all approach will not work, and developing countries need to be free to choose their own pathways.
- India's ethos emphasises a harmonious relationship with nature, in contrast to the culture of overconsumption in other parts of the developed world.
- Shifting towards 'traditional multi-generational households' could pave the way towards sustainable housing.
- "Mission LiFE" focuses on human-nature harmony, promoting mindful consumption rather than the overconsumption that lies at the root of the global climate change problem.

PARIS OLYMPICS 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

The 33rd Summer Olympics ended on 11 August 2024, when the International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, accompanied by the athletes and French swimmer Leon Marchand, extinguished the Olympic flame in the host city of Paris, France.

The Olympic flag was handed over to the city of Los Angeles, USA, which will host the next 34th Summer Olympics in 2028.

The Olympics games are held every four years, starting with the 1896 Athens Olympics.

Los Angeles will host its third Summer Olympics having been hosted in 1932 and 1984.

Paris also hosted its third Summer Olympics, having hosted in 1900, 1924, and 2024.

Manu Bhaker and PR Sreejesh were the Indian flag bearers at the closing ceremony.

Badminton player PV Sindhu and table tennis player Sharath Kamal were the Indian flag bearers at the opening ceremony.

Unlike the opening ceremony, which was held in the open on the River Seine, the closing ceremony was held in France's biggest stadium, Stade de France, in Paris.

3rd Best Indian Performance at the Paris Olympics

India, which sent a 117-member sportspersons team to the Paris Olympics, won only six medals: one silver and five bronze. Six Indian players finished in fourth position, missing the bronze medal by a whisker.

This was the third-best finish for India at the Summer Olympics.

India's best performance in the Olympics was at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, where India won seven medals—one gold, two silver and four bronzes.

India's second-best performance was in the 2012 London Olympics when it won six medals—two silver and four bronze.

Indian Medal Winner at the Paris Olympics

India finished the Paris Olympics with 6 medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics - 1 silver and 5 bronze medals.

Serial number	Players	Event	Medal
1	Manu Bhaker	Women's 10m air pistol	Bronze
2	Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh	10m air pistol Mixed Team Shooting	Bronze
3	Swapnil Kusale	Men's 50m rifle 3 Positions	Bronze
4	Men's Hockey Team	Men's Hockey	Bronze
5	Neeraj Chopra	Javelin	Silver
6	Aman Sehrawat	Wrestling 57 kg freestyle	Bronze
Total			6 medals

Overall Medal Tally at the 2024 Paris Olympics

The United States led the medal tally at the Paris Olympics with 126 medals. India was 71st with 6 medals.

Position in Medals Tally	Country	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Total Medal
1	United States of America	40	44	42	126

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2	China	40	27	24	91
3	Japan	20	12	13	45
4	Australia	18	19	17	53
5	France	16	26	22	64
71	India	0	1	5	6

Recap of the 2024 Paris Olympics

The Paris Olympics was held from 26 July to 11 August 2024.

For the first time, the opening ceremony of the Summer Olympics ceremony was held not in a stadium but in the open. The parade was held on boats floating on the River Seine, along which Paris city lies.

At the 2024 Paris Olympics, athletes from the territories of 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team participated.

Total number of sports, 32 and 48 disciplines, in the Paris Olympics.

329 medal events.

Breaking sport introduced for the first time in the Olympics

First-time medal winner country in the Summer Olympics

Albania: Chermen Valiev bronze medal in men's 74kg freestyle wrestling

Cape Verde: David de Pina, bronze in men's 51 kg boxing

Dominica: Thea LaFond , gold in women's triple jump

Saint Lucia: Julien Alfred, gold in women's 100m meter

Refugee Olympic Team: Cindy Ngamba, bronze medal in women's 75kg boxing. She is a refugee from Cameroon

First-time country has won a Gold Medal in the Summer Olympics

Botswana: Letsile Tebogo in 200 meters

Dominica: Thea LaFond in women's triple jump

Guatemala: Adriana Ruano Oliva in shooting

Saint Lucia: Julien Alfred in women's 100 meters race.

Mascot and Motto of the 2024 Paris Olympics

Mascot -Olympic Phryge - based on traditional French Phrygian Hat. Its colours were blue, white and red, reflecting the colour of the French Flag.

Motto-.Alone, we go faster, but together, we go further.

PARIS OLYMPIC 2024

Aman Sehrawat became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal after he won a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg wrestling event at the Paris Olympics.

Hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and pistol shooter Manu Bhaker will be the co-flag bearers for India at the closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

Neeraj Chopra has won the Silver Medal in the men's javelin throw event with a best throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics.

Indian men's hockey team led by Harmanpreet Singh won the bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics, beating Spain 2-1.

In a heartbreak for women's wrestler Vinesh Phogat and India, she has been disqualified from the 2024 Paris Olympics.

She was to compete in the final of the women's 50 kg category on 7 August 2024. Phogat was disqualified for being overweight in her category.

she was overweight by 100 grams

Novak Djokovic won the men's singles gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz .

The 33rd Summer Olympics opened with a first-of-its-kind opening ceremony in the French capital city of Paris on 26 July 2024.

It is the third time Paris is hosting the Summer Olympics, having hosted in 1900,1924 and now in 2024.

The 2024 Paris Olympics Mascot is Olympic Phryge.

Alone we go faster, but together we go further,” is the motto of the Paris Olympics and the Paralympic Games.

Breaking, Surfing, sports climbing, and Skateboarding are the four new sports to be included in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.

Manu Bhaker of Haryana opened the medal account for India at the 33rd Summer Olympics, being held in Paris, France. She won the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol event.

Shooter Manu Bhaker teamed up with Sarabjot Singh to win the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team shooting event.

Shooter Swapnil Kusale of Maharstra won a bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 Positions.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed 2012 London Olympics bronze medalist shooter Gagan Narang as the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian team for the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.

PV Sindhu, the badminton ace, has been chosen as the female flag bearer for the Indian contingent.

Sharath Kamal, the veteran table tennis player, will serve as the male flag bearer.

Ace India shooter Manu Bhaker has been named India's flag bearer for the closing ceremony at the Paris Olympics 2024.

PARIS PARALYMPICS 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

The 17th Paris Paralympics came to an end on 8th September 2024 with a glittering ceremony at the Stade de France stadium in Paris, France. The 17th Paralympics was organised by the International Paralympics Committee in the French capital city of Paris from 28 August -8 September 2024.

The 18th Summer Paralympics will be held in Los Angeles, the United States of America in 2028.

The Paralympics are held after the Olympic Games. The 33rd Summer Olympics, organised by the International Olympic Committee, was held in Paris from 26 July to 11 August 2024.

India ended the 2024 Paris Paralympics with a record 29 medals, breaking the record of 19 medals set at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.

Navdeep Singh's silver medal was upgraded to gold after the gold medal winner, Iranian Beit Sayah Sadeh, was disqualified in the javelin throw F41 class.

China topped the medal tally with 220 medals, while India was at the 18th position.

Harvinder Singh and Preethi Pal, Indian flag Bearer

Harvinder Singh and Preethi Pal were the Indian flag bearers at the closing ceremony of the Paris Paralympic Games.

Sumit Antil and Bhagyashri Jadhav were the Indian flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Paralympics Games,

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Harvinder Singh was the first ever Indian archer to win a gold medal for India in a Paralympics Games.

Preethi Pal is the first Indian women para-athlete to win two medals in track and field at the Paralympics. She won bronze medals in the 100-meter and 200-meter T 35 events at the Paris Paralympics.

Indian Achievements at the Paris Paralympics

- Shooter Avani Lakhera won the first gold medal for India at the Paris Paralympics.
- Avani Lakhera became the first Indian to defend her gold medal in the Paralympic Games. She won gold in the SH1 shooting event at the Tokyo and Paris Paralympics.
- Sunil Antil became the first Indian male para-athlete to defend his gold medals in the Paralympic Games. He successfully defended his Tokyo title by winning the gold medal in Paris in the javelin F64 class.
- High jumper Mariyappan Thangavelu became the first Indian para-athlete to win medals at three consecutive Paralympics. In the high jump T42 class event, he won the gold medal in Rio 2016, silver in Tokyo 2020, and bronze in Paris 2024.
- India won a gold and silver medal in an athletics event in a single edition of the Paralympics for the first time. Dharambir won gold, while Parnav Soorma won the silver medal in the men's club throw F51 event.

Medal winners of India at the Paris Paralympics

India sends a strong 84-member para-athletes team to the Paris Paralympic. India won 29 medals- seven gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze. The details of the winner are as follows;

Serial number	Para-Athletes	Sport	Event	Medal
1	Avani Lakhera	Shooting	Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1	Gold
2	Nitesh Kumar	Badminton	Men's singles SL3 class	Gold
3	Sumit Antil	Athletics	Javelin throw F64	Gold
4	Harvinder Singh	Archery	Men's individual recurve open	Gold
5.	Dharambir	Athletics	Men's club throw F51 class	Gold
6	Praveen Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T 64	Gold
7.	Navdeep Singh	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F41	Gold
8	Manish Narwal	Shooting	Men's 10m air pistol SH1	Silver
9	Nishad Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T47	Silver
10	Yogesh Kathuniya	Athletics	Men's discus throw F56	Silver
11	Thulasimathi Murugesan	Badminton	Women's singles SU5	Silver
12	Suhas Yathiraj	Badminton	Men's singles SL4	Silver
13	Sharad Kumar	Athletics	Men's high jump T63	Silver

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14	Ajeet Singh	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F46	Silver
15	Sachin Khilari	Athletics	Men's shot put F46	Silver
16	Pranav Soorma	Athletics	Men's club throw F51 class	Silver
17	Mona Agarwal	Shooting	Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1	Bronze
18	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 100m T35	Bronze
19	Rubina Francis	Shooting	Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1	Bronze
20	Preethi Pal	Athletics	Women's 200m T35	Bronze
21	Manisha Ramadass	Badminton	Women's singles SU5	Bronze
22	Rakesh Kumar / Sheetal Devi	Archery	Mixed team compound open	Bronze
23	Nithya Sre Sivan	Badminton	Women's singles SH6	Bronze
24	Deepthi Jeevanji	Athletics	Women's 400m T20	Bronze
25	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Athletics	Men's high jump T63	Bronze
26	Sundar Singh Gurjar	Athletics	Men's javelin throw F46	Bronze
27	Kapil Parmar	Judo	Men's Judo -60kg J1 Class	Bronze
28	Hokato Hotozhe Sema	Athletics	Men's shot put F57	Bronze
29	Simran	Athletics	Women's 200m T12	Bronze

India's Medal Tally by Sports

At the 2024 Paris Paralympics, India participated in 12 of the 22 sporting disciplines. For the first time in the Paralympic Games, India participated in para-cycling, para-rowing, and blind judo.

In Paris, India won the most medals in athletics: 17 - gold-7, silver-6, and bronze-7.

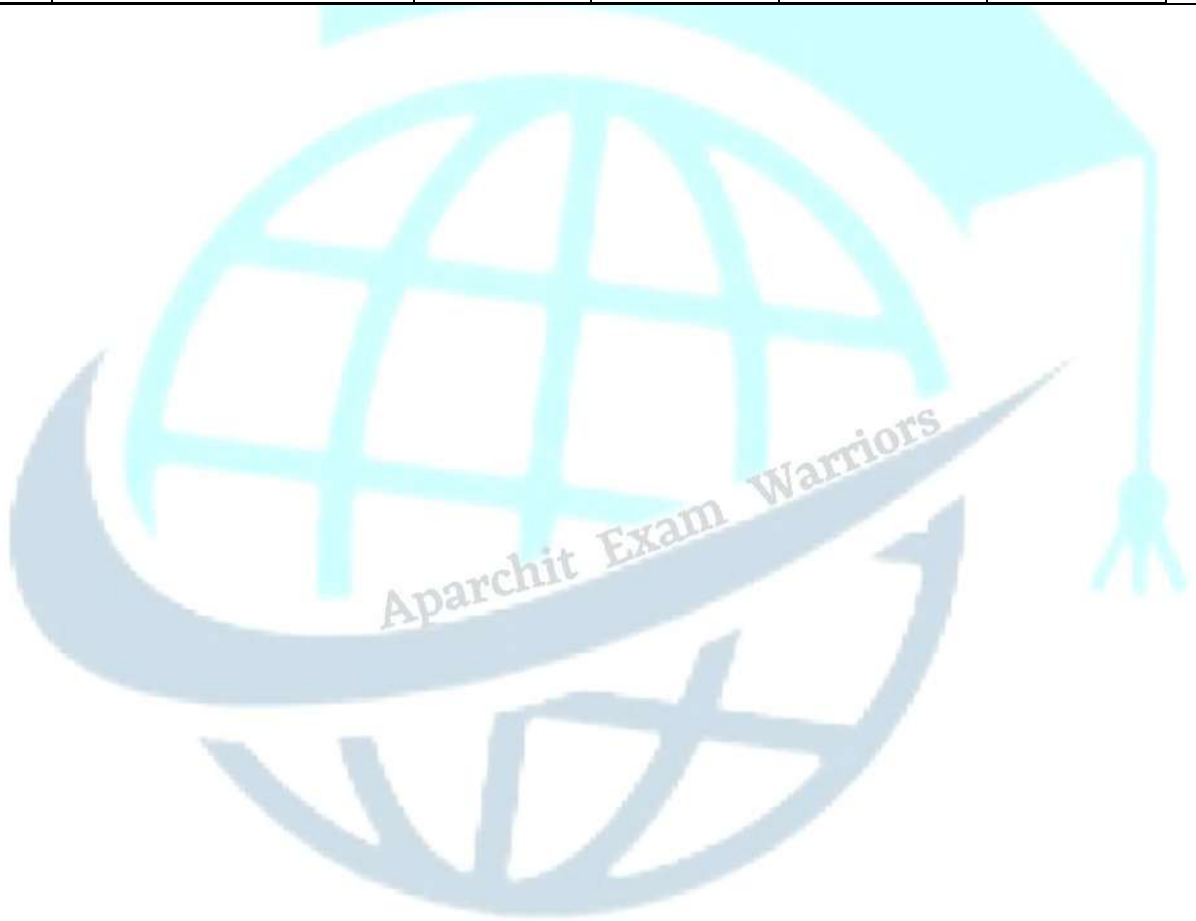
Sport	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Total medal
Athletics	4	6	7	17
Badminton	1	2	2	5
Shooting	1	1	2	4
Archery	1	0	1	2
Judo	0	0	1	1
Total	7	9	13	29

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India at the 18th position in the Medal's Tally

India finished the Paris Paralympics in 18th Place. China topped the medal tally with 220 medals, followed by Great Britain.

Position	Country	Gold Medal	Silver Medal	Bronze Medal	Total Medal
1	China	94	74	50	220
2	Great Britain	49	44	31	124
3	United States of America	36	42	27	105
4	Netherlands	27	17	12	56
5	Brazil	25	26	38	89
18	India	7	9	13	29



Q. How many times RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated A+ by the Central Banker Report Card for his performance?

- A) three
B) twice
C) four
D) five

Answer : B

- ✓ RBI Governor's Shaktikanta Das's performance rated A+ for 2nd consecutive year.
- ✓ For the second consecutive year, the Global Finance Central Banker Report 2024 has rated the performance of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das as A+. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Shaktikanta Das on his feat.
- ✓ On 19 August 2024, Global Finance magazine released the Central Banker Report Cards 2024, which listed the names of Central Bank Governors who earned the highest grades, "A+," "A," or "A—" for their performance.
- ✓ The Report Cards honour those bank leaders whose strategies outperformed their peers through originality, creativity and tenacity."
- ✓ Global Recognition for Shaktikanta Das's Performance
- ✓ The performance of the central bank governors is rated by the Global Finance magazine's "Central Banker Report Cards 2024 on four criteria: controlling inflation, managing interest rates, promoting economic growth, and maintaining stability in the domestic currency's exchange rate.
- ✓ Based on their performance on these four criteria, the central bank governors are given grades on an A+ to F scale. A+ is the highest grade, representing excellent performance, and F is the lowest grade, denoting complete failure.
- ✓ Three central bank governors - Shaktikanata Das, Christian Kettel Thomsen of Denmark and Thomas Jordan of Switzerland- were rated A+
- ✓ Who releases the Central Banker Report Cards?
- ✓ The Central Banker Report Cards is released annually by the New York, USA-based Global Finance Magazine.
- ✓ The first Central Banker Report Card was released in 1994.
- ✓ The report grades the performance of the central bank governors of nearly 100 key countries, territories, and districts. It also rates the regional central banks like the Central Bank of West African States, the European Union, the Bank of Central African States and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank.

RBI IN NEWS 2024

- RBI has proposed to increase the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) limit for tax payments from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh to help the taxpayers to pay higher tax liability quickly.
- According to National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), for normal UPI the transaction limit is up to Rs 1 Lakh per transaction.
- For few specific categories of transaction in UPI like Capital Markets, Collections, Insurance, Foreign Inward Remittances – the transaction limit is up to 2 lakh and for Initial Public Offering (IPO) and Retail Direct Scheme the limit is up to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.
- RBI has decreased the frequency of reporting credit information of borrowers to Credit Information Companies (CIC) to 15 days from a 30-day period.
- This will be effective from January 1, 2025.

- Reserve Bank of India's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) increased to 445.5 at the end of March 2024, marking a 12.6% Year-on-Year (Y-o-Y) increase compared to March 2023 across all parameters. It was 418.77 in September 2023 and 395.57 in March 2023.
- About RBI-DPI:
- The RBI introduced the RBI-DPI in January 2021, with March 2018 as the base year, to estimate the digitization of payments across India.
- Index Parameters: The index is composed of five broad parameters:
 - Payment Enablers (weight – 25%)
 - Payment Infrastructure Demand-side factors (10%)
 - Payment Infrastructure Supply-side factors (15%)
 - Payment Performance (45%)
 - Consumer Centricity (5%).
- Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) met on August 6 to 8, 2024 and released its third Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25) which continues to expect India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to grow at 7.2% in the Financial Year 2024-25(FY25).
- The August FY25 meeting was RBI's 50th MPC meeting.
- The Repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) was kept unchanged at 6.50% for the 9th consecutive time.
- The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during October 7 to 9, 2024.
- RBI Monetary Policy Rate
- Policy Repo Rate : 6.5%
- Fixed Reverse Repo Rate : 3.35%
- Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate : 6.25%
- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate : 6.75%
- Bank Rate : 6.75%
- Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) : 4.50%
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) : 18%.
- RBI has projected the real GDP growth for FY26 is projected at 7.2%.
- RBI Issued 'Fit & Proper' Certificates to 3 Potential Suitors for IDBI Bank.
- The potential suitors are Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, Toronto(Canada); Emirates NBD Bank, Dubai(the United Arab Emirates(UAE)) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), Mumbai(Maharashtra).
- RBI issued revised instructions on Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve (BDDR) for co-operative banks to ensure uniformity in the treatment of this reserve for prudential purposes.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Master Directions on the Treatment of Wilful Defaulters and Large Defaulters, under which banks and Non-Banking Financial.
- Companies (NBFCs) are required to scrutinize all Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts which have outstanding amounts of Rs 25 lakh and above for wilful default. These directions will come into effect after 90 days from the date of publication
- L&T Finance Limited, a subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro(L&T) Ltd, Receives RBI Certificate for NBFC Investment and Credit Company(NBFC-ICC) Status.
- RBI has extended the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for short-term loans availed through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for agriculture and allied activities for the Financial Year 2024-25(FY25).
- This announcement was made after the approval of Government of India (GoI) for continuation of interest subvention scheme for short-term loans of up to Rs 3 lakh.
- RBI announced the commencement of Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrB) trading at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat during the second half of Financial Year 2024-25 (FY25),

- Sangam Sir (Kumar Kaushal Sir), [07-09-2024 18:56]
- RBI has constituted a 10 member expert committee chaired by Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI, to benchmark its regularly disseminated statistics against global standards and best practices.
- RBI has approved the conversion of Tata Capital Limited's (TCL) from a Non- Banking Finance Company (NBFC)-Core Investment Company (CIC) to an NBFC-Investment Credit Company (ICC).
- RBI has imposed monetary penalties namely Catholic Syrian Bank (CSB)Limited, Union Bank of India(UBI).
- CSB Bank :- A penalty of Rs 1.86 crore has been imposed on CSB Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Guidelines on Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks' and 'Master Circular on Branch Authorisation'.
- UBI:- It has been fined Rs 1.06 crore for non-compliance with certain norms on 'Creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures-Across Banks' and 'Know Your Customer (KYC)'.
- RBI has imposed monetary penalties on Bank of Maharashtra of Rs 1.27 crore for non-compliance with the 'Loan System for Delivery of Bank Credit', 'Cyber Security Framework in Banks', and 'Know Your Customer' (KYC) guidelines.
- RBI granted approval to IndusInd Bank Limited to set up a wholly owned subsidiary to undertake the asset management business of Mutual Funds(MF).
- RBI modified its electronic mandate (e-mandate) framework to include the auto- replenishment of balances in FASTag and the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC),effective immediately.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced its 'Unified Lending Interface (ULI)' technology platform across India.
- The ULI platform simplifies credit appraisals, especially for small and rural borrowers, by enabling seamless, consent-based digital information flow, such as land records, PAN (Permanent Account Number), Aadhaar, and credit histories, between service providers and lenders.
- RBI cancelled the Certificate of Registration (CoR) issued to the Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh,UP)-headquartered Margdarshak Financial Services Limited (MFSL) due to high net
- Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) and repayment defaults to lenders.
- RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 1.25 lakh on the Gujarat based Valsad Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank Limited for non-compliance with the directions
- RBI allows resident Indians to open Foreign Currency Accounts in IFSC, Gujarat under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS).
- Reserve Bank of India has permitted banks to use ratings by Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited for loans of up to Rs 250 crore
- RBI has joined Project Nexus, a multilateral initiative aimed at enabling instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).
- Project Nexus aims to connect the FPSs of four Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand; and India.
- RBI Announces SAARC Currency Swap Framework For 2024-27.The total corpus of the Rupee support is ₹250 billion.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted two variable rate reverse repo (VRRR) auctions totaling ₹44,430 crore, aiming to absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system.
- RBI unveils ambitious reform agenda for centenary celebrations in 2035, charts out 14-point action plan.
- RBI to set up digital payments intel platform after cyber frauds spike over 700%.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has unveiled three major initiatives: the Pravaah portal, the Retail Direct Mobile App, and a FinTech Repository.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied a penalty of Rs 36.38 lakh on HSBC Limited for breaching regulations outlined in the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

- RBI imposed penalties on ICICI Bank and YES Bank.
- ICICI Bank has been fined Rs 1 crore for its improper loan practices.
- YES Bank has been penalized Rs 91 lakh for charging customers for not maintaining minimum balances in savings accounts.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to Quant Mutual Fund (MF) to increase its stake in RBL Bank to 9.98% by May 12, 2025.
- RBI has lifted restrictions on Bank of Baroda's BoB World app, allowing immediate customer onboarding.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines for Small Finance Banks (SFBs) seeking to transition into Universal Banks, providing a pathway for conversion.
- To be eligible for conversion, SFBs must have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,000 crore.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a comprehensive master direction for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), which will come into effect from April 24, 2024.
- ARCs are required to maintain a minimum capital of Rs 300 crore, a significant increase from the previous requirement of Rs 100 crore set on October 11, 2022. Existing ARCs are given a transition period until March 31, 2026, to meet this new minimum requirement.
- ARCs with a minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs 1000 crore are eligible to act as resolution applicants.
- 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'.
- The central bank has also imposed a penalty of ₹49.7 lakh on LIC Housing Finance for breach of norms.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- Founded : 1 April 1935
- RBI Nationalised : 1 January 1949
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- RBI set up : Hilton Young Commission
- 1st Governor : Sir Osborne Smith (Australia)
- 1st Indian Governor : CD Deshmukh
- 25th Governor : Shaktikanta Das
- RBI Deputy Governor (4)
- 1. Tavana Rabi Sankar
- 2. Michael D Patra
- 3. M Rajeshwar Rao
- 4. Swaminathan Janakiraman
- FIVE SUBSIDIARIES OF RBI :
- 1. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC)
- 2. Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)
- 3. Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT)
- 4. Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS).
- 5. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)
- India has four currency note printing presses.
- Nashik in Maharashtra and Dewas in Madhya Pradesh owned by govt of India.
- Mysuru in Karnataka and Salboni in West Bengal owned by RBI.
- Coins are minted in four mints owned by the Government of India.
- Mumbai, Hyderabad, Calcutta and Noida

Q. Which is the top-ranked Indian company in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list?

- A) Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) B) State Bank of India (SBI)
C) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) D) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)

Answer : D

- ✓ RIL top-ranked Indian Company on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List
- ✓ Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) maintained its status as the top-ranked Indian company in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list. Nine Indian companies were included in the 2024 list, with RIL improving its rank from 86 to 88.
- ✓ Only eight Indian companies were included in the list in 2023, and HDFC Bank was included for the first time this year.
- ✓ Companies are ranked on the Fortune Global 500 by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ending on or before March 31, 2024.
- ✓ The 2024 Fortune Global 500 List was released by the global multi-platform media company Fortune on 5 August 2024. American company Walmart retained its top position on the list for the 11th consecutive year.

RIL IN NEWS 2024

- Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) maintained its status as the top-ranked Indian company in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list.
- Nine Indian companies were included in the 2024 list, with RIL improving its rank from 86 to 88.
- Three Indian companies -Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Tata Group and the Serum Institute of India have been included in the annual Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies of 2024.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the first Indian company to surpass Rs 10 lakh crore in annual revenue.
- Reliance Industries to begin construction on India's first multimodal logistics park near Chennai.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is set to develop a global economic hub in Navi Mumbai, having secured sub-leases on approximately 3,750 acres of land for Rs 13,400 crore
- 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 and Reliance Foundation have launched the 'Vantara' (Star of the Forest) programme to support animal welfare.
- The Vantara initiative, led by Anant Ambani, aims to rescue, treat, care for, and rehabilitate injured, abused, and endangered animals across India and other parts of the world.
- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)
- Founded : 8 May 1973
- Founder : Dhirubhai Ambani
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,

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- 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. Which company has been ranked as Number 1 in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list?

- A) Walmart
- B) Amazon
- C) Apple
- D) Saudi Aramco

Answer : A

- ✓ For the 11th consecutive year, the American company Walmart has topped the Fortune Global 500 list. Saudi Arabian company Aramco remained the most profitable global company.
- ✓ **Top 10 Fortune Global 500 List**

Rank	Company	Country
1	Walmart	United States
2	Amazon	United States
3	State Grid	China
4	Saudi Aramco	Saudi Arabia
5	Sinopec	China
6	China National Petroleum	China
7	Apple	United States
8	UnitedHealth Group	United States
9	Berkshire Hathaway	United States
10	CVS Health	United States

Q. Which Indian company has been included in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list for the first time?

A) ICICI Bank

B) Rajesh Export

C) Tata Motors

D) HDFC Bank

Answer : D

✓ Only eight Indian companies were included in the list in 2023, and HDFC Bank was included for the first time this year.

✓ **Indian Companies on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 List**

Serial Number	Company	2024 rank	2023 rank
1	Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)	86	88
2	Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)	95	107
3	Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	116	94
4	State Bank of India (SBI)	178	235
5	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	180	158
6	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	258	233
7	Tata Motors	271	337
8	HDFC Bank	306	Not included
9	Rajesh Export	473	353

HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2024

- HDFC Bank has revised its Marginal Cost of Lending Rate (MCLR) effective September 7, 2024. The updated MCLR rates now range between 9.10% and 9.45% per annum.
- HDFC Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JLR India for auto financing.
- HDFC Bank has introduced GIGA, a new suite of financial products and services specifically designed for gig workers and freelancers in India.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the HDFC Bank group to acquire an “aggregate holding” of up to 9.5% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in six banks.
- These banks are:
 - Axis Bank
 - Suryoday Small Finance Bank
 - ICICI Bank
 - Bandhan Bank
 - YES Bank
 - IndusInd Bank.
- The digital investing platform SmartWealth has been launched by HDFC Bank.
- With SmartWealth, you can invest in mutual funds, bank deposits, stocks, and bonds for potentially superior returns without any hassle.
- 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.
- Atanu Chakraborty’s re-appointment as part-time Chairman of HDFC Bank for three years, effective from May 5, 2024, to May 4, 2027, has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- 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 is the first bank to cross the milestone of 2 crore credit cards-in-force.
- HDFC Bank & Atal Innovation Mission Empower Social Sector Start-Ups with Rs 19.6 Crore Grants.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved HDFC Bank’s sale of a 90% stake in HDFC Credila to ChrysCapital and BPEA EQT .
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

Q. With reference to the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The scheme offers a maximum deposit facility of up to Rs 5 lakh in the name of women or girls.
2. The maturity period is 2 years and partial withdrawal is not allowed under the scheme.
3. There is a provision for multiple account opening under this scheme.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : A

- ✓ The Centre is unlikely to extend the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme that was made available for two years beyond its March 2025 deadline, according to official sources.
- ✓ About Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC) Scheme:
- ✓ This is a one-time scheme announced in Budget 2023 and will remain available for a two-year period, i.e., up to March 2025.
- ✓ It is a risk-free scheme dedicated towards women and girls of all age groups.
- ✓ The scheme offers a maximum deposit facility of up to Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for a tenure of 2 years.
- ✓ Benefit: It will encourage more women to adopt formal financial saving instruments.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ Any individual women.
- ✓ The minor account can also be opened by the guardian.
- ✓ Investment:
- ✓ The deposit amount under this scheme is limited.
- ✓ A minimum of Rs. 1000 and any sum in multiples of one hundred rupees may be deposited in an account subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 lakhs.
- ✓ Interest Rate: It offers a fixed interest rate of 7.5 percent. Interest shall be compounded on a quarterly basis and credited to the account.
- ✓ The Maturity period/Lock-in period of the scheme is 2 years from the date of opening of the account.
- ✓ However, the account holder can withdraw up to 40% of the account balance after one year from the account opening date as a partial withdrawal.
- ✓ There is a provision for multiple account opening under this scheme with a condition that a woman can open a second MSSC account after a minimum gap of three months from the opening of the existing account.
- ✓ However, the total deposit, including all the accounts, should not exceed Rs 2 lakh.
- ✓ There are no tax benefits.
- ✓ Notable banks offering the scheme include the State Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Canara Bank, and Central Bank of India.
- ✓ Bank of India is the first public sector bank to launch the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate.

Q. UGRO Capital, a data-tech non-banking financial company (NBFC) has entered into a co-lending partnership with which institution for lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)?

A) SEBI

B) SIDBI

C) NABARD

D) Exim Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ UGRO Capital, SIDBI ink co-lending partnership
- ✓ UGRO Capital, a data-tech non-banking financial company (NBFC) has entered into a co-lending partnership with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for lending to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- ✓ The partnership is in accordance with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) co-lending framework, designed to leverage the strengths of banks and NBFCs to boost priority-sector lending.

- ✓ UGRO Capital uses data-driven co-lending to offer bespoke finance solutions to over 78,000 MSMEs in India.

SIDBI IN NEWS 2024

- Manoj Mittal has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- SIDBI to build \$1 b fund for green financing with \$215 m from Green Climate Fund.
- Airbus and SIDBI partner to promote helicopter financing in India.
- SIDBI Partners with KarmaLife to Offer Micro Loans for Gig Workers.
- SIDBI Releases Impact Study 'Prabhaav' on Fund of Funds for Startups.
- The scheme has facilitated investments totaling approximately ₹17,534 crore in 938 distinct startups.
- SIDBI has secured \$24.5 million from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for its inaugural anchored project, the Avaana Sustainability Fund (ASF), valued at \$120 million
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- Founded : 1990
- Headquarters : Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- Chairman & MD (CMD) : Manoj Mittal.
- The SIDBI was established on April 2, 1990, by Government of India, as a wholly owned subsidiary of IDBI Bank .

Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director of the National Housing Bank?

- A) Mallikarjuna Rao B) Sanjiv Chadha
C) Sanjay Shukla D) Lingan Venkat Prabhakar

Answer : C

- ✓ Sanjay Shukla assumes charge as MD of the National Housing Bank.
- ✓ Sanjay Shukla assumed charge as the Managing Director of the National Housing Bank.
- ✓ According to the National Housing Bank, Sanjay Shukla assumed the office after the government of India approved his name
- ✓ About National Housing Bank
- ✓ The National Housing Bank (NHB) is a statutory body set up on 9 July 1988 under the provisions of the National Housing Bank Act 1987. It is the apex housing refinancing institution in India.
- ✓ It comes under the Union Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ Owner of NHB
- ✓ Initially, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) owned the National Housing Bank, but in March 2019, its ownership was transferred from the RBI to the Government of India.
- ✓ At present, the Government of India is the 100 per cent owner of the National Housing Bank.
- ✓ Functions of NHB
- ✓ The National Housing Bank has supervisory power over the Housing Finance Company registered as NBFC with RBI.
- ✓ It has the power to audit the books of the Housing Finance Company
- ✓ NHB does not provide loans directly to an individual. It provides direct loans to public agencies directly or in partnership with private developers under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) for the development of eligible Housing projects.

NEWLY APPOINTED BANK'S MD & CEO 2024

- Sanjay Shukla assumes charge as MD of the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- RBI approves reappointment of Govind Singh as MD and CEO of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank.
- KV Subramanian appointed as Federal Bank MD & CEO for 3 year

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- 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).
- ADB and Government of India have agreed to provide a \$200 million loan to bolster flood and riverbank erosion risk management measures along the 650 km long main stem of the Brahmaputra river situated in the state of Assam.
- Asian Development Bank will provide a \$ 23 million loan to the Government of India to set up an International Fintech Institute at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT-City) in Gujarat.
- 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.

Q. With reference to the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It provides medium- to long-term debt financing facilities for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
2. It is mandatory for borrowers to contribute at least 50% of the total project cost under the scheme.
3. Credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only 1&2	B) Only 1&3
C) All three	D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ The government recently expanded the scope of the Agricultural Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme to make it more attractive, as part of its objective to strengthen farm-related infrastructure facilities in the country.
- ✓ About Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) Scheme:
- ✓ It is a Central Sector Scheme which was launched in 2020.
- ✓ Objective: The scheme shall provide a medium- to long-term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.
- ✓ The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2032 (10 years).

Answer : A

- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accomplished a decade, marking a significant milestone in financial inclusion.
- ✓ About Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):
- ✓ Launch date: August 28, 2014
- ✓ Objective: To promote financial inclusion by providing access to financial services, including banking/savings accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, and pensions, affordably.
- ✓ Significance: Forms the backbone for several government economic initiatives and facilitates Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs).
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ The applicant should be an Indian National.
- ✓ The applicant should be aged between 18 and 65 years.
- ✓ If minors above ten years apply, they will require support from their legal guardians to administer their PMJDY account.
- ✓ Jan Dhan Account:
- ✓ An individual can open an account under this scheme with any bank branch or Business Correspondent (Bank Mitra) outlet.
- ✓ Accounts opened under PMJDY can be opened with zero balance. However, if the account holder wishes to get a chequebook, she/he will have to fulfil the minimum balance criteria.
- ✓ The account holders under this scheme will be given a RuPay debit card which can be used across all ATMs for cash withdrawal.
- ✓ Scheme highlights:
- ✓ Zero-balance accounts: Accounts can be opened with no minimum balance requirement.
- ✓ RuPay debit card: Provides a free RuPay debit card with in-built accident insurance coverage.
- ✓ Accident insurance: Up to ₹2 lakh.
- ✓ Life insurance: Up to ₹30,000 for eligible first-time account holders.
- ✓ Overdraft facility:
- ✓ Up to ₹10,000 is available to one account per household, with an additional ₹5,000 loan after six months of satisfactory account activity.
- ✓ Coverage focus: 6% of accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas, with 55.6% of account holders being women.
- ✓ Banking access: 95% of inhabited villages have banking facilities within a 5 km radius.
- ✓ Recent developments:
- ✓ Account growth:
- ✓ Accounts increased from 72 crore in March 2015 to 53.13 crore by August 2024.
- ✓ Deposits in PMJDY accounts surged from ₹15,670 crore (March 2015) to over ₹2.31 lakh crore (August 2024).
- ✓ Financial Year 2024-25 target: The government aims to open an additional 3 crore PMJDY accounts.
- ✓ Operative accounts: Out of 173 crores CASA accounts in the country, over 53 crores are PMJDY accounts, with an 80% operation rate.

Q. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) observed its 10th anniversary on which date?

- A) 28 August 2024
- B) 29 August 2024
- C) 30 August 2024
- D) 27 August 2024

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Government Flagship Programme PMJDY completes 10 years.
- ✓ The world's largest financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completed 10 years on 28 August 2024.

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- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched by the government of India on 28 August 2014 with the aim of bringing the unbanked population within the formal banking system.
- ✓ History of the PMJDY
- ✓ The government of India launched the Swabhiman campaign in 2010 as part of its National Mission for Financial Inclusion.
- ✓ The Dr Manmohan Singh government launched the Swabhiman scheme on the recommendation of the 2009 RBI's High-Level Committee on Lead Bank Scheme, which was headed by Usha Thorat.
- ✓ It aimed to provide banking facilities to unbanked areas with a population of 2000 or more by March 2012(based on the 2001 census). Its goal was to open at least one bank account per family in identified unbanked areas.
- ✓ The Swabhiman Scheme was later renamed Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and officially launched on 28 August 2014.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is a comprehensive financial inclusion programme of the government which aims to encourage saving habits amongst the public by opening bank accounts, access to cheap credit, fund transfer facilities, insurance facilities and pension facilities.
- ✓ Following are the features of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
- ✓ Open a bank account for every adult who doesn't have a bank account.
- ✓ A specially designed Basic Saving Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) is offered with no minimum balance requirement.
- ✓ According to the RBI, a person can open only one BSBDA account in a Bank.
- ✓ A free RuPay Debit card is provided to the PMJDY account holder.
- ✓ The RuPay Debit card under PMJDY provides accidental death insurance coverage of Rs two lakhs to the account holder.
- ✓ A Rs 10,000 overdraft facility is available to eligible account holders.
- ✓ PMJDY accounts are eligible to receive funds from the government under their Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme,
- ✓ PMJDY offers two insurance schemes: Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY),
- ✓ It also provides a pension scheme through the Atal Pension Yojana.
- ✓ Slogan- "Mera Khaata, Bhagya Vidhata".
- ✓ Achievements of the PMJDY scheme
- ✓ According to the Union Ministry of Finance, the following are the PMJDY's achievements as of 14 August 2024.
- ✓ The total number of account holders was 53.13 crore, of which 55.6 per cent, or 29.56 crores, were women, and 66.6 per cent, or 35.37 crores, Jan Dhan accounts were in rural and semi-urban areas.
- ✓ The total deposit under PMJDY Accounts was Rs 2,31,236 crore.
- ✓ The average deposit per account is Rs. 4,352.
- ✓ 36.14 crore RuPay debit cards issued

Q. What is the minimum duration of central government employment under the Unified Pension Scheme to get the benefit of Pension?

A) 10 years	B) 12 years
C) 15 years	D) 20 years

Answer : A

- ✓ Unified Pension Scheme to replace National Pension System in India.

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, in a meeting held on 24 August 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Unified Pension System (UPS) for its employees. The new scheme will replace the existing National Pension System (NPS).
- ✓ The National Pension System was mandatory for central government employees except for the armed forces, which joined the service on 1 January 2004. Later, many state governments implemented the NPS for their employees.
- ✓ Implementation of the Unified Pension Scheme
- ✓ According to the government of India the Unified Pension Scheme is proposed to be implemented from 1 April 2025.
- ✓ Feature of the New Unified Pension Scheme
- ✓ The new Unified Pension Scheme will have an assured pension with inflation indexation benefits and greater contributions from the central government. The National Pension System was a contributory pension scheme, where the pension amount depended upon the contributions made by the employees and the employers. It was not an assured pension scheme.
- ✓ Mains points of the Unified Pension Scheme:
- ✓ A person who has worked for the central government for at least 10 years is eligible for a pension.
- ✓ The minimum assured pension will be Rs 10,000 per month.
- ✓ Central Government employees with at least 25 years of service will get an assured pension of 50 per cent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to retirement.
- ✓ Pension will be proportionate to the duration of the employee's employment.
- ✓ Family members will get 60% of the employee's pension immediately before her/his demise.
- ✓ The benefit of inflation indexation is that the pension amount will be increased based on the increase in the inflation rate.
- ✓ The scheme will use the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for inflation indexation purposes.
- ✓ After retirement, the employee will get a lump sum amount according to a fixed formula

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, a flagship initiative to provide affordable credit to micro and small enterprises:

1. The borrowers can avail loans from Non-Banking Financial Companies also, under this scheme.
2. The minimum amount of loan that a borrower can get under the scheme is Rs. 50000.
3. There is no direct subsidy under this scheme.
4. The maximum amount of loan that a borrower can get under the scheme is Rs. 10 lakhs.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only	B) 3 and 4 only
C) 1, 2 and 3 only	D) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer : C

- ✓ The Union Budget 2024 has increased the loan limit under the scheme's Tarun category to Rs 20 lakh, targeting those who have successfully repaid previous MUDRA loans.
- ✓ About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)
- ✓ It is a flagship initiative by the Government of India that was launched in 2015 and aimed at providing affordable credit to micro and small enterprises.
- ✓ The scheme is designed to "fund the unfunded," enabling small borrowers to secure loans from various financial institutions including Public Sector Banks (PSBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Cooperative

Banks, Private Sector Banks, Foreign Banks, Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

- ✓ Categories of Loans:
- ✓ Shishu: Loans up to ₹50,000, aimed at new and micro enterprises.
- ✓ Kishore: Loans ranging from ₹50,000 to ₹5 lakh, for businesses in the growth phase.
- ✓ Tarun: Loans from ₹5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, for businesses looking to expand further.
- ✓ However, the Union Budget 2024 has increased the loan limit under the scheme's Tarun category to Rs 20 lakh, targeting those who have successfully repaid previous MUDRA loans.
- ✓ Subsidy: There is no direct subsidy under PMMY. However, if a loan is linked to a government scheme that provides capital subsidies, the loan can be availed under PMMY with the associated benefits.

Q. With reference to the Unified Pension Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It promises to government employees a guaranteed lifelong monthly pension.
2. There is a provision of minimum pension of ₹10,000 per month for those who complete at least 10 years of central government service.
3. The scheme is non-contributory like the OPS, which will put a burden on the Government's exchequer.
4. Employees do not have the option to switch from NPS to UPS.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1, 3 and 4 only D) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer : A

- ✓ The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) was introduced by the government on August 24, 2024, replacing the 21-year-old National Pension System (NPS) with a structure closely resembling the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).
- ✓ Key Features of the Unified Pension Scheme:
- ✓ Guaranteed pension: The UPS promises government employees 50% of their last drawn pay as a lifelong monthly pension.
- ✓ Dearness relief: The pension includes a periodic dearness relief hike in line with inflation trends.
- ✓ Family pension: In the event of a government employee's death, the family is assured a pension equivalent to 60% of the employee's pension.
- ✓ Superannuation payout: A lump sum payment in addition to gratuity benefits will be provided at the time of retirement.
- ✓ Minimum pension: A minimum pension of ₹10,000 per month is assured for those who complete at least 10 years of central government service.
- ✓ Contributions under the UPS:
- ✓ The scheme is contributory, requiring:
- ✓ Employees are to contribute 10% of their salary.
- ✓ The government is to contribute 18.5% of the salary.
- ✓ The government's contribution may be adjusted based on periodic actuarial assessments to ensure the scheme's sustainability.
- ✓ Transition from NPS to UPS:
- ✓ National Pension System (NPS): Originally implemented for employees joining on or after January 1, 2004, the NPS linked pension payouts to the accumulated contributions from both the government and employees, invested in market-linked securities.

- Q.** Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) has signed an agreement with which bank to provide financing for solar units to residential and corporate customers?
- A) ICICI Bank B) HDFC Bank
- C) UCO Bank D) Yes Bank

- ✓ Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) has signed an agreement with ICICI Bank to provide financing for solar units to residential and corporate customers.
- ✓ As part of the agreement, the customers can avail themselves of loans up to Rs 90 lakh with collateral-free options and tenure extending up to 5 years.
- ✓ They can also get higher loans with collaterals with tenures of up to 20 years, said TPSSL, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL).
- ✓ The customers can avail themselves of flexible down-payment option at 20-25 per cent of the loan amount, making it easier for them to invest in solar energy.

- Narayanan Vaghul, renowned banker and former Chairman of ICICI Bank, died.
- Vaghul was awarded the Padma Bhushan, India's third highest civilian honour, in the trade and industry category in 2010.
- He was also awarded The Economic Times Lifetime Achievement Award in 2006.
- He was also the Chairman of Give India, one of India's NGOs.
- Narayanan Vaghul had released his memoir, called 'Reflections' .
- A career banker who started his journey with the State Bank of India, became the youngest chairman of a state-run lender – Bank of India – at 44.
- Narayanan Vaghul, architect of modern banking in India.
- Vaghul is considered as the 'Bhishma Pitamah' of banking in the country.
- Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd (TPSSL) has signed an agreement with ICICI Bank to provide financing for solar units to residential and corporate customers.
- ICICI Bank has extended a debt facility worth Rs. 2,675 crore to Tata Steel for a period of three years.
- ICICI Bank has launched the 'Student Saphiro forex card' a forex prepaid card for students going abroad for higher education.
- ICICI Bank became the sixth Indian company to surpass \$100 billion market capitalisation, as its stock surged to an all-time high.
- ICICI Bank Launches 'SmartLock' To Lock/Unlock Banking Services.
- ICICI Bank, India's second-largest private lender, admitted a data glitch that affected nearly 17,000 newly issued credit cards.
- ICICI Bank became the 6th Indian company to achieve a market capitalisation of \$100 bn after Reliance, TCS, HDFC, Bharti Airtel, and Infosys
- ICICI Bank enables NRI customers to use international mobile number to make UPI payments in India.
- State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank, two of India's top three lenders, are expected to act as local intermediaries for European banks in a plan for third-party clearing.
- HDFC Bank and its group companies have received RBI approval to acquire up to 9.5% stake in ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, Indusland Bank, Yes Bank , Bandhan Bank and Suryoday SFB.
- 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.

- Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (₹) in tie-up with YES Bank
- 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 appointed as the 27th chairman of the State Bank of India?

- A) Subir Gokarn
B) Kamalesh Chandra Chakrabarty
C) M Rajeshwar Rao
D) Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

Answer : D

- ✓ CS Setty takes over as the 27th Chairman of SBI.
- ✓ Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, or CS Setty, became the 27th Chairman of India's largest commercial bank, State Bank of India (SBI), on 28 August 2024. He succeeded Dinesh Khara, who retired after the closing of banking hours on 28 August 2024.
- ✓ John Matthai was the first chairman of SBI to be appointed in 1955 after the nationalisation of the Imperial Bank of India in 1955 under the State Bank of India Act 1955. The Imperial Bank of India was also renamed the State Bank of India.
- ✓ Dinesh Khara was appointed chairman of the SBI in October 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic for three years, which the government extended by one year. Khara retired after attaining the maximum age limit for a chairman of the SBI, which is 63.
- ✓ According to the provisions of the State Bank of India Act 1955, the Chairman of SBI is appointed by the government of India in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). However, in reality, the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) under the Union Ministry of Finance conducts interviews for the post of Chairman and recommends the names to the government of India.
- ✓ Tenure of SBI Chairman
- ✓ According to the State Bank of India Act 1955, the chairman's tenure can be a maximum of five years. The government of India has also fixed 63 years as the chairman's retirement age. The government of India can specify the chairman's tenure.
- ✓ CS Setty has been appointed for a term of three years, starting 28 August 2024.
- ✓ About CS Setty
- ✓ CS Setty started his career at the SBI as a probationary officer in 1988. In a career that has lasted over thirty years, Setty has worked in diverse fields of corporate credit, retail, digital, and international banking.
- ✓ Setty was the SBI Managing Director, heading Global Markets & Technology, before being appointed chairman of the bank.
- ✓ The State Bank of India's origins can be traced to the establishment of the Bank of Calcutta in 1896, which was renamed the Bank of Bengal in 1806. The Bank of Bombay was set up in 1840, and the Bank of Madras in 1843. All these banks were merged in 1921 to create the Imperial Bank of India, which was formed in 1921.
- ✓ The State Bank of India Act 1955 was enacted, and the government of India nationalised the Imperial Bank of India.
- ✓ As of date, the government of India holds a 57.6% share of SBI

SBI IN NEWS 2024

- FSIB recommends Rama Mohan Rao Amara as the new Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), filling the vacancy created by C S Setty's elevation as chairman. Amara is currently the Deputy Managing Director of SBI.
- State Bank of India (SBI) raised Rs 7,500 crore through a Basel III compliant tier 2 bond issue:
- Coupon rate: 7.42% .
- Tenor: 15 years .
- Call option: After 10 years and each anniversary after that .
- Bond type: Non-convertible, taxable, redeemable, subordinated, unsecured, fully paid-up .
- Face value: Rs 1 crore each
- Investor response: SBI received bids for over Rs 8,800 crore from provident funds, pension funds, and banks.
- Adani Group has committed a 51% stake in the Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIAL) to the State Bank of India (SBI), securing a funding facility of INR 12,770 crore for the airport's construction.
- SBI is planning to sell its 24 per cent stake in YES Bank, worth Rs 18,420 crore (\$2.2 billion) by the end of March 2025.
- State Bank of India's (SBI) net profit for the first quarter of 2024-25 was up 0.89% to ₹17,035.16 crore.
- Jakson Engineering Limited has signed an MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) to set up solar projects to a wide range of consumers across commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a 444-day term deposit scheme, "Amrit Vrishti", with an interest rate of 7.25 per cent.
- HSBC India has entered a bancassurance agreement with Mumbai-based firm SBI General Insurance.
- SBI raised Rs. 10,000 crore today at a coupon rate of 7.36% through its sixth infrastructure bond issuance.
- SBI has introduced an online loan facility against mutual fund (MF) units through its internet banking (INB) and YONO App.
- Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB) has selected Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI).
- State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced "MSME Sahaj," a revolutionary online business loan solution tailored for MSMEs.
- According to the State Bank of India, Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, the bank plans to open 400 branches in India in the 2024-25 financial year.
- SBI has launched 'SME Digital Business Loans', offering end-to-end sanction turnaround time of up to 45 minutes for SMEs.
- SBI sanctioned ₹2,030 cr under co-lending tie-up with NBFCs.
- SBI becomes 7th company to cross Rs 8 lakh crore market capitalisation.
- SBI crossed the Rs 8 lakh crore mark after the bank's shares surged by 9 per cent during a rally in the stock market, hitting an all-time high of Rs 912.
- 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.
- 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.
- STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI)
- Founded : 1 July 1955
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Challa Sreenivasulu Setty

- 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. Which e-commerce company has launched its artificial intelligence (AI)-powered shopping assistant 'Rufus' in India?

A) Flipkart	B) Amazon India
C) Snapdeal	D) Tata Neu

Answer : B

- ✓ Ecommerce major Amazon India has launched its artificial intelligence (AI)-powered shopping assistant 'Rufus' in India.
- ✓ Rufus is currently available in beta mode in India, and available only to some customers.
- ✓ The assistant can help shoppers get product recommendations, access shopping list advice, compare product categories and see what other customers have said in response to their specific questions.

Q. Which of the following best describes Finternet, recently in the news?

- A) It is a technology to search outer planets.
- B) It is a new financial management system developed by the World Bank.
- C) It is an optical fiber technology to connect Gram Panchayats in India.
- D) It is multiple financial ecosystems interconnected with each other

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the ex-chairman of UIDAI described the idea of 'Finternet' at the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) in Mumbai.
- ✓ It is multiple financial ecosystems interconnected with each other – much like the internet.
- ✓ It would lower barriers between different financial services and systems, drastically reducing the complex clearing and messaging chains and other frictions that hinder the financial system.
- ✓ Working: Finternet would be built on unified ledgers which will bring multiple financial markets such as tokenized assets, shares, bonds, real estate, on a single programmable platform.
- ✓ This has the capability to enable individuals and businesses to transfer any financial asset they like, in any amount, at any time, using any device, to anyone else, anywhere in the world. Financial transactions would be cheap, secure, and near-instantaneous

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) block mechanism:

1. It is a facility that allows trading with blocked amounts similar to the Application Supported by Blocked Amount system.
2. It helps clients to trade in the secondary market based on blocked funds in their bank accounts.

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

- ✓ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed a mandatory Unified Payments Interface (UPI) block mechanism facility for secondary market trading using the UPI-based block mechanism to their clients.
- ✓ It is similar to the Application Supported by Blocked Amount (ASBA) facility that allows trading with blocked amounts.
- ✓ In the primary market, the facility ensures that money from an investor gets moved only when the allotment is completed.
- ✓ In the UPI block mechanism, clients can trade in the secondary market based on blocked funds in their bank accounts, instead of transferring the funds upfront to the trading member.
- ✓ The facility is currently optional for investors, and not mandatory for Trading Members (TMs) to offer as a service to clients.
- ✓ Significance: It provides enhanced protection to the client's funds and securities.
- ✓ Key facts about Application Supported by Blocked Amount
- ✓ It was first introduced by SEBI in 2008.
- ✓ It is a process for making initial public offerings (IPOs) or rights issue subscriptions.
- ✓ ASBA is a facility provided by banks that allows investors to apply for an IPO or rights issue by blocking the application amount in their bank account instead of transferring the money to the issuer.
- ✓ Under ASBA, the investor's application money remains in their bank account, and only a block is created on the funds for the IPO application amount.
- ✓ This blocked amount remains in the investor's bank account until the allotment process is completed.

Q. Who has been appointed as the 33rd Cabinet Secretary of the Government of India?

A) Govind Mohan

B) TV Somanathan

C) Ajay Kumar Bhalla

D) Pramod Kumar Mishra

Answer : B

- ✓ Rajiv Gauba retires, TV Somanathan takes over as Cabinet Secretary.
- ✓ India's longest-serving cabinet secretary, Rajiv Gauba, retired after five years of service on 30 August 2024.
- ✓ He was replaced by Finance Secretary TV Somanathan.
- ✓ TV Somanathan is the 33rd cabinet secretary of the government of India.
- ✓ Longest serving Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba
- ✓ 1982 batch Jharkhand cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Rajive Gauba was appointed as the cabinet secretary of the government of India on 30 August 2019.
- ✓ He was initially appointed as the cabinet secretary for two years.
- ✓ Normally, a cabinet secretary is appointed for two years.
- ✓ However, the government of India amended the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, and Rule 56(d) of the Fundamental Rules and granted Rajiv Gauba three consecutive annual extensions till 30 August 2024.
- ✓ Before Rajiv Gauba, Pradeep Kumar Sinha was the longest-serving cabinet secretary.
- ✓ 33rd Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan
- ✓ 1987 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre TV Somanathan is the 33rd cabinet secretary.
- ✓ The first cabinet secretary was N R Pillai, who took over the office on 6 February 1950.

- ✓ Before becoming the cabinet secretary, TV Somanathan was the Expenditure Secretary In the Union Ministry of Finance and also held the post of the Finance Secretary.
- ✓ About Cabinet Secretary
- ✓ The Cabinet Secretary heads the Cabinet Secretariat, which is headed by the Prime Minister.
- ✓ The Cabinet Secretary heads the Cabinet Secretariat, is the head of the bureaucracy in India, and is the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.
- ✓ The Cabinet Secretariat is the key administrative body of the Government of India and facilitates smooth transaction of business in Ministries/ Departments.
- ✓ The Cabinet Secretariat coordinates the activities of the various ministries of the Government of India.

NEWLY FAMOUS SECRETARY 2024

- Govind Mohan : Home Secretary
- Rajesh Kumar Singh : Defence Secretary
- Vikram Misri : Foreign secretary
- Deepti Umashankar : Secretary to the President.
- Manoj Govil : Expenditure Secretary
- T V Somanathan : Cabinet Secretary
- Pramod Kumar Mishra : Principal Secretary to Prime Minister
- Sanjay Malhotra : Revenue Secretary
- Tarun Kapoor : Advisor to Prime Minister
- T V Somanathan : Finance Secretary
- Ajay Seth : Economic Affairs Secretary

Q. Who organised the Global Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies 2024?

A) RBI	B) SEBI
C) NPCI	D) CCI

Answer : A

- ✓ 5th Global Fintech Fest Held in Mumbai.
- ✓ The 5th Global Fintech Fest was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra, from 28-30 August 2024. The festival, which started in 2021, aims to establish itself as the premier global conference for the global fintech ecosystem, promote collaboration, and influence the future of the Fintech industry.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 5th Global Fintech Fest on 30 August 2024.
- ✓ Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das and Chairman of Global Fintech Fest (GFF) Kris Gopalakrishnan were also present at the occasion.
- ✓ The Global Fintech Fest is always held in Mumbai.
- ✓ The Global Fintech Fest is organised by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI), the Payment Council of India and the Fintech Convergence Council.
- ✓ The Fintech Convergence Council was established in 2018 and represents the various regulated financial service providers and fintech companies.
- ✓ The Payment Council of India was established in 2013 to serve the needs of the digital payment industry. It includes various non-banking payment industry players, such as prepaid instrument issuers, payment banks, etc.
- ✓ The National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) was established in 2008 as an umbrella organisation for operating retail payment and settlement systems in India under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act of 2007.
- ✓ It is owned by 56 commercial banks in india. NPCI has launched UPI, RuPay Cards, the BHIM app, IMPS, etc.

- ✓ The theme of the 5th Global Fintech Fest was 'Blueprint for the next decade of finance: Responsible AI| Inclusive| Resilient.'
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India organised the Global Conference on Digital Public Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies in Bengaluru on 26-27 August 2024.
- ✓ It was organised as part of its RBI@90 initiative.
- ✓ During his inaugural address, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said the RBI will soon launch the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) technology platform across the nation.
- ✓ About Unified Lending Interface
- ✓ The ULI is expected to make a credit appraisal of a borrower in India seamless.
- ✓ Various authorities, such as the central government, state governments, banks, NBFCs, etc., currently hold the crucial data required by lenders about borrowers (companies, individuals, etc.) for granting loans.
- ✓ As these authorities/institutions are not connected, the lenders often do not get crucial information about the borrowers.
- ✓ The ULI will connect all these authorities online so that the lender has all the crucial data about the borrower for granting loans. The ULI is expected to make loan granting simpler and quicker and also prevent fraud.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Payment Passkey Service:

1. It uses device-based biometric authentication methods like fingerprints.
2. It provides a non-OTP-based solution for transaction management

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

- ✓ Mastercard, a global technology in the payments industry announced the worldwide launch of its new Payment Passkey Service.
- ✓ It uses device-based biometric authentication methods such as fingerprints or facial scans.
- ✓ It will provide customers with a non-OTP-based solution for transaction management.
- ✓ Working
- ✓ Passkeys work using algorithms to encrypt data so users can verify their identity fast and securely.
- ✓ When users first sign into an account, their device creates a pair of keys: one that is public and shared with the website to validate the passkey, and one that is private on your device to unlock the passkey to access your account.
- ✓ And it can work across devices from the same operating system: If you set up a passkey for an app or website on your phone, it can work if you log in from your laptop or tablet.
- ✓ Advantage: By replacing traditional passwords and OTPs, the Mastercard Payment Passkey Service makes transactions not only faster, but also more secure against fraud and scams.
- ✓ Passkeys can be used for payments. Payment passkeys offer a more secure and easier way for cardholders to authenticate themselves during e-commerce transactions on web or merchant apps.

Q. Consumer payments and lending company Slice received approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with which small finance bank?

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank Limited B) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
C) Shivalik Small Finance Bank D) North East Small Finance Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Consumer payments and lending company Slice has received approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB).
- ✓ The NCLT Guwahati bench has sanctioned the scheme of arrangement and amalgamation involving Garagepreneurs Internet Pvt Ltd, Quadrillion Finance Pvt Ltd, Intergalactory Foundry Pvt Ltd, RGVN (North East) Microfinance Ltd, and North East Small Finance Bank.
- ✓ The approval paves way for the official merger, combining slice's digital prowess with NESFB's grassroots banking expertise to deliver a superior financial experience to Indian consumers.

Q. With reference to the Telecommunications Act, 2023, consider the following statements:

1. It supersedes the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Indian Wireless Telegraph Act, 1933.
2. It defines telecom services as the "transmission, emission or reception of any messages, by wire, radio, optical or other electromagnetic systems."
3. It applies to both public and private properties.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ **About Telecommunications Act, 2023:**
- ✓ **Objective:**
- ✓ Modernize and unify laws for the development, expansion, and operation of telecommunication services and networks.
- ✓ Address spectrum assignment and related matters.
- ✓ Replacement of old laws: Supersedes the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, and the Indian Wireless Telegraph Act, 1933, due to advancements in telecom technology.
- ✓ Digital implementation: Promotes digital frameworks, including online dispute resolution.
- ✓ Guiding principles:
- ✓ Inclusion (Samavesh)
- ✓ Security (Suraksha)
- ✓ Growth (Vridhhi)
- ✓ Responsiveness (Tvarit)
- ✓ Key features:
- ✓ Clear definitions: It reduces uncertainties and boosts investor confidence, aiding ease of doing business.
- ✓ Right of Way (RoW) framework: Applies to public and private properties, including government agencies, local bodies, and PPP projects like airports, seaports, and highways. Public entities must grant RoW permission promptly unless there are substantive grounds for refusal.
- ✓ Telecommunication infrastructure: Considered separate from the property it is on, reducing disputes during property transactions.
- ✓ Common ducts and cable corridors: Central Government to establish these in line with the PM Gati Shakti vision.
- ✓ Standards and conformity assessments: Sets standards for telecommunication services, networks, and security to ensure national security and promote Indian technology.
- ✓ Universal service obligation fund: Expanded to support services in underserved areas and fund R&D in telecom services and technologies

Q.

- ### A) Madhya Pradesh

B) Maharashtra

- ### C) Manipur

D) Mizoram

Answer : B

- ✓ ADB commits USD 500 mn loan for improving healthcare in Maharashtra
- ✓ India has signed a loan package of USD 500 million with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve access to quality and affordable tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra.
- ✓ The loan will help establish four medical colleges attached to tertiary care teaching hospitals incorporating climate- and disaster-resilient, gender-responsive, and socially inclusive features in under-served districts.
- ✓ It will increase bed capacity in government tertiary care hospitals and hire at least 500 new doctors for four new governmental medical colleges.
- ✓ Sangam Sir (Kumar Kaushal Sir), [07-09-2024 22:31]
- ✓ Consider the following statements with reference to the Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP):
 1. It is a central sector scheme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
 2. There will be no income ceiling for assistance in setting up projects under PMEGP.
 3. It will be implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

Q.

- A) Only one

B) Only two

- C) All three

D) None

Answer: C

- ✓ KVIC and Department of Posts collaborate to boost PMEGP Implementation across India.
- ✓ About PMEGP:
- ✓ PMEGP is a central sector scheme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- ✓ Objectives:
- ✓ To generate employment opportunities in rural as well as urban areas of the country through setting up of new self-employment ventures/projects/micro enterprises.
- ✓ To bring together widely dispersed traditional artisans, rural and urban unemployed youth and give them self-employment opportunities to the extent possible, at their place.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ Individuals above 18 years of age.
- ✓ There will be no income ceiling for assistance for setting up projects under PMEGP.
- ✓ For setting up of projects costing above 10 lakh in the Manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakh in the Business /Service sector, the beneficiaries should possess at least VIII standard pass educational qualification.
- ✓ Implementing Agency: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

Q.

- A) Shaktikanta Das

B) T V Somanathan

- C) Rajiv Gauba

D) Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer : D

- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman Reviews performance of 5 states RRB in Udaipur.
- ✓ A meeting of the Regional Rural Bank (RRB) operating in 5 states was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on 22 August 2024.
- ✓ The meeting, which reviewed the performance of these regional rural banks, was chaired by the Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and attended by other senior officials.
- ✓ The Udaipur meeting reviewed the performance of nine regional rural banks operating in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
- ✓ Agenda of the Meeting
- ✓ The meeting discussed these bank's financial performance, progress on upgrading digital technology services, fostering business growth in MSME clusters, and deepening financial inclusion in rural areas.
- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman urged these banks to push MUDRA schemes in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh and other aspirational districts of these states. She also directed RRBs to become more customer-friendly and improve performance
- ✓ About Regional Rural Bank
- ✓ Regional Rural Banks (RRB) were established in India in 1975, following the recommendation of the Working Group on Rural Banks, headed by M . Narasimham, to provide banking facilities and cheap credit to people in rural areas.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India regulates the RRB.
- ✓ The first five RRBs were set up on 2 October 1975..
- ✓ The first RRB was Prathama Bank, established in Moradabad (U.P.) and sponsored by Syndicate Bank.
- ✓ The Regional Rural Bank Act was enacted in 1976 and was further amended in 2015.
- ✓ The Regional Rural Banks are owned by the central government, the state government and the sponsoring banks.
- ✓ There are 43 Regional Rural Banks in the country, sponsored by 12 commercial banks operating in 26 states and 3 Union Territories.
- ✓ There is no Regional Rural Bank in Sikkim and Goa.
- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir Bank is the only private-sector bank that has sponsored an RRB.
- ✓ Amongst the 12 public sector banks, only Punjab and Sindh Bank have never sponsored any RRB.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the PM-WANI Scheme:

1. It was launched to democratise broadband access via public Wi-Fi hotspots.
2. Under the Scheme, the Public Data Offices set up Wi-Fi hotspots and provide internet access.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ TRAI has proposed a reduction in broadband rates for Public Data Offices (PDOs) under the PM-WANI scheme to make internet access more affordable and boost the program's success.
- ✓ Background: The Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme was launched in 2020 which aims to democratise broadband access via public Wi-Fi hotspots. However, the program has faced challenges due to the high cost of connectivity charged by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) and Internet Service Providers (ISPs).
- ✓ **Current tariff issues:**
- ✓ PDOs have been charged up to ₹8 lakh annually for Internet leased lines, making the project economically unviable.

- ✓ In contrast, personal broadband connections are available at rates as low as ₹300-400 per month.
- ✓ TRAI's Solution: Proposed tariffs for PDOs under the PM-WANI scheme should be aligned with retail broadband (FTTH) rates to support small-scale PDOs like local shops, kiranawalas, and storekeepers.
- ✓ TRAI plans to review the proposed tariff arrangement after two years, based on the scheme's progress.
- ✓ **Targets vs. Reality:**
- ✓ As of July 2024, there are 207,642 deployed PM-WANI Wi-Fi hotspots, far below the National Digital Communications Policy 2018 target of 5 million by 2020.
- ✓ For Digital India 2030, the target is set at 50 million public Wi-Fi hotspots.
- ✓ The average daily data usage per hotspot has dropped significantly, highlighting the need for tariff rationalization.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Vigyan Dhara Scheme, recently seen in the news:

1. It is a central sector scheme managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) designed to enhance India's Science and Technology (S&T) capabilities through a streamlined approach.
2. Focused interventions will be taken up under the scheme to enhance the participation of women in the field of Science and Technology (S&T).

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

- ✓ Union Cabinet recently approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes merged into a unified central sector scheme called “Vigyan Dhara” under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ✓ About Vigyan Dhara Scheme:
- ✓ It is a new central sector scheme unifying three umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ✓ The scheme has three broad components:
- ✓ Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building,
- ✓ Research and Development and Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment.
- ✓ These three schemes have been merged into the unified scheme ‘Vigyan Dhara’.
- ✓ This initiative, managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), is designed to enhance India's S&T capabilities through a streamlined approach.
- ✓ The proposed outlay for the implementation of the unified scheme ‘Vigyan Dhara’ is Rs.10,579.84 crore during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ✓ The merger of the schemes into a single scheme would enhance efficiency in fund utilization and establish synchronization among the sub-schemes/programs.
- ✓ The primary objective of the 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme is to promote S&T capacity building as well as research, innovation, and technology development towards strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation ecosystem in the country.
- ✓ All the programs proposed under the ‘Vigyan Dhara’ scheme would be aligned with the 5-year goals of DST towards realising the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- ✓ The R&D component of the scheme will be aligned in line with the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

Q. Which if the following are the objectives of National Quantum Mission?

1. Developing intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years
2. Satellite-based secure quantum communications
3. Inter-city quantum key distribution

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer : D

- ✓ India's first quantum computer set for launch under National Quantum Mission.
- ✓ Objective: After a delay of nearly four years, the National Quantum Mission is set to advance India's quantum technologies across four key verticals: quantum computing, communication, measurement and sensing.
- ✓ Funding & Structure: The mission has been allocated nearly ₹6,000 crore, with plans to establish four Section 8 companies under the aegis of premier institutions like IITs and IISc. These companies will spearhead activities across the identified verticals.
- ✓ **About National Quantum Mission (NQM):**
- ✓ The National Quantum Mission (NQM) is a visionary initiative (2023) led by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) to fortify India's research and development in the quantum domain.
- ✓ Over the next eight years (2023-2031), the mission aims to pioneer the development of intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits using cutting-edge platforms like superconducting and photonic technology.
- ✓ Quantum communication: It seeks to establish satellite-based secure quantum communications. It spans a range of 2000 km within India and extends to other countries. It seeks to develop highly sensitive magnetometers in atomic systems and precision atomic clocks for timing, communications, and Navigation.
- ✓ Quantum materials development: It will provide crucial support for the design and synthesis of quantum materials such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures, and topological materials to fabricate advanced quantum devices.
- ✓ Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs): To catalyze research and development, four T-Hubs will be instituted in premier academic and national research and development institutes, with a focus on igniting new knowledge through fundamental and applied research, as well as driving R&D activities forward.
- ✓ Applications: It will find utility across diverse sectors including healthcare, diagnostics, defence, energy and data security.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs):

1. It is a non-governmental entity created by members of a particular industry to help govern themselves.
2. It is not subject to any of the government-imposed regulations.

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

- ✓ Start-ups and MSMEs with technologies and solutions that enhance agricultural productivity and resilience in the face of growing climate variability, resource scarcity and food insecurity.
- ✓ The program is particularly interested in start-ups and MSMEs with solutions that prioritise farmer needs, priorities, and on-farm practices

Q. With reference to the Model Solar Village initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to create one Model Solar Village per district across India.
2. It is implemented by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
3. A revenue village with a population size above 5,000 is eligible to participate in this initiative.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Scheme Guidelines for implementation of 'Model Solar Village' under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana have been notified by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- ✓ It aims to create one Model Solar Village per district across India.
- ✓ Goal: With the goal of promoting solar energy adoption and enabling village communities to become self-reliant in meeting their energy needs.
- ✓ Funding: A total financial outlay of ₹800 crore has been allocated for this component, providing ₹1 crore per selected Model Solar Village.
- ✓ **Criteria:**
- ✓ In order to be considered a village under the competition mode, a village must be a revenue village with a population size above 5,000 (or 2,000 for special category states).
- ✓ The selection process involves a competitive mode where villages are assessed on their overall distributed renewable energy (RE) capacity installed on 6 months after the declaration of the potential candidate by District Level Committee (DLC).
- ✓ The winning village in each district, with the highest RE capacity, will receive a central financial assistance grant of ₹1 crore.
- ✓ Implementation: The implementation of this scheme will be done by State/UT Renewable Energy Development Agency under the supervision of District Level Committee (DLC).
- ✓ Key facts about the PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana
- ✓ In this scheme, the central government will provide 300 units of free electricity per month to its beneficiaries by investing worth ₹75,000 crores.
- ✓ Target: It aims to light up 1 crore households.
- ✓ Under the scheme, Urban Local Bodies and Panchayats shall be incentivised to promote rooftop solar systems in their jurisdictions.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Diamond Imprest Licence:

1. It allows eligible exporters to import cut and polished diamonds.
2. Under this, exporters can import diamonds up to 5 per cent of their average turnover from the past three 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

- ✓ Union Minister of Commerce & Industry announced the introduction of Diamond Imprest Licence at the 40th edition of India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) 2024 organised by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).
- ✓ The licence allows eligible exporters to import cut and polished diamonds, including semi-processed, half-cut, and broken diamonds.
- ✓ Under this exporters can import diamonds up to 5 per cent of their average turnover from the past three years, with a requirement to add 10 per cent value.
- ✓ These imports must be used by the importer and cannot be transferred, even after exports are completed.
- ✓ This licence was earlier there in the foreign trade policy of 2002 and 2009.
- ✓ Significance: This will provide level-playing field for Indian MSME diamond exporters. It will stop flight of investment and also introduce more employment opportunities.
- ✓ Key facts about the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council
- ✓ It was set up by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India (GoI) in 1966.
- ✓ It is one of several Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) launched by the Indian Government, to boost the country's export thrust, when India's post-Independence economy began making forays in the international markets.

Q. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has increased the Ceiling Amount Payable out of Investor Protection Fund (IPF) Trust from Rs 25 lakh to__.

A) 30 lakh

B) 35 lakh

C) 40 lakh

D) 50 lakh

Answer : B

- ✓ The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has increased the maximum amount payable from its Investor Protection Fund (IPF) Trust from Rs 25 lakh to Rs 35 lakh.
- ✓ This limit will be applicable for claims received against the trading members, who have been declared defaulter or have been expelled.
- ✓ NSE established an Investor Protection Fund with the objective of compensating investors in the event of defaulters' assets not being sufficient to meet the admitted claims of investors, promoting investor education, awareness and research.

Q. Who has been appointed as the next Defence Secretary of India?

A) Rajesh Kumar Singh

B) Deepti Umashankar

C) Amardeep Singh Bhatia

D) Chandra Sekhar Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16 August 2024 has approved the appointment of a senior IAS (Indian Administrative Service) officer, Rajesh Kumar, as the next Defence Secretary.
- ✓ The ACC also approved several high-level administrative appointments in various central ministries and departments.
- ✓ All the persons appointed are senior Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers.

- ✓ Newly Appointed Secretaries
- ✓ Officer on Special Duty in Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence- Rajesh Kumar Singh. He will be the Secretary of Defence after the retirement of current Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane on the 31st of October 2024. His tenure has been extended up to 31st October 2026, beyond the age of superannuation.
- ✓ Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs- Deepti Gaur Mukherjee
- ✓ Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs- Katikithala Srinivas
- ✓ Secretary, Ministry of Minority Affairs- Chandra Sekhar Kumar
- ✓ Secretary, Department of Financial Service, Ministry of Finance - Nagaraju Maddirala.
- ✓ Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Union Ministry of Finance - Manoj Govil
- ✓ Secretary, Department of Personnel and Training- Vivek Joshi
- ✓ Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce- Amardeep Singh Bhatia.
- ✓ Officer on Special Duty, Department of Health and Family Welfare—Punya Salila Srivastava. She will take over as the Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare after the current secretary, Apurva Chandra, retires on 30 September.
- ✓ Officer on Special Duty to the President of India- Deepti Umashankar. She will take over as Secretary to the President upon the superannuation of Rajesh Verma on the 31st of August 2024.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Secretary to the President of India?

- A) Amardeep Singh Bhatia B) Katikithala Srinivas
C) Deepti Umashankar D) Chandra Sekhar Kumar

Answer : C

Q. Who has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance?

- A) Punya Salila Srivastava B) Manoj Govil
C) Vivek Joshi D) Nagaraju Maddirala

Answer : B

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Bhavishya Software:

1. It is an online Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System which was launched by the Union Ministry of Finance.
2. It has been integrated with the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) module of Central Pension Accounting Office.

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

- ✓ Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DOPPW) introduced, a unique innovative centralized pension processing software called 'Bhavishya' for all central government Ministries/Departments.
- ✓ **About Bhavishya Software**
- ✓ It is an online Pension Sanction & Payment Tracking System, launched by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

- Q.** When was the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 approved by the government of India?
- A) 9 December 2024 B) 9 October 2024
- C) 9 September 2024 D) 9 August 2024

- ✓ PMAY- U 2.0 approved by Union Cabinet with 10 lakh crore investment.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 in a meeting on 9 August 2024, which envisages an investment of Rs 10 lakh crores.
- ✓ The PMAY-U 2.0 will replace the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U), which was launched on 25 June 2015 and ended on 31 December 2024.
- ✓ PMAY-U is part of the central government's Housing for All policy, which provides all-weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in urban areas.
- ✓ Duration of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0
- ✓ The duration of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 is five years.
- ✓ It aims to facilitate the construction of one crore houses in urban areas for the urban poor and middle-class families.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry for Implementation of the Scheme
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will be the nodal body for implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 scheme.
- ✓ Coverage of the Scheme
- ✓ All areas declared as towns by law and mentioned in the 2011 census across the country will be covered.
- ✓ Beneficiaries of the Scheme
- ✓ The Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low Income Group (LIG) and the Middle Income Group (MIG) in the urban areas that do not have any pucca houses are eligible under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0. Under the Scheme, the :
- ✓ Annual income of the EWS family shall not be more than Rs 3 lakh per year,
- ✓ Annual income of the LIG family shall not be more than Rs lakh per year
- ✓ Annual income of the MIG family shall be not more than Rs 9 lakh.
- ✓ Component of the Scheme
- ✓ The components of the PMAY-U 2.0 are as follows.
- ✓ Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC)- EWS families will be provided financial assistance to construct houses on their land or the land provided by the state government/Union Territories.
- ✓ Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP)—Financial assistance will be provided to EWS families to own houses being built in different partnerships by States/Union Territories, urban local bodies, and public or Private agencies.
- ✓ Affordable Rental Housing (ARH)- Houses will be constructed to rent to working women, industrial workers, urban migrants, homeless/destitute, students, and other eligible beneficiaries. Unlike the above two components, houses will not be built for beneficiaries' ownership but will be provided for rent.
- ✓ Funding of the Scheme
- ✓ The total investment required under the PMAY-U 2.0 scheme to build one core house is Rs 10 lakh crore over five years.

- ✓ The central government/state government/Union Territories will provide Rs 2.30 lakh crore assistance under the scheme.
- ✓ The government will provide Rs 2.50 lakh of assistance per house constructed in the BLC and AHP component of the scheme.
- ✓ Centre and State 60: 40 ratio
- ✓ For Union Territory having legislature (Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu And Kashmir)
- ✓ the funding pattern will be Centre and UT 90:10 ratio
- ✓ For Union Territory, without any legislature, it will be 100 per cent funded by the central government.
- ✓ Subsidy Under the PMAY-U 2,0 Scheme
- ✓ Beneficiaries taking loans up to Rs 25 lakh with a house value up to Rs 35 lakh will be eligible for a 4 per cent interest subsidy on the first Rs 8 lakh loan for a duration of up to 12 years.
- ✓ A maximum of Rs 1.80 lakh subsidy will be given to eligible beneficiaries in 5-yearly instalments through the push button.
- ✓ The entire cost of the subsidy will be borne by the government of India.
- ✓ The PMAY-U 2.0 has laid certain preconditions for the states/UTs to be eligible to participate in the scheme. The state government/UT has to formulate an "Affordable Housing Policy" containing various reforms and incentives as specified by the central government.

Q. The Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit for paying taxes through the UPI payment system to—?

- A) Rs 4 lakh per transaction B) Rs 2 lakh per transaction
C) Rs 5 lakh per transaction D) Rs 3 lakh per transaction

Answer : C

- ✓ RBI MPC Meet 2024 Highlights: Repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for 9th time in a row.
- ✓ Announcing the third bi-monthly monetary policy of the financial year 2024-25 on 8 August 2024 in Mumbai, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das said that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has voted by a 4:2 majority to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the ninth consecutive times.
- ✓ The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee met on August 6, 7, and 8, 2024. The next meeting will be held on October 7 to 9, 2024.
- ✓ According to the RBI Act 1934, the Monetary Policy Committee has to meet at least four times in a financial year.
- ✓ Policy rates and Ratios after the 3rd bi-monthly monetary policy
- ✓ There have been no changes in the Policy rates and Ratios. They are as follows

Policy Repo Rate	6.5%
Fixed Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Bank Rate	6.5%
Standing Deposit Facility(SDF)	6.25%
Marginal Standing Facility(MSF)	6.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio(CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio(SLR)	18%

Answer : C

- ✓ India's first round-the-clock grain ATM was opened at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ✓ It is known as Annapurti Grain ATM which is designed and developed by the World Food Programme India.
- ✓ The Annapurti provides universal access: anyone with a Public Distribution System ration card valid in India, regardless of the State and Union Territory, can access their entitlement.
- ✓ It can dispense grain up to 50 kilograms in five minutes 24 hours a day, reducing waiting time by 70 percent.
- ✓ It is an automated multi-commodity dispensing solution that provides fast, clean and precise access to commodities (rice, wheat, grains) to beneficiaries, post biometric authentication.
- ✓ Ensures accurate weight and prevents potential cheating.
- ✓ 24/7 access to rice, reducing waiting times by 70%.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Investor Education and Protection Fund:

1. It was established under the Companies Act, 1956.
2. It is managed by the Reserve Bank of 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 : A

- ✓ The Union Finance Minister introduced the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which proposes to enable the transfer of unclaimed dividends, shares, and interest or redemption of bonds to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).
- ✓ It has been established under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 by way of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.
- ✓ The following amounts that remained unpaid and unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date they became due for payment are credited to the Fund:
 - ✓ Amounts in the unpaid dividend accounts of the companies
 - ✓ The application money received by companies for allotment of any securities and due for refund
 - ✓ Matured deposits with companies
 - ✓ Matured debentures with companies
- ✓ Grants and donations are given to the fund by the Central Government, State Governments, companies or any other institutions for the purposes of the Fund
- ✓ The interest or other income received out of the investments made from the fund
- ✓ This fund is managed by the Investor Education Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)
- ✓ IEPFA was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, of 2013.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Q. Who is the author of the book titled 'India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse'?

- A) Gita Gopinath
B) Anshula Kant
C) Raghuram Rajan
D) K V Subramanian

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched the book 'India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse' by Professor K V Subramanian, Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- ✓ The event was held at the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) in New Delhi.
- ✓ Future Economy: The book forecasts that India could become a USD 55 trillion economy by 2047.
- ✓ Growth Factors: It emphasizes achieving this through self-sufficiency, a stronger currency, solid fundamentals, and an 8% Annual Growth Rate (AGR).

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the e-rupee:

1. It is a digital currency issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. The central bank pays interest on e-rupees which are kept in users' wallets.

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

- ✓ Fintech companies including are looking to join the Indian central bank's digital currency project by allowing their users to transact in e-rupee via Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ✓ The e-rupee, or the digital rupee, is a digital currency issued by the RBI.
- ✓ The digital rupee was launched on a pilot basis in December 2022. At the time, the currency was offered by a select group of public and private banks in a few major cities and could be used for both person-to-person and person-to-merchant transactions.
- ✓ It is aimed at creating an additional option for using money. The digital rupee is available entirely in electronic form and does not leave a computer network.
- ✓ It is like banknotes issued by the RBI and is a legal tender that can be used to make transactions. The only difference is that they can only be transacted online.
- ✓ The digital rupee in users' wallets does not attract interest payments from the central bank. However, deposits held in banks can be converted into digital rupees and vice versa for ease of use.
- ✓ RBI has demarcated the digital rupee into two broad categories: general purpose (retail) and wholesale.
- ✓ This demarcation is based on the usage and the functions performed by the digital rupee and considering the different levels of accessibility

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Kasturi Cotton Bharat:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles.
2. A blockchain-based software platform is being used to ensure traceability and certification of Kasturi Cotton Bharat-tagged bales.

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 ministry of textiles has empowered cotton ginners across the country to produce Kasturi Cotton Bharat brand, based on the QR code certification technology, as per stipulated protocol.
- ✓ About Kasturi Cotton Bharat:

- ✓ India retains eighth position in global agriculture exports in 2023: WTO
- ✓ Despite a drop in its agriculture exports in 2023 to \$51 billion from \$55 billion in 2022, India maintained its position as world's eighth largest exporter of agriculture products in the year as seven of the top ten exporting nations witnessed a decline, per figures collated by the WTO.
- ✓ Among the leading exporters of agricultural products, Brazil, the European Union and Thailand increased their exports by 6 per cent, 5 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively in 2023.
- ✓ The other seven economies in the top 10 saw a decrease in their exports of agricultural products.
- ✓ The EU maintained its top position in 2023 by exporting agriculture produce valued at \$836 billion compared to \$799 billion in 2022. The US, too, continued at the second spot despite a drop in agriculture exports in 2023 to \$198 billion as opposed to \$222 billion in the previous year.
- ✓ Brazil's agriculture exports increased to \$157 billion in 2023 from \$148 billion in 2022 while it retained the third spot.
- ✓ China was the fourth largest agriculture exporter in 2023 with shipments valued at \$95 billion which was marginally below exports worth \$96 billion in 2022.
- ✓ Other countries among top ten agriculture exporters include Canada, Mexico, Indonesia and Australia.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the PARAKH ((Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development):

1. It is established within the University Grant Commission to standardize all exams in colleges across India.
2. It implements activities related to student assessment as mandated by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

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

- ✓ A recent report submitted to the Education Ministry by PARAKH recommends incorporating student performance from Classes 9, 10, and 11 into the final Class 12 marks.
- ✓ PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) is a unit established within NCERT in 2023 to standardise school board assessments nationwide.
- ✓ The PARAKH team will consist of leading assessment experts with a deep understanding of the education system in India and internationally.
- ✓ Objective: To fulfil the basic objectives of setting norms, standards and guidelines and implement activities related to student assessment along with other tasks as mandated by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ✓ The mandate of PARAKH is to work on bringing the school boards across the States and the Union Territories to a common platform.
- ✓ Major areas of focus
 - ✓ Capacity Development in Competency Based Assessment
 - ✓ Large-Scale Achievement Survey
 - ✓ Equivalence of School Boards
 - ✓ Holistic Progress Cards for the Foundational, Preparational, Middle and Secondary Stages

Q. How is the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) calculated?

- A) (Total Assets) / (Total Liabilities)
- B) (High Quality Liquid Assets) / (Total net cash outflows over the next 30 calendar days)
- C) (High Quality Liquid Assets) / (Total Debt)
- D) (Liquid Assets) / (Short-term Liabilities)

Answer : B

- ✓ RBI recently issued the draft guidelines for banks on the Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), essentially asking them to set aside higher stock of liquid securities as a buffer on deposits.
- ✓ About Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR):
- ✓ It refers to the proportion of highly liquid assets held by financial institutions to ensure that they maintain an ongoing ability to meet their short-term obligations (i.e., cash outflows for 30 days).
- ✓ 30 days was selected because, in a financial crisis, a response from governments and central banks would typically take around 30 days.
- ✓ It is intended to make sure that banks and financial institutions have a sufficient level of capital to ride out any short-term disruptions to liquidity.
- ✓ LCR in banking resulted from the Basel III agreement, which is a series of measures undertaken by the Basel Committee on Bank Supervision (BCBS).
- ✓ In India, RBI issued Basel III liquidity guidelines in 2012.
- ✓ RBI implemented LCR in January 2015, and as per a circular in 2020, banks should maintain sufficient HQLA at all times to meet unexpected withdrawals.
- ✓ Calculation:
- ✓ $LCR = \frac{\text{High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA)}}{\text{(Total net cash outflows over the next 30 calendar days)}}$
- ✓ Every asset that can be easily and instantly converted into cash at minimum or no cost of value is an HQLA.
- ✓ These assets include cash, reserves with central banks, and central government bonds, which can easily be converted into cash.
- ✓ In India, all Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) eligible assets, which need to be maintained by the banks as per the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, are permitted to be considered HQLA under LCR requirements if they are in excess. This helps maintain and optimise both liquidity requirements.

Q. 11 public sector banks—excluding State Bank of India (SBI) — have charged Rs 2,331 crore from account holders for their failure to maintain minimum balance in savings banks in FY2024. Which bank has collected the maximum amount of Rs 633.4 crore from their customers?

- A) Canara Bank
- B) Bank of Baroda
- C) Indian Bank
- D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ 11 public sector banks—excluding State Bank of India (SBI) — have charged Rs 2,331 crore from account holders for their failure to maintain minimum balance in savings banks in FY2024, a rise of 25.63 per cent from Rs 1,855.43 crore in FY2023.
- ✓ These banks collected Rs 5,614 crore from account holders for not maintaining the minimum balance in the last three years, according to Ministry of Finance figures.
- ✓ SBI stopped charging penalty for not maintaining minimum balance since FY2020.
- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) collected the maximum amount of Rs 633.4 crore from their customers, followed by Bank of Baroda Rs 386.51 crore and Indian Bank Rs 369.16 crore.

Q.

1. Under OMSS, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) sells surplus food grains from the central pool in the open market through e-auctions.
2. There is no upper limit on the quantity an eligible bidder can bid for under the OMSS.

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 Centre recently allowed state governments to directly buy rice from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) without participating in e-auction under the open market sale scheme (domestic).
- ✓ **About Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS):**
- ✓ The Food Corporation of India (FCI), on instructions from the government from time to time, sells surplus food grains from the central pool, especially wheat and rice, in the open market to traders, bulk consumers, retail chains, etc., at pre-determined prices.
- ✓ This is in addition to maintaining buffer stocks and making a provision for meeting the requirements of the National Food Security Act (NFSA) and Other Welfare Schemes (OWS),
- ✓ The FCI does this through e-auctions, where open market bidders can buy specified quantities.
- ✓ An eligible bidder can bid for a minimum quantity of 10 metric tons (MT) to a maximum of 100 MT in the case of wheat. In the case of rice, traders are eligible and can bid a minimum quantity of 10 MT and a maximum quantity of 1000 MT.
- ✓ This will be beyond what they get from the central pool to distribute to NFSA beneficiaries.
- ✓ The OMSS aims to enhance the supply of food grains (ensuring food security) during the lean season and thereby moderate the open market prices (controlling inflation), especially in the deficit regions.

Q.

- A) Abakus B) Acropolis
C) WestBridge D) Goldman Sachs

Answer : C

- ✓ Rapido becomes unicorn with fresh \$120 million funding
- ✓ Ride-hailing startup Rapido has raised a funding of \$120 million Capital in its latest Series E funding round led by its existing investor WestBridge, thus making it the latest company to join the coveted unicorn club.
- ✓ The investor poured in the fresh capital through three of its related entities – Setu AIF Trust, Konark Trust, and MMPL Trust, as per regulatory filings.
- ✓ Rapido is the third Indian startup to become a unicorn this year after fintech Perfios and AI upstart Krutrim.

Q.

- A) Tata AIA Life Insurance B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
- C) Life Insurance Corporation of India D) Universal Sompo General Insurance

Answer : A

- ✓ Tata AIA Life launches 'Sampoorna Raksha Promise' product with ₹3 lakh instant payout feature
- ✓ Tata AIA Life Insurance has unveiled its latest term insurance product, Sampoorna Raksha Promise. This product is designed to enhance financial security.
- ✓ Keeping in mind that the family may have to incur urgent expenses on the demise of the key member, it offers an instant payout of Rs. 3 lakhs on death claim intimation.
- ✓ Sampoorna Raksha Promise allows the policyholder to defer the premium by 12 months in such circumstances. When diagnosed with a terminal illness e.g. cancer, the consumer is paid 50% of the sum assured, even as the future premiums are waived and policy benefits continue to accrue.
- ✓ Sampoorna Raksha Promise provides coverage up to the age of 100 with two plan options:
- ✓ Life Promise – Consumers can select a particular sum assured at the time of purchase, which is payable upon the policyholder's death.
- ✓ Life Promise Plus – Offers a similar death benefit to the Life Promise Option. Further, when the policyholder survives till maturity,
- ✓ 100% of the total premium (excluding modal premiums and discounts) is paid back.

Q. Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited (Piramal Finance), a subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited, has partnered with which bank to expand their co-lending operations?

A) State Bank of India	B) Axis Bank
C) Central Bank of India	D) ICICI Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited (Piramal Finance), a subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited, has partnered with Central Bank of India to expand their co-lending operations.
- ✓ The alliance is focused on providing loans to middle and low-income borrowers, particularly in rural and semi-urban regions.
- ✓ The collaboration combines Central Bank of India's extensive branch network with Piramal Finance's technological approach to lending, which emphasizes both digital efficiency and personalized service.

Q. Toyota Kirloskar Motor has recently signed an agreement with which bank for vehicle loan?

A) ICICI Bank	B) Union Bank of India
C) Punjab National Bank	D) Yes Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Toyota Kirloskar Motor has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Union Bank of India to provide vehicle financing solutions.
- ✓ Under this, customers can get financing up to 90 percent on the on-road price of any Toyota vehicle

Q. Which telecom company has partnered with Apple to bring exclusive offers for Apple Music and Apple TV+ to customers in India with premium wifi and postpaid plans?

A) Bharti Airtel	B) Vodafone Idea
C) BSNL	D) Reliance Jio

Answer : A

- ✓ Bharti Airtel has partnered with Apple to bring exclusive offers for Apple Music and Apple TV+ to customers in India later this year.

- ✓ Apple TV+ will be included on Airtel's video-streaming service Xstream with premium wifi and postpaid plans, and users of the company's music-streaming service, Wynk Premium, will have access to offers on Apple Music.
- ✓ This comes as Disney and Reliance try to secure India antitrust approval for their \$8.5 billion merger, aiming to create India's biggest entertainment player.

Q. Which Small Finance Bank has launched the Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to offer cardholders exclusive benefits and privileges?

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank B) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
C) ESAF Small Finance Bank D) Equitas Small Finance Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ ESAF Small Finance Bank launches Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card
- ✓ ESAF Small Finance Bank has launched the Inori RuPay Platinum Credit Card, a premium financial product designed in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to offer cardholders exclusive benefits and privileges.
- ✓ The card's name "Inori" is derived from the Japanese word for "wish," symbolising our aspiration to fulfil the desires and expectations of customers.
- ✓ Cardholders can enjoy a range of rewards, including exciting cashback offers on monthly transactions and comprehensive insurance coverage of up to ₹2 lakh.

Q. Which Small Finance Bank was honoured with the titles of Best Small Finance Bank, India, Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management at the 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards?

- A) Capital Small Finance Bank B) Jana Small Finance Bank
C) ESAF Small Finance Bank D) Equitas Small Finance Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Jana Small Finance Bank has once again cemented its status as a frontrunner in the Indian banking industry.
- ✓ The bank's commitment to excellence and innovation was recognized at the prestigious 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards, where it clinched four coveted awards.
- ✓ Jana Small Finance Bank was honoured with the titles of Best Small Finance Bank, India, Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management.

Q. Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) sold how much per cent stake in state-owned Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 crore through an open market transaction?

- A) 2.09 per cent B) 3.09 per cent
C) 4.09 per cent D) 5.09 per cent

Answer : A

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has sold a 2.09 per cent stake in state-owned Hindustan Copper for Rs 447 crore through an open market transaction.
- ✓ The insurance behemoth has sold a total of 2,01,62,682 shares, or 2.085 per cent stake, in Hindustan Copper, according to a regulatory filing.

- ✓ With this, LIC's stake in the state-owned company has reduced to 6.09 per cent from 8.17 per cent.

Q. Which bank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to set up a unit to undertake the asset management business of mutual funds?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ IndusInd Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) nod to set up a mutual fund asset management business. It will be a wholly-owned subsidiary, the bank said in its filing to the exchanges.
- ✓ RBI has also allowed the private sector lender to infuse equity capital in the asset management subsidiary.
- ✓ Following the accord from the RBI, the wholly owned subsidiary of the IndusInd Bank would soon move the capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) with an application to launch the mutual funds business.

Q. India signed a loan package of USD 500 million with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve access to quality and affordable tertiary health care and medical education in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Manipur
- D) Mizoram

Answer : B

- ✓ ADB commits USD 500 mn loan for improving healthcare in Maharashtra
- ✓ India has signed a loan package of USD 500 million with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to improve access to quality and affordable tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra.
- ✓ The loan will help establish four medical colleges attached to tertiary care teaching hospitals incorporating climate- and disaster-resilient, gender-responsive, and socially inclusive features in under-served districts.
- ✓ It will increase bed capacity in government tertiary care hospitals and hire at least 500 new doctors for four new governmental medical colleges.

Q. The latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed, Net foreign direct investment (FDI) during the April-June period of the current financial year was __, compared to \$4.7 billion in the year-ago period.

- A) \$6.5 billion
- B) \$6.7 billion
- C) \$6.9 billion
- D) \$5.9 billion

Answer : C

- ✓ Net foreign direct investment (FDI) during the April-June period of the current financial year was \$6.9 billion, compared to \$4.7 billion in the year-ago period, the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India showed.
- ✓ The increase was due to an improvement in gross inward FDI, which grew by 26.4 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to \$22.5 billion during Q1 of 2024-25.
- ✓ Manufacturing, financial services, communication services, computer services, electricity and other energy sectors accounted for about 80 per cent of the gross FDI inflows.
- ✓ With around 75 per cent of the flows, the major source countries were Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands, the US, and Belgium," according to RBI's State of the Economy report.

- ✓ Net FDI flow dropped sharply to \$9.8 billion in FY24, from \$28 billion in the previous year. In FY22, net FDI flows into the country were \$38.6 billion.

Q. Which payments bank has launched the AI-powered Face Match, a new security feature designed to protect customer accounts from fraudulent activities?

- A) Airtel Payments Bank B) India Post Payments Bank
C) FINO Payments Bank D) Paytm Payments Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank introduces AI-powered Face Match
- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank has launched the Face Match, a new security feature designed to protect customer accounts from fraudulent activities.
- ✓ The feature uses advanced machine learning algorithms to assess potential threats and activate facial recognition verification when necessary.

Q. Which of the following company has received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire a 60% majority stake in Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited and Invesco Trustee Private Limited?

- A) Adani Group B) HDFC Limited
C) IndusInd International Holdings D) Aditya Birla Group

Answer : C

- ✓ IndusInd Holdings gets nod to acquire majority stake in 2 Invesco entities
- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of shareholding in each of Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited and Invesco Trustee Private Limited by IndusInd International Holdings Limited.
- ✓ The proposed combination pertains to the acquisition of 60% shareholding in each of Invesco Asset Management (India) Private Limited (Invesco AMC) and Invesco Trustee Private Limited (Invesco Trustee) by IndusInd International Holdings Limited (IIHL).
- ✓ IIHL will be holding the investment through its wholly owned and controlled subsidiary, IIHL AMC Holdings Limited (IIHL AMC), which has been incorporated specifically for the Proposed Combination.
- ✓ IIHL is a Global Business License (Category 1) licensee company incorporated in the Republic of Mauritius

Q. Who has been appointed as the President of National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)?

- A) Ramesh Singh B) Rajesh Nambiar
C) Rahul Kumar D) Mukesh Sharma

Answer: B

- ✓ Rajesh Nambiar quits as Cognizant's India head to become Nasscom president
- ✓ Rajesh Nambiar has stepped down as Cognizant Technology Solutions Corp's India Chairman and Managing Director to become president of information technology (IT) industry body National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM).
- ✓ Cognizant named Rajesh Varrier as his successor. He will take over as global head of operations from 2 September and as chairman and managing director of the Nasdaq-listed from 1 October.

- Q.** Which bank has launched an Avni Saving Account for women customers?

B) Kotak Mahindra Bank

D) Punjab National Bank

- ✓ Bandhan Bank launches Avni Saving Account for Women Customer.
- ✓ Kolkata-based Indian Private sector bank Bandhan Bank launched an exclusive savings account, Avni, for women customers on 22 August 2023.
- ✓ The bank launched the product on the eve of its 9th foundation day, which is on 23 August.
- ✓ The bank also launched a customer loyalty programme called Bandhan Banks Delight.
- ✓ The bank is women-focused, and of its 3.4 customers, 73% are women.
- ✓ Significance of Avni Account
- ✓ The Avni product of the Bandhan Bank is an effort by the bank to mobilise deposits from the public.
- ✓ Recently, Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das urged banks to mobilise household savings by offering innovative and attractive products.
- ✓ In recent times, the CASA (Current Account Saving Account) deposits of the banks in India have shown a declining trend as Indian households prefer to invest in share markets, gold, and other financial market instruments for higher returns.
- ✓ About the Avni Saving Account & Bandhan Bank Delights
- ✓ The Avni savings account targets relatively well-off women, as the minimum average quarterly balance requirement is Rs 25,000. The Avni account offers an exclusive debit card with personal accident insurance cover of Rs 10 lakhs, free airport lounge access and lost card liability of Rs.3.5 lakh.
- ✓ It also offers a 25 per cent discount on locker rentals and a 50 percent discount on gold loan processing fees.
- ✓ Bandhan Bank Delights, launched by the bank, is a loyalty programme where customers earn loyalty points for opening accounts, card transactions, fund transfers, and other banking transactions. The loyalty points, called Delight Points, can be used to purchase goods and services.
- ✓ About Bandhan Bank
- ✓ Bandhan Bank started as a non-governmental organisation (NGO) and later became a Non-Banking Finance Company—Micro Financial Institution (NBFC-MFI).
- ✓ The bank got a license from the RBI and converted into a Universal Bank on 23 August 2015
- ✓ It is a private-sector bank.
- ✓ Headquarters: Kolkata, West Bengal
- ✓ MD and CEO (interim): Ratan Kumar Kesh
- ✓ Tagline: Apka Bhala. Sabki Bhalai

- B) T V Somanathan

D) Nirmala Sitharaman

- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman Reviews performance of 5 states RRB in Udaipur.
- ✓ A meeting of the Regional Rural Bank (RRB) operating in 5 states was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on 22 August 2024.

- ✓ For deposits below Rs 3 crore, the “Vijay Fixed Deposits” feature a special 500-day tenor.
- ✓ This limited-period offer pays tribute to the courage and sacrifices of our brave soldiers while providing exceptional financial benefits.
- ✓ The special fixed deposit plan offers competitive interest rates with 8.85% p.a. for super senior citizens, 8.60% p.a. for senior citizens, and 8.1% p.a. for regular customers, all tailored to guarantee your money grows safely.

Q. Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of how much rupees on Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) for violating its directions, including on Know Your Customer (KYC)?

- A) 5.76 crore B) 3.12 crore
C) 2.67 crore D) 1.27 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,27,20,000/- on Bank of Maharashtra for non-compliance with certain directions issued by RBI on ‘Loan System for Delivery of Bank Credit’, ‘Cyber Security Framework in Banks’ and ‘Know Your Customer’.
- ✓ The RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of ₹4.90 lakh on Hinduja Leyland Finance Limited (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016
- ✓ This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 58G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of section 58B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- ✓ RBI has also imposed a monetary penalty of ₹10.00 lakh On Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, Pune, Maharashtra (the company) for non-compliance with certain provisions of the ‘Non-Banking Financial Company – Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016’ issued by RBI, relating to ‘Fair Practices Code for NBFCs’.
- ✓ This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 58 G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of section 58 B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

PENALTY IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has levied penalties on two banks: Rs 2.68 crore on UCO Bank for violating rules on current accounts, interest on deposits, and fraud classification, and Rs 2.1 lakh on Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd for not complying with KYC regulations.
- ✓ RBI Imposes Penalties on BoM, Hinduja Leyland Finance, and Poonawalla Fincorp Union.
- ✓ Bank of Maharashtra was fined Rs 1.27 crore for violations concerning KYC, loan credit delivery, and cyber security frameworks, while Hinduja Leyland Finance faced a penalty of Rs 4.90 lakh for non-compliance with KYC Directions, 2016.
- ✓ Poonawalla Fincorp was penalized Rs 10 lakh for not following RBI guidelines for non-deposit-taking NBFCs
- ✓ IRDAI has fined HDFC Life Insurance Rs 2 crore for breaching regulatory norms.
- ✓ RBI Imposes Penalty Of ₹1.9 Lakh On Muthoot Finance For KYC Non-Compliance.
- ✓ RBI has imposed fines on Central Bank of India and Sonali Bank PLC for breaches related to customer protection and KYC norms.
- ✓ Central Bank of India faces a penalty of ₹1.45 crore for irregularities including improper sanctioning of loans and delays in reversing unauthorized transactions. Meanwhile, Sonali Bank PLC has been fined ₹96.4 lakh for non-compliance with KYC Directions, 2016.
- ✓ IRDAI imposes penalty of Rs 2 crore on Bajaj Finance, Aegon Life Insurance.

- ✓ RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.31 crore on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to KYC and 'loans and advances'.
- ✓ RBI imposed a fine of ₹1.45 crore on the Central Bank of India and ₹96.4 lakh on Sonali Bank PLC for non-compliance issues including loans and advances and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fined three payment system operators for non-compliance with regulations:
- ✓ Visa Worldwide Pte Limited: The RBI fined Visa Worldwide Rs 240.75 lakh.
- ✓ Ola Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. The RBI fined Ola Financial Services Rs 87.55 lakh in two cases.
- ✓ Manappuram Finance Limited: The RBI fined Manappuram Finance Rs 41.50 lakh.
- ✓ The RBI imposed the penalties for deficiencies in regulatory compliance, including non-compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) directions.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a fine of Rs 1.45 crore on the Central Bank of India and a separate penalty of Rs 96.40 lakh on Sonali Bank PLC for non-compliance with certain regulatory directions issued by the RBI.
- ✓ Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has recently imposed a penalty of over Rs 1.66 crore on Axis Bank for failing to detect and report suspicious transactions linked to a fraudulent account created in the name of the National Security Guard (NSG), a counter-terrorist force.
- ✓ SEBI has slapped a fine of Rs 7.75 crore on 11 individuals for allegedly operating a 'pump and dump' scheme in scrip of Svarnim Trade Udyog.
- ✓ 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'
- ✓ 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.

Q. Which bank has recently launched the ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card for visually impaired customers?

A) Punjab National Bank	B) ICICI Bank
C) Bank of Baroda	D) HDFC Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched the PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card, a new debit card specifically designed for visually impaired customers.
- ✓ This contactless NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) Debit Card is available on the RuPay network. Visually impaired individuals with savings or current accounts in PNB are eligible to obtain this debit card from PNB branch.

- ✓ The ATM limit (cash withdrawal) per day is Rs 25,000, and the PoS and eCom limits (combined) per day are Rs 60,000. Contactless transactions are accessible for individual transactions up to Rs. 5000/- without a PIN at NFC capable POS Terminals, with a daily overall limit of Rs. 5000.
- ✓ This initiative also aims to enhance financial independence and convenience for visually impaired individuals, empowering them to manage their finances with greater ease and confidence.

PNB IN NEWS 2024

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched the PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card, a new debit card specifically designed for visually impaired customers
- Punjab National Bank has signed a pact with Steel Authority of India to provide home loan, car loan and education loan to the latter's employees at concessional rates.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.32 crore on Punjab National Bank (PNB) for violations related to loans and advances and Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has approved the initiation of the process to dilute 10% of its shareholding in Canara HSBC Life Insurance through an initial public offering (IPO). PNB currently holds a 23% stake in this life insurance joint venture.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to advance renewable energy initiatives across the nation.
- PNB to expand overseas footprint, to open representative office in Dubai.
- 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. How many of total beneficiaries (account-holders) are there under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)?

- A) 52.99 crore B) 62.99 crore
C) 72.99 crore D) 82.99 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ The flagship financial inclusion scheme of the Centre, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), which will be completing a decade on August 15, has 52.99 crore total beneficiaries (account-holders) across the States with total balance in PMJDY accounts at ₹2,28,362 crore, as on 31 July 2024.
- ✓ The scheme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2014, now has become the largest financial inclusion scheme in the world
- ✓ It has largely been women-centric with 29.48 crore women beneficiaries while 35.27 crore of total accounts are from rural and semi-urban branches, as per the latest data. Nearly 36 crore RuPay Debit cards have been issued.
- ✓ PMJDY has accelerated account ownership in the country and its contribution in onboarding the financially excluded to the mainstream in creating an egalitarian society has been enormous as more

than 56 per cent of the PMJDY account holders are women and 67 per cent of the total account holders are from rural and semi urban areas.

Q. Which among the following company partners with Gentari to increase their EV delivery fleet to 10,000 by 2025, aiming to enhance last-mile delivery services and scale up electric vehicle adoption across over 400 cities in India?

- A) Amazon India B) Meesho
C) Flipkart D) Tata Neu

Answer : A

- ✓ Amazon India partners with Gentari to increase EV delivery fleet to 10,000 by 2025
- ✓ Gentari Green Mobility India (Gentari) has partnered with Amazon India to boost the e-commerce major's electric vehicle (EV) fleet for last mile deliveries as the US-headquartered company targets to increase its fleet strength to 10,000 units by 2025.
- ✓ The partnership comes at a time when the e-commerce firm aims to scale up its EV adoption across more than 400 cities in India.
- ✓ Amazon India has already deployed over 7,200 EVs last year and targets to have 10,000 EVs in its India delivery fleet by 2025.
- ✓ Gentari Green Mobility India offers electric mobility solutions including vehicle leasing and charging points (CPs).

Q. Jakson Engineering Limited has signed an MoU with which bank to set up solar projects to a wide range of consumers across commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Jakson Engineering Limited has signed an MoU with the State Bank of India (SBI) to set up solar projects to a wide range of consumers across commercial, industrial, and institutional sectors.
- ✓ This partnership comes under the Surya Shakti Solar Finance initiative. It will combine SBI's banking experience and Jakson's solar technology expertise.
- ✓ This initiative will promote energy sustainability and lower power costs.
- ✓ The Surya Shakti Solar Finance initiative aims to provide financial assistance to consumers and help them adopt solar energy. SBI is offering loans worth Rs 100 million to commercial and industrial users for the same.

Q. Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Managing Director of which bank?

- A) Axis Bank
B) State Bank of India
C) ICICI Bank
D) Canara Bank

Answer: B

- ✓ Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has taken over as Managing Director in charge of State Bank of India's (SBI) risk compliance and stressed assets resolution group (SARG) departments.
- ✓ Gajendra Singh Rana, former chief general manager of the Mumbai circle has taken over from Singh as the deputy managing director (DMD) retail and real estate for the nation's largest lender.

Q. Which of the following has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the acquisition of a majority stake in NBFC Kushal Finnovation Capital?

- A) Instamojo
- B) Rozar Pay
- C) Rosaria
- D) Jai Kisan

Answer : D

- ✓ Rural fintech startup Jai Kisan has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India for the acquisition of a majority stake in NBFC Kushal Finnovation Capital.
- ✓ With the NBFC subsidiary, Jai Kisan will be able create and deliver customized, innovative, and relevant products directly to its farmer and rural business customers in a more accessible and seamless manner making its products cheaper, faster, and more impactful.

Q. Fintech firm Navi has partnered with which bank to roll out a credit line on UPI product for customers on the platform?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Fintech firm Navi has partnered with Karnataka Bank to roll out a credit line on UPI product for customers on the platform.
- ✓ At present, the Sachin Bansal-founded fintech company has introduced the offering to a closed group of select users. It plans to launch it to a wider user base based on feedback.
- ✓ Navi's expertise in digital lending and innovative financial solutions complements our goal of delivering innovative banking services.
- ✓ Currently, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), and State Bank of India (SBI) are some of the lenders live with this facility
- ✓ Among the apps, BHIM, Google Pay, Paytm, PayZapp, Navi, and Tata Neu are live on this product offering.

Q. According to the 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List report, which business family is the richest in India?

- A) Ambani
- B) Bajaj
- C) Birla
- D) Jindal

Answer : A

- ✓ Ambani family wealth 10% of Indian GDP: Barclays-Hurun India Report.
- ✓ According to a recently released' 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List' report, the Ambani family's combined wealth valuation of Rs 25.75 trillion was equivalent to around 10 per cent of the Indian gross domestic product (GDP). The Ambani family remains the richest business family in India, followed by the Bajaj and Birla families.
- ✓ According to the report, the top three business families -Ambani, Bajaj, and Birlas- are valued at \$460 billion, which is equivalent to Singapore's GDP.
- ✓ List of the Top 10 Business Family in India
- ✓ The 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list' report calculated the valuation of the companies owned by these families as of 20 March 2024. Their private investments and liquid assets were not included in the valuation.
- ✓ The report also does not include first-generation families like the Adani's.

- ✓ Roshni Nadar Malhotra of the Nadar family is the only woman in the list of top 10 family businesses

Rank	Business Family	Flagship Company	Valuation in Rupees in trillion
1	Ambani (led by Mukesh Ambani)	Reliance Industries Limited	25.75
2	Bajaj (led by Niraj Bajaj Group)	Bajaj Auto	7.13
3	Birla (led by Kumar Mangalam Birla)	Aditya Birla Group	5.39
4	Jindal (led by Sajjan Jindal)	JSW Steel	4.71
5	Nadar (led by Roshini Nadar Malhotra)	HCL Technology	4.3
6	Mahindra (led by Anand Mahindra)	M&M	3.45
7	Dani family, Choksi Family and Vakil Family	Asian Paints	2.71
8	Premji (led by Rishad Premji)	Wipro	2.57
9	Rajiv Singh	DLF	2.04
10	Muruguppa Family	Tube Investment	2.02

Q. Who is the only woman who has been included in the top 10 richest Indian business families in the 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List?

- A) Roshini Nadar Malhotra B) Rekha Jhunjhunwala
C) Smita Crishna D) Renuka Jagtiani

Answer : A

- ✓ Roshni Nadar Malhotra of the Nadar family is the only woman in the list of top 10 family businesses.
✓ Roshni Nadar Malhotra of the Nadar family is the only woman in the list of top 10 family businesses

- Q.** Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (RVUN) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which company to optimise operations of its gas-based power plants in Rajasthan?
- A) BHEL
B) Coal India Limited (CIL)
C) GAIL India Limited (GAIL)
D) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

Answer : C

- ✓ GAIL to optimise RVUN Gas-based Power Plant in Rajasthan.
- ✓ The central government public undertaking GAIL(India) Limited has signed a non-binding memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam (RVUN) to optimise operations of RVUN gas-based power plants in Rajasthan.
- ✓ Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RVUN), based in Jaipur, was established by the Rajasthan Government on 19 July 2000 under the Companies Act 1956 to develop power projects in the state and maintain and operate state government-owned power plants.
- ✓ Main Highlights of the MoU between GAIL and RVUN
- ✓ The RVUN operates two gas-based power plants in Dholpur and Ramgarh. Under the MoU, these two gas-based power plants will be transferred to a joint venture to be set up by GAIL(India) Limited and the RVUN. This is expected to boost their operational efficiency.
- ✓ Both companies will collaborate to set up 1000 MW of wind and solar power projects in the state.
- ✓ GAIL (India) Limited Operation in Rajasthan
- ✓ GAIL(India) Limited is a central government-owned Maharatna company in the business of natural gas processing, trading of natural gas, production and distribution of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), etc.
- ✓ GAIL(India) Limited also has significant business interests in Rajasthan.
- ✓ GAIL (India) Limited owns and operates the 1,427 km long Jamnagar-Loni LPG pipeline. Most of the 694 km section of the pipeline in Rajasthan from Abu Road to Alwar is operational.
- ✓ Headquarters of GAIL(India) Limited: New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman Cum Managing Director (CMD): Sandeep Kumar Gupta

- Q.** India's defence exports soared by how much percent in the first quarter of 2024-25 as compared to the same period last fiscal year?
- A) 60%
B) 75%
C) 78%
D) 82%

Answer : C

- ✓ India's defence exports soared by 78 percent in the first quarter of 2024-25 as compared to the same period last fiscal year.
- ✓ According to the Defence Ministry, defence exports increased to rupees 6,915 crores in the first quarter of 2024-25, compared to ₹3,865 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

- Q.** Which two organizations collaborated to launch the UPISetu platform?
- A) Pine Labs and HDFC Bank
B) Axis Bank and PhonePe
C) Pine Labs and Axis Bank
D) Google Pay and ICICI Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Pine Labs & Axis Bank Launch 'UPISetu' – India's First UPI-Focused Payments Platform.
- ✓ Pine Labs-owned Setu, an API infrastructure provider, in collaboration with Axis Bank, has launched UPI-Setu, India's first UPI-focused payments platform for businesses and developers.

- ✓ The platform supports various UPI services including Third-Party Validation (TPV), Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs), UPI Autopay, and basic QR code payments.
- ✓ Offers enhanced dispute resolution, instant cashback and refunds, as well as bank and brand offers, all through API integration.
- ✓ Merchants can create custom payment links or QR codes for both one-time and multiple payments.
- ✓ Pine Labs is an Indian company specializing in point-of-sale and payment systems, headquartered in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

Q. With which country has India recently signed an agreement to start UPI service?

- A) Bangladesh B) Thailand
C) Maldives D) Malaysia

Answer : C

- ✓ India has recently signed an agreement with the island nation Maldives to launch Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- ✓ On this occasion, India's Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said that this will have a positive impact on the tourism sector.
- ✓ The agreement was signed during Jaishankar's three-day official visit to Maldives

Q. Former ___ CEO Susan Wojcicki passed away recently at the age of 56.

- A) Facebook B) Twitter
C) YouTube D) Microsoft

Answer : C

- ✓ Susan Wojcicki, the former YouTube CEO and one of Google's earliest employees, has passed away at the age of 56.
- ✓ Wojcicki, one of the most prominent women in tech, stepped down from her role at YouTube in 2023, a position she held for nine years.
- ✓ She was previously a senior vice-president for ad products at Google and became CEO of YouTube in 2014.
- ✓ Before Google, Wojcicki worked at Intel and Bain & Company.

Q. The Government of India and ___ have signed an agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in an aggregate length of 781 km for the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

- A) World Bank B) IMF
C) AIIB D) European Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ India & World Bank sign \$500 million agreement for Green National Highway Corridor project
- ✓ The Government of India and the World Bank have signed an agreement for the construction of Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP) in an aggregate length of 781 km for the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The total project cost is estimated at \$1.29 billion (Rs. 7,662.47 crore).
- ✓ Scheduled for completion by May 2026, the GNHCP includes several innovative approaches to reduce carbon emissions and conserve natural resources throughout its lifecycle.

- ✓ The GNHCP will provide smooth, all-weather motorable roads, enhancing connectivity and socio-economic development in the region

WORLD BANK IN NEWS 2024

- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), part of World Bank Group Guarantees and International Solar Alliance (ISA) to Establish Trust Fund to Support Solar Projects.
- World Bank has raised the growth forecast for the Indian economy in the current financial year (2024-25) to 7 per cent from its earlier projection of 6.6 per cent.
- World Bank report “India Development Update: India’s Trade Opportunities in a Changing Global Context” was released on 3 September 2024.
- World Bank's Business Ready (B-READY) index will replace the Doing Business index. The first B-READY report is scheduled to be launched on September 25, 2024. India's B-Ready report is expected to be published in April 2026.
- World Bank and the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) are working together to create a state-level Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) adoption index.
- World Bank approves \$1.5 billion loan for low carbon energy sector.
- Remittance to India in 2024 Likely to be \$ 124 billion: The Migration and Development Brief is published by the World Bank twice a year, and the latest report was published.
- World Bank plans to provide a \$1 billion line of credit to the State Bank of India (SBI) to support the expansion of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and electric mobility in the country.
- Rakesh Mohan, former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has been appointed as a member of the World Bank Group's Economic Advisory Panel, chaired by Lord Nicholas Stern and co-chaired by World Bank Group Chief Economist Indermit Gill.
- World Bank, in its bi-annual report “South Asia Development Update” released on 2 April 2024, has increased its growth rate forecast for the Indian economy for 2024-25 to 6.6 per cent.
- According to a recent World Bank report, the income gap between the poorest nations and developed countries is widening, with half of the world's most vulnerable countries experiencing a growing income disparity with wealthier economies.
- World Bank provides \$300 million loan to Tamil Nadu to help 21 Urban Local Bodies.
- World Bank has set up a task force to study the recommendations made by the Independent Experts Group, formed under India’s G20 Presidency, for strengthening multilateral development banks (MDBs).
- Commodity Markets Outlook Report is published by the World Bank in April and October, every year.
- **WORLD BANK**
- Founded : 1944
- Headquarters : Washington Dc
- 14th President : Ajay Banga
- MD&CFO : Anshula Kant
- Chief Economist : Carman Reinhart
- Executive Director : Rajesh Khullar
- Member Countries :189
- World Bank Group : 5 (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA and ICSID).
- All of these efforts support the Bank Group’s twin goals of ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity of the poorest 40% of the population in all countries.
- World Bank was created at the 1944 Bretton Woods Conference, along with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- India is a member of IBRD, IFC, IDA and MIGA. The country is not a member of the ICSID

Q. Which bank has launched a 'Golden Circle' exclusive banking program for senior citizens?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ DBS Bank India has launched "DBS Golden Circle," a priority banking program for senior citizens.
- ✓ The program, designed for resident Indian citizens aged 60 and above, offers exclusive benefits and services, including attractive interest rates on savings accounts and fixed deposits, enhanced security features, and personalised financial services to address income insecurity, which is a significant concern for the elderly, as highlighted in the India Ageing Report 2023 by the United Nations Population Fund.
- ✓ Senior citizens enrolled in the DBS Golden Circle can earn up to 7% interest per annum on savings account balances above Rs 4 Lakhs and up to Rs 5 Lakhs.
- ✓ To enhance security, the DBS Golden Circle program offers cyber insurance coverage up to Rs 1,00,000.
- ✓ About Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) Bank
- ✓ Founded : 1968
- ✓ Headquarters : Singapore
- ✓ Chairman : Peter Seah
- ✓ CEO : Piyush Gupta
- ✓ DBS Bank India' CEO : Surojit Shome

Q. Five major payment companies have applied to join the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) pilot program for India's central bank digital currency (CBDC) eRupee. What are the names of these five companies?

- A) Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, Rozarpay
- B) Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, BHIM
- C) Google Pay, PhonePe, Paypal, Cred, MobiKwik
- D) Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, MobiKwik

Answer : D

- ✓ Google Pay, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, Cred, MobiKwik seek entry into RBI's eRupee pilot program
- ✓ Five prominent payment companies, including Google Pay, Walmart-backed PhonePe, and Amazon Pay, have applied to join the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) pilot program for the eRupee, India's central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- ✓ Fintech firms Cred and Mobikwik have also submitted applications.
- ✓ The RBI launched the eRupee pilot in December 2022, but transaction volumes have declined significantly since an initial surge, reflecting the challenges central banks worldwide face in popularising digital currencies.
- ✓ The five payment firms are now working closely with the RBI and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to integrate eRupee functionality into their platforms. They are expected to roll out access over the next three to four months

Q. Which Small Finance Bank Limited has partnered with Edelweiss Life Insurance to access Edelweiss Life Insurance's life insurance products suite, thereby meeting their need for financial security?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Capital Small Finance Bank Limited (CSFB), and Edelweiss Life Insurance have entered into a bancassurance tie-up.
- ✓ This strategic partnership will enable CSFB's customer base to access Edelweiss Life Insurance's life insurance products suite, thereby meeting their need for financial security.
- ✓ The arrangement aims to enhance the CSFB's life insurance offerings by providing its customers with access to Edelweiss Life's digital platform and service touchpoints.

Q. Which insurance company has launched new term life insurance plans – Yuva Term, Digi Term, Yuva Credit Life, Digi Credit Life – for providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments?

- A) Bharti AXA General Insurance B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
C) Life Insurance Corporation of India D) Universal Sompo General Insurance

Answer : C

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched new term life insurance plans for providing term insurance and safety net against loan repayments – LIC's Yuva Term, LIC's Digi Term, LIC's Yuva Credit Life, LIC's Digi Credit Life. The plans are available online and offline.
- ✓ LIC's Yuva Term is available offline through our intermediaries and LIC's Digi Term is available online only through our website. The purpose of these products is to cater to youngsters who wish to take Term insurance in initial stages of life and give them a wider choice to buy offline or online.
- ✓ LIC's Yuva Credit Life/ Digi Credit Life is a non-par, non-linked, Life, individual, pure risk plan. It is a pure decreasing term assurance plan wherein the death benefit will reduce over the term of the policy.

Q. IIT Madras has partnered with which bank to launch a cybersecurity Lab to develop and deploy security solutions in crucial sectors such as healthcare, fintech and aerospace?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ IIT Madras Partners with IDBI Bank to Launch Cybersecurity Lab
- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has partnered with IDBI Bank to launch a cybersecurity Lab to develop and deploy security solutions in crucial sectors such as healthcare, fintech and aerospace, among others.
- ✓ The lab will focus on creating market-ready IPs in cybersecurity, productisation and commercialisation of research work, especially for mobile technologies.
- ✓ The lab will focus on cybersecurity in systems deployed in industries such as banking, automotive, power and telecommunications, among others, and undertake experimental evaluation and assessment exercises.

Q. Tata Group unveils ₹27,000 crore semiconductor facility in which state?

- A) Gujarat B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Andhra Pradesh D) Assam

Answer : D

- ✓ Tata Group unveils ₹27,000 crore semiconductor facility in Assam

- ✓ At the Tata Group's ₹27,000-crore greenfield semiconductor assembly and test facility in Assam, which is expected to be operationalised by next year, around 15 billion chips will be packaged annually for customers globally.
- ✓ The chips, which will be packaged at the Jagiroad facility in Assam, will power electric vehicles, healthcare devices, mobile phones, laptops, and other key products of leading global companies around the world.
- ✓ The facility is expected to generate over 27,000 direct and indirect jobs in the region.
- ✓ The project is envisioned under the Government of India's Semiconductor policy, which is driven by the India Semiconductor Mission and the Government of Assam's Electronics policy.

Q. Which bank has become the first private sector bank to merge both Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) features in RuPay credit cards?

A) RBL Bank	B) ICICI Bank
C) Axis Bank	D) Yes Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ RBL Bank becomes first private sector lender to merge UPI and NCMC in RuPay credit cards
- ✓ RBL Bank has introduced a new RuPay Credit Card, integrating both Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) features.
- ✓ This innovation makes RBL Bank the first private sector bank in India to offer these combined payment capabilities in a single card.
- ✓ The integration allows cardholders to make payments via UPI and get hassle-free travel with the NCMC feature.
- ✓ About RBL BANK
- ✓ Founded : 1943
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai
- ✓ MD & CEO : R Subramaniakumar
- ✓ Tagline : Apno ka Bank

Q. Which food aggregator company has launched a new app, District, to expand its services beyond its core food delivery and quick commerce business?

A) Food Panda	B) Zomato
C) Dominos	D) Food24

Answer : B

- ✓ Zomato launched new app 'District' to capture its 'going-out' market
- ✓ Food aggregator Zomato has launched a new app, District, to expand its services beyond its core food delivery and quick commerce business.
- ✓ The new platform aims to consolidate various 'going-out' services such as dining, movies, sports ticketing, live performances, shopping, and staycations, creating a one-stop destination for customers.
- ✓ Zomato and Blinkit are currently serving customers' needs at home, but there is a large opportunity to expand into the going-out market.

Q. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) imposed a penalty totalling ____ on HDFC Life for violating various IRDAI regulations

A) 1 crore	B) 2 crore
C) 3 crore	D) 50 lakh

Answer : B

- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a penalty totaling Rs 2 crore on HDFC Life for violating various IRDAI regulations.
- ✓ The penalty was levied after an onsite inspection conducted by IRDAI in September 2020, covering the financial years 2017-18, 18-19, and 19-20.
- ✓ The penalty of Rs 1 crore was levied for issues related to the protection of policyholders' interests. Additionally, a penalty of Rs 1 crore was imposed for irregularities concerning the outsourcing of services by the company.

Q. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Inderjit Camotra's reappointment as MD & CEO of which small finance bank for two years?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Inderjit Camotra's reappointment as MD & CEO of Unity Small Finance Bank Limited (Unity Bank) for two years.
- ✓ Camotra brings over 28 years of experience in leadership roles at major banks including Standard Chartered, ANZ, and Citibank.
- ✓ During his tenure, Unity Bank has expanded significantly, accumulating a deposit base exceeding Rs 8,000 crore, a loan book surpassing Rs 8,500 crore, and establishing around 400 banking outlets across 21 states and union territories in India.
- ✓ Unity Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank promoted by Centrum Financial Services Limited (a subsidiary of BSE and NSE-listed Centrum Capital Limited), with Resilient Innovations Private Limited as a co-investor.

Q. NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI), a subsidiary of NIIT, has launched the ACE Banker Program in collaboration with which bank?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ NIIT Institute of Finance, Banking and Insurance (NIIT IFBI), a subsidiary of NIIT, has launched the ACE Banker Program in collaboration with HDFC Bank.
- ✓ A key component of NIIT's Talent Pipeline as a Service (TPaaS) initiative, this programme aims to recruit and train customer service professionals for HDFC Bank.
- ✓ The ACE Banker Program is designed to address the evolving needs of the banking sector by equipping participants with the essential skills and knowledge required to excel in customer service roles at HDFC Bank.
- ✓ This comprehensive full-time program includes 45 days of residential training at NIIT University's Campus.
- ✓ Upon completion of the course, candidates will receive a joint certificate from HDFC Bank and NIIT and would be offered jobs, subject to the terms and conditions of the Program.

Q. Which company has received in-principle approval for its asset reconstruction company (ARC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- A) Bharti AXA Capital B) Shriram Capital
C) Royal Sundaram Capital D) Universal Sompo Capital

Answer : C

- ✓ Chennai based Shriram Capital has received in-principle approval for its asset reconstruction company (ARC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ The company had submitted the application to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 2023.
- ✓ The ARC will be a 100 percent subsidiary of Shriram Capital.

Q. Bengaluru-based Insurtech startup _ has been granted a direct broking (general) license by IRDAI and this startup enables to operate as a direct insurance broker in India, offering a full spectrum of business insurance solutions?

- A) Cashfree B) Phonepe
C) Covrzy D) Acko

Answer : C

- ✓ Insurtech startup Covrzy gets broking license from IRDAI
- ✓ Bengaluru-based Insurtech startup Covrzy has been granted a direct broking (general) license by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- ✓ This enables Covrzy to operate as a direct insurance broker in India, offering a full spectrum of business insurance solutions.
- ✓ In May last year, the startup had raised \$400K in its pre-seed round led by Antler, with participation from Shastra VC (formerly Veda VC).
- ✓ Co-founded by Ankit Kamra and Veera Thota, Covrzy provides an easy, customer-friendly insurance buying journey, particularly for startups, SMEs, and MSMEs in India.

Q. Mumbai-based merchant payment company, BillDesk, Amazon Pay, and global payments major Adyen have secured the cross-border payment aggregator licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Which company was the first company to secure the PA-cross border licence?

- A) PayZapp B) PayU
C) MobiKwik D) Cashfree

Answer : D

- ✓ Amazon Pay, Adyen, BillDesk secure cross-border payment licence from RBI
- ✓ Three payment companies have secured the cross-border payment aggregator licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ These are Mumbai-based merchant payment company BillDesk, Amazon Pay, and global payments major Adyen.
- ✓ They joined Bengaluru-based payment aggregator Cashfree in the list of licence holders. Cashfree was the first company to secure the PA-cross border licence.
- ✓ The PA-CB licence allows payment companies to offer payment services in the export-import space. With India being a massive market for international remittances and freelancers who work for global companies sitting out of India, there is a large opportunity to be tapped by these cross-border payment aggregators.

- ✓ All five players are also payment aggregator licence holders which enables them to offer merchant payment services in the domestic market too

Q. Which company has received in-principle approval for its asset reconstruction company (ARC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- A) Bharti AXA Capital B) Shriram Capital
C) Royal Sundaram Capital D) Universal Sompo Capital

Answer : C

- ✓ Chennai based Shriram Capital has received in-principle approval for its asset reconstruction company (ARC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ The company had submitted the application to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November 2023.
- ✓ The ARC will be a 100 percent subsidiary of Shriram Capital.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP):

1. It aims to facilitate investments from both large anchor industries and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
2. It catalyzes to achievement of the government's ambitious goal of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030.

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

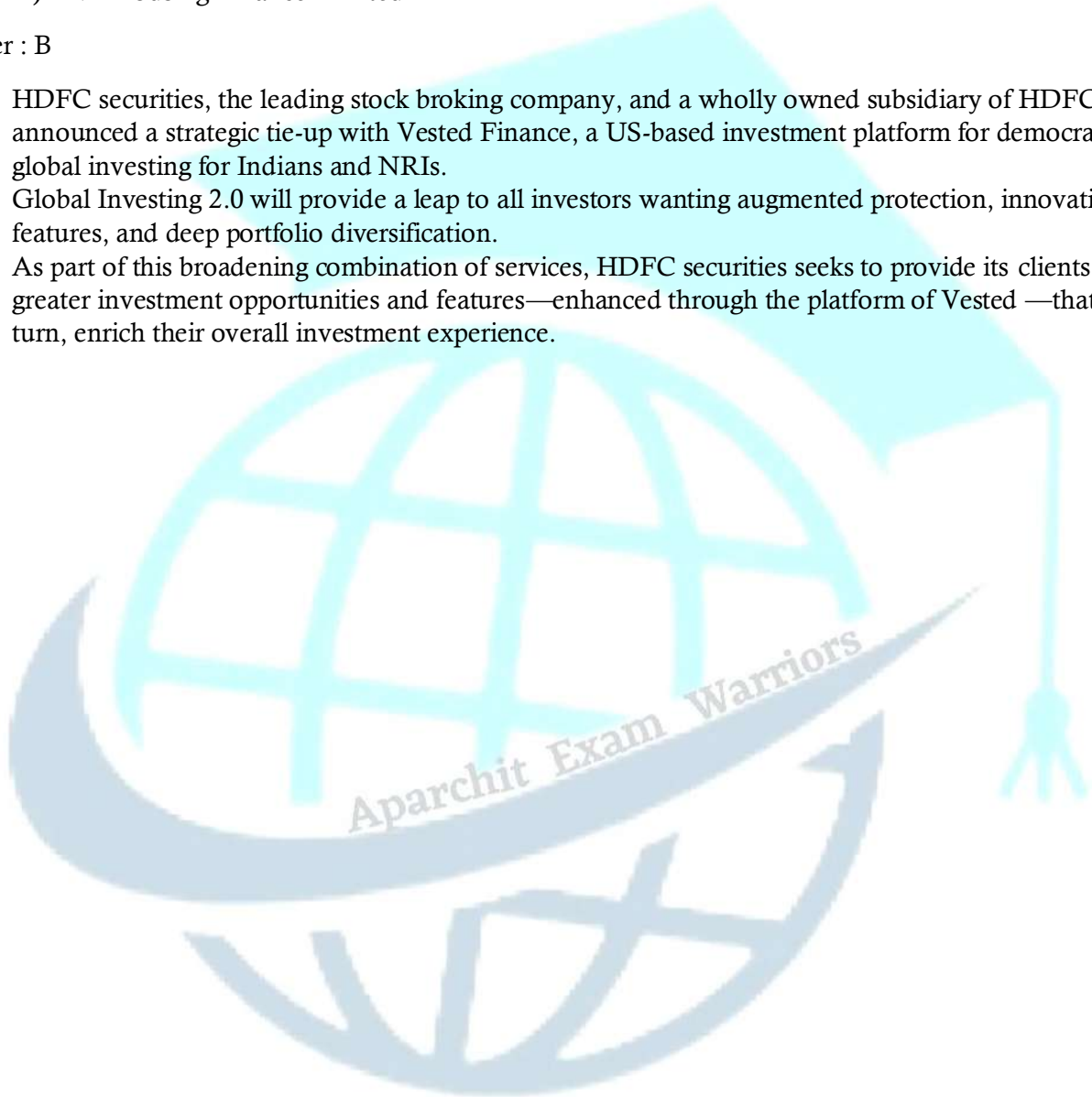
- ✓ Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister has approved 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore.
- ✓ The NICDP aims to facilitate investments from both large anchor industries and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), serving as catalysts to achieve the government's ambitious goal of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030.
- ✓ Under this programme the newly sanctioned industrial areas are
- ✓ Khurpia in Uttarakhand, Rajpura-Patiala in Punjab, Dighi in Maharashtra, Palakkad in Kerala, Agra and Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh, Gaya in Bihar, Zaheerabad in Telangana, Orvakal and Kopparthy in Andhra Pradesh, and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan.
- ✓ These sites will soon host state-of-the-art industrial smart cities, each designed to foster a vibrant industrial ecosystem. The proposed industrial nodes would focus on creating regional manufacturing hubs across the country.
- ✓ The development of these industrial cities is envisioned as greenfield smart cities built to global standards, embodying the 'plug-n-play' and 'walk-to-work' concepts.
- ✓ This innovative approach ensures that the cities will be equipped with advanced infrastructure designed to support sustainable and efficient industrial operations.
- ✓ The projects are closely aligned with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, which focuses on integrated and seamless multi-modal connectivity.

Q. HDFC Securities has partnered with which of the following to Offer Access to Global Investing for Indians and NRIs?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ HDFC securities, the leading stock broking company, and a wholly owned subsidiary of HDFC Bank, announced a strategic tie-up with Vested Finance, a US-based investment platform for democratising global investing for Indians and NRIs.
- ✓ Global Investing 2.0 will provide a leap to all investors wanting augmented protection, innovative features, and deep portfolio diversification.
- ✓ As part of this broadening combination of services, HDFC securities seeks to provide its clients with greater investment opportunities and features—enhanced through the platform of Vested —that will, in turn, enrich their overall investment experience.



Q. Which financial regulator has recently launched the SEVA chatbot?

- A) RBI
B) SEBI
C) IRDAI
D) NABARD

Answer : B

- ✓ SEBI launches SEVA Chatbot for Investors.
- ✓ The capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has introduced SEBI's Virtual Assistant (SEVA) chatbot to help investors of the securities market.
- ✓ The SEVA Chatbot is an artificial intelligence-enabled chatbot that will answer certain investors' questions.
- ✓ According to SEBI, the chatbot will have multiple features, such as citations, answering follow-up questions, and the ability to convert speech-to-text and text-to-speech.
- ✓ The SEVA chatbots will enable users to ask questions about the securities market and SEBI's complaint redressal platform (SCORES).
- ✓ SCORES (SEBI Complaint Redressal System) was launched by SEBI in June 2011 as an online platform which enables an investor
- ✓ to lodge complaints pertaining to the securities market online with SEBI against listed companies and SEBI-registered intermediaries.
- ✓ SEBI launched SCORES 2.0 on 1 April 2024 with advanced features.

SEBI IN NEWS 2024

- SEBI launched India's first dedicated website , called IndiaPassiveFunds.com, for passive funds at the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- SEBI has introduced SEBI's Virtual Assistant (SEVA) chatbot to help investors of the securities market
- SEBI has increased the limit for the Basic Service Demat Account (BSDA) to Rs 10 lakhs from the current Rs 2 lakhs to encourage small investors to participate in the securities market
- SEBI has reduced the deliverable period for commodity derivatives from the previous 5 days to 3 days. This regulatory change is set to take effect from July 1, 2024.
- SEBI has launched SCORES 2.0, an upgraded version of its Complaint Redress System (SCORES), to strengthen mechanisms for addressing investor complaints.
- SEBI has decided to decrease the minimum issue size for public issuance of Zero Coupon Zero Principal Instruments (ZCZP) from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 lakh.
- LIC to meet regulatory requirements, the SEBI has extended LIC's deadline to achieve a minimum 10% public shareholding.
- LIC, a state-owned insurance giant, now has until May 16, 2027, to fulfill this obligation.
- National Stock Exchange (NSE) gets the final SEBI approval to launch Social Stock Exchange.
- SEBI has granted approval to CRISIL ESG Ratings & Analytics as a Category 1 provider of ESG ratings, marking a significant development in the realm of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) assessments in India.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI):
- It is the regulatory body for securities and commodity markets in India established in 1988.
- It is the regulator of the Capital market and Commodities market in India.
- The first SEBI chairman was Dr S A Dave (1988-90)
- Madhabi Puri Buch is the current and 10th Chairperson of the SEBI.

- Headquarters : Mumbai

Q. What is the name of the first dedicated website for passive funds in India, launched by SEBI at the NSE?

- A) IndiaPassiveFunds.com B) NSEFunds.com
C) PassiveIndia.com D) SEBIPassive.com

Answer : A

- ✓ SEBI Launched India's 1st Web Portal for Passive Funds at NSE; Unveiled Report on Capital Markets.
- ✓ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) recently achieved two significant milestones: India's First Website for Passive Funds at NSE, Report on Indian Capital Markets.
- ✓ SEBI launched India's first dedicated website for passive funds at the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
- ✓ The website, called IndiaPassiveFunds.com, empowers retail investors by providing comprehensive information about the Indian passive funds industry.
- ✓ SEBI also unveiled a detailed report titled "Indian Capital Markets: Transformative Shifts Achieved Through Technology and Reforms."
- ✓ This report covers significant reforms, important milestones, and technological innovations in the Indian capital markets

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Project Nexus:

1. It is an international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).
2. It was conceptualized by the World Bank (WB).

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

- ✓ RBI recently joined Project Nexus, an initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by linking domestic Fast Payment Systems.
- ✓ About Project Nexus:
- ✓ It is a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).
- ✓ Rather than requiring FPS operators to establish multiple custom connections for each country, Nexus provides a standardized, single-connection solution that enables seamless transactions across borders.
- ✓ With Nexus, an FPS operator can connect to a single network, enabling instant access to other countries within the network.
- ✓ It was conceptualized by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
- ✓ It aims to connect the FPSs of four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand); and India, who would be the founding members and first mover countries of this platform.
- ✓ The platform, which can be extended to more countries, is expected to go live by 2026.
- ✓ When a new country joins Nexus, existing members are automatically connected to that country, and vice versa. This means the network can expand at a near-zero marginal cost for existing members.
- ✓ By simplifying and unifying the payment infrastructure, Project Nexus seeks to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve the accessibility of international payments.

Q.

1. It is a global initiative which includes standardizing connections between Instant Payment Systems (IPS) worldwide.
2. India, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are the founding members of the Project Nexus.
3. The agreement for this initiative was signed in Basel, Switzerland.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The RBI has joined Project Nexus, a global initiative enabling instant cross-border retail payments by linking domestic Fast Payment Systems (FPSs).
- ✓ The benefits of Project Nexus include standardizing connections between Instant Payment Systems (IPS) worldwide, enabling FPS operators to establish a single connection to reach multiple countries on the Nexus platform and enhancing speed and efficiency in cross-border payments, potentially completing transactions within 60 seconds. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- ✓ Countries involved in Project Nexus as founding members include India, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, with Indonesia slated to join the platform in the future. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- ✓ The agreement for Project Nexus was signed on June 30, 2024, in Basel, Switzerland, involving the BIS and the central banks of the founding countries (BNM, BOT, BSP, MAS, RBI). Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Q.

- A) RBI
B) SEBI
C) SIDBI
D) NABARD

Answer : C

- ✓ The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund, will create a corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).

Q.

1. It was set up at the Conference of Parties-28 (COP) held in Dubai.
2. It accelerates transformative climate action in developing countries.

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

- ✓ Subsidies: Demand incentives for e-2W & e-3W. Available for consumers in the form of an upfront reduced purchase price (Rs. 5,000 per kWh) of EVs, which will be reimbursed to OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) by the Government of India.
- ✓ Administration of Scheme including IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities and fees for Project Management Agency (PMA).
- ✓ Nodal Ministry : Ministry of Heavy Industries

Q. Which company will build a \$1 billion corpus for "financing mitigation and adaptation projects" (FMAP) of medium-sized and small enterprises (MSMEs) after receiving clearance for funding of \$215,65.6 million from the Green Climate Fund?

- A) RBI
B) SEBI
C) SIDBI
D) NABARD

Answer : C

- ✓ The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), which received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund, will create a corpus of \$1 billion for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP) of Medium and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Green Climate Fund:

1. It was set up at the Conference of Parties-28 (COP) held in Dubai.
2. It accelerates transformative climate action in developing countries.

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

- ✓ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) received approval of funding of \$ 215.6 m from the Green Climate Fund for 'financing mitigation and adaptation projects' (FMAP).
- ✓ It is the world's largest dedicated climate fund which was set up at COP 16 held in Cancun in 2010.
- ✓ It is an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✓ It accelerates transformative climate action in developing countries through a country-owned partnership approach and the use of flexible financing solutions and climate investment expertise.
- ✓ What is Financing Mitigation and Adaptation Project?
- ✓ It would provide "nearly 10,000 concessional loans to MSMEs", to promote low-emission, climate-resilient technologies.
- ✓ The FMAP programme is expected to result in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to the tune of 35.3 million tonnes.
- ✓ This is the second GCF-approved project led by SIDBI. The first project is the Avaana Sustainability Fund, which helps startups access climate finance
- ✓ Hence only statement 2 is correct

Q.

1. It offers institutional credit to individuals pursuing skill development courses conducted by training institutes following the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).
2. The maximum loan amount that can be availed under the scheme is Rs. 10 lakhs.
3. The scheme does not allow for collateral to be charged from the beneficiary.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The finance minister recently announced a revision to the model skill loan scheme, which will now facilitate loans up to Rs 7.5 lakh backed by a guarantee from a government-promoted fund.
- ✓ About Skill Loan Scheme:
- ✓ It was introduced in July, 2015, to offer institutional credit to individuals pursuing skill development courses aligned with National Occupations Standards and Qualification Packs.
- ✓ These courses are conducted by training institutes following the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and lead to certifications, diplomas, or degrees.
- ✓ The Scheme applies to all member banks of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and other banks and financial institutions as advised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Eligibility: Any Indian National who has secured admission in a course run by Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, or in a school recognised by Central or State Education Boards or in a college affiliated with a recognised university, training partners affiliated to National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Sector Skill Councils, State Skill Mission, or State Skill Corporation can avail loan for the purpose.
- ✓ No specific restriction with regard to age.
- ✓ Courses: Aligned with NSQF.
- ✓ Duration of Course: No minimum duration.
- ✓ Quantum of Finance: Rs. 5,000-1,50,000. Now, increased to Rs 7.5 lakh.
- ✓ Moratorium: Duration of the course.
- ✓ Repayment Period:
- ✓ Loans up to Rs. 50,000: Up to 3 years.
- ✓ Loans between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1 lakh: Up to 5 years.
- ✓ Loans above Rs. 1 lakh: Up to 7 years.
- ✓ Interest Rate: The interest rate to be charged by the bank should not be more than 1.5% p.a. over and above the Repo-Linked-Lending-Rate (RLLR) or any other external benchmark interest rate conforming to RBI guidelines
- ✓ Collateral: The scheme does not allow for collateral to be charged from the beneficiary.
- ✓ Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), through a November 2015 notification, brought into force the Credit Guarantee Fund for Skill Development (CGFSSD) for all skill loans sanctioned on or after 15 July 2015, to be administered by the National Credit Guarantee Trust Company (NCGTC).
- ✓ Banks can apply to the NCGTC for a credit guarantee against defaults, and the NCGTC will provide this guarantee at a nominal fee which shall not exceed 0.5% of the amount outstanding.
- ✓ The guarantee cover will be for a maximum of 75% of the outstanding loan amount (including interest, if any).

- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q. NITI Aayog has set a target to achieve \$500 billion in electronic manufacturing within the country by which year?

- A) 2040
- B) 2035
- C) 2030
- D) 2025

Answer : C

- ✓ NITI Aayog : \$500 billion electronic manufacturing target by 2030
- ✓ The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, in a report titled "Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains," has set an ambitious target of \$500 billion in electronic manufacturing in value terms for India to be achieved by 2030. This will help India achieve its ambition of becoming the world's third-largest economy.
- ✓ According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is the world's fifth-largest economy after the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and France.
- ✓ The report was released by NITI Aayog's Vice Chairman Sudesh Berry in New Delhi on 18 July 2024.
- ✓ India's electronic sector has recorded impressive growth from \$48 billion in domestic production in 2017-18 to 101 billion in 2022-23.
- ✓ Out of the \$101 billion production, the contribution of finished goods was \$86 billion, while the contribution of component manufacturing was \$15 billion.
- ✓ Mobile phones constitute 43 percent of total electronic manufacturing, and India meets 99 per cent of its smartphone requirements domestically.
- ✓ NITI Aayog has set a \$500 billion electronic manufacturing target by 2030.
- ✓ The target for finished goods manufacturing is \$350 billion, while the target for components manufacturing is \$150 billion.
- ✓ It will create an estimated 55 to 60 lakhs of new employment opportunities in the country.
- ✓ It will boost electronics exports to \$240 billion

NITI AAYOG IN NEWS 2024

- NITI Aayog released the 4th edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index and dashboard for 2023-24 : Kerala with a score of 79 points and Uttarakhand with a score of 79 points Share Top Spot.
- Bihar was the worst-performing state with a score of 57 points.
- NITI Aayog, in a report titled "Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains," has set an ambitious target of \$500 billion in electronic manufacturing in value terms for India to be achieved by 2030.
- NITI Aayog has announced the launch of the 'NITI GearShift Challenge' as part of the e-FAST India initiative.
- NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship platform and credit bure have collaborated to launch SEHER programme.
- 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' launched by NITI Aayog.
- Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and "Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping" portal Bhuvanwas launched by NITI Aayog.
- Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched NITI Aayog's 'NITI For States' Platform.
- NITI Aayog and the Embassy of the Netherlands in India released the report titled 'LNG as a transportation fuel in medium and heavy commercial vehicles.
- The government has approved the appointment of BVR Subrahmanyam as the CEO of NITI Aayog. He will be the fourth CEO of NITI Aayog.

- Subrahmanyam will replace Parameswaran Iyer.
- NITI Aayog and UNDP come together to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India)
- Founded : 1st January 2015
- Preceding : Planning Commission (15th March 1950)
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Chairperson : Narendra Modi
- Vice Chairperson : Suman K Bery
- CEO : BVR Subrahmanyam
- NITI Aayog comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Q. Which organization has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on Bajaj Finance and Rs 1 crore on Aegon Life Insurance (now known as Bandhan Life), citing violations of norms?

A) RBI

B) IRDAI

C) SEBI

D) SIDBI

Answer : B

- ✓ IRDAI imposes penalty of Rs 2 crore on Bajaj Finance, Aegon Life Insurance
- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on Bajaj Finance and Rs 1 crore on Aegon Life Insurance (now known as Bandhan Life), citing violations of norms.
- ✓ The insurance regulator has fined Bajaj Finance Rs 1 crore concerning the reconciliation of commission and professional fees received and reported to the authority. An additional penalty of Rs 1 crore was imposed concerning the maintenance of records of customer documentation.
- ✓ IRDAI has also issued additional directions to the company and advised it to comply with these directions in a time-bound manner.

IRDAI IN NEWS 2024

- IRDAI has fined HDFC Life Insurance Rs 2 crore for breaching regulatory norms.
- IRDAI has imposed a penalty of Rs 2 crore on Bajaj Finance and Rs 1 crore on Aegon Life Insurance (now known as Bandhan Life), citing violations of norms.
- IRDAI has issued new guidelines that reduce the engagement period of statutory auditors with insurance companies from 10 years to 4 years.
- IRDAI has granted approval for the appointment of Sandeep Batra as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company.
- Bengaluru-based insurtech startup Covrzy has recently achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a direct broking (general) license from the IRDAI.
- IRDAI organised the sixth edition of the Bima Manthan in Hyderabad.
- 2024 also marks the silver jubilee year of the IRDAI.
- The IRDAI has set a target of achieving insurance for all by 2047.
- IRDAI has retained New India Assurance Company Limited, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2023-24.
- Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services has secured a corporate agency license from the IRDAI.
- IRDAI approves appointment of Keki Mistry as Chairman of HDFC Life.
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- IRDAI was established on the recommendation of the R.N. Malhotra Committee, which the government of India established on Insurance Sector reform in 1993.

- Parliament passed the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999, which made the authority a statutory body in April 2000.
- Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana
- Chairperson: Debasish Panda
- It is the regulator of the Insurance sector in India

Q. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee to review the fee structure for white-label ATMs (WLAs). Who will chair this committee?

- A) Sunil Mehta
B) T Rabi Shankar
C) Arun Goel
D) Urjit Patel

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a committee to review the fee structure for white-label ATMs (WLAs).
- ✓ The committee, headed by Indian Banks' Association chief executive Sunil Mehta.
- ✓ This committee will evaluate current policies and practices, aiming to recommend a fair and sustainable model that balances the interests of all stakeholders. An assessment will be done on fee structure, existing ATM infrastructure and international best practices.
- ✓ WLA operators have suggested raising the interchange fee to ₹30 for financial transactions and ₹10 for non-financial transactions, along with considering access or convenience fees
- ✓ The committee will submit its report to deputy governor T Rabi Sankar.
- ✓ India's ATM market is projected to grow at a 9.2% CAGR from 2024 to 2032, with four authorized non-bank entities currently operating WLAs.
- ✓ White-Label ATMs
- ✓ Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are called "White Label ATMs" (WLAs).

COMMITTEE IN NEWS 2024

- RBI forms panel to review fee structure for white-label ATMs. The committee, headed by Sunil Mehta
- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Constituted Advisory Panel to Revise Base Year for GDP.
- The new committee will be headed by Biswanath Goldar.
- Union Ministry of Education has set up a seven committee headed by the former chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), K.Radhakrishnan, to review and suggest reform in the examination process.
- RBI Governor announced the setting up of a committee to examine various aspects of setting up a digital public infrastructure for the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform.
- The committee will be headed by A.P. Hota.
- SEBI said it has set up an ad-hoc committee chaired by Usha Thorat, who was a former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the ownership and economic structure of clearing corporations and suggest measures to ensure that clearing corporations function as resilient, independent, and neutral risk managers.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has set up an expert committee to position GIFT IFSC in Gujarat as a 'Global Trading Hub'.
- The 21-member committee will be chaired by former Union commerce secretary, Rajeev Kher.
- The committee formed for 'One Nation One Election' submitted its report to President Draupadi Murmu.
- This committee was formed under the chairmanship of former President Ramnath Kovind.

- Q.** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,90,000 on which company for non-compliance with certain provision of 'Know Your Customer (KYC) Directions, 2016' issued by RBI?
- A) Muthoot Finance Limited
B) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited
C) Shriram Transport Finance Corporation Ltd.
D) LIC Housing Finance

Answer : A

- ✓ RBI imposes penalty of Rs. 1.9 Lakh on Muthoot Finance Ltd. for non-compliance with KYC Directions, 2016.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,90,000 on Muthoot Finance Limited for non-compliance with certain provision of 'Know Your Customer (KYC) Directions, 2016' issued by RBI.
- ✓ This penalty has been imposed in the exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 58G read with clause (aa) of sub-section (5) of section 58B of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- ✓ The statutory inspection of the company was conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2022

- Q.** With reference to the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a WTO-compliant scheme of the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.
2. This scheme is open to both manufacturers and merchant exporters, without any threshold of turnover.
3. It covers physical exports as well as outbound shipments of services from India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The tea industry has sought higher rates under the RoDTEP scheme to make exports more competitive in overseas markets.
- ✓ About RoDTEP Scheme:
 - ✓ It is a flagship export promotion scheme of the Commerce Ministry of India.
 - ✓ The WTO-compliant scheme aims to refund to the exporters the embedded central, state, and local duties and taxes paid on inputs that have so far not been refunded or rebated.
- ✓ RoDTEP was announced in September 2019 to boost domestic exports and replace the export incentive scheme, Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS) scheme.
- ✓ This came after a World Trade Organization (WTO) ruling stated that the MEIS scheme violated the provisions of the trade agency as it was providing export subsidies for a several range of goods.
- ✓ The government decided to extend the benefit of the RoDTEP scheme to all goods, with effect from January 1, 2021, according to a notification by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).
- ✓ This scheme is open to both manufacturers and merchant exporters, without any threshold of turnover.
- ✓ The most important condition is that such goods should have been directly exported by such a person.

Q.

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It provides short term Agri-loans to farmers which can be availed through Kisan Credit Card (KCC).

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 Centre plans to increase the upper limit of the short-term crop loans under the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) from Rs 3 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.
- ✓ It is a Central Sector Scheme, 100% funded by the Government of India.
- ✓ It was launched in the year 2006-07 to provide short-term Agri-loans availed by farmers through Kisan Credit Card (KCC) for their working capital requirements at a concessional rate of interest.
- ✓ For this, at present, interest subvention is being given to concerned Financial Institutions (Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)/ Small Finance Banks/ RRBs/ Cooperatives/ Computerized PACS ceded with SCBs) providing the loan.
- ✓ Farmers engaged in Agriculture and other allied activities can acquire Kisan Credit Card loans up to Rs 3 lakh at a benchmark rate of 9%.
- ✓ However, the Centre provides 2% interest subvention on the benchmark rate, bringing down the effective rate of interest to 7 per cent.
- ✓ An additional 3% concession for prompt and timely repayment further reduces it to 4% per year.
- ✓ The implementing agencies for settling the claims under the Interest Subvention Scheme are the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

Q.

1. It is a run-of-the-river hydropower project being developed on the Karnali River in Nepal.
2. The project will supply power to Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

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

- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is set to invest approximately ₹290 crore in the Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project.
- ✓ About Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project:
- ✓ It is a 900 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project being developed on the Karnali River in Nepal.
- ✓ The project will supply power to Nepal, India and Bangladesh for a contracted period of 25 years.
- ✓ The Government of Nepal awarded the project to GMR Upper Karnali Hydro Power Limited (GUKHL), a subsidiary of GMR Group India, under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in January 2008.
- ✓ GMR is developing the project on a build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) basis.
- ✓ The Nepal Government received 27% free equity in the project as part of the MoU with GMR.
- ✓ It is estimated to generate 3,466 million units of electricity, while offsetting approximately two million tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

IREDA IN NEWS 2024

- IREDA is set to invest approximately ₹290 crore in the Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project in Nepal.
- 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.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) achieves a significant milestone as it attains 'Navratna' status from the Department of Public Enterprises.
- 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.
- 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.
- Chairman and Managing Director - Pradip Kumar Das

Q. With reference to PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. Under the scheme, households will be provided with a 100% subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs.
2. DISCOMs are designated as State Implementation Agencies (SIAs) under the scheme.
3. DISCOMs will receive incentives based on their achievements in the installation of additional grid-connected rooftop solar capacity beyond a baseline level.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The government has issued operational guidelines for the implementation of incentives to DISCOMs under the PM-Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana.
- ✓ About PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana:
- ✓ It is a government scheme launched on February 15, 2024, that aims to provide free electricity to households in India.

- ✓ Under the scheme, households will be provided with a subsidy to install solar panels on their roofs.
- ✓ The subsidy will cover up to 40% of the cost of the solar panels.
- ✓ The scheme is expected to benefit 1 crore households across India.
- ✓ It is estimated that the scheme will save the government Rs. 75,000 crore per year in electricity costs.
- ✓ The scheme has an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore and is to be implemented till FY 2026-27.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ The household must be an Indian citizen.
- ✓ The household must own a house with a roof that is suitable for installing solar panels.
- ✓ The household must have a valid electricity connection.
- ✓ The household must not have availed of any other subsidy for solar panels.
- ✓ The total financial outlay for the 'Incentives to DISCOMs' component is Rs 4,950 crore.
- ✓ Hence Statement 2 & 3 are the correct answer.

Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative (MSME-TEAM Initiative)?

- A) To provide financial assistance through Seller Network Participants to MSEs
- B) To offer tax incentives to newly established MSMEs.
- C) To conduct international trade fairs for MSMEs.
- D) None of the above.

Answer : A

- ✓ As a sub-scheme under the Central Sector Scheme "Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)", the Ministry of MSME launched the "MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative" (MSME-TEAM Initiative).
- ✓ About MSME TEAM Initiative:
- ✓ MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing Initiative" (MSME-TEAM Initiative) aims at assisting five lakh Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to onboard the Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform, through awareness workshops which will include hand-holding assistance for onboarding onto the ONDC.
- ✓ It aims to provide financial assistance to micro and small enterprises (MSEs) through Seller Network Participants, for catalogue preparation, account management, logistics, and packaging material and design.
- ✓ Of the total five lakh MSEs to be benefited, two and a half lakh MSEs would be women-owned MSEs.
- ✓ The objective of the MSME-TEAM Initiative is to assist MSEs all across the country.
- ✓ However, awareness workshops will be conducted preferably in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities and MSME Clusters, for greater outreach, especially among women and SC/ST-owned MSMEs.
- ✓ The MSME TEAM Initiative, being a sub-scheme, is for a period of three years up to March 2027.
- ✓ However, MSMEs can continue to onboard onto ONDC, which is an open network.

Q. Who has launched India's 1st tourism index fund, Tata Nifty India Tourism Index Fund?

- A) Axis Midcap Fund
- B) Edelweiss Mid Cap Fund
- C) SBI Long Term Equity Fund
- D) Tata Asset Management Private

Answer : D

- ✓ Tata Asset Management Private Limited (TAMPL) launched India's 1st tourism index fund, Tata Nifty India Tourism Index Fund.

- Q.** RBI has announced to launch the FI Index to measure the extent of financial inclusion in the country. RBI will release the FI Index annually in which month?
- A) January B) April
- C) July D) October

- ✓ RBI's Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) Increases to 64.2 in FY24.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released its Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) which increased to 64.2 in FY24 (in March 2024) from 60.1 in FY23 (in March 2023)
- ✓ **Financial Inclusion:**
- ✓ It is the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low-income groups at an affordable cost.
- ✓ RBI published the 1st FI-Index in August 2021 for the fiscal year ending in March 2021.
- ✓ The FI-Index for the FY21 (period ending in March 2021) was 53.9 as against 43.4 for FY17.
- ✓ The FI-Index is published annually in the month of July, for the Financial Year (FY) ending in March.
- ✓ **About FI – Index:**
- ✓ It is a comprehensive index which contains details of banking, investments, insurance, postal and the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sector-wise regulators. It has no base year.
- ✓ It captures information on various factors of financial inclusion in a single value which ranges from 0 to 100.
- ✓ The value 0 represents complete financial exclusion and 100 means full financial inclusion.
- ✓ The index comprises 3 main parameters with variant weightage: Access (35%), Usage (45%), and Quality (20%).
- ✓ The index will contain information regarding the ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services in all 97 indicators.
- ✓ The index reflects the combined efforts of stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion

- Answer : B

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- ✓ It is intended to simplify and streamline the process of remitting funds outside India.
- ✓ This scheme helped Indians overcome international fund transfer restrictions as set by the FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act), 1999.
- ✓ Under LRS, all resident individuals, including minors, are allowed to freely remit up to USD 250,000 per financial year (April–March).
- ✓ Only individual Indian residents are permitted to remit funds under LRS. Corporates, partnership firms, HUFs, trusts, etc. are excluded from its ambit.
- ✓ This can be for any permissible current or capital account transaction, or a combination of both.
- ✓ This can be for any permissible current or capital account transaction, or a combination of both.
- ✓ The remittances can be made in any freely convertible foreign currency.
- ✓ Permissible current account transactions under LRS:
 - ✓ Private visit (other than Nepal and Bhutan)
 - ✓ Gift or Donation including a rupee gift to a Non-Resident Indian (NRI) / Person of Indian Origin (PIO), who is a close relative.
 - ✓ Profits earned from investments below two years are taxed at normal income tax slab rates.
- ✓ Under the LRS scheme, you are liable to pay a 20% TCS (Tax Collected at Source) for remittances exceeding the limit of Rs. 7,00,000, except for education and medical reasons
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Agri-SURE Fund:

1. It aims to foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector.
2. It is managed by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

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

- ✓ National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced an agri fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (Agri-SURE).
- ✓ Agri fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises (Agri-SURE) supports start-ups and agripreneurs.
- ✓ It provides support through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), as well as direct equity support to start-ups working in Agriculture and allied sectors.
- ✓ This initiative aims to foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector through the establishment of a Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).
- ✓ While NABARD and the Ministry of Agriculture are contributing ₹250 crore each, the rest ₹250 crore is from other institutions.
- ✓ The fund is structured to support about 85 agri start-ups with investment sizes of up to ₹25 crore each by the end of its term
- ✓ NABVENTURES a fully owned subsidiary of NABARD will act as the fund manager.

Q. Under the new permission of RBI, banks can obtain fresh ratings from Brickwork Ratings for bank loans up to:

- A) Rs 100 crore B) Rs 250 crore
C) Rs 500 crore D) Rs 1000 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently lifted restrictions on banks using ratings from Brickwork Ratings India Private Limited.
- ✓ After two years of forbidding fresh ratings due to regulatory concerns, banks can now utilize Brickwork Ratings' assessments for calculating risk weights for capital adequacy purposes.
- ✓ However, there are certain conditions attached to this permission:
- ✓ New Rating Mandates : Banks can obtain ratings from Brickwork Ratings for bank loans not exceeding Rs 250 crore.
- ✓ Existing Ratings Surveillance: Brickwork Ratings may undertake rating surveillance for existing ratings, regardless of the rated amount, for the residual tenure of such loans.
- ✓ Larger Facilities: For existing ratings assigned to working capital facilities exceeding Rs 250 crore, surveillance will be conducted only until the next renewal of such facility by banks.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the e-FAST India initiative:

1. It aims to transition towards cleaner and greener freight transportation.
2. It facilitates deliberation, debates and collaboration between different stakeholders.

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

- ✓ NITI Aayog has announced the launch of the 'NITI GearShift Challenge' as part of the e-FAST India initiative.
- ✓ **About e-FAST India Initiative:**
- ✓ e-FAST was born from the recognition of the urgent need to decarbonize road-based freight transportation in India to realize its 2070 net zero commitments.
- ✓ It was launched in September 2022.
- ✓ It aims to galvanize the transition towards cleaner and greener freight transportation.
- ✓ The platform facilitates active collaborations at both the national and international levels, supports ideation and development of pilot programs on a scalable basis, and explores technology integration and associated research.
- ✓ **What is NITI GearShift Challenge?**
- ✓ It was launched by NITI in collaboration with IIM Bangalore, Smart Freight Centre India, CALSTART/Drive to Zero, and WRI India.
- ✓ This pioneering hackathon aims to foster innovative business models for the adoption of zero-emission trucks (ZETs) in India, addressing the nation's pressing economic and environmental challenges

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme:

1. It was launched by the Government of India in view of the Covid-19 crisis.
2. The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) provides guarantee to the loans provided under this scheme.

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 government officials have said that Non-performing assets (NPA) have been around 6 per cent under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS).
- ✓ It was launched by the Government of India in 2020 as a special scheme in view of the Covid-19 crisis.
- ✓ Objective: To provide 100 percent guaranteed coverage to the banks, non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs), and other lending institutions to extend emergency credit to business entities that have suffered due to the Covid-19 pandemic and are struggling to meet their working capital requirements.
- ✓ It is under the operational domain of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services (DFS).
- ✓ National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd (NCGTC) has been set up by the Union Ministry of Finance to manage and provide guarantees to these loans.
- ✓ ECLGS was launched in different phases - ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0, ECLGS 3.0, and ECLGS 4.0. In different phases, the scope of this scheme was increased to include multiple sectors.
- ✓ Sanctions/disbursements are made by lending institutions based on assessment of the borrower's requirements and eligibility.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development:

1. It was formed by the Reserve Bank of India under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
2. It is a specialized Development Finance Institution 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 : B

- ✓ The government wants to increase the capital base of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, or NaBFID, to 1 trillion through support from banks.
- ✓ It was set up in 2021, by an Act of the Parliament (The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Act, 2021).
- ✓ It is a specialized Development Finance Institution in India.
- ✓ Objectives: Addressing the gaps in long-term non-recourse finance for infrastructure development, strengthening the development of bonds and derivatives markets in India, and sustainably boosting the country's economy.
- ✓ Regulated by: It shall be regulated and supervised by RBI as an All-India Financial Institution (AIFI).
- ✓ The principal idea behind the setup of NaBFID is to provide a dedicated and specialized institution focused on addressing the long-term financing needs of the infrastructure sector in India.
- ✓ **What is a Development Finance Institution?**
- ✓ These are organizations owned by the government or public institutions to provide funds for infrastructure and large-scale projects, where it often becomes unviable for large banks to lend.
- ✓ They provide two types of funds- Medium (1-5 years) and Large (< 5 years).

Q.

2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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

- ✓ NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship platform and credit bure have collaborated to launch the SEHER programme.
- ✓ It is a comprehensive credit education program designed to enhance financial literacy and business skills among women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ This initiative is expected to enable women to access the financial tools necessary for business growth and job creation.
- ✓ It is an initiative of NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and TransUnion CIBIL.
- ✓ This initiative supports WEP's goal of improving financing access for women in India's 63 million MSMEs.
- ✓ Key facts about the Women Entrepreneurship Platform
- ✓ It was incubated in NITI Aayog in 2018 as an aggregator platform that transitioned as a public-private partnership in 2022 to build a comprehensive ecosystem supporting women entrepreneurs across India.
- ✓ WEP aims at empowering women entrepreneurs by overcoming information asymmetry and providing continuum of support across different pillars - Entrepreneurship promotion, Access to Finance; Market Linkages; Training and Skilling; Mentoring and Networking and Business Development Services

Q.

1. It was conceptualized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and driven by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
2. It is a one-stop payment platform for all bills, providing multiple payment modes and instant confirmation of receipt of payment.

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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced that all credit card bill payments via third-party applications must now be routed through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS).
- ✓ About Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS):
- ✓ It is a payment channel system conceptualized by the RBI and driven by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a subsidiary of RBI.
- ✓ It is a one-stop payment platform for all bills providing an interoperable and accessible “Anytime Anywhere” bill payment service to all customers across India with certainty, reliability and safety of transactions.
- ✓ The system will provide multiple payment modes and instant confirmation of receipt of payment.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Repair Portal:

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

- Answer : C

- Q.** RBI has raised the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit or financial accommodation for state governments and Union Territories (UTs) by 28% from Rs 47, 010 crore to ____, effect from 1st July 2024.

- A) ₹60,218 crore
B) ₹80,118 crore
C) ₹60,018 crore
D) ₹60,118 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI ups financial accommodation for States/UTs by 28% to ₹60,118 crore
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit or financial accommodation for state governments and Union Territories (UTs) by 28% from Rs 47, 010 crore (fixed in April 2022) to Rs 60, 118 crore and will come into effect from 1st July, 2024.
- ✓ The WMA limit has been raised based on the recommendations made by the group formed by the RBI which comprises finance secretaries of various states to address the expenditure data of states for recent years.
- ✓ The RBI provides WMA (or financial accommodation) to the States banking with it to help them to tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments.
- ✓ There are two types of WMA – normal and special. While normal WMA are clean advances, special WMA are secured advances provided against the pledge of Government of India dated securities.
- ✓ WMA scheme was 1st introduced by Government of India (GoI) in 1997

Q. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for relatively weak urban co-operative banks (UCBs), with deposits above ₹100 crore (upper tier category), to nurse them back to health. The provisions of the PCA Framework will be effective from ____.

A) 1 January 2025

B) 1 April 2025

C) 1 August 2025

D) 1 October 2025

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prescribed a Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for relatively weak urban co-operative banks (UCBs), with deposits above ₹100 crore (upper tier category), to nurse them back to health.
- ✓ As per the framework, a financially unsound and ill-managed UCB can be brought under PCA if it breaches the risk thresholds of identified indicators pertaining to capital and profitability (net profit).
- ✓ Currently, there are around 1,500 UCBs in the country. RBI classifies UCBs as Tier-I (deposits up to ₹100 crore); Tier-2 (more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore); Tier-3 (deposits more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore); and Tier-4 (above ₹10,000 crore). Tiers 2 to 4 come under the upper Tier.
- ✓ The objective of the PCA Framework is to enable supervisory intervention at an appropriate time and require the UCBs to initiate and implement remedial measures in a timely manner, to restore their financial health.
- ✓ The provisions of the PCA Framework will be effective from April 1, 2025.

Q. Manoj Mittal has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of which financial Institution?

A) NHB

B) NABARD

C) SIDBI

D) Exim Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Manoj Mittal has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- ✓ Prior to this appointment, Mittal was Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer at government-owned non-banking finance company IFCL.
- ✓ Mittal has replaced S Ramann, who had joined SIDBI in April 2021 for a three-year period.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Llama 3.1:

1. It is a new open source Artificial Intelligence model developed by Meta.
2. It can converse in eight languages and write higher-quality computer code.

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

- ✓ Meta has unveiled its new open-source AI model Llama 3.1
- ✓ It is Meta's largest-ever open-source AI model, and it has outperformed the likes of OpenAI's GPT-4o and Anthropic's Claude 3.5 Sonnet on numerous benchmarks.
- ✓ The new Llama 3.1 models are reportedly far more complex compared to Llama 3 models.

- ✓ It can converse in eight languages, write higher-quality computer code and solve more complex math problems than previous versions.
- ✓ It comes with 405 billion parameters, or variables that the algorithm takes into account to generate responses to user queries.

META IN NEWS 2024

- Meta Introduces new AI assistant powered by Llama 3.
- Union Education Ministry, Union Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and the social media giant Meta (formerly Facebook) has launched a 3 year partnership "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs".
- Press Trust of India (PTI) has joined META's Third-Party Fact-Checking Programme (3PFC) in India
- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Meta have collaborated to establish Frontier Technology Labs (FTLs) in schools.
- About Meta
- Meta Platforms, Inc., previously known as Facebook, Inc. and TheFacebook, Inc., is an American multinational conglomerate headquartered in Menlo Park, California. The company owns and operates several popular products and services including Facebook, Instagram, Threads, and WhatsApp
- Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, U.S.
- Chairman and CEO : Mark Zuckerberg

Q. Paytm has partnered with which bank to provide point-of-sale (POS) solutions and electronic data capture (EDC) or card machines to the lender and its merchant network?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Paytm partners with Axis Bank to provide payment technology solutions.
- ✓ One97 Communications (OCL), the company that owns fintech firm Paytm, has partnered with Axis Bank to provide point-of-sale (POS) solutions and electronic data capture (EDC) or card machines to the lender and its merchant network.
- ✓ Paytm's technology solutions, via payment acceptance devices, will reach a wider base through Axis Bank.

AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2024

- Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications (SWIFT), the Belgium-based Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications, has recently announced an AI-driven pilot project in collaboration with Axis Bank.
- Axis Bank has announced plans to increase its stake in Max Life Insurance to 19.99% from its current holding of 19.02%, by acquiring additional shares for a total consideration of Rs 336 crore.
- Financial Intelligence Unit has fined Axis Bank over Rs 1.66 crore for failure to detect and report suspicious transactions involving a fraudulent account created in the name of the NSG counter-terrorist force.
- Paytm Partners with Axis Bank to Offer POS Solutions & EDC Devices to Merchant Network.
- Financial Intelligence Unit imposes over Rs 1.66 cr fine on Axis Bank for failing to detect fraud NSG account.
- Axis Bank and Mastercard have collaborated to launch the NFC Soundbox, a device that allows users to accept multiple types of payments.

- 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.

Q. The government has estimated to collect ____ from disinvestment and asset monetisation in the FY25.

- A) 20,000 crore B) 30,000 crore
C) 40,000 crore D) 50,000 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ Government estimates Rs 50,000 crore from disinvestment, asset monetisation in FY25
- ✓ The government has estimated to collect Rs 50,000 crore from disinvestment and asset monetisation in the current fiscal.
- ✓ Besides, the government estimates a total of Rs 56,260 crore dividend from CPSEs (central public sector enterprises), more than Rs 48,000 crore estimated in the interim budget.
- ✓ The budget also estimates that dividend from RBI, banks and financial institutions would be Rs 2,32,874 crore in FY25, more than double of interim budget estimate of Rs 1.02 lakh crore.
- ✓ The massive increase in the number is on account of the windfall dividend of Rs 2.11 lakh crore from the RBI.

Q. Which of the following has revised its guidelines regarding the commission for long-term motor insurance policies?

- A) SEBI B) RBI
C) IRDAI D) SIDBI

Answer : C

- ✓ IRDAI revises its guidelines on commission on long-term motor insurance.
- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has revised its guidelines regarding the commission for long-term motor insurance policies.
- ✓ The recent policy change brings these long-term policies in line with the standard one-year motor insurance policies.
- ✓ Under the updated regulation, insurers are now permitted to provide commissions within the expense management framework for long-term policies. For three-year comprehensive motor insurance policies for four-wheelers, the commission cap was originally set at 15% for the first year, 10% for the second year, and 5% for the third year.

Q. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a venture capital fund of how much rupees to boost the space economy in the Union Budget 2024-25?

- A) 1000 crore B) 1500 crore
C) 2500 crore D) 2000 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced a Rs 1,000 crore venture capital fund to give a push to the space economy in the Union Budget 2024-25.

- ✓ Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched a range of digital and technology-led initiatives, including a Generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager (VRM), and credit line on UPI for enhancing payments and banking experience for customers.
- ✓ The GenAI-powered VRM, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the Indian banking sector, provides real-time information about the bank's products and services while also capturing customer requirements for specific banking services.

BOB IN NEWS 2024

- Bank of Baroda launches GenAI Hackathon in collaboration with Microsoft.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has launched the BoB Earth Green Term Deposit Scheme, aimed at raising deposits for financing eligible environment-friendly projects and sectors.
- Bank of Baroda (BOB) said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to waive the ₹5 crore penalty that was previously imposed on it due to a shortfall in soiled note remittances.
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of long-term infrastructure bonds
- Bank of Baroda (BOB)
- Founded : 1908
- Founder : Sayajirao Gaekwad III
- Headquarters : Vadodara, Gujarat
- MD & CEO : Debadatta Chand
- Tagline : India's International Bank

Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of NPS Vatsalya Scheme?

- A) To provide health insurance for children from poor families.
- B) To offer educational scholarships for students.
- C) To provide a monthly stipend to poor families with minor children.
- D) To help parents and guardians plan for their children's future financial needs.

Answer : D

- ✓ The finance minister recently announced a new pension scheme under the National Pension Scheme (NPS), called NPS Vatsalya.
- ✓ **About NPS Vatsalya Scheme:**
- ✓ It is a scheme under the National Pension Scheme (NPS).
- ✓ It is designed to help parents and guardians plan for their children's future financial needs.
- ✓ Under this scheme, parents or guardians can open an account for their minor children and make contributions towards their retirement savings.
- ✓ The funds will accumulate until the child turns 18.
- ✓ Once the child reaches adulthood, the accumulated amount will be transferred to the standard NPS account.
- ✓ This plan could be seamlessly converted into a non-NPS plan when the child becomes an adult.
- ✓ The scheme operates similarly to the existing NPS.
- ✓ **Key Facts about NPS:**
- ✓ It is a voluntary retirement benefit scheme introduced by the Government of India to facilitate regular income post-retirement for all subscribers.
- ✓ A citizen of India, either a resident, non-resident, or an Overseas Citizen of India, can open an NPS account.
- ✓ It helps individuals build a retirement corpus by making regular contributions throughout their careers.
- ✓ It is based on a unique Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN), which is allotted to every subscriber.

- ✓ NPS account or PRAN will remain the same irrespective of changes in employment, city, or state. It can be used from any location in India.
- ✓ PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) is the governing body for NPS.
- ✓ Contributions to the NPS are eligible for tax deductions under Section 80C and an additional deduction of up to ₹50,000 under Section 80CCD(1B).

Q. With reference to 'Angel Tax', consider the following statements:

1. It was first time introduced in 2012 to prevent black money laundering through share sales.
2. It was levied on the capital raised via the issue of shares by unlisted companies.

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

- ✓ Union Minister for Finance proposed to abolish 'angel tax' for all classes of investors, while presenting the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament.
- ✓ It was levied on the capital raised via the issue of shares by unlisted companies from an Indian investor if the share price of issued shares is seen in excess of the fair market value of the company.
- ✓ The excess funds raised at prices above fair value are treated as income, on which tax is levied.
- ✓ It derives its genesis from section 56(2) (viib) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- ✓ It was first time introduced in 2012 to prevent black money laundering through share sales.
- ✓ It was levied at a rate of 30.9% on net investments in excess of the fair market value.
- ✓ In 2019, the Government announced an exemption from the Angel Tax for startups on fulfillment of certain conditions. These are,
 - ✓ The startup should be recognized by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) as an eligible startup.
 - ✓ The aggregate amount of paid-up share capital and share premium of the Startup cannot be more than ₹25 crores. This amount does not include the money raised from Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Venture Capital Firms, and specified companies.
 - ✓ For angel investors, the amount of investment that exceeds the fair market value can be claimed for a 100% tax exemption.
 - ✓ However, the investor must have a net worth of ₹2 crores or an income of more than ₹25 Lakh in the past 3 fiscal years.

Q. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has awarded a network project to Bharti-Airtel Ltd., which will go a long way in enhancing the digital infrastructure of the income tax department. What is the name of this project?

- A) Taxnet 2.0
B) Taxnet 4.0
C) Taxnet 3.0
D) Taxnet 5.0

Answer : A

- ✓ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has awarded a network project to Bharti-Airtel Ltd., which will go a long way in enhancing the digital infrastructure of the income tax department.
- ✓ Under the project, called Taxnet 2.0, the company will provide network connectivity, facility management services and video conferencing services.

- ✓ The project seeks to revamp the department’s network system, provide enhanced security, reliability, and a “seamless user experience.
- ✓ The project will also use technology to protect sensitive data and ensure privacy while delivering higher reliability. The project will also enhance the tax services for citizens and businesses alike.

Q. Which Indian company has bought a stake in the Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field and an associated pipeline from Eginor company of Norway?

- A) NTPC Ltd
B) GAIL
C) BHEL
D) ONGC Videsh Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ OVL hikes stake in Azerbaijani Oilfield with \$60 million investment
- ✓ The Navratna company ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has bought the Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in Azerbaijan's offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field and an associated oil pipeline for \$60 million.
- ✓ OVL, an ONGC subsidiary, has increased its stake in the Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field to 2.95 per cent
- ✓ In 2013, the OVL invested for the first time in the Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field, buying a 2.72 per cent stake in the company.
- ✓ Before the deal with Equinor, the current stake of OVL in the oil field was 2.31 per cent and 2.36 per cent in the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan pipeline company.
- ✓ Under the deal with the Norwegian company Equinor the OVL has bought 0.615 per cent share in the oil field and 0.737 shares in the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan pipeline company from Equinor.
- ✓ Thus, the total OVL Stake in the Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field will increase to 2.95 per cent and 3.097 per cent for the Baku Tbilisi Ceyhan pipeline company.
- ✓ Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field of Azerbaijan is a large oil-bearing area of Azerbaijan in the Caspian Sea.
- ✓ The ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) was set up as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the public sector ONGC in 1965.
- ✓ It was set up to explore and develop petroleum and gas fields outside India
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Chairperson: Arun Kumar Singh

Q. Who has been appointed as the new managing director and chief executive officer of the Federal Bank?

- A) Shyam Srinivasan
B) K. Satyanarayana Raju
C) Lingam Venkat Prabhakar
D) Krishnan Venkat Subramanian

Answer : D

- ✓ KV Subramanian appointed as Federal Bank MD & CEO.
- ✓ The Kochi-based private sector bank Federal Bank has announced the appointment of Krishnan Venkat Subramanian as the new managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of the bank.
- ✓ He will succeed Shyam Srinivasan, the longest-serving managing director and CEO of the bank.
- ✓ According to the Federal Bank, KV Subramanian has been appointed for a three-year term.
- ✓ Under section 35 B of the Banking Regulation Act 1949, appointing a Chairman, managing director, or chief executive officer to an Indian private sector bank requires the RBI's approval.
- ✓ According to the RBI norm, a bank's non-promoter can be appointed for a maximum term of 15 years.
- ✓ About KV Subramanian

- ✓ KV Subramanian did his B tech from the Indian Institute of Technology -Varanasi and MBA from Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies Mumbai.
- ✓ He was the joint managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank till April 2024
- ✓ About Federal Bank
- ✓ The private sector Federal Bank was established as Travancore Federal Bank Limited on 23 April 1931.
- ✓ The bank was renamed as Federal Bank Limited in December 1949.
- ✓ The Bank became a scheduled commercial bank in July 1970.
- ✓ Headquarters: Aluva, Kochi, Kerala
- ✓ MD & CEO : KV Subramanian
- ✓ Tagline: Your Perfect Banking Partner

Q. A person who is the non-promoter of a private bank can remain the bank's managing director and chief executive officer for a maximum period of –?

- A) 20 years
- B) 15 years
- C) 12 years
- D) 10 years

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the RBI norm, a bank's non-promoter can be appointed for a maximum term of 15 years.

Q. Which bank has launched 'Wrestle for Glory' to Support Female Wrestlers?

- A) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- B) Indian Overseas Bank
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) IndusInd Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ IndusInd Bank Launches 'Wrestle for Glory' to Support Female Wrestlers.
- ✓ IndusInd Bank has introduced the 'Wrestle for Glory' initiative, continuing its collaboration with the Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS) in Vijayanagar, Bellary.
- ✓ The program aims to empower 50 talented female wrestlers from across India with fully-funded scholarships for coaching at IIS.
- ✓ IndusInd For Sports' Initiative
- ✓ Establishment: The 'Wrestle for Glory' program is part of the 'IndusInd For Sports' initiative, a non-banking sports vertical of the Bank founded in 2016.
- ✓ Philosophy : The initiative emphasizes diversity, differentiation, and domination, aiming to excite, educate, and engage stakeholders through sports.

INDUSIND BANK IN NEWS 2024

- IndusInd Bank Launches 'Wrestle for Glory' to Support Female Wrestlers.
- IndusInd Bank has introduced 'Indus PayWear,' a new wearable payment solution, available on Mastercard.
- IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Samman RuPay Credit Card' for Government Employees.
- IndusInd Bank Introduces 'Indus Solitaire Program' for the Diamond Industry.
- IndusInd Bank Launches 'IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card' on UPI.
- IndusInd Bank has agreed to a multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC). The deal is set to be valued at \$20-24 million (approximately Rs 160-200 crore).
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for Poonawalla Fincorp's collaboration with IndusInd Bank to issue a co-branded credit card.
- IndusInd Bank has launched the 'IndusInd Bank eSvarna', India's first Corporate Credit Card on RuPay network.

- IndusInd Bank
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : S.P. Hinduja
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra,
- MD & CEO : Sumant Kathpalia
- Tagline : We Make You Feel Richer

Q. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Govind Singh as the managing director and chief executive officer of which small finance bank?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the reappointment of Govind Singh as Managing Director(MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank Limited (USFBL) for a period of three years with effect from September 21 2024.
- ✓ Govind Singh is the founder of Utkarsh Coreinvest Ltd. (Erstwhile Utkarsh Micro Finance Ltd.), the promoting institution of USFBL
- ✓ He was appointed as MD & CEO of USFBL in 2017. He resigned from the post in May 2018 and was reappointed in September 2018.
- ✓ He is also a Director at Utkarsh Welfare Foundation (UWF).

Q. The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) has entered into an agreement with which country's government to provide a line of credit worth \$2.5 million for the installation of a solar photo voltaic power plant?

- A) Oman
B) Mauritius
C) Bhutan
D) Guyana

Answer : D

- ✓ The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) has entered into an agreement with the government of Guyana to provide a line of credit worth \$2.5 million for the installation of a solar photo voltaic power plant.
- ✓ While the deal was dated February 29, 2024, Under the Line of Credit, the last date for disbursements will be 48 months after the completion of the project.
- ✓ The solar photo voltaic power plant will be set up at the Cheddi Jagan International Airport in Guyana.
- ✓ Of the total credit provided by EXIM Bank, goods, works and services worth at least 75% of the contract price will be supplied by the seller from India and the remaining 25% may be procured by the seller from outside India for the eligible contract
- ✓ About Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)
- ✓ Founded : 1982
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai
- ✓ MD : Harsha Bhupendra Bangari
- ✓ Stake : Government of India (100%)

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Integrated Tribal Development Programme:

1. It is a flagship programme of the Union Ministry of Tribal affairs for sustainable tribal livelihoods.
2. It is funded through Tribal Development Fund.

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, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched an integrated tribal development programme in the Kulathupuzha grama panchayat in Kerala.
- ✓ It is a flagship programme of NABARD for sustainable tribal livelihoods.
- ✓ It is based on the 'wadi' model of tribal development, which has evolved with the support of national and international developmental agencies.
- ✓ Projects under this programme are funded through Tribal Development Fund.
- ✓ The objective of the Fund is to:
 - ✓ create replicable models of integrated development of tribal families on participatory basis, through adoption of sustainable income generating activities based on potential of the area and the tribal needs
- ✓ About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
 - ✓ Founded : 12 July 1982
 - ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
 - ✓ Chairman : K V Shaji
 - ✓ NABARD established on the recommendations of B. Sivaramman Committee

Q. Tata Realty & Infrastructure Ltd has secured ____ loan from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for refinancing of Ramanujan Intellion Park in Chennai, a ‘sustainable real estate development’ project.

- A) ₹987 crore
B) ₹825 crore
C) ₹538 crore
D) ₹789 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Tata Realty & Infrastructure Ltd. has secured a ₹825 crore loan from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for refinancing of Ramanujan Intellion Park in Chennai, a 'sustainable real estate development' project.
- ✓ This funding is earmarked for the strategic refinancing of the business park and is part of Tata Realty's commitment to advance its sustainability efforts and elevate the standard of green commercial spaces across India

Q. Which bank has introduced a new security mechanism 'Safety Ring' for Internet and Mobile Banking Users?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ PNB Introduces 'Safety Ring' To Enhance Security For Internet and Mobile Banking Users.

- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB), India's leading Public Sector Bank (PSB) has introduced a new security mechanism 'Safety Ring' within its Internet Banking System (IBS) and Mobile Banking System (MBS) in response to the increasing number of cyber frauds.
- ✓ Safety Ring is an optional mechanism which allows customers to set daily transaction limitations with respect to Term Deposits (TDs) on online closure or availing overdraft facility on TDs up to the stated limit amount.
- ✓ The customers can set the Safety Ring limit via branches or online using IBS/MBS.

Q. Which of the following has launched the ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF, India's first exchange-traded fund (ETF) in the oil and gas sector?

- A) Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company
- B) HDFC Asset Management
- C) SBI Funds Management Pvt Ltd
- D) ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

Answer : D

- ✓ ICICI Prudential MF launches India's First Oil & Gas ETF.
- ✓ ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund (MF) has introduced India's first Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) focused on the oil and gas sector, named the ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF.
- ✓ This open-ended ETF will track the Nifty Oil & Gas Total Return Index (TRI) Index, which reflect the performance of companies within the sector
- ✓ Aim: To provide investors with long-term wealth creation opportunities, and to deliver returns before expenses that closely match the total return of the underlying index, subject to tracking error.
- ✓ Investors can participate in the scheme with a minimum investment of Rs 100 per plan/option, and investments can be made in multiples of Re 1 with no upper limit.
- ✓ This scheme involves no "Entry Load" and no "Exit Load". However, investors will be responsible for any brokerage charges incurred during the sale.

Q. Which of the following will be the title sponsor of the Indian team at the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- A) Adani Group
- B) Reliance Group
- C) Dream11
- D) Paytm

Answer : A

- ✓ Adani Group announced as Principal Sponsor for Indian Team at 2024 Paris Olympics
- ✓ Gautam Adani, the chairman of the Adani Group, has announced that the conglomerate will be sponsoring the Indian team travelling to Paris for the 2024 Olympics Games.
- ✓ With the Indian contingent in the last leg of its preparations for the 2024 Olympics, the Adani Group has pledged its whole-hearted support to the champions of the nation through a campaign with the theme #DeshKaGeetAtOlympics.
- ✓ The campaign centres around the athletes, who have spent hours and years in training to win and hear the national anthem after the victory.

Q. Which bank has entered into a bancassurance tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to provide seamless access to Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance's products across the bank's wide network in India?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Federal Bank, a private sector bank, has entered into a Bancassurance tie-up with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, a private life insurer.
- ✓ This partnership will enable Federal Bank's customers to seamlessly access Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance's products, across the Bank's extensive network in India.
- ✓ This strategic partnership aims to leverage the combined strengths of Bajaj Allianz Life and Federal Bank. It aligns with both the companies' strategic goals and growth plans and will drive insurance penetration and market expansion.

Q. Which bank has raised Rs 10,000 crore today at a coupon rate of 7.36% through its sixth infrastructure bond issuance?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) raised Rs. 10,000 crore today at a coupon rate of 7.36% through its sixth infrastructure bond issuance.
- ✓ The issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids in excess of Rs18,145 crore and was oversubscribed by around 3.6 times against the base issue size of Rs. 5,000 crore.
- ✓ The total number of bids received was 120 indicating wider participation with heterogeneity of bids. The investors were across provident funds, pension funds, insurance companies, mutual funds, corporates etc.

Q. Which company has raised 31.96 billion Japanese yen through a 5-year green loan, with the transaction being conducted from Deutsche Bank's Gift City branch?

- A) NTPC Limited
B) SJVN
C) Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)
D) Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

Answer : C

- ✓ REC raises 31.96 billion Japanese yen through 5-year green loan
- ✓ Power sector financier REC Limited has raised 31.96 billion Japanese yen through a 5-year green loan, with the transaction being conducted from Deutsche Bank's Gift City branch.
- ✓ The loan, which is equivalent to \$200 million, will be used to finance eligible green projects in India.
- ✓ This successful transaction is in line with REC's commitment to enhance its green energy financing and sustainable projects capabilities as well as the global community's support for sustainable development projects in India.
- ✓ The transaction marked one of the first yen-denominated green loan transactions for Deutsche Bank through its Gift City branch

REC LTD IN NEWS 2024

- 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 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
- 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 bank has introduced an online loan facility against mutual fund (MF) units through its internet banking (INB) and YONO App?

A) Punjab National Bank	B) State Bank of India
C) Kotak Mahindra Bank	D) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ State Bank of India has introduced an online loan facility against mutual fund (MF) units through its internet banking (INB) and YONO App.
- ✓ This digital solution allows consumers to apply for loans from the comfort of their own homes, with a completely paperless and digital process that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- ✓ The new loan facility is extended at attractive interest rates to mutual fund schemes of all Asset Management Companies (AMCs) registered with CAMS.

Q. Which footwear company has partnered with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the official footwear partner for the Indian contingent heading to the Paris Olympics 2024?

- A) Adidas
- B) PUMA
- C) Nike
- D) Reebok

Answer : B

- ✓ PUMA India has partnered with Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the official footwear partner for the Indian contingent heading to the Paris Olympics 2024.
- ✓ PUMA has launched a grand outdoor campaign titled “See the Game Like We Do” to honor and celebrate the achievements of Indian athletes.
- ✓ As part of this collaboration, over 100 Indian athletes will receive an array of products designed to enhance their training and comfort.

Q. Which multilateral institution has approved \$1.5 billion loans to India to develop the country's low-carbon energy sector?

- A) ADB
- B) AIIB
- C) NDB
- D) World Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ World Bank approves \$1.5 billion loan for low carbon energy sector.
- ✓ World Bank's Board of Executive Directors in June 2024 approved a \$1.5 billion loan to the government of India to develop the low-carbon energy sector in the country. This is the second such loan granted by the World Bank of India. Last year, in 2023, the World Bank sanctioned \$1.5 billion to India for the development of the low-carbon energy sector.
- ✓ What is the Low Carbon Energy Sector?
- ✓ Low Carbon energy sector refers to the energy source which when burned releases less carbon as compared to the burning of fossil fuels(coal, petroleum oil and gas).
- ✓ Hydrogen or ammonia are considered as zero carbon emission fuels and amongst the low carbon fuels comes biofuels. Biofuels are made from biomass like plants (wood, straws, molasses, agricultural wastes etc) , algae.
- ✓ The government of India has set a target to achieve net zero carbon emission status by 2070. To realise this goal, the government of India launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- ✓ Break up of the Loan Amount Provider
- ✓ Out of the total \$ 1.5 billion loans, \$1.44 billion will be provided by World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
- ✓ \$56.57 million will be provided by the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank.
- ✓ The rest of the amount will come from the United Kingdom's \$1 billion backstop aimed at boosting the World Bank's climate change financing to India.
- ✓ Support for National Green Hydrogen Mission
- ✓ According to the World Bank, the loan will support India's government's National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- ✓ On 4 January 2023, the government of India launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The total outlay on the mission is Rs 19,744 crores and the mission will continue till 2029-30.
- ✓ One of the main aims of the mission is to
- ✓ Develop green hydrogen production capacity of at least 5 Million Metric Tonne per year by 2030,
- ✓ By 2030, the renewable energy capacity shall increase by 125 gigawatts.
- ✓ Attract \$ 100 billion in investment from the private sector.

- ✓ The Mission aims to attract \$ 100 billion investment in the sector till 2030. The loan from the World Bank will supplement the government effort to achieve the target set under the National Hydrogen Mission.
- ✓ IBRD is a part of the World Bank Group and it is the world's largest development bank.
- ✓ The IBRD was set up in 1944 to provide loans, guarantees, risk management products, and advisory services to middle income member countries and credit worthy low income countries.
- ✓ The IDA is also part of the World Bank Group and was set up in 1960.
- ✓ It provides loans and grants to low-income member countries for development projects.
- ✓ Unlike IBRD, it provides grants to countries and offers loans at almost zero percent interest with repayment durations of over 30 to 40 years.
- ✓ Grants mean that the borrower will not return the money to the lender.
- ✓ Headquarters of the World Bank Group: Washington D.C, the United States of America

Q. Which bank signed a pact with Steel Authority of India to provide home loan, car loan and education loan to the latter's employees at concessional rates?

A) Kotak Mahindra Bank	B) Punjab National Bank
C) State Bank of India	D) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ State-owned Punjab National Bank has signed a pact with Steel Authority of India to provide home loan, car loan and education loan to the latter's employees at concessional rates.
- ✓ This strategic partnership aims to enhance the financial well-being of Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) employees while expanding PNB's customer base within the steel sector.

Q. Jio Financial Services has received the nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert into a ____ from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).

A) Core Investment Company	B) Asset Management Company
C) Microfinance Institution	D) Investment Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Jio Financial Services has received the nod from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert into a Core Investment Company (CIC) from a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC).
- ✓ According to the Reserve Bank of India, a CIC is a specialised NBFC with an minimum asset size of Rs 100 crore.
- ✓ Jio Financial Services is the demerged entity of energy-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).

Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of BSNL?

A) Robert Ravi	B) Rahul Sharma
C) Dheeraj Sharma	D) Harshit Gupta

Answer : A

- ✓ Robert Ravi appointed as the CMD of BSNL
- ✓ The government has appointed Robert Jerard Ravi as the new BSNL Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for a period of six months.
- ✓ Ravi is currently appointed as deputy director general, standards, research and innovation at the department of telecommunications (DoT).

- ✓ Ravi will replace PK Purwar, whose tenure is expiring on July 14. Purwar assumed charge as BSNL CMD in July 2019

Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Payments Bank?

- A) Arun Bansal
- B) Rajeev Agarwal
- C) Tablesh Pandey
- D) Siddhartha Mohanty

Answer : A

- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank appoints Arun Bansal as new CEO
- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank, an associate entity of One97 Communications (OCL), which operates the Paytm brand, has appointed Arun Kumar Bansal as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- ✓ Bansal is a former IDBI Bank executive. He resigned from his position as the executive director and head of treasury (on contract) at IDBI Bank.
- ✓ Paytm Payments Bank
- ✓ Founded : 2015
- ✓ Founder : Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- ✓ Headquarters : Noida
- ✓ CEO : Arun Kumar Bansal
- ✓ Vijay Shekhar Sharma holds 51 per cent in the entity with One97 Communications holding 49 per cent.

Q. Which bank has hiked its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) across buckets by 5 to 10 basis points?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ State Bank of India, the country's largest state-run lender, has hiked its marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) across buckets by 5 to 10 basis points with effect from 15 July.
- ✓ Most loans to corporates, including SMEs, are priced using MCLR as a benchmark. The revision in MCLR reflects the changes in cost of funds.
- ✓ The lender hiked the rate for one-month MCLR by five basis points to 8.35 per cent. For one year, MCLR has been hiked by 10 basis points to 8.85 per cent. For the three-year period, it has been raised by five basis points to 9.0 per cent,
- ✓ This is the second consecutive hike after June. MCLR, the minimum lending rate since April 1, 2016, primarily affects corporate loans. Retail loans are tied to external benchmarks like the unchanged RBI repo rate since February 2023. One basis point is 0.

Q. According to the IMF report released in July 2024, what is the likely growth rate of the Indian economy in 2024-25?

- A) 6.7%
- B) 7.2%
- C) 7.0%
- D) 6.8%

Answer : C

- ✓ IMF Raises India's Growth Forecast to 7 % for 2024-2025.
- ✓ International Monetary Fund(IMF), in its World Economic Report released on 16 July 2024, has raised its forecast for India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate in 2024-25 by 20 basis points (bps) to 7 per cent.
- ✓ In the earlier April report, it had projected a growth rate of 6.8 per cent for the financial year 2024-25.
- ✓ The growth forecast for 2025-26 has remained unchanged at 6.5 per cent.
- ✓ The Indian economy grew by 8.2 per cent in 2023-24, making it the fastest-growing major economy in the world.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India expects the GDP to grow by 7.2 per cent in 2024-25

IMF IN NEWS 2024

- International Monetary Fund(IMF), in its World Economic Report released on 16 July 2024, has raised its forecast for India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate in 2024-25 by 20 basis points (bps) to 7 per cent.
- Kristalina Georgieva has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new 5 year term.
- Pakistan is set to request a formal bailout package from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), which provides a larger and more extended package.
- 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)
- 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

Q. World Economic Outlook is published by which one of the following organizations?

- A) World Bank
- B) World Trade Organization
- C) International Monetary Fund
- D) United Nations Development Programme

Answer : C

Q.

1. It is located at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A) 1 only

Answer : A

- ✓ World Bank Group (WBG) guarantee platform was opened for business.
- ✓ It is housed at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), brings together products and experts from the World Bank, International Finance Corporation (IFC), and MIGA for simplicity, efficiency, and speed.
- ✓ It aims to boost WBG annual guarantee issuance to \$20 billion by 2030.
- ✓ WBG Guarantees will serve as a one-stop-shop for all WBG guarantee business, providing the best guarantee solutions for clients to meet project needs and development priorities.
- ✓ WBG clients can now choose from a simplified market-friendly menu of guarantee options.
- ✓ The platform will provide three types of coverages:
- ✓ Credit guarantees for loans to the public or private sector;
- ✓ Trade finance guarantees for trade finance projects involving public entities;
- ✓ Political risk insurance against non-commercial risks for private sector projects or public-private partnerships.

Q.

- ### A) Axis Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) has unveiled a new distribution structure, integrating the physical branch network, digital branch channel (encompassing mobile banking and net banking platforms), and voice channel.
- ✓ As part of the new distribution structure, the private sector lender appointed Pranav Mishra as the Head of Distribution.
- ✓ The new distribution structure is aimed at delivering an omn-channel seamless experience for customers across all group products and services. The new structure will ensure a seamless experience for customers across all interaction channels by building synergy and improving service delivery

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2024

- Kotak Mahindra Bank integrates physical and digital branches in new distribution structure.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Revamps Kotak811 Banking App with Enhanced User Interface & New Features.
- RBI has given the green light to Zurich Insurance Company's acquisition of a 70% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company for ₹5,560 crore.
- 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.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Partners with IITK to Launch Kotak School of Sustainability.
- 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.

Q. Which bank has launched a 444-day term deposit scheme, “Amrit Vrishti”, with an interest rate of 7.25 per cent?

- A) State Bank of India B) HDFC Bank
C) Canara Bank D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has launched a 444-day term deposit scheme, “Amrit Vrishti”, with an interest rate of 7.25 per cent.
- ✓ This scheme is available to domestic and non-resident Indian customers and will be effective July 15, 2024. India's largest bank will offer an additional 0.50 per cent to senior citizens on the scheme.
- ✓ “The “Amrit Vrishti” scheme is available for investment until March 31, 2025, providing ample opportunity for retail investors to take advantage of the higher interest rates.
- ✓ New variant of term deposit scheme is designed to meet the requirements of a diverse range of customers.

Q. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 240.5 million loan to finance _ in India.

- A) to improve livability, mobility in India
B) for rooftop solar system in India
C) for Delhi-Meerut RRTS
D) for Industrial Corridor Development in India

Answer : B

- ✓ ADB approved USD 240.5 million in loans for rooftop solar system in India
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a loan of \$240.5 million to fund rooftop solar systems in India, bolstering the nation's renewable energy expansion efforts.
- ✓ This financing will support the second and third tranches of the Multitranches Financing Facility (MFF) Solar Rooftop Investment Program, initially approved by ADB in 2016.
- ✓ India aims to achieve about 50 per cent of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel energy sources by 2030, which is in line with its global commitments to reduce carbon emissions.

Q. K Paul Thomas has been appointed as the MD & CEO of which bank for three years?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ ESAF Small Finance Bank has received Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) nod for re-appointment of K Paul Thomas as its Managing Director & CEO for another three years.
- ✓ ESAF Small Finance Bank
- ✓ Founded : 2017
- ✓ Founders : Paul Thomas, Mereena Paul, Jacob Samuel
- ✓ Headquarters : Thrissur, Kerala
- ✓ MD & CEO : Paul Thomas K
- ✓ Chairperson : P R Ravi Mohan

Q. Which insurance company has partnered with IDFC First Bank to Boost Bancassurance?

- A) Bharti AXA General Insurance B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
C) Life Insurance Corporation of India D) Universal Sompo General Insurance

Answer : C

- ✓ LIC Partners with IDFC First Bank to Boost Bancassurance
- ✓ In a strategic move to enhance bancassurance and pursue its mission to provide life insurance coverage to all by 2047, the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has entered into a Corporate Agency Arrangement with IDFC First Bank Ltd., one of the country's most technologically advanced and promising banks.
- ✓ This collaboration will benefit over 1 crore customers of IDFC First Bank, who will now have the convenience of purchasing LIC policies through the bank.

Q. The Centre has extended the Smart Cities Mission (SCM) under the Union Urban Development Ministry till ____.

- A) March 2025 B) September 2025
C) December 2025 D) April 2026

Answer : A

- ✓ Central government extends Smart Cities Mission till March 2025.
- ✓ The government of India has extended the centrally sponsored Smart Cities Mission until 31 March 2025. The scheme was originally to end on 30 June 2024.
- ✓ The scheme was extended by the central government at the request of the state governments. No new projects will be sanctioned, and the existing sanctioned projects will be completed on a priority basis.
- ✓ According to the government of India, as of 3rd July 2024, 7188 projects in 100 cities have been completed, amounting to Rs 1,44,237 crore. The balance of 830 projects, amounting to Rs 19,926 crore, are also in the advanced stages of completion and have been delayed due to various factors.
- ✓ As of 3rd July 2024, the government of India has released Rs 46,585 crore of the Rs 48,000 crore allocated for the scheme
- ✓ About the Smart Cities Mission
- ✓ The Smart Cities Mission was officially launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 June 2015. The scheme aims to provide core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment, and a decent quality of life to its citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'.
- ✓ One hundred cities across the country were selected in a two-stage competition.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is the nodal body for the Smart Cities Mission.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has a maximum of 13 cities under the Smart Cities Mission, followed by 12 in Tamil Nadu and 10 in Maharashtra.

- ✓ The Smart Cities Mission is a centrally sponsored scheme. The central government's commitment was to provide Rs 48,000 crore over a five-year period, an average of Rs 100 crore per city per year.
- ✓ The projects are implemented by Special Purpose Vehicles created by the concerned urban local bodies.
- ✓ The projects under the Smart Cities Mission are to be developed through private-public Partnerships (PPP).

EXTENDED TIMELINE IN NEWS 2024

- The government of India has extended the centrally sponsored Smart Cities Mission until 31 March 2025.
- The government approves the continuation of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) export incentive scheme for apparel and made-ups until March 31, 2026.
- Government approves extension of subsidy scheme on sugar supplied to AAY families by 2 years till March 2026.
- Union Cabinet has extended the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund (AHIDF) till 2025-26.
- LIC Granted Extension till 2032 to Achieve 25% Public Shareholding.
- Ministry of Finance has granted a one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) regarding the 25% Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rule. The decision allows LIC to achieve the mandated 25% MPS within 10 years of its listing, extending the deadline to May 2032.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a two-year extension of the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) scheme until December 31, 2025.
- The Centre has extended the import duty exemption on masur dal (lentils) by another year till March 31, 2025.
- The Union Cabinet approved to keep the Fast Track Special Courts going from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2026.
- SEBI Extends Nomination Filing Deadline for Mutual Funds and Demat Accounts Until June 2024. Earlier, the deadline for the same was December 31, 2023.
- SEBI, the market regulator, has extended the deadline for linking the SEBI Complaint Redressal (SCORES) platform with the online dispute resolution platform. Initially set for December 4, the new deadline is now April 1, 2024.
- Prime Minister Modi Extends Free Ration Scheme for 5 More Years.
- The government will extend the free-foodgrain program for 80 crore people by an additional five years from January 2024.
- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), initially scheduled to conclude on December 31, 2023, will now run until December 2028.
- The government has decided to prolong the duration of the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana, the unemployment scheme under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, for an additional two years until June 30, 2024.
- The government has extended PM-KUSUM scheme till March 2026

Q. Government of India and which organization have signed a \$170 million policy-based loan to consolidate and strengthen India's health system preparedness and response capacity to future pandemics?

A) Asian Development Bank	B) New Development Bank
C) African Development Bank	D) World Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Government of India and ADB sign \$170 million loan to strengthen health system preparedness and response.

- ✓ The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$170 million policy-based loan to consolidate and strengthen India's health system preparedness and response capacity to future pandemics

Q. Which company has launched 'Sambhav Home Loans' for first-time home buyers with affordable income criteria?

- A) Bajaj Housing Finance B) Shriram Transport Finance Corporation Ltd.
C) LIC Housing Finance D) PNB Housing Finance Limited

Answer : A

- ✓ Bajaj Housing Finance has launched 'Sambhav Home Loans' targeting first time home buyers with affordable income criteria.
- ✓ The income norm for first-time homebuyers, under this new product, starts from Rs. 10,000 per month, with loan amounts as low as Rs. 10 lakh, hence making this an accessible option for prospective borrowers across a wide range of income groups.

Q. Which insurance company has launched its revolutionary health insurance product 'Elevate'?

- A) Bharti AXA General Insurance B) ICICI Lombard Insurance
C) Royal Sundaram Insurance D) Universal Sompo General Insurance

Answer : B

- ✓ ICICI Lombard, a leading private general insurer in India, has launched its revolutionary health insurance product, 'Elevate'.
- ✓ Powered with AI, the first-of-its-kind health product is loaded with cutting-edge features and add-ons, offering personalised solutions to meet the needs of dynamic lifestyles, unforeseen medical emergencies and medical inflation.
- ✓ Elevate is designed to accommodate the rapidly evolving ecosystem and offers personalised, customer-centric plans that prioritize comprehensive coverage and flexibility.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Sampoonata Abhiyan:

1. It aims to address the issue of open defecation in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across India.
2. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.

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

- ✓ NITI Aayog has initiated the Sampoonata Abhiyan, a three-month campaign starting from 4th July until 30th September.
- ✓ The campaign aims to achieve saturation of six key indicators in Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks across India.
- ✓ The campaign targets 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.
- ✓ The six key performance indicators (KPIs) for Sampoonata Abhiyan across aspirational blocks and districts:

- ✓ For Aspirational Blocks:
- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care within the first trimester.
- ✓ Percentage of persons screened for Diabetes.
- ✓ Percentage of persons screened for Hypertension.
- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition regularly.
- ✓ Percentage of Soil Health Cards generated.
- ✓ Percentage of Self Help Groups (SHGs) receiving Revolving Fund.
- ✓ For Aspirational Districts:
- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women registered for Antenatal Care within the first trimester.
- ✓ Percentage of pregnant women taking Supplementary Nutrition regularly.
- ✓ Percentage of children fully immunized.
- ✓ Number of Soil Health Cards distributed.
- ✓ Percentage of secondary schools with functional electricity.
- ✓ Percentage of schools providing textbooks within one month of the academic session start.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Green Hydrogen Mission:

1. It provides financial incentive for the domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers.
2. It aims to make India a global Hub for the production and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.

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 ministry of new and renewable energy has issued guidelines for funding of testing facilities, infrastructure, and institutional support for development of standards and regulatory framework under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
- ✓ It was approved by the Union Cabinet on January 4, 2023.
- ✓ Aim: To make India a Global Hub for the production, utilization and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- ✓ The Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition Programme (SIGHT): Under this two distinct financial incentive mechanisms will be provided
- ✓ Targeting domestic manufacturing of electrolyzers and
- ✓ Production of Green Hydrogen.
- ✓ The Mission will also support pilot projects in emerging end-use sectors and production pathways.
- ✓ The Scheme will be implemented with a total budgetary outlay of Rs. 200 Crores till the financial year 2025-26.
- ✓ The National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) will be the Scheme Implementation agency (SIA).

Q. ADB and ENGIE Group Signed Loan Agreement to Build 400 MW Solar Power Plant in which state?

- A) Maharashtra B) Gujarat
C) Rajasthan D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ ADB and ENGIE Group Signed Loan Agreement to Build 400 MW Solar Power Plant in Gujarat.

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a long-term local currency loan agreement with France-based ENGIE Group, to construct and operate a 400 MegaWatt (MW) solar photovoltaic power plant in Surendranagar district in Gujarat, India.
- ✓ The proposed solar plant will generate an average of 805 GigaWatt-hours (GWh) solar energy per year over the next 25 years.
- ✓ This will help to avoid nearly 6.62 lakh tons of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂).
- ✓ The project will give boost the Government of India's (GoI)'s target to achieve minimum 500 GigaWatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity by 2030

Q. Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of the National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN), recently seen in the news, is an initiative of which one of the following?

- A) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
- B) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C) Ministry of Railways
- D) Coal India Limited (CIL)

Answer : D

- ✓ The Union Minister for Coal and Mines recently launched the portal "Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN)".
- ✓ **About NIRMAN Scheme:**
- ✓ Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of the National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN) is a unique Corporate social responsibility (CSR) scheme by Coal India Limited (CIL) designed to support meritorious candidates from its operational districts.
- ✓ The NIRMAN scheme is tailored to provide financial assistance of ₹1,00,000 to candidates who have successfully cleared the preliminary round of the UPSC Civil Services and Forest Service Examinations in 2024.
- ✓ The eligible beneficiaries include those with an annual family income of less than ₹8 lakhs, and who are permanent residents of the 39 districts where CIL operates.
- ✓ This support extends to individuals from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), as well as female and third-gender candidates.
- ✓ The application process for NIRMAN is fully digital, facilitated through a dedicated portal

Q. Which company launched the world's first CNG powered motorcycle?

- A) Honda
- B) Bajaj Auto
- C) Mahindra
- D) Tata Auto

Answer : B

- ✓ Bajaj Auto Launches World's First CNG-Powered Motorcycle "Freedom".
- ✓ Pune-based Bajaj Auto launched the world's first CNG-powered motorcycle.
- ✓ The motorcycle is priced between Rs 95,000 and Rs 1,10,000 and will be rolled out nationwide in phases.
- ✓ Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari unveiled the bike.
- ✓ Bajaj Auto Company launched an EV in 2022 and plans to make 10,000 CNG bikes every month.
- ✓ Named "Freedom", the bike has a 2-kg CNG cylinder and a 2-litre petrol tank
- ✓ Bajaj Auto
- ✓ Founded : 1945
- ✓ Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra

- Q.** RBI has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.31 crore on which bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to KYC and ‘loans and advances’?
- A) State Bank of India B) Punjab National Bank
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank D) Bank of India

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 1.31 crore on Punjab National Bank for non-compliance with certain directions related to KYC and 'loans and advances'.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank said it conducted a statutory inspection of the bank concerning its financial position as on March 31, 2022.
- ✓ This penalty was imposed for non-compliance with RBI directions regarding 'Loans and Advances: Statutory and Other Restrictions' and the 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC) Direction, 2016'.

- Answer : D

- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has launched the 'Jeevan Samarth', an initiative aimed at transforming the agency ecosystem.
- ✓ To achieve this, Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has partnered with a global consulting firm, which will undertake this agency transformation project by reviewing its existing agency framework on an end-to-end basis.
- ✓ It will also entail revamping the agency operations at the branch, division and zonal level directed towards establishing global best practices in the wake of the fast-changing industry and regulatory landscape of the insurance sector.

- Siddhartha Mohanty Reappointed MD and CEO of LIC.
- LIC has launch of 'Jeevan Samarth', an initiative aimed at transforming the agency ecosystem.
- LIC .has expanded its stake in IDFC First Bank to 2.68%, purchasing the lender's shares for ₹80.63 each. The overall acquisition cost is ₹1,500 Crore.
- 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)
- 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. Who has been reappointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)?

- A) M. Jagannath
B) R. Doraiswamy
C) Tablesh Pandey
D) Siddhartha Mohanty

Answer : D

- ✓ Siddhartha Mohanty Reappointed MD and CEO of LIC.
- ✓ Siddhartha Mohanty, who served as Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation(LIC) from April 2023 to June 2024, has been re-designated as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective from June 30, 2024.
- ✓ Siddhartha Mohanty served as Chairman of LIC from April 2023 until June 29, 2024.
- ✓ He was additionally appointed as MD and CEO of LIC starting from June 2024 until June 7, 2025.
- ✓ He initially held the interim chairman position from March 2023 for a term of 3 years.
- ✓ Currently, LIC has four other Managing Directors: M. Jagannath, Tablesh Pandey, Sat Pal Bhanoo, and R. Doraiswamy.
- ✓ Siddhartha Mohanty began his career with LIC as an apprentice officer in 1985.

Q. Which bank has partnered with Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited under the co-lending business to assess the credit profile of borrowers?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Axis Bank, India's third-largest private sector bank, has partnered with Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited under the co-lending business.
- ✓ Through this partnership, both the lenders will offer loans to the middle and low-income segment borrowers with focus on rural and semi-urban regions.
- ✓ The partnership will leverage the financial expertise of Axis Bank, and loan processing technology of Piramal Finance, to assess the credit profile of borrowers and provide them loans at competitive interest rates through a network of 490 branches of Piramal Finance.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the Income Tax Department?

- A) Ravi Agrawal
B) Navin Sharma
C) Anshika Singh
D) Sunil Menon

Answer : A

- ✓ Ravi Agrawal appointed as Chairman of CBDT
- ✓ Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the Income Tax Department.
- ✓ He takes over from Nitin Gupta, a 1986-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, whose extended tenure as the chairman ended on June 30.

- ✓ Agrawal's appointment extends till June 2025, with a reappointment on a contract basis to ensure continuity in CBDT's policy framework.
- ✓ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- ✓ Founded : 1860
- ✓ Headquarteres : New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman : Ravi Agrawal
- ✓ Minister responsible : Ministry of Finance

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of IndiaFirst Life Insurance?

A) Rushabh Gandhi	B) Dilip Singh
C) Aman Sharma	D) Raju Ahmed

Answer : A

- ✓ IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited has named Rushabh Gandhi as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) effective 1 July.
- ✓ Gandhi, previously the Deputy CEO, succeeds Vishakha R.M. who superannuated on June 30, 2024, after nine years of service.

Q. According to data compiled by aviation analytics firm Official Airline Guide (OAG), what is the position of India in the aviation market?

A) second	B) third
C) fourth	D) fifth

Answer : B

- ✓ India has become the world's third-largest domestic aviation market after the U.S. and China.
- ✓ According to data compiled by aviation analytics firm Official Airline Guide (OAG), India is now third in the aviation market after airlines such as IndiGo and Air India have expanded their fleet size to cater to the surge in air passengers.
- ✓ India's domestic airline capacity doubled in the last 10 years from 7.9 million seats in April 2014 to 15.5 million in April 2024.
- ✓ India has replaced Brazil, which now stands at the fourth place with 9.7 million airline seats followed by Indonesia in fifth rank with 9.2 million.
- ✓ IndiGo and Air India, which together have more than 1,000 planes on order, account for 9 of 10 domestic seats in the country

Q. Which bank has recently launched the 'MSME Sahaj' facility?

A) Punjab National Bank	B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
C) State Bank of India	D) Indian Overseas Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced "MSME Sahaj," a revolutionary online business loan solution tailored for MSMEs.
- ✓ This web-based platform allows MSMEs to obtain credit against their GST registered sales invoices swiftly and seamlessly
- ✓ Rapid Processing: MSMEs can access up to ₹1 lakh in less than 15 minutes, from application to disbursement, without manual intervention.

- Q.** SEBI has increased the limit for the Basic Service Demat Account (BSDA) to Rs _____ from Rs 2 lakhs to encourage small investors to participate in the securities market.
- A) 5 lakh B) 10 lakh
- C) 12 lakh D) 15 lakh

- ✓ SEBI Raised Basic Demat Account Limit to Rs 10 Lakhs.
- ✓ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has increased the limit for the Basic Service Demat Account (BSDA) to Rs 10 lakhs from the current Rs 2 lakhs to encourage small investors to participate in the securities market.
- ✓ The new guidelines will be effective from September 1, 2024, per the SEBI's circular.
- ✓ This move is expected to support the growth of demat accounts, although the rate of increase may be gradual.
- ✓ The basic service demat account (BSDA) is a simplified version of a regular demat account.
- ✓ The maintenance charges of these accounts will be nil for holding securities of over Rs 4 lakh in value, while for value of more than Rs 4 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh, the same will be Rs 100.
- ✓ For accounts holding securities that are valued over Rs 10 lakh will not be considered BSDA, and therefore regular charges will be levied.

- Answer : D

- ✓ Bandhan Bank has launched a facility for online collection of direct taxes, enabling its customers and others to pay taxes seamlessly across India.
- ✓ As an RBI-appointed agency bank, it also accepts offline payments through its 1,700 branches.
- ✓ The service is available through internet banking, payment gateway, cash, cheque, or demand draft.
- ✓ Bandhan Bank
- ✓ Founded : 2001
- ✓ Founder : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- ✓ Headquarters : Kolkata
- ✓ MD & CEO : Chandra Shekhar Ghosh
- ✓ Chairperson : Anup Kumar Sinha

- Answer : B

- ✓ Bank of India receives Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY24
- ✓ Bank of India (BOI) has received multiple awards in recognition of its outstanding performance in various aspects of banking and financial inclusion.

- ✓ BOI has been felicitated with the Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24 by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Awards) for the second consecutive year.
- ✓ Additionally, the Bank has been awarded the APY Ultimate Champions Cup while three of its branches have been recognized among the top five branches across India

BOI IN NEWS 2024

- Bank of India to raise Rs 10,000 cr via infrastructure bonds.
- Income Tax department has levied a penalty of Rs 564.44 crore on Bank of India, the public sector lender.
- 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.
- Former LIC Chairman M.R. Kumar has been appointed as part-time non-official director and non-executive chairman of Bank of India (BOI).
- Bank of India (BoI) has launched an exclusive savings bank product for women (Nari Shakti Savings Account) with an independent source of income.
- Bank of India has inaugurated its IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) at GIFT SEZ area in Gandhinagar
- Bank of India (BOI)
- Founded : 7 September 1906
- Founder : Ramnarain Ruia
- Headquarters : Mumbai
- MD & CEO : Rajneesh Karnatak
- Tagline : Relationship beyond Banking

Q. Which bank has launched Sapphire Forex Card for Indian students?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ ICICI Bank launches Sapphire Forex Card for Indian students.
- ✓ ICICI Bank launched a pre-paid 'Student Sapphire Forex Card' for Indian students heading abroad for higher education.
- ✓ This Visa-powered prepaid card offers a comprehensive solution for managing education-related expenses such as admission and course fees, as well as everyday costs like travel, dining, and groceries.
- ✓ This Card can be applied through the official ICICI Bank website or its banking application, iMobile Pay

Q. What is the outlay for the central scheme National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)?

- A) Rs Rs 8268.18 crore B) Rs Rs 6271.09 crore
C) Rs Rs 1728.28 crore D) Rs Rs 2254.43 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Cabinet approves NFIES scheme for Forensic Infra. Development.
- ✓ The government of India has approved a new central sector scheme to strengthen the criminal forensic infrastructure in the country to aid an efficient criminal justice system.
- ✓ The National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES) was approved by the Union Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19 June 2024.
- ✓ Feature of the “National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme
- ✓ The “National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES) scheme will be implemented by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ The “National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES) will consist of three components.
- ✓ Construction of Campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in the country.
- ✓ Establishment of Central Forensic Science Laboratories across the country and
- ✓ Strengthening the existing infrastructure of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU.
- ✓ **Financial Outlay for the NFIES**
- ✓ The central government has allocated Rs 2254.43 crore for the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme. The money for the scheme will come from the budgetary allocation for the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ **Duration of the NFIES**
- ✓ The duration of the National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme is five years, i.e from 2024-25 to 2028-29
- ✓ **Aim of the NFIES**
- ✓ The aim of the NFIES scheme is to strengthen the forensic science infrastructure in the country to aid the scientific investigation of crime. The three new criminal laws, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, will come into effect on 1 July 2024.
- ✓ Under the new law, forensic investigation is mandatory for criminal cases, which provides for imprisonment of seven years or more.
- ✓ The National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) is the world’s first and only forensics university in the world.
- ✓ The NFSU is under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ Main Campus: Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Q. What is the duration of the central government’s National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme (NFIES)?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Five years, from 2024-25 to 2028-29.

Q. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently introduced a revised SAARC Currency Swap framework for 2024-27. What is the worth of the separate Indian Rupee (INR) Swap window introduced under this framework?

- A) Rs 250 billion
- B) Rs 150 billion
- C) Rs 300 billion
- D) Rs 200 billion

Answer : A

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to put in place a revised Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries for the period 2024 to 2027.
- ✓ This framework enables bilateral currency swap agreements between the RBI and SAARC central banks to address short-term foreign exchange liquidity needs or balance of payments crises.
- ✓ A new INR Swap Window with concessions for Indian Rupee support, totalling ₹250 billion, has been introduced.
- ✓ Additionally, a US Dollar/Euro Swap Window with a corpus of \$2 billion will continue.
- ✓ All SAARC member countries can access the facility, provided they sign the bilateral agreements.
- ✓ South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
- ✓ Founded : 8 December 1985
- ✓ Headquarters : Kathmandu, Nepal
- ✓ Secretary-General : Golam Sarwar (Bangladesh)
- ✓ Total Member : 8 : Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal , Pakistan & Sri Lanka.
- ✓ It was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka in 1985.
- ✓ There are currently nine countries with 'Observer' status: Australia, China, European Union, Iran, Japan, South Korea, Mauritius, Myanmar, United States of America.
- ✓ SAARC comprises 3% of the world's land area, 21% of the world's population.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the eMigrate Portal:

1. It was launched in 2014 to make the emigration process online and transparent.
2. It has a feature of voluntary registration of emigrants holding ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) category passports.

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 Ministry of External Affairs and the SBI have signed an MoU to provide an additional digital payment service of the bank through its payment gateway SBlePay to users of the eMigrate portal.
- ✓ It was launched in 2014 and it has been instrumental in making the emigration process online and transparent for Indian workers heading to countries where emigration checks are required.
- ✓ The portal connects foreign employers, registered recruiting agents, and insurance companies issuing the Pravasi Bhartiya Bima Yojna, facilitating seamless, safe, and legal migration.
- ✓ The portal also has a mechanism for voluntary registration of emigrants holding ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) category passports proceeding for overseas employment.

- ✓ It is integrated with the external affairs ministry's Passport Seva Project to validate the passport details of ECR category workers. This integration helps detect fake passport cases and check for data entry errors at the registration stage.
- ✓ The Overseas Employment (OE) and Protector General of Emigrants (PGE) division of the external affairs ministry is responsible for overseeing the emigration of Indian workers having Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) category passports.
- ✓ ECR passport holders require Emigration Clearance (EC) when taking up jobs in the 18 designated ECR countries – Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Q. Ministry of External Affairs recently signed an MoU with which bank for digital payment services on eMigrate portal?

A) Punjab National Bank	B) State Bank of India
C) Indian Overseas Bank	D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : B

Q. With reference to Navratna Public Sector Undertakings (PSU), consider the following statements:

1. They can invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without seeking approval from the Central Government.
2. They can enter into technology joint ventures with other companies.
3. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders has been granted "Navratna" status by the Department of Public Enterprises.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders get Navratna status as 18th PSU .
- ✓ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders has been granted "Navratna" status by the Department of Public Enterprises.
- ✓ It is now the 18th PSU in the country to receive this status.
- ✓ **About Navratna Status**
- ✓ The government categorises all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) into three categories, namely Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna.
- ✓ The Government had introduced the 'Navratna' scheme in 1997.
- ✓ Criteria for Navratna status
- ✓ A PSU should be a Miniratna-I, Schedule 'A' company, should have obtained an 'excellent' or 'very good' MoU rating in three of the last five years, and must have a composite score of 60 in six performance indicators.
- ✓ It must report a net profit of more than Rs 5,000 crore for three consecutive years, and maintain an average annual turnover of Rs 25,000 crore for three years, or have an annual average net worth of over Rs 15,000 crore for three years.
- ✓ Financial Independence: They invest up to ₹1,000 crore without seeking approval from the central government.
- ✓ Navratna companies are also allowed to invest up to 15% of their net worth on a single project, or 30% of their net worth in a given year, subject to a cap of ₹1,000 crore.

- ✓ To incur capital expenditure on purchase of new items or for replacement, without any monetary ceiling.
- ✓ Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)
- ✓ Founded : 1934
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ Chairman & MD : Sanjeev singhal.
- ✓ MDL is a public sector undertaking managed by the Ministry of Defence, with the Government of India holding an 84.83% stake.
- ✓ As of September 2024, there are 25 Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in India:
- ✓ Updated list of Navratna Companies in India
 1. Engineers India Ltd (EIL)
 2. Container Corporation of India Ltd (CONCOR)
 3. Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)
 4. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)
 5. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd (NLC India)
 6. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL)
 7. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd (RCF)
 8. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL)
 9. National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd (NBCC)
 10. National Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO)
 11. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd (NMDC)
 12. Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL)
 13. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd (SCI)
 14. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)
 15. RITES Ltd
 16. IRCON International Ltd
 17. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd (IREDA)
 18. National Fertilizers Limited(NFL)
 19. Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO)
 20. Central Warehousing Corporation(CWC)
 21. Mazgaon Dock
 22. Railtel Corporation of India,
 23. Solar Energy Corporation of India
 24. Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam
 25. National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
- ✓ **Maharatna CPSEs**
 - 1) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
 - 2) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
 - 3) Coal India Limited
 - 4) GAIL India Limited
 - 5) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
 - 6) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
 - 7) NTPC Limited
 - 8) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited
 - 9) Power Finance Corporation
 - 10) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
 - 11) Steel Authority of India Limited
 - 12) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited
 - 13) Oil India Ltd

Q. Who is the chairman of the committee on the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform set up by the Reserve Bank of India?

- A) P. Vasudevan
B) Neeraj Nigam
C) C Rangarajan
D) A.P.Hota

Answer : D

- ✓ Committee on Digital Payments Intelligence Platform
- ✓ The RBI Governor announced the setting up of a committee to examine various aspects of setting up a digital public infrastructure for the Digital Payments Intelligence Platform.
- ✓ The committee will be headed by A.P. Hota.
- ✓ RBI has proposed setting up an advanced Digital Payments Intelligence Platform to reduce and eliminate online payment fraud risks.

Q. What is the minimum amount a Local Area Bank and Regional Rural Bank will accept in Bulk term deposits?

- A) Rs 1 crore
B) Rs 2 crore
C) Rs 3 crore
D) Rs 5 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ For the Local Area Banks and the Regional Rural Bank, the bulk deposit means a Single Rupee term deposit of Rs1 crore and above.

Q. What is the minimum amount a Scheduled Commercial Banks and Small Finance Banks bank will accept in Bulk term deposits?

- A) Rs 3 crore
B) Rs 4 crore
C) Rs 5 crore
D) Rs 2 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ Policy Initiatives Announced by the RBI Governor
- ✓ The RBI governor also announced certain initiatives for the banking sector.
- ✓ Bulk term Deposits for Banks raised
- ✓ Banks in India can offer higher interest rates on bulk term deposits. Term deposits refer to Fixed deposits and recurring deposits. Banks offer bulk deposit facilities only for fixed deposits and not for recurring deposits.
- ✓ Now, the RBI has raised the bulk deposit threshold limit for the banks.
- ✓ For Scheduled Commercial Banks and Small Finance Banks, bulk deposit means 'Single Rupee term deposits of Rs3 crore and above'. In 2019, the RBI has increased it from Rs 1 crore to Rs 2 crore.
- ✓ For the Local Area Banks and the Regional Rural Bank, the bulk deposit means a Single Rupee term deposit of Rs1 crore and above.
- ✓ Banks have the power to decide the interest rates on their deposits. There are two types of deposits: demand deposits and Term deposits. Demand deposits include savings accounts and current accounts.

Q. PhonePe has partnered with PickMe to enable UPI-based QR payments for Indian travellers in which country?

- A) Maldives
B) Sri Lanka
C) Bhutan
D) South Africa

Answer : B

- ✓ PhonePe partners with Sri Lanka's PickMe for UPI transactions.
- ✓ PhonePe has announced its collaboration with Sri Lankan ride hailing platform PickMe to enable UPI-based QR payments for Indian travellers in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The partnership will allow Indian tourists to conduct cashless transactions on PickMe rides, making PickMe the first ride-hailing platform in Sri Lanka to offer such a service to Indians travelling to Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Last month, PhonePe enabled UPI payments in collaboration with LankaPay across LankaQR merchant points via the Phonepe App.
- ✓ . The transactions facilitated by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and LankaPay National Payment Network, also aimed to cater to the needs of Indian tourists and entrepreneurs in Sri Lanka

PhonePe IN NEWS 2024

- PhonePe partners with Sri Lanka's PickMe for UPI transactions.
- PhonePe has joined forces with LankaPay to introduce UPI payments in Sri Lanka.
- Cross-border UPI payments service launched by PhonePe.
- "UPI international" enables retail locations with a native QR (quick response) code in the UAE, Singapore, Mauritius, Nepal, and Bhutan.
- PhonePe has become the first digital payments app to enable the linkage of 2 lakh Rupay credit cards to the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- PhonePe has launched the Indus Appstore, a made-in-India Android app marketplace.
- PhonePe, in collaboration with eSewa and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara, is set to promote UPI during the Fewa New Year Festival in Nepal.
- PhonePe has appointed Ritesh Pai as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its international payments business.
- Star Health Insurance, a leading provider of retail health insurance in India, has collaborated with PhonePe, a prominent digital payments platform.
- PhonePe
- Founded : 2015
- Headquarters : Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Co-Founder & CEO : Sameer Nigam.
- PhonePe is an Indian digital payments and financial services company.
- PhonePe was founded in December 2015, by Sameer Nigam, Rahul Chari and Burzin Engineer.
- The PhonePe app, based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), went live in August 2016.

Q. What change is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposing regarding the definition of bulk deposits for scheduled commercial banks (excluding regional rural banks), small finance banks, and local area banks?

- A) Increasing the minimum deposit amount from ₹2 crore to ₹4 crore.
- B) Decreasing the minimum deposit amount from ₹3 crore to ₹2 crore.
- C) Increasing the minimum deposit amount from ₹3 crore to ₹5 crore
- D) Increasing the minimum deposit amount from ₹2 crore to ₹3 crore.

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI plans to raise bulk deposit limit to ₹3 crore from ₹2 crore.

- ✓ With deposit growth lagging credit growth, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it plans to revise upwards the definition of bulk deposits for scheduled commercial banks (excluding regional rural banks), small finance banks and local area banks.
- ✓ RBI is proposing to revise the definition of bulk deposits as 'single Rupee term deposit of ₹3 crore and above' for scheduled commercial banks/SCBs (excluding regional rural banks/RRBs) and Small Finance Banks. Currently, 'single Rupee term deposit of ₹2 crore and above' are classified as bulk deposits by these banks.
- ✓ Further, the central bank also plans to define the bulk deposit limit for Local Area Banks as 'Single Rupee term deposits of ₹1 crore and above', as applicable in case of RRBs

INCREASE LIMIT IN NEWS

- Reserve Bank of India raised the bulk fixed deposit threshold from Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore, enhancing liquidity management.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) took a significant step by announcing an increase in the UPI payment limits from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.
- RBI has conducted a review of bulk deposit limits for financial institutions, specifically focusing on Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). As a result, the bulk deposit limit for RRBs has been significantly increased from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 1 crore.
- RBI Raises Offline Payment Transaction Upper Limit to ₹500 from ₹200.
- RBI has raised the Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) limit from Rs 5,000 to Rs 15,000 per transaction for e-mandates on cards, Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for recurring transactions.
- RBI has decided to increase the existing limit for gold loans under a scheme called “bullet repayment” from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh for urban cooperative banks.
- Reserve Bank of India has increased the limit of fund transfer under the Indo-Nepal Remittance Facility Scheme from Rs 50,000 per transaction to Rs 2 lakh per transaction.
- Union Cabinet approved the enhancement in the limit of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore.
- Reserve Bank of India has increased the maximum amount outstanding in respect of full-KYC PPIs (KYC-compliant PPIs) from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh

Q. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), consider the following statements:

1. It is a credit-linked subsidy scheme initiated to provide affordable housing to low and moderate-income residents across the country.
2. PMAY-G (Gramin) beneficiaries are identified using the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011.

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 newly formed Cabinet has decided to further expansion of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and construct 3 crore additional rural and urban houses.
- ✓ **About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana**
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a credit-linked subsidy scheme initiated to provide affordable housing to low and moderate-income residents across the country.

- ✓ The newly formed government has approved the proposal to provide 3 crore additional rural and urban houses under PMAY.
- ✓ The scheme has two components: PMAY-U for the urban poor and PMAY-G and PMAY-R for the rural poor.
- ✓ **PMAY-U (Urban)**
- ✓ Objective: To provide housing for all in urban areas.
- ✓ Beneficiaries: Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Low-Income Group (LIG), and Middle-Income Group (MIG).
- ✓ **Subsidy Schemes:**
- ✓ Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme: Offers interest subsidy on home loans for EWS, LIG, and MIG categories.
- ✓ In-Situ Slum Redevelopment: Utilizes land as a resource to provide houses to eligible slum dwellers.
- ✓ Affordable Housing in Partnership: Promotes partnerships with public and private sectors to provide affordable housing.
- ✓ Beneficiary-Led Construction: Provides financial assistance to individuals to construct or enhance their own houses.
- ✓ **PMAY-G (Gramin)**
- ✓ Objective: To provide a pucca house with basic amenities to all rural families who are homeless or living in kutchha or dilapidated houses.
- ✓ Beneficiaries: Identified using the Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011.
- ✓ **Features:**
- ✓ Financial Assistance: Rs. 1.2 lakh in plain areas and Rs. 1.3 lakh in hilly, difficult, and Integrated Action Plan (IAP) areas.
- ✓ Construction: Houses are to be constructed by beneficiaries with technical assistance from the government.
- ✓ Convergence with other schemes: Encourages convergence with other schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) for toilet construction, and MGNREGA for wage employment.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI):

1. It focuses exclusively on the price changes of food items in a consumer's basket of goods and services.
2. It is used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to track inflation.
3. It uses 2010 as base year.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Consumer Price Index numbers on base 2012=100 for rural, urban and combined for the month of May 2024.
- ✓ About Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI)
- ✓ The Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) is a measure of change in retail prices of food items consumed by the population.
- ✓ It is a specific measure of inflation that focuses exclusively on the price changes of food items in a consumer's basket of goods and services.
- ✓ The CFPI is a sub-component of the broader Consumer Price Index (CPI) and is used by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to track inflation.

- ✓ The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) started releasing CFPI for three categories -rural, urban and combined - separately on an all-India basis with effect from May 2014.
- ✓ Methodology: Like Consumer Price Index (CPI), the CFPI is also calculated on a monthly basis and the methodology remains the same as CPI.
- ✓ The base year presently used is 2012.
- ✓ The CSO has revised the Base Year of the CPI and CFPI from 2010 to 2012 in January 2015

Q. Which company recently became the world's most valuable due to advancements in artificial intelligence technology?

- A) Microsoft
B) Nvidia
C) Tesla
D) Apple

Answer : D

- ✓ AI-Powered Apple Overtakes Microsoft As World's Most Valuable Company.
- ✓ Apple once again became the world's most valuable company, dethroning Microsoft from the top spot, as the iPhone maker pushed ahead in a race to dominate artificial intelligence technology.
- ✓ Its shares jumped nearly 4% to a record \$215.04, giving it a market valuation of \$3.29 trillion. Microsoft's market capitalization stood at \$3.24 trillion, falling behind Apple for the first time in five months.
- ✓ AI chip leader Nvidia, which briefly overtook Apple's market value last week, is up a whopping 154% this year. Nvidia last had a market value of \$3.11 trillion

MICROSOFT IN NEWS 2024

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

Q. Which country remained the top supplier of oil to India, accounting for nearly a third of the crude brought into the country?

- A) Saudi Arabia B) United States
C) Russia D) Iraq

Answer : C

- ✓ Russia remains India's top crude supplier, imports rise 14% in January.
- ✓ Russia remained the top supplier of oil to India in January, accounting for nearly a third of the crude brought into the country, according to data from the commerce ministry.
- ✓ At \$4.47 billion, the value of the crude oil supply from Russia jumped 41% year-on-year. Sequentially, crude imports from that country increased 14% from \$3.92 billion in December 2023.

- ✓ The app includes financial calculators and has modules that introduce and explain KYC procedures, mutual funds, ETFs, buying and selling shares on stock exchanges, investor grievances redressal mechanism, and the Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) platform

A) 7.9% B) 8.1%

C) 6.8% D) 8.2%

- ✓ Indian Economy Grew by 8.2% in FY 24 : NSO.
- ✓ According to the provisional estimate of the National Statistical Organisation (NSO), the Indian Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 8.2 per cent in the financial year 2023-24.
- ✓ The Indian GDP growth rate in 2022-23 was 7 percent.
- ✓ This is the ninth time since 1960-61 the Indian GDP has grown by 8 per cent or more in a financial year.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India had estimated a growth rate of 7.6 per cent for the Indian economy in 2023-24. The unexpectedly high growth rate of 8.2 per cent in 2023-24 was due to the strong performance of the economy in the fourth quarter(January- March 2024) of the financial year 2023-24

A) Titans
B) Disrupters
C) Innovators
D) Leaders

- ✓ Tata, RIL in Time Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies list.
- ✓ Three Indian companies -Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), Tata Group and the Serum Institute of India have been included in the annual Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies of 2024.
- ✓ This was the fourth edition of the annual Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies.
- ✓ The first edition was published by the American Time magazine in 2021.
- ✓ **Five Categories in the List**
- ✓ The Times Magazine Global 100 most influential companies list categorised the companies into five categories: Titans, Leaders, Disrupters, Innovators, and Pioneers.
- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited and the Tata Group were included in the Titan category, while the vaccine maker Serum Institute of India was included in the Pioneer category.
- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is India's largest and most profitable private sector company, operating in petrochemicals, oil and gas, telecom, retail, and financial services. This is the second time RIL or its subsidiary company has been included in the Times list. In 2021, Jio, a subsidiary of RIL, was included in the first Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies.
- ✓ Serum Institute of India .
- ✓ Serum Institute of India (SII) is a privately held vaccine manufacturing company based in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ✓ Serum Institute was founded by Cyrus Poonawala, and his son Adar Poonawala is currently its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

- ✓ It is the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, producing polio, diphtheria, BCG, measles, rubella, and HPV vaccines.
- ✓ Tata Group.
- ✓ The Tata Group is one of the most respected business groups in India. Jamsetji Tata founded the Tata Company in 1868.
- ✓ Currently, Tata Sons is the owner and promoter of the Tata Companies. N. Chandrashekar is the Chairman of Tata Sons.
- ✓ Tata Steel set up India's first modern steel plant in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, in 1907

Q. Serum Institute of India has been included in which category of the Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies list 2024?

A) Pioneer	B) Titan
C) Leaders	D) Innovators

Answer : A

- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited and the Tata Group were included in the Titan category, while the vaccine maker Serum Institute of India was included in the Pioneer category.

Q. Which is the only Indian company to be included twice in the Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies of 2024?

A) Adani Group	B) Tata Group
C) Reliance Industries Limited	D) Serum Institute of India

Answer : C

- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited is included in 2024, and Jio will be a subsidiary of Reliance in 2021.

Q. In May, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network processed a record number of transactions worth how much in terms of value?

A) Rs 20.45 trillion	B) Rs 19.64 trillion
C) Rs 14.04 trillion	D) Rs 13.3 trillion

Answer : A

- ✓ UPI sets new record in May with 14 billion transactions worth over Rs 20 trillion.
- ✓ Marking a record surge in the month of May, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network set a new record by processing 14.04 billion transactions, up from 13.3 billion in April.
- ✓ The data released by NPCI said that in terms of value, the UPI transactions amounted to Rs 20.45 lakh crore in May, compared to Rs 19.64 lakh crore in April. Notably in April, the network saw a 1% decline to 13.3 billion transactions from 13.44 billion in March.
- ✓ As per the NPCI data, the May figures were 49% up in volume and 39% up in value compared to the same month in 2023. May numbers were the highest in terms of value and volume since UPI turned operational in April 2016. The FASTag transactions increased by 6% to 347 million compared to 328 million in April.

Q. Which company recently became the seventh Indian company to have a market capitalisation of more than Rs eight lakh crore?

A) Reliance Industries	B) Tata Consultancy Services
C) ICICI Bank	D) State Bank of India

Answer : D

- ✓ SBI becomes 7th company to cross Rs 8 lakh crore market capitalisation.
- ✓ India's largest commercial bank, State Bank of India (SBI), has become the seventh listed company in India to reach Rs eight lakh crore in market capitalisation. The shares of the State Bank of India hit a new high of Rs 899.55 on the BSE on 3 June 2024.
- ✓ SBI joins the ranks of Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Infosys, and ICICI Bank in achieving this milestone.
- ✓ The government-owned SBI is India's largest and most profitable bank. Among Indian banks, SBI has the largest number of branches and ATMs. It also has the highest number of foreign branches and offices amongst the Indian banks.
- ✓ What is Market capitalisation?
- ✓ Market capitalisation, or M-Cap, refers to the total number of a listed company's free-floating equity shares multiplied by the current average market price of each share.
- ✓ A free-floating share of a company means the equity share of the company that is held by the public and can be freely traded on a stock exchange where the company is listed.
- ✓ A listed company is a company which is listed on a recognised stock exchange.
- ✓ Types of market capitalisations in India
- ✓ Companies which are listed on a recognised stock exchange are classified into Large Cap, Mid Cap and Small Cap on the basis of market capitalisation, companies are classified into Large Cap, Mid-Cap and Small Cap.
- ✓ Large Cap: Publicly listed companies with a market capitalisation of Rs 20,000 crore or more are called large-cap companies.
- ✓ Mid-Cap: Publicly listed companies with a market capitalisation of less than Rs 20,000 crores and up to Rs 5000 crore.
- ✓ Small Cap: Publicly listed companies with a market capitalisation of less than Rs 5,000 crores
- ✓ About State Bank of India
- ✓ The State Bank of India's origin is traced to the establishment of the Bank of Calcutta, which was set up in 1896 in Calcutta (now Kolkata). The bank was later renamed as the Bank of Bengal in 1806.
- ✓ In 1840, the Bank of Bombay was established, and the Bank of Madras was established in 1843. The three Presidency banks were later merged, and the Imperial Bank of India was formed in 1921.
- ✓ All India Rural Credit Survey Committee (Gorwala Committee) 1951, set up by the government of India, recommended that the government nationalise the Imperial Bank, which was owned by foreigners. The State Bank of India Act 1955 was enacted, and the government of India nationalised the Imperial Bank of India.
- ✓ The SBI Act 1955 also changed the bank's name from Imperial Bank of India to State Bank of India.
- ✓ The act also transferred the bank's ownership from foreigners to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ On the recommendation of the 1988 Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reform, RBI transferred its entire 59.7 % share to the government of India in 2007.
- ✓ Currently, the government of India holds a 57.6% share of SBI.
- ✓ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ Tagline: Pure Banking Nothing Else

Q. With reference to Framework for Recognising Self-Regulatory Organisation for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT), consider the following statements:

1. An SRO-FT should be set up as a not-for-profit company with no entity holding 10% or more of its paid-up share capital.
2. An SRO-FT can open branches or offices outside India and FinTechs domiciled outside India cannot become members of an SRO.

3. SRO-FT should have adequate powers to investigate and take disciplinary action against its members for non-adherence to codes / standards / rules.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently issued the Framework for Recognising Self-Regulatory Organisation for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT) for better self-governance and compliance by firms in this space.
- ✓ **About SRO-FT Framework:**
- ✓ The framework defines fintech as entities providing technological solutions for delivery of financial products and services to businesses and consumers or encompassing regulatory and supervisory compliance in partnership with traditional financial institutions or otherwise
- ✓ The SRO-FT would be industry-led and will be responsible for establishing and enforcing regulatory standards, promoting ethical conduct, ensuring market integrity, resolving disputes, and fostering transparency and accountability among its members.
- ✓ The applicant should be set up as a not-for-profit company, and its shareholding should be sufficiently diversified, with no entity holding 10% or more of its paid-up share capital, either singly or acting in concert.
- ✓ Applicants will need to have a minimum net worth of ₹2 crore within one year after recognition as an SRO-FT or before commencement of operations, whichever is earlier.

Q. What action has the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) taken regarding commodity derivatives delivery period?

- A) Increased the delivery period from three days to five days.
- B) Maintained the delivery period at five days.
- C) Reduced the delivery period from five days to three days.
- D) Abolished the delivery period altogether.

Answer : C

- ✓ SEBI cuts commodity delivery period in derivatives to three days.
- ✓ In a bid to improve liquidity in delivery-based commodity derivatives, market regulator SEBI has reduced the deliverable period to three days from five days. The circular shall be effective from July 1, 2024.
- ✓ Based on representations received from market participants and deliberations by Commodity Derivatives Advisory Committee, the Minimum duration of staggered delivery stands revised to three working days.

Q. What change has the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) made to audit firm terms in its new corporate governance guidelines?

- A) Increased the engagement period for statutory auditors.
- B) Removed the requirement for cooling-off periods for audit firms.
- C) Reduced the term for joint statutory audits to four years, followed by a mandatory three-year cooling-off period.

D) Extended the cooling-off period for audit firms to five years.

Answer : C

- ✓ IRDAI reduces audit firm term to bolster audit quality.
- ✓ Insurance regulator IRDAI's new corporate governance guidelines have reduced the engagement period of statutory auditors with insurance companies. Audit firms now have a four-year term for joint statutory audits, followed by a mandatory three-year cooling-off period, according to the IRDAI's Master Circular on 'Corporate Governance for Insurers 2024'.
- ✓ According to the new guidelines that reduce the engagement period of statutory auditors with insurance companies from 10 years to 4 years. This strategic decision is poised to ensure regular rotation and independence of audit firms, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability in the sector.

Q. What is the total outlay approved by the Union Cabinet for the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for offshore wind energy projects?

- A) Rs. 6453 crore B) Rs. 7453 crore
C) Rs. 8453 crore D) Rs. 9453 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Cabinet approves Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for implementation of offshore wind energy projects.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme for offshore wind energy projects at a total outlay of Rs.7453 crore.
- ✓ This also includes an outlay of Rs.6853 crore for installation and commissioning of 1 GW of offshore wind energy projects (500 MW each off the coast of Gujarat and Tamil Nadu), and grant of Rs.600 crore for upgrade of two ports to meet logistics requirements for offshore wind energy projects.
- ✓ The VGF scheme is a major step towards implementation of the National Offshore Wind Energy Policy notified in 2015 with an aim to exploit the vast offshore wind energy potential that exists within the exclusive economic zone of India
- ✓ This ecosystem will support the development of initial 37 GW of offshore wind energy at an investment of about Rs.4,50,000 crore

Q. According to the World Investment Report 2024 report of the UNCTAD ,what was the rank of India in the world for receiving FDI in 2023?

- A) 10 B) 12
C) 15 D) 20

Answer : C

- ✓ FDI to India drops in 2023 by 43%, ranked 15th in world :UNCTAD.
- ✓ According to a report of the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD),the foreign direct investment (FDI) to India in 2023 has dropped by 43 percent as compared to 2022. The report also said that the overall FDI in the world declined by 2 percent in 2023 as compared to 2022.
- ✓ Among the top 20 FDI recipient countries in the world there has been a drop in the FDI inflow to India, China, France, Australia, the United States of America.
- ✓ The cross border merger and acquisitions of companies fell by 46 percent. Merger and acquisition is an important source of FDI for developing countries like India.
- ✓ The FDI to the developing countries fell by 7 per cent to \$867 billion. The FDI to developing Asia fell by 8 percent to \$621 billion.
- ✓ There was a rare decline in FDI to China. The FDI also fell in India, West Asia and Central Asia

- ✓ FDI in India during 2023
- ✓ According to the UNCTAD report the total FDI in India in 2023 was \$28 billion as compared to \$49 billion in 2022.
- ✓ India's position as the top recipient of the global FDI fell from 8th in 2022 to 15th in 2023.
- ✓ India remained among the Top five countries of the world in attracting FDI in greenfield projects and international project finance deals.
- ✓ India was ranked the fourth-largest recipient of FDI announcements in greenfield projects. It was ranked 3rd in 2022.
- ✓ India retained the second rank in the world for FDI in international projects deals.
- ✓ As far as the FDI outflows are concerned, India was ranked 20th in the world. India was ranked 23rd in 2023. FDI outflow refers to the investment made by Indian companies outside India.

Q. According to the World Investment Report 2024 report of the UNCTAD, how much foreign direct investment was received by India in 2023?

- A) \$28 billion B) \$62 billion
C) \$44 billion D) \$76 billion

Answer : A

Q. According to the World Investment Report 2024 report of the UNCTAD, which country was the largest recipient of foreign direct investment in 2023?

- A) China B) Singapore
C) Hong Kong D) United States of America

Answer : D

- ✓ According to the World Investment Report of the UNCTAD, the following are the top ten FDI recipient countries in the world.

Q. Who releases the annual World Investment Report?

- A) UNESCO B) WEF
C) World Bank D) UNCTAD

Answer : D

- ✓ United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- ✓ United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a permanent organisation of the United Nations.
- ✓ The United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1964.
- ✓ In 2004 at its 60th anniversary, its name was changed to United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ✓ The main aim of the UNCTAD is to promote trade, investment and development of the developing countries.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ Reports released by UNCTAD
- ✓ The UNCTAD also releases various reports. The important ones are :
- ✓ World Investment Report,
- ✓ Trade and Development Report,
- ✓ Digital Economy report,

- ✓ Review of Maritime Transport,
- ✓ Technology and Innovation Report.
- ✓ Commodities and Development Report,
- ✓ Least Developed Countries Report.

Q. Which bank has launched a new digital investment platform SmartWealth?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ HDFC Bank has launched a new digital investment platform to take wealth services to every Indian and make investments simple and transparent.
- ✓ Incorporating cutting-edge technology, the HDFC Bank SmartWealth comes loaded with first-ever features that allow investors to make the right investment decisions and plan their financial journey.
- ✓ It has been developed with first-time investors in mind, built with smart intelligence and has pioneering tools that allow users to make the right investment decisions to plan their finances.

Q. According to the World Bank Migration and Development Brief report published in June 2024, what was the total amount of remittances received by India in 2023?

- A) \$ 190 billion
B) \$ 160 billion
C) \$ 120 billion
D) \$ 150 billion

Answer : C

- ✓ In its latest Migration and Development Brief, the World Bank expects India to receive inward remittances worth \$124 billion in 2024.
 - ✓ In 2023, India received inward remittances worth \$120 billion, making it the largest remittance recipient country in the world.
 - ✓ The Migration and Development Brief is published by the World Bank twice a year, and the latest report was published on 26 June 2024. The brief provides an update on the trend and issues related to remittance flow in the world
 - ✓ Highlights of the Migration and Development Brief June 2024
 - ✓ India is expected to receive remittances of \$124 billion in 2024 and \$129 billion in 2025.
 - ✓ India received \$120 billion as a remittance in 2023.
 - ✓ The growth rate of remittances to India was 7.5 per cent in 2023, and it is likely to be 3.7 per cent in 2024.
 - ✓ India is the largest recipient of remittance in the world, followed by Mexico (\$66 billion), China (\$50 billion), the Philippines (\$39 billion), and Pakistan (\$27 billion).
 - ✓ India also remained the largest country of origin for emigrants (18.7 million), followed by Ukraine (11.9 million), China (11.1 million), Mexico (11 million), and Venezuela (8.9 million).
 - ✓ Source of Remittance to India
-
- ✓ The United States of America is India's largest source of remittance, followed by the United Arab Emirates.
 - ✓ The report expects the remittances from the United Arab Emirates to increase due to the reduced cost of remittance.
 - ✓ Reports Published by World Bank
 - ✓ World Development Report

- ✓ Global Economic Prospect
- ✓ Global Financial Development Report
- ✓ Commodity Market Outlook
- ✓ International Debt Statistics

Q. Which country was the largest recipient of remittances in 2023, as per the “Migration and Development Brief” report released by the World Bank?

- A) China
B) India
C) South Korea
D) Mexico

Answer : B

Q. Which financial institutions has gave India a big loan of USD 170 million, which is about Rs 1,418 crore?

- A) World Bank
B) ADB
C) AIIB
D) IMF

Answer : B

- ✓ ADB Approves \$170 Million for India's Health System Preparedness.
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently gave India a big loan of USD 170 million, which is about Rs 1,418 crore.
- ✓ The loan is meant to improve India's healthcare system.
- ✓ Objectives of the ADB Loan
- ✓ The recently approved funding is in line with India's National Health Policy 2017, which aims to make sure that all people can get good healthcare.

Q. What is the minimum support price announced by the government of India for the paddy common grade for the 2024-25 agricultural marketing season?

- A) Rs 2300 per quintal
B) Rs 2800 per quintal
C) Rs 2500 per quintal
D) Rs 2600 per quintal

Answer : A

- ✓ Government increases MSP for Kharif crops for marketing season 24-25.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), in a meeting held on 19 June 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops for the marketing season 2024-25.
- ✓ The agriculture marketing season in India is from July to June.
- ✓ In the Union Budget 2018-19 the government of India had announced that the MSP of a crop shall be at least 1.5 times the All-India weighted average Cost of Production.
- ✓ In the recently announced MSP for the 2024-25 Kharif season, Bajra has the highest margin over the cost of production (77 percent), followed by Tur (59 percent), maize (54 percent), and Urad (52 percent). For the rest of the crops, the margin over the cost of production is estimated to be 50 percent.
- ✓ **MSP for Mandated Kharif Crops for Marketing Season 2024-25**

New MSP

	2023-24	2024-25	(₹/quintal) % Change
Paddy (Common)	2,183	2,300	5.4
Jowar-Hybrid	3,180	3,371	6.0
Bajra	2,500	2,625	5.0
Maize	2,090	2,225	6.5
Ragi	3,846	4,290	11.5
Tur(Arhar)	7,000	7,550	7.9
Moong	8,558	8,682	1.4
Urad	6,950	7,400	6.5
Groundnut	6,377	6,783	6.4
Sunflower Seed	6,760	7,280	7.7
Soyabean	4,600	4,892	6.3
Sesamum	8,635	9,267	7.3
Nigerseed	7,734	8,717	12.7
Cotton (Long)	7,020	7,521	7.1

Source: CACP

- ✓ **What is the Minimum Support Price (MSP)?**
- ✓ The MSP for the mandated crops is announced by the government of India before the start of the Kharif and Rabi agriculture seasons.
- ✓ In 1966-67, the government introduced the Minimum Support Price with the objective
- ✓ to :
- ✓ encourage farmers to adopt modern scientific farming to increase production,
- ✓ to raise productivity and crop production in the country to meet the emerging demand patterns in the country.
- ✓ Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) and its Role
- ✓ The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) was set up in 1965 as an expert committee under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ✓ It calculates the MSP of mandated crops and recommends them to the government.
- ✓ The government is not bound to accept the CACP's recommendations, which are advisory in nature.
- ✓ Mandated Crops under MSP
- ✓ At present, the CACP recommends MSP for 22 crops and for sugarcane it recommends fair and remunerative price (FRP).
- ✓ The mandated crops are;
- ✓ Cereals -Wheat, Paddy, Wheat, Barley, Ragi, Maize, Sorghum, Pearl millet,
- ✓ Pulses- Chickpea / Gram, Tur, Moong, Urad, Lentil
- ✓ Oilseeds - Peanut, Rapeseed, Soybean, Sesame, Sunflower, Safflower, Niger seed
- ✓ Commercial crops -Copra, Sugarcane, Cotton, Raw jute.
- ✓ Cropping Season in India
- ✓ According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Kharif, Rabi, and Zaid are the three main cropping seasons in India.
- ✓ Kharif Season
- ✓ It coincides with the onset of the South West Monsoon, with the sowing season being June/July and the harvesting season being September-October.
- ✓ Major crops are paddy(rice), cotton, soybean, moong, toor(arhar) maize, jawar, bajra, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean.
- ✓ Rabi Crops
- ✓ It is sown during the October -December months and harvested in March/April.

- ✓ Major crops are Barley, peas, sunflower, mustard, wheat gram, etc.
- ✓ Zaid Crops
- ✓ It is a period after the harvesting of the rabi crops and before the sowing of the kharif crops.
- ✓ Major crops are cucumber, vegetables and fodder crops, watermelon, muskmelon.

Q. Which crop received the highest absolute increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Marketing Season 2024-25 compared to the previous year?

- A) Nigerseed B) Sesamum
C) Tur/Arhar D) Wheat

Answer : A

- ✓ The highest absolute increase in MSP over the previous year has been recommended for oilseeds and pulses viz. nigerseed (Rs.983/- per quintal) followed by sesamum (Rs.632/- per quintal) and tur/arhar (Rs.550/- per quintal).

Q. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved Zurich Insurance Company's acquisition of a _ stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company for ₹5,560 crore.

- A) 30% B) 40%
C) 70% D) 100%

Answer : C

- ✓ Zurich Insurance Company Limited (Zurich) has successful completion of majority stake acquisition in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Kotak General) from Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMB) following the receipt of all necessary regulatory approvals.
- ✓ Zurich has acquired a 70 percent stake in Kotak General for a total consideration of ₹5,560 crore (\$670 million), through a combination of fresh growth capital and share purchase.
- ✓ The transaction marks the largest foreign investment in India's general insurance market and is the first by a foreign insurer since the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit was raised from 49 percent to 74 percent in 2021.
- ✓ Kotak General has ceased to be a wholly-owned subsidiary of KMB and the bank now holds the remaining 30 percent of the share capital of Kotak General.

Q. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and _ have signed a MoU for collaboration in cyber security to enhance India's cyber-resilience in the financial sector.

- A) American Express B) RuPay
C) Mastercard India D) VISA

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and Mastercard India have signed MoU for collaboration in cyber security to enhance India's cyber-resilience in the financial sector.
- ✓ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology said, two entities will leverage their shared expertise to strengthen the financial sector's cybersecurity incident response.
- ✓ Mastercard and CERT-In will hold training programs and workshops for cyber capacity building, latest market trends and best practices to enhance cyber security of financial sector organizations

- Q.** Which payments bank has partnered with Ria Money Transfer to provide convenient and affordable doorstep financial services to customers in remote areas across the country?
- A) India Post Payments Bank B) Airtel Payments Bank
C) FINO Payments Bank D) Paytm Payments Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with Ria Money Transfer, a global leader in cross-border money transfers to provide convenient and affordable doorstep financial services to customers in remote areas across the country.
- ✓ The partnership between IPPB and Ria will enhance access to banking services at customers' doorsteps, allowing them to withdraw only the amounts they need immediately.
- ✓ This initiative aims to mitigate the previous challenges and risks, fostering true financial inclusion.

- Q.** Which bank in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched the RuPay Wave Credit Card to offer customers UPI-powered transactions on RuPay network?
- A) Yes Bank B) Federal Bank
C) HDFC Bank D) Axis Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Federal Bank, in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has launched RuPay Wave Credit Card to offer customers UPI-powered transactions on RuPay network.
- ✓ The bank's cardholders can now link their RuPay Wave credit card to their preferred UPI applications, which would enable them swift and secure transactions with just a couple of clicks on their mobile devices.
- ✓ The benefits offered for customers include no AMC or joining fees, 10 per cent cash back on the first five UPI transactions made using the Wave credit card, 1000 bonus reward points upon quarterly spends of ₹50,000.

- Q.** What is the purpose of Axis Bank's recent decision to acquire an additional stake in Max Life Insurance for up to ₹336 crore?
- A) To increase Max Life Insurance's Gross Written Premium
B) To enhance Axis Bank's aggregate shareholding in Max Life Insurance
C) To launch a new insurance product with Max Life Insurance
D) To reduce Max Life Insurance's operational costs

Answer : B

- ✓ Axis Bank has decided to raise its shareholding in Max Life Insurance for an amount of up to ₹336 crore. This transaction would lead to the aggregate shareholding of the Axis Entities going up from 19.02 per cent to 19.66 per cent.

- Q.** Atul Kumar Chaudhary has recently been appointed as the secretary of which organisation?
- A) AAI B) ICAR
C) TRAI D) NPCI

Answer : C

- ✓ The government has appointed Atul Kumar Chaudhary as a secretary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) following the superannuation of V Raghunandan.
- ✓ Chaudhary, a 1989-batch Indian Telecommunication Services (ITS) officer, working as a deputy director general at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has been deputed for a two-year term.
- ✓ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
- ✓ Founded : 1997
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Regulatory agency executives
- ✓ Chairperson : Anil Kumar Lahoti
- ✓ Secretary : Atul Chaudhary.
- ✓ TRAI is a regulatory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India

- Q.** In the context of the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), how much has been monetised from assets over a period of three years?
- A) Rs 2.85 lakh crore B) Rs 3.85 lakh crore
C) Rs 4.85 lakh crore D) Rs 5.85 lakh crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Pursuant to the announcement made in the Union Budget 2021-22, the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) – listing potential core assets of Central Government Ministries/PSEs for monetization during the period 2021-22 to 2024-25 – was prepared by NITI Aayog in collaboration with the concerned Infrastructure Ministries.
- ✓ National Monetisation Pipeline monetised Rs 3.85 lakh crore of assets in 3 years

- Q.** Who has been appointed as an independent director on the board of One 97 Communications, the owner of Paytm?
- A) Rajeev Agarwal
B) Neeraj Arora
C) Rajeev Krishnamuralilal Agarwal
D) None of these

Answer : C

- ✓ One 97 Communications, which owns brand Paytm, has appointed former SEBI whole-time member Rajeev Krishnamuralilal Agarwal to the board as non-executive independent director

- Q.** Which organization has Namdev Finvest, a Jaipur-based NBFC, partnered with to provide comprehensive financial solutions, including insurance services?
- A) HDFC Bank B) ICICI Lombard
C) State Bank of India D) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Answer : D

- ✓ Namdev Finvest, a Jaipur based NBFC, has entered into strategic alliance with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, a leading insurance platform, to offer comprehensive financial solutions, including insurance and NBFC services, to its customers

- It was established in 1906, by Sri Ammembal Subba Rao Pai.
- Syndicate Bank was merged with Canara Bank on 1 April 2020. After this merger, Canara Bank has become the fourth largest bank in the country.
- Headquarters Bangalore, Karnataka
- MD & CEO : K. Satyanarayana Raju

Q. How many branches or Banking outlets does the State Bank of India plan to open in 2024-25?

- A) 300
B) 400
C) 500
D) 200

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the State Bank of India, Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara, the bank plans to open 400 branches in India in the 2024-25 financial year. India's largest scheduled commercial bank opened 137 branches in 2023-24, of which 59 were rural branches.
- ✓ The SBI chairman said that despite the increase in digital transactions by SBI customers, the physical bank branches are needed to provide customer services in newly emerging areas of wealth management and advisory services.
- ✓ The government of India-owned SBI has over 22,500 branches, 63,580 ATMs/ADWMs, and 82,900 business outlets in the country as of March 2024.
- ✓ **What is a Banking Outlet or Branch?**
- ✓ According to the RBI, a 'Banking Outlet' /branch for a Domestic Scheduled Commercial Bank(only public sector banks and Indian private banks. It does not include foreign banks operating in India), a Small Finance Bank and a Payment Bank is a fixed point service delivery unit.
- ✓ At the Banking Outlet, the bank has to provide the services of accepting deposits and encashment of cheques/ cash withdrawals or lending of money for a minimum of 4 hours per day. This minimum service has to be provided by the bank for at least five days a week.
- ✓ Public-sector banks and Indian private banks do not need the RBI's permission to set up a branch in India.
- ✓ Public-sector banks, Indian private banks, and Small Finance Banks will have to open at least 25 per cent of their new banking outlets in unbanked rural areas(population up to 9,999 as per the latest census).

Q. Action Construction Equipment Ltd (ACE) has signed an MoU with which bank to facilitate financing solutions for the construction equipment business?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ ACE partners with Bank of Baroda for construction equipment financing
- ✓ Action Construction Equipment Ltd. (ACE), a prominent player in India's construction equipment manufacturing sector, has entered into a MoU with Bank of Baroda to facilitate financing solutions for construction equipment businesses.
- ✓ Under this partnership, ACE customers across the country will have access to tailored financing options provided by Bank of Baroda.
- ✓ This agreement aims to support construction equipment businesses, local entrepreneurs, and startups by offering seamless access to financing

Q. Which bank has launched SmartLock' To Lock/Unlock Banking Services?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ ICICI Bank Launches 'SmartLock' To Lock/Unlock Banking Services.
- ✓ ICICI Bank Limited has launched 'SmartLock', a first-of-its-kind safety feature on iMobile Pay, the official Mobile Banking app of ICICI Bank.
- ✓ The feature enables customers to lock/unlock multiple banking services instantly, without the support of customer care executive through phone or e-mail.
- ✓ This also permits account holders to lock or unlock the entire iMobile Pay.
- ✓ This will enable customers to lock/unlock internet banking, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) (including payments from other UPI apps linked to the bank account), credit and debit cards.

Q. With reference to India's External Debt, consider the following statements:

1. Short-term debt (with an original maturity of up to one year) constitutes the majority of India's external debt.
2. US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt.
3. Loans remained the largest component of India's external debt, followed by currency and deposits.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India's external debt was placed at \$663.8 billion, an increase of US\$ 39.7 billion over its level at end-March 2023, informed the Reserve Bank of India recently.
- ✓ About India's External Debt:
- ✓ At end-March 2024, India's external debt was US\$ 663.8 billion, an increase of US\$ 39.7 billion over its level at end-March 2023.
- ✓ The external debt-to-GDP ratio declined to 18.7 percent end-March 2024 from 19.0 percent at end-March 2023.
- ✓ The Valuation effect due to the appreciation of the US dollar vis-à-vis the Indian rupee and other major currencies such as the yen, euro, and SDR amounted to US\$ 8.7 billion.
- ✓ Valuation effects are the change in value of assets held abroad with regard to the value of domestic assets held by foreign investors.
- ✓ Excluding the valuation effect, external debt would have increased by US\$ 48.4 billion instead of US\$ 39.7 billion at end-March 2024 over end-March 2023.
- ✓ At end-March 2024, long-term debt (with an original maturity of above one year) was placed at US\$ 541.2 billion, recording an increase of US\$ 45.6 billion over its level at end-March 2023.
- ✓ US dollar-denominated debt remained the largest component of India's external debt, with a share of 53.8 percent at end-March 2024, followed by debt denominated in the Indian rupee (31.5 percent), yen (5.8 percent), SDR (5.4 percent), and euro (2.8 percent)

Q. A Balasubramanian has been reappointed as MD and CEO of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company for how many years?

- A) one year
B) two years
C) three years
D) four years

Answer : C

- ✓ Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company (ABSLAMC) has reappointed A Balasubramanian as its Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for three years, effective from July 25, 2024.
- ✓ Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC is co-owned by Aditya Birla Capital and Sun Life (India) AMC Investments Inc., and serves as the primary investment manager for Aditya Birla Sun Life Mutual Fund

Q. Which bank has launched a new digital investment platform SmartWealth?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ HDFC Bank has launched a new digital investment platform to take wealth services to every Indian and make investments simple and transparent.
- ✓ Incorporating cutting-edge technology, the HDFC Bank SmartWealth comes loaded with first-ever features that allow investors to make the right investment decisions and plan their financial journey.
- ✓ It has been developed with first-time investors in mind, built with smart intelligence and has pioneering tools that allow users to make the right investment decisions to plan their finances.

Q. With reference to the Scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for Holders of Exploration Licences (EL), consider the following statements:

1. It offers a 50 percent reimbursement on expenses incurred during the exploration of critical minerals.
2. Though the EL holder must repay the amount received under the scheme, there is no limit on the number of applications or the scheme's outlay.
3. Decisions on reimbursement under the scheme will not impact the obligations of EL holders as per the terms of their EL set by the State Government at the time of auction.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ministry of Mines recently launched the Scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for Holders of Exploration Licences (EL) in a bid to accelerate mineral exploration and alleviate the high associated costs.
- ✓ About Scheme for Partial Reimbursement of Exploration Expenses for Holders of Exploration Licences (EL):
- ✓ It was launched by the Ministry of Mines to offer partial reimbursement of exploration expenses to licence holders.
- ✓ It offers a 50 percent reimbursement on expenses incurred during the exploration of critical minerals, with a maximum cap of Rs 20 crore.

- ✓ The maximum cap can be increased to Rs 24 crore if the EL holder hands over a G2 (general exploration) block for auction for the grant of a mining lease within three years from the execution of the exploration licence and it is successfully auctioned.
- ✓ The incentives for all selected licensees will be provided from the Rs 5,000 crore National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) fund.
- ✓ The exploration of critical and deep-seated minerals became possible after the 2023 amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act).

Q. Which bank has raised ₹10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.36 per cent through its fifth infrastructure bond issuance?

A) Bank of Baroda	B) ICICI Bank
C) Kotak Mahindra Bank	D) State bank of India

Answer : D

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has raised ₹10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.36 per cent through its fifth infrastructure bond issuance.
- ✓ The issue attracted an overwhelming response from investors, with bids in excess of ₹19,884 crore, and was oversubscribed by around four times against the base issue size of ₹5,000 crore.
- ✓ Based on the response, the bank has decided to accept ₹10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.36 per cent payable annually.
- ✓ This represents a spread of 21 bps over the corresponding FBIL G-Sec par curve. The instrument is rated AAA with stable outlook.

Q. Which of the following has received final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator?

A) MobiKwik	B) Freecharge
C) PayUmoney	D) Hitachi Payment Services

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI authorizes Hitachi Payment Services to Work as an Online Payment Aggregator.
- ✓ Noida, Uttar Pradesh based Hitachi Payment Services Pvt. Ltd has received final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an Online Payment Aggregator under the payments and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.
- ✓ This licence would enable the company to expand its digital solutions & services stack to encompass a comprehensive suite of innovative and merchant friendly payment options including Unified Payments Interface (UPI), netbanking, cards and wallets along with value-added services.
- ✓ In 2024, several other companies have obtained a payment aggregator license, including Amazon Pay, Digio, CCAvenue, Decentro, MSwipe, Tata Pay, Zoho, and Zomato.

Q. Who has become the first Indian REIT to secure Rs 650-crore sustainability-linked bonds from International Finance Corporation (IFC)?

A) Embassy	B) Brookfield India
C) Nexus Select Trust	D) Mindspace Business Parks

Answer : D

- ✓ Mindspace becomes first Indian REIT to secure Rs 650-crore sustainability-linked bonds from IFC.

- ✓ Mindspace Business Parks Real Estate Investment Trusts (Mindspace REIT), has secured Sustainability-Linked Bond(SLB) worth Rs 650 crore from the World Bank member International Finance Corporation (IFC).
- ✓ It has become the first Indian Real Estate Investment Trust(REIT) to issue such bonds.
- ✓ The bonds have been issued for the tenure of 7 years with final redemption date of June 24, 2031, at a coupon of 7.94% per annum, payable quarterly.
- ✓ These bonds are to be listed on the Wholesale Debt Market (WDM) segment of the Bombay Stock Exchange(BSE Limited).
- ✓ Mindspace Business Parks REIT
- ✓ Founded : 2019
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ CEO : Ramesh Nair
- ✓ Mindspace Business Parks REIT, sponsored by K Raheja Corp group

Q. Which of the following has signed a USD 60 million Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) financing agreement with the Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL)?

- A) World Bank B) Asian Development Bank
C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank D) African Development Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ ADB & AHFL Signed USD 60 Million NCDs Deal to Offer Housing Loans to Low-Income Women in India.
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a USD 60 million Non-Convertible Debentures (NCDs) financing agreement with the Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), one of the largest affordable housing finance companies in India. As of 25 June 2024, USD 30 million has been disbursed.
- ✓ The funds will support housing loans for women and address the shortage of financing in low-income housing and affordable housing segments in India.
- ✓ At least half of the funds will be deployed in 8 states, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal

Q. What target has the government of India set for the export of seafood in 2023-24?

- A) \$9.1 billion B) \$7.38 billion
C) \$5.12 billion D) \$4.22 billion

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), the export of seafood from India in 2023-24 has recorded an all-time high of 17,81,602 Metric tonnes(MT) as compared to 17,35,286 MT in 2022-23.
- ✓ However, in monetary value terms, there has been a decline in the value of seafood exports.
- ✓ India exported seafood with Rs 60,523.89 crore or US\$7.38 billion during 2023-24. In 2022-23, the value of the seafood export was Rs 63,969.14 crore or US\$ 8,094.31 million.
- ✓ The government of India had set an export target of \$9.1 billion for seafood in 2023-24.
- ✓ Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)
- ✓ The government of India established the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in 1972 to promote the marine products industry and boost exports from the country.
- ✓ The MPEDA was set up under the provisions of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act 1972.

- ✓ It comes under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ✓ Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala.

Q. Which country was the largest market for Indian seafood export in 2023-24?

- A) United States
- B) Japan
- C) China
- D) Russia

Answer : A

- ✓ According to the MPEDA, the United States of America remained the top export destination for Indian shrimp and seafood in 2023-24. The following is the list of the top export markets for Indian seafood during 2023-24

Q. Which international financial institution has invested \$105 million in the non-convertible debenture of Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan?

- A) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- B) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- C) International Development Agency (IDA)
- D) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)

Answer : A

- ✓ IFC to invest \$105 million in Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project.
- ✓ The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has agreed to invest \$105 million (around Rs 871 crore) in the non-convertible debentures of Brookfield's Bikaner Solar Power project in Rajasthan.
- ✓ IFC is a company of the World Bank Group which provides finance to the private sector companies.
- ✓ Brookfield Global Transition Fund (BGTF) is building a 550 MW solar power project in Bikaner in two phases.
- ✓ The Brookfield commissioned the first phase of the Bikaner solar power project 268 MW in March 2024. In the second phase the capacity of the solar power project is 282 MW taking the combined power generation capacity to 550 MW.
- ✓ The estimated cost of the second phase is estimated to be USD 317 million.
- ✓ The government of India is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2070. To achieve this target, the government has set a target to increase its non-fossil fuel-based power producing capacity to 500 Giga Watt by 2030.
- ✓ India has attracted around USD 10 billion in annual investments between 2017 and 2022. The country is expected to attract annual investments of USD 25 billion through 2030.
- ✓ International Finance Corporation
- ✓ The International Finance Corporation was set up by the World Bank in 1956 to support the private sector of the developing countries who are members of the World Bank.
- ✓ The IFC invests in the private sector by investing in their capital instruments like shares or debt instruments like debentures.
- ✓ IFC is a part of the World Bank group, which also includes the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association.
- ✓ The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) provides loans to the World Bank's member countries for development purposes.
- ✓ The International Development Association provides loans to only the least developed member countries of the World Bank at a concessional rate for development purposes.
- ✓ The headquarters of IFC: Washington D.C. the United States of America

- ✓ Managing Director: Makhtar Diop.
- ✓ Members: 186 countries.

Q. Which organization awarded the “Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024” to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- A) International Monetary Fund B) World Bank
C) Central Banking D) Financial Stability Board

Answer : C

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India bags ‘risk manager of the year award 2024’ by London’s Central Banking publication.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been awarded the “Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024” by Central Banking, a renowned publication headquartered in London.
- ✓ This prestigious accolade highlights the RBI’s significant progress in cultivating a robust risk culture and heightened awareness, solidifying its essential role in maintaining the stability of India’s financial system.
- ✓ The RBI has been proactive in embracing financial technology (FinTech) innovations while mitigating potential risks. It established a regulatory sandbox, which facilitates controlled experimentation with new FinTech products and services.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the GREAT Scheme:

1. It supports individual entrepreneurs for functional prototypes of their technologies for Technical Textile.
2. Under this initiative grant-in-aid will be provided to young innovators.

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 Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) has approved 7 startup proposals under the GREAT scheme.
- ✓ Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) encourages young innovators, scientists/technologists, and startup ventures in the field of Technical Textiles to translate their ideas into commercial technologies/products and make India self-reliant.
- ✓ It supports individual entrepreneurs or start-ups for functional prototypes or commercialization of their technologies for Technical Textile.
- ✓ Funding:
- ✓ A grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months will be provided.
- ✓ Key facts about National Technical Textiles Mission
- ✓ It was launched to increase the penetration level of technical textiles in India while leveraging the extraordinary growth rate of the sector.
- ✓ The mission aims to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles.
- ✓ Components:
- ✓ Research, Innovation and Development
- ✓ Promotion and Market Development
- ✓ Export Promotion

- ✓ Education, Training, Skill Development
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Textiles
- ✓ Time period: It has been approved with an implementation period of four years, starting from FY 2020-21 till FY 2023-24.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT):

1. It is a subcomponent of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
2. National Green Tribunal is responsible for executing the scheme.

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

- ✓ Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has issued Request for Selection (RfS) for Selection of Green Ammonia Producers for the production of Green Ammonia in India through cost based competitive bidding under Mode 2A of Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme.
- ✓ **About SIGHT**
- ✓ It is a subcomponent of the National Green Hydrogen Mission (under Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), aimed at bolstering domestic electrolyser manufacturing and green hydrogen production.
- ✓ Financial commitment: The programme has an outlay of ₹ 17,490 crore until 2029-30.
- ✓ Dual incentive mechanisms: Incentive for Electrolyser Manufacturing
- ✓ Implementation: The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is responsible for executing the scheme.
- ✓ **National Green Hydrogen Mission**
- ✓ It was launched on 4th January 2023 with an outlay of Rs. 19,744 crores up to FY 2029-30.
- ✓ It will contribute to India's goal to become Aatmanirbhar (self-reliant) through clean energy and serve as an inspiration for the global clean energy transition.
- ✓ The Mission will lead to significant decarbonization of the economy, reduced dependence on fossil fuel imports, and enable India to assume technology and market leadership in Green Hydrogen.

Q. What is the theme of global hackathon named "HARBINGER 2024" launched by RBI?

- A) Safe Digital Transactions B) Digital and Financial Literacy
C) Smarter Digital Payments D) Zero Financial Frauds' and 'Divyang Friendly

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI announces HaRBInger 2024 with focus on Zero Financial Frauds, Being Divyang Friendly.
- ✓ In a move aimed at enhancing the safety, security, and inclusivity of India's financial ecosystem, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the launch of the third edition of the RBI's global hackathon, "HaRBInger 2024 – Innovation , "HaRBInger 2024 – Innovation for Transformation.
- ✓ "The hackathon focuses on two important themes: 'Zero Financial Frauds' and 'Divyang Friendly'.
- ✓ The Apex Bank has been encouraging innovation in identified focus areas through its annual hackathons.

- ✓ Governor Das emphasised the importance of leveraging technology to combat financial fraud and widen the reach of financial services.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PNB MetLife India Insurance ?

- A) Sameer Bansal
- B) Ashish Srivastava
- C) Alok Srivastava
- D) Manish Sharma

Answer : A

- ✓ Private life insurer, PNB MetLife India Insurance appointed Sameer Bansal as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company effective from July 1, 2024.
- ✓ The appointment is subject to regulatory approvals.
- ✓ He will succeed Ashish Srivastava, who has been appointed MD for MetLife Inc.'s Global Shared Services team in India.

Q. Which financial institution recently announced its acquisition of a stake in the Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (IFSC) during an event celebrating the launch of its IFSC Banking Unit in GIFT City?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) Bank of Baroda
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Bank of India

Answer : D

- ✓ Bank of India acquires 6.1% stake in CCIL IFSC.
- ✓ The Bank of India(BoI) has acquired a 6.125 per cent stake in the recently incorporated Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (IFSC) listed in the GIFT SEZ in Gujarat for ₹6.125 crore.
- ✓ Promoted by Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL), CCIL IFSC is the proposed entity to build and operate a real-time foreign currency settlement system at GIFT City. The entity will act as a clearing house and system operator at GIFT City.

STAKE IN NEWS 2024

- Bank of India(BoI) has acquired a 6.125 per cent stake in the recently incorporated Clearing Corporation of India Ltd. (IFSC) listed in the GIFT SEZ in Gujarat for ₹6.125 crore
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared South Korea-based Shinhan Bank's proposed acquisition of an 11 per cent stake in HDFC Credila Financial Services.
- Canara Bank has approved initiating the process of diluting a 14.50% stake in its subsidiary, Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company, through an initial public offering (IPO).
- HDFC Bank and its group entities the authority to acquire an aggregate stake of up to 9.5% in ICICI Bank, Axis Bank, IndusInd Bank, YES Bank, Bandhan Bank, and Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SFB)
- The government of India has announced plans to sell up to 7% of its stake in NLC India.
- This move aims to raise between Rs 2,000 crore and Rs 2,100 crore, contributing to the government's disinvestment goals.
- HSBC and State Bank of India (SBI) have made strategic investments in CCIL IFSC Limited, acquiring 6.125% stakes each, valued at ₹6.125 crore each.
- HDFC Bank to Divest 100% Stake in HDFC Education and Development Services.
- SBI Mutual Fund Acquires 3% Stake in Savita Oil Technologies.
- Reliance to buy 13% of Paramount's stake in Viacom18 for Rs 4,286 crore

- Q.** What is the primary objective of SBI's 'SME Digital Business Loans' initiative?
- A) To reduce the interest rates for SMEs.
 - B) To provide end-to-end loan sanction in up to 45 minutes for small and medium enterprises.
 - C) To eliminate the need for collateral in SME loans.
 - D) To focus on corporate banking over the next five years

Answer : B

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) has launched 'SME Digital Business Loans', offering end-to-end sanction turnaround time of up to 45 minutes for SMEs (small and medium enterprises).
- ✓ SBI identified the micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) line of business as the focal point for the bank's growth and profitability over the next five years.
- ✓ The proposition eliminates the need for traditional credit underwriting and lengthy appraisal processes, ushering in a new era of simplicity, speed, and accessibility in MSME lending.
- ✓ Notably, for loans up to Rs 50 lakh, SBI has waived the requirement for financial statements, relying instead on transaction history and GST returns for appraisal

- Q.** According to the BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands report, which Indian information technology company has secured its position among the 100 most valuable brands in the world for the third consecutive year?
- A) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)
 - B) Wipro Limited
 - C) Infosys
 - D) HCL Technologies

Answer : C

- ✓ Infosys Ranks Among Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands.
- ✓ According to the BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands report, Infosys, a leading information technology company, has secured its position among the 100 most valuable brands in the world for the third consecutive year.
- ✓ Infosys is ranked as the 74th most valuable brand in the world and ranked as 20th most valuable global B2B (business-to-business) technology brand.
- ✓ IT bellwether Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the most valuable Indian brand, ranked 46th globally.
- ✓ TCS is ranked 16th in the top 20 business technology and services platforms.
- ✓ A total of four Indian brands made the list in 2024 with a cumulative brand value of over \$130 billion.
- ✓ Notably, non-technology company HDFC Bank came in at 47 with a brand value of around \$43 billion. Airtel came in as the 73rd most valuable brand at a \$25 billion (approx) valuation.
- ✓ Globally, Apple has become the most valuable company in terms of market capitalisation and the first company to cross \$1 trillion in brand value, according to Kantar's BrandZ global ranking. It has surpassed Microsoft to regain its title as the most valuable company, marking a 15 per cent increase from the previous year. Following Apple, Alphabet's Google holds the second spot at \$753 billion, and Microsoft ranks third at \$713 billion.

- Q.** According to recent reports, how much monetary penalty did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) impose on Central Bank of India for regulatory compliance deficiencies?
- A) ₹1.50 crore
 - B) ₹1.23 crore
 - C) ₹1.78 crore
 - D) ₹1.45 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI imposes Rs 1.45 Crore penalty on Central Bank of India.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1,45,50,000 on the Central Bank of Indi, citing deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- ✓ The penalty follows the findings of the Statutory Inspection for Supervisory Evaluation (ISE 2022) conducted by the RBI with reference to the bank's financial position as of March 31, 2022.
- ✓ The Central Bank of India was found to have violated RBI directions related to 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions' and 'Customer Protection – Limiting Liability of Customers in Unauthorised Electronic Banking Transactions.'

Q. Bank of Baroda has collaborated with which tech company to launch a nationwide online hackathon on generative artificial intelligence (GenAI)?

- A) Google B) Microsoft
C) Apple D) Amazon

Answer : B

- ✓ Bank of Baroda launches GenAI Hackathon in collaboration with Microsoft.
- ✓ Bank of Baroda has announced the launch of a nationwide online hackathon on generative artificial intelligence (GenAI), in collaboration with Microsoft.
- ✓ The hackathon aims to inspire participants to develop innovative solutions using GenAI technology to address specific business areas defined by the bank.
- ✓ The top three teams will receive cash prizes of Rs.5 lakh, Rs.3 lakh and Rs.2 lakh, and the bank will look to implement the best ideas that emerge from the hackathon.

Q. How much fine has the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) imposed on Axis Bank for failing to detect and report suspicious transactions related to the NSG account?

- A) Rs 1.60 crore B) Rs 1.66 crore
C) Rs 1.55 crore D) Rs 1.70 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ FIU imposes over Rs 1.66 cr fine on Axis Bank for failing to detect fraud NSG account.
- ✓ The Financial Intelligence Unit has slapped a fine of more than Rs 1.66 crore on Axis Bank for “failing” to put in place a mechanism to detect and report suspicious transactions carried out at one of its branches by creating a “fraud” account in the name of counter-terrorist commando force NSG.
- ✓ The federal agency has issued an order under Section 13 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that empowers its Director to impose a monetary penalty on a reporting entity (like Axis Bank) if the agency finds that its designated director on the board or any of its employees failed to comply with the obligations mandated under the said law

Q. Which regulatory body has granted a prepaid payments instrument licence to Jupiter, a neobanking startup backed by Tiger Global and Peak XV Partners?

- A) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
D) Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)

Answer : B

- ✓ Neobanking startup Jupiter gets RBI nod for mobile wallet licence
- ✓ Tiger Global and Peak XV Partners-backed neobanking startup Jupiter has secured a prepaid payments instrument licence from the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ This will allow the Bengaluru-based startup to offer digital wallets to its users for making UPI payments, transferring funds, besides paying bills.
- ✓ Armed with the PPI licence, Jupiter intends to build new use cases on the app, which currently offers digital savings accounts, UPI payments and financial management. The central bank allows PPI accounts with full KYC to undertake activities almost similar to a bank account including UPI payments

Q. Which brand will Aurionpro Payment Solutions operate under as an online payment aggregator, following approval from the Reserve Bank of India?

- A) AuroPay B) PayLink
C) PayPro D) ProPay

Answer : A

- ✓ Aurionpro Payments gets RBI nod to operate as online payment aggregator.
- ✓ Aurionpro Payment Solutions said it has received Reserve Bank's nod to operate as an online payment aggregator via its payment gateway brand AuroPay.
- ✓ The authorisation from the apex bank enables the company to operate as an online payment aggregator to provide digital payments services to merchants across the country.
- ✓ The Mumbai-based technology solutions company caters to the needs of banking, mobility, payments and government sectors.

Q. What is the upper limit set by the Finance Ministry for arbitration cases involving government or public sector enterprises (PSEs)?

- A) ₹5 crore B) ₹10 crore
C) ₹15 crore D) ₹20 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Finance Ministry caps dispute value at ₹10 crore for arbitration.
- ✓ In order to streamline arbitration process to resolve commercial dispute having government or PSE is one party, Finance Ministry has set an upper limit of ₹10 crore for cases to be brought in.
- ✓ It has also said that arbitration clause should not be automatically included in large contracts.
- ✓ This move aims to mitigate the perceived challenges of lengthy proceedings and potential misconduct among arbitrators

Q. Who is the author of the book titled "A Fly on the RBI Wall: An Insider's View of the Central Bank"?

- A) Raghuram Rajan B) Urjit Patel
C) Alpana Killawala D) Shaktikanta Das

Answer : C

- ✓ Book "A Fly on the RBI Wall" by Alpana Killawala.
- ✓ The book titled "A Fly on the RBI Wall: An Insider's View of the Central Bank" written by Alpana Killawala has been released recently.

- ✓ This book offers an insightful glimpse into her journey and the institution's transformation over 25 years.
- ✓ The book delves into the RBI's evolution over the last 25 years, highlighting significant changes as India embarked on its journey of economic and trade reforms. Alpana's narrative details how the RBI adapted to these changes, positioning itself as a key player in the country's economic landscape.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the New Framework For Unaffected Price:

1. It was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It aims to maintain a reasonable price for a scrip, excluding any undesired influence before the rumour is confirmed or refuted.

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

- ✓ To tackle any impact on the price of a scrip because of a market rumour, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a framework centred around its 'unaffected price.'
- ✓ **About New Framework**
- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a framework centred around the concept of "unaffected price" to tackle the impact of market rumours on stock prices.
- ✓ Purpose: The framework aims to maintain a reasonable price for a scrip, excluding any undesired influence before the rumour is confirmed or refuted, thereby helping both companies and investors.
- ✓ Implementation: The framework will be implemented in phases:
- ✓ Phase 1 (June 1): Applies to the top 100 listed entities.
- ✓ Phase 2 (December 1): Applies to the top 250 listed entities.
- ✓ How "Unaffected Price" works: The "unaffected price" is the price of the scrip before a particular rumour emerged and became public. This mechanism ensures a fair price discovery process, protecting the interests of market participants.
- ✓ Benefits: The framework is expected to:
- ✓ Improve market integrity by promoting transparency and faster responses from listed companies.
- ✓ Enhance confidence among investors.
- ✓ Reduce speculative activity.
- ✓ Ensure a level playing field for buybacks, mergers and acquisitions, and other transactions.
- ✓ Timeframe: The "unaffected price" must be determined within 24 hours of any material price movement excluding the rumour

Q. Who has been appointed as the chairperson of the ad-hoc committee set up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to review the ownership and economic structure of clearing corporations?

- A) Raghuram Rajan
B) Usha Thorat
C) Urijit Patel
D) Duvvuri Subbarao

Answer : B

- ✓ SEBI Forms Committee to Review Clearing Corporations.
- ✓ Capital markets regulator SEBI said it has set up an ad-hoc committee chaired by Usha Thorat, who was a former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to review the ownership and

economic structure of clearing corporations and suggest measures to ensure that clearing corporations function as resilient, independent, and neutral risk managers.

- ✓ The decision has been taken in the wake of the substantial growth of Indian securities markets in recent years and the importance of clearing corporations as central risk management.

Q. Which country emerged as India's third-largest export destination, following the US and UAE, despite a dip in India's merchandise shipments by over 3 per cent?

- A) China
- B) Germany
- C) Japan
- D) Netherlands

Answer : D

- ✓ Netherlands becomes India's 3rd Largest Export Destination in 2023-24.
- ✓ The Netherlands has emerged as India's third largest export destination after the US and UAE during 2023-24, even as the country's merchandise shipments dipped by over 3 per cent, according to the commerce ministry data.
- ✓ India's trade surplus with the Netherlands has increased to USD 17.4 billion in the last fiscal from USD 13 billion in 2022-23.

Q. With reference to Pump and Dump Scheme in Stock Market, consider the following statements:

1. It involves artificially inflating the price of a stock through misleading information, only to sell the stock at the inflated price.
2. It is particularly prevalent in large-cap stocks.
3. Under the SEBI guidelines, pump and dump schemes are completely banned in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Securities Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) recently slapped a fine of Rs 7.75 crore on 11 individuals for allegedly operating a 'pump and dump' scheme.
- ✓ **About Pump and Dump Scheme:**
- ✓ In the stock market, a pump and dump scheme is a type of manipulation activity that involves artificially inflating the price of a stock through false and misleading information, only to sell the stock at the inflated price and leave investors with significant losses
- ✓ It is particularly prevalent in the micro-cap and small-cap sectors, where companies often have limited public information and trading volumes are lower.
- ✓ How does pump and dump work? This process involves several steps:
- ✓ First, a significant amount of stock in a relatively small or thinly traded company is acquired. These stocks are often referred to as 'penny stocks' because they trade at low prices and are more susceptible to price manipulation due to low trading volumes.

Q. Kotak Mahindra Bank has received approval from the RBI to sell a 70% stake in its general insurance arm to which company?

- A) AXA Insurance
- B) Prudential Insurance
- C) Zurich Insurance Company
- D) Allianz Insurance

Answer : C

- ✓ Kotak Bank gets RBI nod to sell 70 pc stake in general insurance arm to Zurich Insurance.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank said it has received the RBI approval to sell a 70 per cent stake in its general insurance arm to Zurich Insurance Company.
- ✓ In November of last year, Zurich Insurance Company announced plans to acquire a 51% stake in Kotak Mahindra General through a combination of capital infusion and share purchase, followed by a subsequent 19% stake acquisition within three years of the initial acquisition for ₹5,560 Crore.
- ✓ The acquirer is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Insurance Group Ltd.

Q. Which regulatory authority in India has granted a Certificate of Registration to Arka Fincap Limited, a subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited (KOEL), allowing it to operate as a Corporate Agent (composite)?

- A) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- B) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- C) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)

Answer : C

- ✓ Arka Fincap gets IRDAI's Corporate Agency License to offer Insurance Solutions.
- ✓ Arka Fincap Limited, an NBFC and subsidiary of Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited (KOEL), has been given a Certificate of Registration to function as a Corporate Agent (composite) by India's Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI).
- ✓ This registration allows Arka to expand into insurance distribution, adding to its existing financial solutions portfolio to meet consumers' diverse needs.

Q. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and which institution have partnered to introduce a real-time payment system in Peru, similar to India's UPI, making Peru the first South American country to use UPI technology?

- A) Banco Central de Reserva del Perú (BCRP)
- B) Banco de Crédito del Perú (BCP)
- C) Interbank Perú
- D) Scotiabank Perú

Answer : A

- ✓ Peru adopts India's UPI technology for real-time payments.
- ✓ NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and the Central Reserve Bank of Peru (BCRP) have announced a partnership to introduce a real-time payment system in Peru, similar to India's UPI. This partnership is a major step, making Peru the first South American country to use the well-known Unified Payment Interface (UPI) technology.
- ✓ The deal with BCRP is the second in a series of foreign partnerships that NIPL has started. The first was with the Bank of Namibia.
- ✓ The main goal of these deals is to help other countries improve their digital payment systems by copying India's successful UPI system.

- Q.** What is the name of the insurance company that has officially rebranded itself as Edelweiss Life Insurance, marking a significant shift in its strategic direction and brand identity?
- A) Edelweiss Financial Services B) Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance
C) Edelweiss General Insurance D) Edelweiss Investment Management

Answer : B

- ✓ Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance rebranded as Edelweiss Life Insurance.
- ✓ Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has officially rebranded itself as Edelweiss Life Insurance, marking a significant shift in its strategic direction and brand identity.
- ✓ This transformation is reflected in the Edelweiss Life Insurance's refreshed logo, which retains the brand positioning of 'zindagi unlimited.
- ✓ ' The rebranding is seen as a pivotal move to enhance the company's competitiveness in the marketplace.

- Q.** What initiative has the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) launched to assist bank customers with grievance redressal?
- A) Customer Care Center
B) Bank Support Desk
C) Bank Clinic
D) Financial Helpline

Answer : C

- ✓ The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has launched the "Bank Clinic" initiative to assist bank customers with grievance redressal.
- ✓ It is an initiative by the All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA), aims to assist bank customers with grievance redressal amid the rapid expansion of technology and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines on retail banking.

- Q.** Punjab National Bank (PNB) and which organization signed an agreement to provide long-term financial support to feasible infrastructure projects?
- A) Infrastructure Development Finance Company
B) Indian Infrastructure Development Bank
C) India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd
D) National Infrastructure Fund

Answer : C

- ✓ Punjab National Bank, IIFCL sign pact for financing infra projects
- ✓ Punjab National Bank (PNB) and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) signed an agreement to offer long-term financial assistance to viable infrastructure projects.
- ✓ With this, both the institutions will collaborate to fund the infrastructure projects wherein the parties can mutually participate under consortium/multiple lending arrangements to provide financial support to the prospective borrowers subject to due diligence and on a case-to-case basis.
- ✓ This MOU would be a milestone in finding new avenues of lending to the infrastructure projects of the country and they assured full participation from both sides in this endeavour

Q. Which international institutions hold more than half of the Reserve Bank of India's gold reserves?

- A) World Bank and International Monetary Fund
- B) Bank of England and Bank of International Settlements
- C) European Central Bank and Federal Reserve System
- D) Asian Development Bank and African Development Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ RBI moves 1 lakh kg of gold from UK back to India, first such move of this quantum since 1991.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has moved approximately 100 tonnes (1 lakh kilograms) of gold from the United Kingdom to its vaults in India. This is the first time since 1991 that India has undertaken such a large-scale transfer of gold reserves.
- ✓ More than half of the RBI's gold reserves are held overseas in secure custody with the Bank of England and the Bank of International Settlements, while approximately a third is stored domestically. This move is expected to help the RBI save on storage costs currently paid to the Bank of England.
- ✓ The central bank held 822.10 tonnes of gold as part of its foreign exchange reserves as of March 31, 2024, an increase from the 794.63 tonnes held at the same time last year, according to the annual data released by the RBI.

Q. What is the objective of Bank of Maharashtra's Maha Krishi Samridhi Yojana (MKSY)?

- A) Providing financial support for housing projects
- B) Supporting healthcare initiatives in rural areas
- C) Offering financial assistance for food and agro-based industries
- D) Promoting tourism development in agricultural regions

Answer : C

- ✓ Bank of Maharashtra's Maha Krishi Samrudhi Yojana (MKSY): Financial Support for Food and Agro-Based Industries.
- ✓ Bank of Maharashtra has launched Maha Krishi Samridhi Yojana (MKSY), which provides financial assistance for agri-infrastructure projects involved in food and agro-based industries, processing activities and development of agricultural infrastructure facilities.
- ✓ MKSY Scheme provides comprehensive solutions to the partnership concerns of individuals, proprietary firms. Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), Public and Private Limited Companies, LLPs operating in the food and agro-processing sector, Nurturing Growth in Agriculture Bank of Maharashtra understands the process of financing agri-businesses to encourage agro-based industries.
- ✓ Under the scheme, for Term Loans & Working capital limits, Bank extends finance at lower margins based on the project. For all accounts with aggregate exposure above Rs.25.00 lakhs, Internal Credit Rating is done by the Bank, and for all loan accounts having aggregate exposures of above Rs.25.00 crores, External Credit rating is mandatory with minimum credit risk rating to be "BBB". The repayment period is up to 10 years including the moratorium period.

BANK OF MAHARASHTRA IN NEWS 2024

- Bank Of Maharashtra introduces Maha Krishi Samrudhi Yojana
- Bank of Maharashtra Tops Among PSU Banks in Business Growth in FY24
- Nidhu Saxena has been appointed as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank of Maharashtra for a period of three years.

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- Nidhu Saxena will take over A.S. Rajeev.
- Bank of Maharashtra
- Founded : 1935
- Headquarters : Pune, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Nidhu Saxena
- Tagline : One Family One Bank
- Bank of Maharashtra is an Indian public sector bank.
- The recorded highest growth in profitability with bottomline growing almost 126 per cent to Rs 2,602 crore during the year

Q. Which financial institution has received clearance from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to acquire an 11% stake in HDFC Credila Financial Services?

- A) ICICI Bank
B) Axis Bank
C) Shinhan Bank
D) State Bank of India

Answer : C

- ✓ S Korea's Shinhan Bank gets CCI nod to acquire 11% stake in HDFC Credila.
- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared South Korea-based Shinhan Bank's proposed acquisition of an 11 per cent stake in HDFC Credila Financial Services.
- ✓ Part of the Shinhan Financial Group, Shinhan Bank Co Ltd is a multinational bank, which commenced operations in India in 1996.
- ✓ The proposed combination relates to the acquisition of up to approximately 11 per cent shareholding by Shinhan Bank in HDFC Credila by way of subscription to shares of HDFC Credila.
- ✓ South Korea
- ✓ Capital : Seoul
- ✓ Currency : won
- ✓ President : Yoon Suk Yeol
- ✓ Prime Minister : Han Duck-soo

Q. Which financial services arm of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has launched the beta version of the 'JioFinance' app, offering UPI and digital banking services?

- A) Jio Pay
B) Jio Financial Services
C) Reliance Money
D) JioBank

Answer : B

- ✓ Jio Financial Services launches 'JioFinance' app in beta version; UPI, digital banking on offer.
- ✓ To take on competitors like Google and Amazon, RIL's financial services arm Jio Financial Services announced the launch of a pilot version of 'JioFinance' app to offer UPI, digital banking and other services.
- ✓ This app seamlessly integrates digital banking, UPI transactions, bill settlements, insurance advisory, and offers a consolidated view of accounts and savings, all in one user-friendly interface
- ✓ JIO
- ✓ Founded : 2007
- ✓ Founder : Mukesh Ambani
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- ✓ Chairman : Akash Ambani
- ✓ Managing Director : Sandip Das

Q. Canara Bank has approved the initiation of the process to dilute its stake in which subsidiary through an initial public offering (IPO)?

- A) Canara HSBC Life Insurance B) Canara Bank Securities Ltd
C) Canara Wealth Management Ltd D) Canara General Insurance Company Ltd

Answer : A

- ✓ Canara Bank to dilute 14.50% stake in Canara HSBC Life Insurance via IPO.
- ✓ Canara Bank granted an approval for initiating the process of diluting its 14.50 per cent stake in its subsidiary Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company Ltd through an initial public offering (IPO).
- ✓ This move is pending approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS). Currently, Canara Bank holds a 51% majority stake in the life insurance company, while HSBC Insurance (Asia Pacific) owns 26%, and Punjab National Bank holds the remaining 23%.
- ✓ In addition to the IPO, Canara Bank has also approved raising up to ₹4,000 crore via additional tier-I (AT-1) bonds in FY25 and ₹4,500 crore via tier-II bonds in the current financial year.

Q. Which Indian healthcare AI startup, co-founded by Ankur Jain and GV Sanjay Reddy, has ranked number one on the Open Medical LLM (Large Language Model) Leaderboard?

- A) CureAI
B) Jivi
C) HealthTech Innovations
D) MedAI Solutions

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian healthcare AI start-up Jivi ranked world's best.
- ✓ Jivi, an Indian healthcare AI startup, co-founded by former BharatPe Chief Product Officer Ankur Jain, and GV Sanjay Reddy, Chairman, Reddy Ventures, has ranked number one on the Open Medical LLM (Large Language Model) Leaderboard.
- ✓ Jivi MedX, has surpassed well-known models such as Google's Med-PaLM 2 and OpenAI's GPT-4.

Q. What is the primary purpose of the 'Settlement Calculator (BETA Version)' recently launched by SEBI?

- A) To facilitate faster settlement of legal disputes
B) To provide a tool for calculating taxes on settlements
C) To enhance transparency in the process of determining the indicative settlement amount
D) To automate the entire settlement process

Answer : C

- ✓ SEBI Launches 'Settlement Calculator (BETA Version)' to Provide Transparency in Calculating Settlement Amounts.
- ✓ SEBI has launched the 'Settlement Calculator (BETA Version)' in order to provide more transparency in the process of arriving at the indicative settlement amount, as per the parameters laid down in SEBI (Settlement Proceedings) Regulations, 2018.
- ✓ This Settlement Calculator contains fields for the applicant to identify the violations and select the appropriate options regarding their past regulatory track record based on SEBI's actions and the details of other ongoing proceedings, if any, on the date of filing the settlement application.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL)?

- A) P Santhosh
B) Ramesh Kumar
C) Deepak Sharma
D) Nisha Singh

Answer : A

- ✓ NARCL board appointed P Santhosh as MD & CEO.
- ✓ The National Asset Reconstruction Company (NARCL), India's state-owned bad bank, has appointed P Santhosh as its new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. The decision was made by NARCL's board, which recommended Santhosh for a three-year term at the helm of the asset reconstruction company.

Q. What is the revised maximum limit for Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity for government employees, as per the recent decision by the Center?

- A) Rs 15 lakh
B) Rs 20 lakh
C) Rs 25 lakh
D) Rs 30 lakh

Answer : C

- ✓ Government Raises Retirement & Death Gratuity Limits To Rs 25 Lakh
- ✓ The Center's decision to increase its employees' dearness allowance by 4% to 50% has resulted in a substantial revision in other allowances, including retirement gratuity, which is a huge boon for government employees.
- ✓ The maximum limit for Retirement Gratuity and Death Gratuity is increased by 25%, from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, effective January 1, 2024.
- ✓ Gratuity is a defined benefit plan provided by employers to employees who have served continuously for five years or more. Governed by the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, it is available to employees who have rendered at least five years of continuous service.

Q. According to the RBI Annual Report, to what amount did the monetary penalties imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on regulated entities (REs) increase in FY24?

- A) ₹42.55 crore
B) ₹50.75 crore
C) ₹72.30 crore
D) ₹86.11 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ According to the RBI Annual Report, the monetary penalties imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on regulated entities (REs) more than doubled to ₹86.11 crore in FY24 for contraventions/non-compliance with provisions of statutes and certain directions issued by the Reserve Bank from time to time.
- ✓ Unclaimed deposits with banks have witnessed a 26 per cent jump year on year to ₹78,213 crore at the end of March 2024, as per the report.
- ✓ The amount with the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund stood at ₹62,225 crore at the end of March 2023.

Q. PhonePe has launched secured lending products on its platform by partnering with banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). In how many major categories can customers access lending solutions on the PhonePe app?

- A) Four
B) Five
C) Six
D) Seven

Answer : C

- ✓ PhonePe launches secured lending platform, partners with bunch of NBFCs.
- ✓ PhonePe has launched secured lending products on its platform by partnering with banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and other fintech firms.
- ✓ Walmart-owned PhonePe said it has more than 535 million registered users and aims to create a “powerful and seamless user experience” in the secured loans category. Customers can access to lending solutions on the PhonePe app in six major categories. mutual fund, gold, bike, car, home and loans against property, and education loan.

Q. What is the deadline set by the Income Tax Department for taxpayers to link their PAN with their Aadhaar card to avoid higher tax deductions at source (TDS) or tax collections at source (TCS)?

- A) March 31, 2024
B) April 30, 2024
C) May 31, 2024
D) June 30, 2024

Answer : C

- ✓ The Income Tax Department has advised taxpayers to connect their PAN with Aadhaar card by May 31, 2024, to prevent higher tax deductions at source (TDS) or tax collections at source (TCS).
- ✓ According to Section 139AA of the Income Tax Act, every person who has been assigned a PAN as of July 1, 2017, and is eligible to obtain an Aadhaar number, must provide their Aadhaar number in the prescribed form and manner.

A) Tata Group
B) Adani Group
C) Larsen & Toubro
D) Reliance Industries

- ✓ 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.

A) China
B) India
C) Russia
D) United States

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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

Answer : B

- ✓ India is the world's second-largest producer of crude steel in the world after China

Q. With reference to India's trade statistics, consider the following statements:

1. China emerged as India's largest trading partner in 2023-24.
2. India's total trade deficit in 2023-24 decreased when compared to the previous fiscal.
3. India's has a trade deficit with the United States of America in 2023-24.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India has recorded a trade deficit, the difference between imports and exports, with nine of its top 10 trading partners in 2023-24, according to official data.
- ✓ About India's Top Trading Partners:
- ✓ China has emerged as India's largest trading partner with \$118.4 billion of two-way commerce in 2023-24, surpassing the US.
- ✓ The bilateral trade between India and the US stood at \$118.28 billion in 2023-24. Washington was the top trading partner of New Delhi during 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with USD 83.6 billion, was the third largest trading partner of India. It was followed by Russia (\$65.7 billion), Saudi Arabia (\$43.4 billion), and Singapore (\$35.6 billion).
- ✓ India's total trade deficit in the last fiscal narrowed to \$238.3 billion as against \$ 264.9 billion in the previous fiscal.
- ✓ 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. 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?

- 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

Q. With reference to the PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It was introduced for de-dieselisation of the farm sector and enhancing the income of farmers.

2. Under the Scheme, the central government provides subsidies for the installation of standalone solar pumps.
3. Only individual farmers are eligible beneficiaries under the scheme.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Ministry of Renewable Energy recently issued a warning to farmers on PM-KUSUM website against fake websites and mobile applications that provide fake online application forms and demand registration fees for installing solar water pumps under PM Kusum scheme.
- ✓ About PM-KUSUM Scheme:
- ✓ The PM-KUSUM Scheme was launched in 2019 for de-dieselisation of the farm sector and enhancing the income of farmers.
- ✓ It is aimed at ensuring energy security for farmers in India, along with honouring India's commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030 as part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
- ✓ The scheme aims to add Solar capacity of about 34,800 MW by March 2026 with the total Central Financial support of Rs 34,422 crore.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- ✓ Under the Scheme, a central government subsidy upto 30% or 50% of the total cost is given for the installation of standalone solar pumps and also for the solarization of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps.
- ✓ Further, farmers can also install grid-connected solar power plants up to 2MW, under the Scheme on their barren/fallow land.
- ✓ Component A:
- ✓ 10,000 MW of solar capacity through the installation of small Solar Power Plants of individual plants of capacity up to 2 MW.
- ✓ 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.** 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.
- ✓ 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

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.** 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

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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):

1. It is the principal financial institution for promotion, financing and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector in India.
2. At present, it is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI).

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

- ✓ Airbus Helicopters and the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for financing the purchase of Airbus' helicopters in India.
- ✓ About Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):
- ✓ It was set up on 2nd April, 1990, under an Act of the Indian Parliament.
- ✓ Purpose: To act as the principal financial institution for promotion, financing, and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector, as well as for the co-ordination of functions of institutions engaged in similar activities.
- ✓ It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, GoI.
- ✓ It was incorporated initially as a wholly owned subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI).
- ✓ Currently, the shares of SIDBI are held by the Government of India (GoI) and 22 other institutions/PSBs/insurance companies owned or controlled by the Central Government.
- ✓ Headquarters: Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ SIDBI helps MSMEs in acquiring the funds they require to grow, market, develop, and commercialize their technologies and innovative products.

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.
- ✓ 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 2024

- 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.

- ✓ 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. With reference to the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), consider the following statements:

1. It measures the changes in the prices of goods and services sold and traded in bulk by wholesale businesses to other businesses.
2. It is calculated and published by the Office of Economic Advisor in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. It is published quarterly and is used to measure the level of wholesale inflation in both goods and services.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Inflation in India's wholesale prices rose to a 13-month high of 1.26% in April, owing to an uptick in food inflation and a 1.4% year-on-year rise in fuel and power prices after several months of deflation.
- ✓ 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.

1. It is a financial instrument where insurance companies act as 'Surety' and provide the financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfil its obligations as per the agreed terms.
2. In case the contractor fails to deliver his promise, monetary compensation is paid to the obligee by the insurer.
3. Unlike a bank guarantee, the insurance surety bonds do not require large collateral from the contractor.

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

- ✓ Insurance companies have issued about 700 insurance surety bonds valued about ₹3,000 crore after Centre makes the instrument on par with bank guarantees for all government procurements.
- ✓ What is a Surety Bond?
- ✓ A surety bond is a promise to be liable for the debt, default, or failure of another.
- ✓ It is a three-party contract in which one party (the surety) guarantees the performance or obligations of a second party (the principal) to a third party (the obligee).
- ✓ About Insurance Surety Bonds:
- ✓ It is a financial instrument, where insurance companies act as 'Surety' and provides the financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfil its obligation as per the agreed terms.
- ✓ It is a risk transfer mechanism wherein an insurer provides a guarantee to a beneficiary or obligee that the principal or contractor will meet his contractual obligations.
- ✓ In case the principal fails to deliver his promise, a monetary compensation is paid to the obligee by the insurer.
- ✓ There are 3 parties involved:
- ✓ The Surety (Insurance Companies) will provide the financial guarantee to the Obligee /beneficiary.
- ✓ Obligee or Beneficiary (example-Government, Infrastructure Development Authorities etc.) -the party that needs the surety and is often the beneficiary of the surety bond.
- ✓ Principal (could be the owner or contractor)-the party that purchases the Surety bond from an insurer as a guarantee and undertakes a commitment to perform the obligations as per the contract entered.

A) Until 2030-31 B) Until 2025-26
C) Until 2026-27 D) Until 2035-36

- ✓ PSBs to identify one ‘champion sector’ in their business plans.
- ✓ India’s Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are set to identify and concentrate efforts on one specialised “champion sector” each as part of their business plans until 2026-27.

- ✓ This strategic move aims to enable PSBs to expand their presence significantly in their chosen sectors by developing tailored capabilities.
- ✓ The banks will design segment-specific lending products and build internal capacities such as stress testing models and early warning signal systems for these champion sectors.
- ✓ This initiative falls under the 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India) strategy for PSBs. It involves onboarding sector-specific advisors and developing credit underwriting models to expedite loan approvals in the identified champion sectors.

Q. With reference to National Savings Certificate (NSC), consider the following statements:

1. It aims at encouraging users, who are primarily low- to mid-income investors, to invest as well as save taxes.
2. NSC certificates are accepted as collateral or security for secured loans in banks and NBFCs.
3. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) are not eligible to invest in NSC.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The Prime Minister recently declared Rs 9.12 lakh investment in the National Savings Certificate (NSC) scheme in his nomination filing.
- ✓ About National Savings Certificate (NSC):
- ✓ It is a fixed-income investment scheme launched by the government of India.
- ✓ It aims at encouraging users, who are primarily low- to mid-income investors, to invest as well as save taxes.
- ✓ You can invest in NSC from the nearest post office in your name, for a minor or with another adult as a joint account.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Interest Rates: The certificates earn an annual fixed interest, which is revised every quarter by the government, thus guaranteeing a regular income for the investor.
- ✓ Maturity Period: Five years.
- ✓ The amount of NSCs that can be purchased has no upper limit.
- ✓ Tax Saver: As a government-backed tax-saving scheme, the principal invested in NSC qualifies for tax savings under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act up to Rs. 1.5 lakhs annually.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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. With reference to World Migration Report 2024, consider the following statements:

1. It is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. China is the origin of the largest number of international migrants.
3. India is the top remittance recipient country in the world.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ India received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022, becoming the first country to reach and even surpass the USD 100 billion mark, according to the World Migration Report 2024.

- ✓ About World Migration Report:
- ✓ It is a bi-annual report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- ✓ It presents key data and information on migration, as well as thematic chapters on highly topical migration issues.
- ✓ Highlights of the 2024 Report:
- ✓ Overall, the estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past five decades.
- ✓ The current global estimate is that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 percent of the global population.
- ✓ India is the origin of the largest number of international migrants-nearly 18 million-with a large diaspora in UAE, US and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ There were 3.47 million Indians in UAE, followed by 2.7 million in US and 2.5 million in Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ 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. Which of the following has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Go Digit General Insurance for non-disclosure of a change in the conversion ratio of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS)?

A) IRDAI	B) SEBI
C) SIDBI	D) NABARD

Answer : A

- ✓ IRDAI imposes a fine of Rs 1 crore on IPO-bound Go Digit Insurance
- ✓ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Go Digit General Insurance for non-disclosure of a change in the conversion ratio of compulsorily convertible preference shares (CCPS).
- ✓ The company had not furnished the full particulars of the revision to the regulator, violating Section 26 of the Insurance Act.
- ✓ The insurance regulator had earlier issued a show cause notice after noticing that Go Digit had changed its conversion ratio of 63,00,000 CCPS issued by Go Digit Infoworks Services Pvt Ltd (GDISPL), the parent company of the general insurer, to FAL Corporation, owned by Fairfax Group
- ✓ It was changed from "1 CCPS for 2.324 equity shares" to "2.324 CCPS for each equity share"

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

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).

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.
- ✓ 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.

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

- ✓ Bajaj Auto plans to initiate production with an initial capacity of 20,000 CNG motorcycles, a cautious step considering the varied response the initiative has garnered thus far.
- ✓ The CNG-powered bike is to be named Bruzer 125 CNG.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Stand-By Arrangement of the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

1. It provides short-term financial assistance to countries facing balance of payments problems.
2. It is available for both emerging as well as low-income countries.

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 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).
- ✓ The Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) provides short-term financial assistance to countries facing balance of payments problems.
- ✓ Historically, it has been the IMF lending instrument most used by advanced and emerging market countries.
- ✓ Eligibility: All member countries facing actual or potential external financing needs. Most often used by advanced and emerging market countries, but low-income countries sometimes use the SBA together with the Standby Credit Facility (SCF).
- ✓ Conditionality
- ✓ Countries' economic policies must address the problems that led the country to seek funding.
- ✓ Disbursements conditional on the observance of quantitative performance criteria.
- ✓ Duration of loan: Flexible. Typically covers a period of 12–24 months, but not more than 36 months.
- ✓ Key facts about IMF
- ✓ It fosters economic growth and employment by providing temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease the balance of payments adjustment and technical assistance.
- ✓ Foundation: Formed in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference with the goal of reconstructing the international monetary system.
- ✓ Important Reports: World Economic Outlook and Global Financial Stability Report
- ✓ Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA

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. 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).
- ✓ As of now, all investments by eligible investors in the 'specified securities' will be reckoned under the fully accessible route (FAR).
- ✓ The allocation of incremental changes in the g-sec limit over the two sub-categories – 'General' and 'Long-term' – shall be retained at 50:50 for 2024-25.
- ✓ Further, the aggregate limit of the notional amount of Credit Default Swaps sold by FPIs shall be 5 percent of the outstanding stock of corporate bonds. Accordingly, an additional limit of Rs 2,54,500 crore has been set.

Q. With reference to Navratna Public Sector Undertakings (PSU), consider the following statements:

1. They can invest up to Rs 1,000 crore without seeking approval from the Central Government.
2. They can enter into technology joint ventures with other companies.
3. They have autonomy to incur capital expenditure on purchase of new items.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency public sector undertaking company was granted 'Navratna status' from the department of public enterprises.
- ✓ The government categorises all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) into three categories, namely Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna.

- ✓ The Government had introduced the 'Navratna' scheme in 1997.
- ✓ Criteria for Navratna status
- ✓ A PSU should be a Miniratna-I, Schedule 'A' company, should have obtained an 'excellent' or 'very good' MoU rating in three of the last five years, and must have a composite score of 60 in six performance indicators.
- ✓ It must report a net profit of more than Rs 5,000 crore for three consecutive years, and maintain an average annual turnover of Rs 25,000 crore for three years, or have an annual average net worth of over Rs 15,000 crore for three years.
- ✓ Benefits
- ✓ Financial Independence: They invest up to ₹1,000 crore without seeking approval from the Central Government.
- ✓ Navratna companies are also allowed to invest up to 15% of their net worth on a single project, or 30% of their net worth in a given year, subject to a cap of ₹1,000 crore.
- ✓ To incur capital expenditure on purchase of new items or for replacement, without any monetary ceiling..
- ✓ To enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances

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.

Q. With reference to Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), consider the following statements:

1. They can only accept demand deposits from the public.
2. They do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself.
3. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is not available to depositors of NBFCs.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are increasing their fixed deposit (FD) rates to mop up funds that can make up for lower bank borrowings.
- ✓ About Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC):
- ✓ An NBFC is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, engaged in the business of loans and advances, the acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by the Government or local authority or other marketable securities of a like nature, leasing, hire-purchase, insurance business, chit business.
- ✓ It does not include any institution whose principal business is that of agriculture activity, industrial activity, the purchase or sale of any goods (other than securities) or providing any services and sale/purchase/construction of immovable property.
- ✓ A non-banking institution which is a company and has the principal business of receiving deposits under any scheme or arrangement in one lump sum or in installments by way of contributions, or in any other manner, is also an NBFC (Residuary non-banking company).
- ✓ They cannot accept deposits for a period less than 12 months and more than 60 months.
- ✓ 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).
- ✓ This index contains 30 companies that are not majorly impacted by economic instability and are in regular demand, making them a good investment option during economic downturns.

- ✓ India (6.3%), and
- ✓ Australia (5.8%).

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.
- ✓ 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

- ✓ 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.

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.
- ✓ PFC’s CSR initiatives focus on impactful projects contributing to inclusive growth and equitable development in society through education and capacity building measures.

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 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 topped the Hurun India Art List of the most successful Indian artists alive for the sixth consecutive year in 2024?

- A) Subodh Gupta B) Bharti Kher
C) Anish Kapoor D) Jitish Kallat

Answer : C

- ✓ London-based Indian-origin artist Anish Kapoor tops the Hurun India Art List 2024
- ✓ For the sixth consecutive year, London-based Indian origin artist Anish Kapoor has topped the Hurun India Art List of the most successful Indian artists alive, released by the Hurun Research Institute. The list ranks the top 50 living Indian artists according to the sales of their works sold at public auctions as of January 1, 2024.
- ✓ Top 5 Artists In Hurun India Art List 2024
 1. Anish Kapoor: 79.9 crore.
 2. Gulam Mohammed Sheikh: Rs 24.1 crore.
 3. Arpita Singh: Rs 22.9 crore.
 4. Rameshwar Broota: Rs 19.3 crore.
 5. Krishen Khanna: Rs 18 crore

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 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.
- ✓ 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

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 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 Rajeev 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 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
- ✓ 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. How much gold did the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) purchase between January and April 2024, compared to the total gold added in 2023?

A) 16 tonnes

B) 20 tonnes

C) 24 tonnes

D) 32 tonnes

Answer : C

- ✓ RBI buys 24 tonnes of gold in 4 months, 1.5 times more than all of 2023.
- ✓ 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 company recently launched an industry-first sonic identity, symbolizing financial freedom, and became the first asset management company (AMC) in India to introduce its own brand sound?

A) Bajaj Markets

B) MPOWER Financing

C) Nippon India Mutual Fund

D) Varaha Heritage

Answer : C

- ✓ Nippon India Mutual Fund Launches Industry-First Sonic Identity.
- ✓ Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), the asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), proudly announces the unveiling of its groundbreaking sonic identity – a powerful soundscape symbolizing financial freedom.

- ✓ NIMF is the first asset management company (AMC) in India to launch its own brand sound. This innovative initiative underscores the company's commitment to innovation and fostering deeper connections with investors.
- ✓ Crafted by BrandMusiq, India's leading specialist in sonic identities, NIMF's new musical logo (MOGOSCAPE) encapsulates the core values, emotions, and persona of the organization.

Q. Who chairs the expert committee set up by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) to position GIFT IFSC in Gujarat as a ‘Global Trading Hub’?

- A) Rajeew Kher
B) Michael Patra
C) Sanjay Kumar
D) Anjali Sharma

Answer : A

- ✓ The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has set up an expert committee to position GIFT IFSC in Gujarat as a 'Global Trading Hub'.
- ✓ The 21-member committee will be chaired by former Union commerce secretary, Rajeev Kher.
- ✓ Representatives of International Financial Services Centre Authority, DGFT, IIBX, ICICI Bank, ONGC, IOCL, Reliance Industries Limited, StoneX, NMDC, JP Morgan Chase, Tata Steel, and Arvind Limited are among the 21 members of the committee

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

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'.

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
- ✓ Zimbabwe has grappled with high inflation, with rates surpassing 500% in recent years.
- ✓ Consequently, the Zimbabwean dollar, introduced in 1980, lost its value due to hyperinflation.

Q. Which company recently finalized a deal to sell its minority stake in Tata Play, a subscription television broadcaster, to the Tata Group, resulting in the Tata Group gaining full control of Tata Play?

A) Amazon

B) Walt Disney

C) Netflix

D) Google

Answer : B

- ✓ Disney to sell 30% Tata Play stake to Tata Group.
- ✓ Walt Disney has finalised a deal to sell its minority stake in the subscription television broadcaster Tata Play to the Tata Group, according to a report by Bloomberg.
- ✓ The transaction values the satellite TV provider, Tata Play, at about \$1 billion. The Tata Group took full control of the platform after buying the 29.8 per cent stake from Disney.
- ✓ Disney signed a binding agreement in late February to combine its India unit with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's media arm, 'Viacom 18 Media Pvt', creating an \$8.5 billion entertainment juggernaut that will have over 750 million viewers and dominate the media sector in India.

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.
- ✓ 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. Which regulatory authority imposed a financial penalty of 10 million rand on the State Bank of India's South Africa branch?

- A) South African Revenue Service
B) Financial Services Board of South Africa
C) Prudential Authority of the South African Reserve Bank
D) Competition Commission of South Africa

Answer : C

- ✓ 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. Which company has been honoured with ‘The Economic Times HR World Future Ready Organization Award 2024-25’?

- A) NTPC Limited

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.
- ✓ 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. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has bagged a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank. Burgan Bank is a leading commercial bank in ____.

A) Kuwait

B) Qatar

C) UAE

D) Iran

Answer : A

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has bagged a deal to modernize the core banking technology of Burgan Bank, a leading commercial bank in Kuwait.
- ✓ TCS will help Burgan Bank consolidate multiple standalone legacy applications into a contemporary universal banking solution that drives innovation and strengthens customer relationships.
- ✓ Burgan Bank is one of the youngest commercial banks in Kuwait, with a regional network of over 160 branches and 360 ATMs.

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 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.
- ✓ The MoU aims to support the financing and development of the company's various strategic energy transition projects both in India and globally.

- ✓ Both parties will leverage their respective expertise to strengthen the collaboration on utility-scale energy projects including solar, wind, complex renewables, green hydrogen, energy storage and solar modules manufacturing.

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
- ✓ 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 transacti

Q. Project Astra, a multimodal AI agent, recently in news is developed by:

- A) Google
- B) OpenAI
- C) C-DAC
- D) IndiaAI

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, Google at the company's annual developer conference, presented an early version of Project Astra.
- ✓ It is a new multimodal AI agent developed by Google.
- ✓ It is capable of answering real-time questions fed to it through text, video, images, and speech by pulling up the relevant information.
- ✓ It can see the world, remember where one has left a thing and even answer if a computer code is correct by looking at it through the phone's camera.
- ✓ It is more straight-forward, there is no range of emotional diversity in its voice.
- ✓ It is not limited to smartphones. Google also showed it being used with a pair of smart glasses.
- ✓ Project Astra can learn about the world, making it as close as possible to a human-assistant-like experience.
- ✓ What is multimodal model AI?
- ✓ A multimodal model is a ML (machine learning) model that is capable of processing information from different modalities, including images, videos, and text.
- ✓ For example, Google's multimodal model, Gemini, can receive a photo of a plate of cookies and generate a written recipe as a response and vice versa.

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.
- ✓ 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. 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.
- ✓ The indicative period for completion of the transaction (acquisition of 61.25 lakh equity shares at ₹10 each) is up to six months from the date of execution of transaction documents.
- ✓ The Clearing Corporation of India Ltd (CCIL) is promoting CCIL IFFSC. CCIL will have a 57.125 per cent stake in the proposed company.

Q. Who is investing €4 billion to expand its artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructure in France?

- A) Google
B) Amazon
C) Microsoft
D) Apple

Answer : C

- ✓ Microsoft invests €4 billion to drive AI growth in France.
- ✓ Microsoft is investing €4 billion (\$4.3 billion) to expand its artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructure in France, deliver AI training to one million people and support 2,500 French startups.
- ✓ First, Microsoft will supply up to 25,000 graphics processing units to expand its data centre sites in the Paris and Marseille regions by the end of 2025.
- ✓ New data centre facilities will also be built in the Grand Est Region in Mulhouse to provide Microsoft cloud and AI services to private and public sector organisations in these areas

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

- ✓ 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.

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 Sri Lanka 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
- ✓ 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

Q. Which of the following has been granted a three-year extension from SEBI to achieve 10% public shareholding?

- A) IRDAI
B) SIDBI
C) LIC
D) FICCI

Answer : C

- ✓ LIC gets 3-yr extension from Sebi to achieve 10% public shareholding
- ✓ Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has been granted a three-year extension by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to achieve a 10 per cent public shareholding, the state-owned firm announced to the exchanges.
- ✓ LIC is required to increase its public shareholding to 10 per cent on or before May 16, 2027.
- ✓ According to SEBI norms, a company must attain a 10 per cent public shareholding within three years from the date of listing. LIC was listed on May 17, 2022.
- ✓ As of March 31, 2024, public shareholding in LIC stands at 3.5 per cent. The government still needs to divest another 6.5 per cent in the next three years for LIC to achieve the 10 per cent shareholding.

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 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. 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.

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

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 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 Samridhi Yojana (SSY), Atal Pension Yojana, and Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), and those frozen by statutory authorities like court orders, income tax department orders, etc.

- ✓ 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. 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

- ✓ 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. 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

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

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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.
- ✓ Zeta estimates that the transaction volume on this scheme will exceed \$1 trillion by 2030 and aims to capture 50% of this market opportunity with its end-to-end solution that can help banks conceive and rapidly launch multi-form credit products

Q. RBI has appointed R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as Executive Director (ED). As executive director, Rao will handle which of the following department?

A) DICGC

B) ReBIT

C) IFTAS

D) BRBNMPL

Answer : A

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed R Lakshmi Kanth Rao as executive director (ED).
- ✓ As executive director, Rao will handle the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the Right to Information Act (FAA), and the Department of Communication.
- ✓ Rao was previously serving as chief general manager in charge in the Department of Regulation.
- ✓ He also served as a banking ombudsman at RBI Chennai and as regional director of Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow.

Q. Omnichannel forex services company Thomas Cook India launched a new digital service for International Money Transfers. What is the name of this digital service?

A) BCPay

B) TCPay

C) UPay

D) CPay

Answer : B

- ✓ Omnichannel forex services company Thomas Cook India has launched TCPay, a new digital service that brings ease and efficiency to international money transfers.
- ✓ Traditionally, sending money abroad was considered an arduous process, that involved visits to branches, cumbersome paperwork and limited operating hours.
- ✓ Recognising the challenges, Thomas Cook has introduced TCPay that offers multiple benefits to transform the way individuals transfer funds.
- ✓ The simple digital platform coupled with Thomas Cook's recently launched Video KYC process, empowers customers with paperless transfers from the comfort and convenience of their home.

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. Which innovative initiative was unveiled by Zomato co-founder Deepinder Goyal to offer localized, real-time weather information in India?

- A) Weather Nexus B) Weather Union
C) WeatherConnect D) WeatherSphere

Answer : B

- ✓ Zomato unveils 'India's first' crowd-supported weather infrastructure
- ✓ Zomato co-founder Deepinder Goyal unveiled India's first crowd-supported weather infrastructure 'Weather Union' to provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters.
- ✓ He also informed that the online food-delivery giant is opening up access to the data of this weather infrastructure to everyone for the public good as a part of 'Zomato Giveback'.
- ✓ These weather stations, developed by Zomato, provide localised, real-time information on key weather parameters such as temperature, humidity, wind speed, rainfall etc.

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. 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. 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 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.

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. According to the Asian Development Bank's Annual Report for 2023, what portion of its financial commitment was dedicated to climate action initiatives?

- A) USD 9.8 billion
B) USD 13.8 billion
C) USD 23.6 billion
D) USD 33.4 billion

Answer : A

- ✓ ADB operations reach USD23.6 billion in 2023, achieve record climate finance of USD9.8 billion.
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed USD 23.6 billion from its own resources in 2023, including USD 9.8 billion for climate action, to help Asia and the Pacific progress on sustainable development.)
- ✓ 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

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 (OPE) 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. 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.
- ✓ 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. 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. 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. 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.

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 disbursal.

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.

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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs):

1. They are specialized financial institutions that purchase bad debts of a bank and recover those debts by itself.
2. They are registered under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and regulated under the SARFAESI Act, 2002.

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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released a master direction for asset reconstruction companies (ARCs).
- ✓ About Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs):
- ✓ An ARC is a specialized financial institution that purchases the bad debts of a bank at a mutually agreed value and attempts to recover those debts or associated securities by itself.
- ✓ ARCs are registered under the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and regulated under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002).
- ✓ They function under the supervision and control of the RBI.
- ✓ As per the RBI, ARC performs the functions namely Acquisition of financial assets, Change or takeover of Management or Sale or Lease of Business of the Borrower, Rescheduling of Debts, Enforcement of Security Interest and Settlement of dues payable by the borrower.
- ✓ ARCs take over a portion of the bank's debts, which qualify as Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). Therefore, ARCs are involved in the business of asset reconstruction, securitisation, or both.
- ✓ All the rights previously held by the lender (the bank) in regard to the debt are transferred to the ARC..
- ✓ The required funds to purchase such debts can be raised from Qualified Buyers.
- ✓ Qualified Buyers include Financial Institutions, Insurance companies, Banks, State Financial Corporations, State Industrial Development Corporations, trustee or ARCs registered under SARFAESI and Asset Management Companies registered under SEBI that invest on behalf of mutual funds, pension funds, FIIs, etc.
- ✓ The Qualified Buyers are the only persons from whom the ARC can raise funds.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Lending Service Providers (LSPs):

1. They offer their service to Regulated Entities (REs) for a fee under an outsourcing arrangement.
2. They entail aggregation of loan offers from multiple lenders which enables the borrowers to choose the best available option.

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 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently issued the draft regulatory framework for loan products aggregated by lending service providers to ensure transparency for borrowers.
- ✓ About Lending Service Providers (LSPs):
- ✓ LSPs are engaged by the Regulated Entities (REs) (banks or NBFCs) to carry out some functions of RE in connection with lenders' functions on digital platforms.
- ✓ The LSPs generally, under an outsourcing arrangement, offer their services to REs for a fee or commission.
- ✓ RBI defines an LSP as an agent of an RE that carries out one or more functions of the lender, including customer acquisition, underwriting support, pricing support, disbursement, servicing, monitoring, collection, and loan recovery on behalf of the RE.
- ✓ In simple terms, LSPs are loan aggregators which provide loans from their partner REs.
- ✓ In some cases, a RE can also act as an LSP.
- ✓ They are technology-centric entities which have the client reach and are thus capable of offering a marketplace for both lenders and borrowers.
- ✓ LSPs entail aggregation of loan offers from multiple lenders on an electronic platform, which enables the borrowers to compare and choose the best available option to avail a loan from one of the available lenders.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Bima Vistaar:

1. It aims to provide a basic social safety net cover with combined features of life and health insurance coverage.
2. The sum assured under the scheme for property cover is Rs 2 lakh.

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 Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) made an announcement regarding the launch of Bima Vistaar and its prices at a summit of insurance CEOs.
- ✓ It is an ambitious all-in-one affordable mass product aimed at the rural areas of the India which is priced at Rs 1,500 per policy.
- ✓ The product is designed to provide a basic social safety net cover with combined features of life, health, personal accident and property insurances.
- ✓ The sum assured for life, personal accident and property covers is Rs 2 lakh each, while the health cover, known as hospi cash, offers a sum assured of Rs 500 for 10 days, with a maximum amount of Rs 5,000 available without producing bills or documents.
- ✓ Agents selling Bima Vistaar policies stand to earn a commission of 10 per cent, incentivising wider distribution and adoption of the product.
- ✓ These products will be distributed by Bima Vahak. Initially, every gram sabha will have at least one Bima Vahak, who will visit every house in their area and convince them about the product.
- ✓ Significance: It is considered as a mass product for increasing insurance penetration in the country, it is expected that unlike micro insurance products, it will generate a large sales volume.

Q. According to a UNCTAD report, what is the rank of India in the world amongst service-exporting countries in 2023?

A) 5th

B) 6th

C) 7th

D) 4th

Answer : C

- ✓ India's service sector export grew by 11.4 % in 2023: UNCTAD.
- ✓ According to a recent report by the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Indian service sector exports grew by 11.4 per cent to \$345 billion in the calendar year 2023(January-December) despite prevailing global uncertainties. However, Chinese service exports declined by 10.1 per cent to \$381 billion in 2023.
- ✓ India's services imports, however, dipped marginally by 0.4 per cent to \$248 billion last year.
- ✓ Highlights of the UNCTAD report .
- ✓ According to the UNCTAD, the service sector export in the world grew by 8.9% in 2023 and reached US\$ 7.9 trillion in 2023.
- ✓ The main reason for the growth in the service sector export was the growth in the International travel sector. The travel service sector export grew by 40%.
- ✓ The transport sector recorded a negative growth of 12 per cent.
- ✓ According to the report, Services, many of which can be traded digitally, recorded a growth of over 7% in each quarter of 2023.
- ✓ Top Service Exporting/Importing Countries in 2023(UNCTAD)
- ✓ India is the 7th largest exporter of services in the world. The United States is the largest service exporter in the world, followed by the United Kingdom.
- ✓ Top 5 service exporting developed country in the world 2023
 1. The United States of America (\$999 billion),
 2. United Kingdom (\$584 billion),
 3. Germany (\$440 billion)
 4. Ireland (\$398 billion)
 5. France (\$356 billion)
- ✓ Top Service Importing Countries in the World 2023
- ✓ According to UNCTAD, India was the 9th largest service-importing country in the world. The United States was the leading service importer country in the world, followed by China.
- ✓ Top 5 leading service-importing developed countries in 2023
 1. United States of America (\$719 billion)
 2. Germany (\$ 508 billion)
 3. United Kingdom (\$ 394 billion)
 4. Ireland (\$ 389 billion)
 5. France (\$323 billion)
- ✓ United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- ✓ The United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in 1964.
- ✓ In 2024 at its 60th anniversary, its name was changed to United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- ✓ UNCTAD is a permanent organisation of the United Nations.
- ✓ The main aim of the UNCTAD is to promote trade, investment and development of the developing countries.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ Reports released by UNCTAD
- ✓ The UNCTAD also releases various reports. The important ones are :
 - ✓ World Investment Report,
 - ✓ Trade and Development Report,

- ✓ Digital Economy report,
- ✓ Review of Maritime Transport,
- ✓ Technology and Innovation Report.
- ✓ Commodities and Development Report,
- ✓ Least Developed Countries Report

Q. According to a UNCTAD report, what is the rank of India in the world amongst service-importing countries in 2023?

- A) 9th
- B) 6th
- C) 5th
- D) 4th

Answer : A

- ✓ According to UNCTAD, India was the 9th largest service-importing country in the world. The United States was the leading service importer country in the world, followed by China.
- ✓ Top 5 leading service-importing developed countries in 2023
- 1. United States of America (\$719 billion)
- 2. Germany (\$ 508 billion)
- 3. United Kingdom (\$ 394 billion)
- 4. Ireland (\$ 389 billion)
- 5. France (\$323 billion)

Q. Phi-3-Mini, an AI model developed by:

- A) OpenAI
- B) Meta
- C) Google
- D) Microsoft

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, Microsoft unveiled the latest version of its 'lightweight' AI model – the Phi-3-Mini.
- ✓ It is believed to be first among the three small models that Microsoft is planning to release.
- ✓ It has reportedly outperformed models of the same size and the next size up across a variety of benchmarks, in areas like language, reasoning, coding, and maths.
- ✓ It is the first model in its class to support a context window of up to 128K tokens, with little impact on quality.
- ✓ The amount of conversation that an AI can read and write at any given time is called the context window, and is measured in tokens.
- ✓ It is a 3.8B language model, is available on AI development platforms such as Microsoft Azure AI Studio, HuggingFace, and Ollama.
- ✓ Phi-3-mini is available in two variants, one with 4K context-length, and another with 128K tokens.
- ✓ How is Phi-3-mini different from Large language Models?
- ✓ Phi-3-mini is a Small Language Model (SLM).
- ✓ SLMs are more streamlined versions of large language models. When compared to LLMs, smaller AI models are also cost-effective to develop and operate, and they perform better on smaller devices like laptops and smartphones.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Payment Aggregator (PA):

1. It is a third-party service provider that allows merchants to accept payments from customers by integrating it into their websites.
2. It allows merchants to accept bank transfers without setting up a bank-based merchant account.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has floated two consultation papers seeking enhanced regulation of payment aggregators carrying out face-to-face transactions.
- ✓ About Payment Aggregator (PA):
- ✓ A PA (also known as a merchant aggregator) is a third-party service provider that allows merchants to accept payments from customers by integrating it into their websites or apps.
- ✓ PAs enable their clients to accept various payment methods such as debit cards, credit cards, cardless EMIs, UPI, bank transfers, e-wallets and e-mandates.
- ✓ PA provides a stack of multiple payment methods to merchants so that their customers can pay using their preferred mode of payment.
- ✓ Also, a payment aggregator does fund settlement, i.e., it moves the money from banks and other issuing entities to the merchants.
- ✓ Similarly, they also enable disbursing payments to various stakeholders, such as partners, employees, suppliers and authorities.
- ✓ It allows merchants to accept bank transfers without setting up a bank-based merchant account. It means a merchant need not have a merchant account directly with the bank.
- ✓ A PA in India is incorporated under the Companies Act 2013.
- ✓ A PA can be a bank or a non-bank entity.
- ✓ Since a PA handles funds, it requires a license from the RBI.
- ✓ Only non-bank PAs require unique authorization from RBI as 'handling funds' is considered a part of the normal banking relationships for bank PAs.
- ✓ Examples: Amazon (Pay) India, Google India, Razorpay, Pine Labs, etc.
- ✓ What is a Payment Gateway?
- ✓ It is a software service that connects your bank account to the platform where you need to transfer your money.
- ✓ It authorizes you to conduct an online transaction through different payment modes like net banking, credit card, debit card, UPI, or other online wallets.
- ✓ A Payment gateway plays the role of a third party that securely transfers your money from the bank account to the merchant's payment portal.

A) ReNew Power

B) SJVN Limited

C) JSW Energy

D) NTPC Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ NTPC inks pact with RINL for supply of limestone
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between NTPC Limited and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), for the supply of 9 lakh metric tonnes of limestone.

- ✓ Limestone is a raw material for the flue-gas desulphurisation system which is being installed at the coal-based thermal plants of the NTPC for reduction of sulphur dioxide emission.
- ✓ This MoU will cater to the needs of various plants of the NTPC.

Q. With reference to Small Finance Bank, consider the following statements:

1. It provides financial services and products to low-income individuals and underserved communities.
2. It is not mandatory for these banks to follow Priority Sector Lending norms of Reserve Bank of India.
3. These are required to open at least 25% of their total branches in unbanked rural areas.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said small finance banks (SFBs) should have a minimum net worth of Rs 1,000 crore to become universal banks in accordance with the on-tap licensing norms.
- ✓ SFBs are specialized banks that are licensed by RBI to provide financial services and products to low-income individuals and underserved communities, including microfinance and micro-enterprise services, as well as other basic banking services.
- ✓ SFBs are granted the scheduled bank status after being operational and are deemed suitable under section 42 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ To provide financial inclusion to these segments of the population who are often excluded from the traditional banking system.
- ✓ SFBs help them to have access to financial products such as small loans, savings, insurance, and other basic banking services.
- ✓ Eligibility
- ✓ Resident individuals/professionals (Indian citizens), singly or jointly, each having at least 10 years of experience in banking and finance at a senior level are eligible for SFBs.
- ✓ Companies and Societies in the private sector, that is owned and controlled by residents and having successful track record of running their businesses for at least a period of five years.
- ✓ Existing Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), and Local Area Banks (LABs) in the private sector, that are controlled by residents and having successful track record of running their businesses for at least a period of five years, can also opt for conversion into small finance banks after complying with all legal and regulatory requirements of various authorities.
- ✓ Other norms to be followed by SFBs:
- ✓ Capital to Risk Weighted Assets Ratio: They are required to maintain a minimum CRAR of 15%.
- ✓ Priority Sector Lending: They are required to extend 75% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit to Priority Sector Lending.
- ✓ SFBs are required to open at least 25% of their total branches in unbanked rural areas.
- ✓ Required paid up capital: The minimum paid-up voting equity capital for small finance banks shall be Rs.200 crore.
- ✓ Regulation: SFBs are registered as public limited companies under the Companies Act, 2013 and governed by Banking Regulations Act, 1949; RBI Act, 1934 and other relevant Statutes and Directives from time to time
- ✓ Small Finance Bank

- ✓ Raghuram Rajan headed the “High-Level Committee on Financial Sector Reforms” in its 2008 report titled “A Hundred Small Steps” and recommended the setting up of a Small Finance Bank to promote financial inclusion.
- ✓ The first Small Finance Bank to be set up in India was the Capital Small Finance Bank (earlier Capital Local Area Bank). The Capital Small Finance Bank started its banking operation in April 2016.
- ✓ The main objective of setting up small finance banks is to further financial inclusion. They were to provide the following services;
 - (i) provision of savings facilities, and
 - (ii) supply of credit to small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries; and other unorganised sector entities through the use of high technology and low-cost operations.
- ✓ At present, there are 12 Small Finance Banks operating in the country.

Q. With reference to Non-Performing Asset (NPA), consider the following statements:

1. It is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.
2. An asset is classified as a doubtful asset if it remains as an NPA for a period less than or equal to 12 months.
3. Provisions are amounts that banks set aside from their profits to cover losses on NPAs.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPA) of the Indian banks are projected to see further improvement, potentially reaching up to 2.1 per cent by the end of the fiscal year 2025, as per a recent report.
- ✓ About Non-Performing Asset (NPA):
- ✓ It is a loan or advance for which the principal or interest payment remained overdue for a period of 90 days.
- ✓ They can include various types of loans, such as personal loans, business loans, mortgages and credit card debt.
- ✓ When the ratio of NPAs in a bank's loan portfolio rises, its income and profitability fall, its capacity to lend falls and the possibility of loan defaults and write-offs rises.
- ✓ Types of NPAs: Different types of NPAs depend on how long they remain in the NPA category
- ✓ Sub-Standard Assets: An asset is classified as a sub-standard asset if it remains as an NPA for a period less than or equal to 12 months.
- ✓ Doubtful Assets: An asset is classified as a doubtful asset if it remains as an NPA for more than 12 months.
- ✓ Loss Assets: An asset is considered a loss asset when it is “uncollectible” or has such little value that its continuance as a bankable asset is not suggested. However, some recovery value may be left in it as the asset has not been written off wholly or in parts.
- ✓ NPA Provisioning:
- ✓ Provisioning means an amount that the banks set aside from their profits or income in a particular quarter for non-performing assets, such as assets that may turn into losses in the future.
- ✓ Provisions are amounts that banks set aside to cover losses on NPAs.
- ✓ It is a method by which banks provide for bad assets and maintain a healthy book of accounts.
- ✓ Provisioning is done according to which category the asset belongs.

Answer : C

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest guidelines on penal charges on loan accounts have come into effect recently.
- ✓ About RBI Guidelines on Penal Charges on Loan Accounts:
- ✓ The norms prohibit commercial banks and finance companies from charging borrowers' penal rates on loan defaults or any other non-compliance event.
- ✓ Under the new rules, penalty, if charged, for non-compliance of the material terms and conditions of the loan contract by the borrower should be treated as 'penal charges'.
- ✓ It cannot be levied in the form of 'penal interest' that is added to the rate of interest charged on the advances.
- ✓ There should be no capitalisation of penal charges; that is no further interest computed on such charges.
- ✓ The material terms and conditions will be defined as per the credit policy of the bank, and they may vary from one category of loan to another, and from bank to bank based on their own assessment.
- ✓ There is no upper limit or cap for penal charges. However, the guidelines stipulated that the quantum of penal charges would be reasonable and commensurate with the non-compliance without being discriminatory within a particular loan category.
- ✓ The guidelines also mentioned that the penal charges in the case of loans sanctioned to individual borrowers for purposes other than business will not be higher than the penal charges applicable to non-individual borrowers for similar non-compliance.
- ✓ These guidelines will not apply to credit cards, which are covered under product specific directions.

Q. The Digital India Trust Agency was recently seen in the news in the context of:

- A) curbing illegal lending apps B) regulating cryptocurrencies
C) registration of Virtual Digital Assets D) allocation of Government-dated securities

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India is considering establishing a Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) to combat cyber fraud and illegal lending apps.
- ✓ It will be responsible for stopping illegal lending apps from popping up.
- ✓ It will enable the verification of these digital lending apps and will maintain a public register of these verified applications.
- ✓ Any app which will not carry the "verified" tag of DIGITA, will be considered unauthorised.
- ✓ Significance: This will create an important and much-needed checkpoint in the fight against online financial fraud.
- ✓ What is digital lending?
- ✓ It is a remote and automated lending process, largely by use of seamless digital technologies.
- ✓ It involves lending through web platforms or mobile apps, utilising technology in customer acquisition, credit assessment, loan approval, disbursement, recovery and associated customer service.
- ✓ It generally involves three parties – a lender, a lending service provider (including a digital lending platform) and a borrower.
- ✓ It includes products like Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL), which is a financing option (or simply a short-term loan product).
- ✓ It allows one to buy a product or avail a service without having to worry about paying for it immediately.

Q. Which port in India emerged as the highest cargo handling port in 2023-24?

- A) Deendayal Port B) Mormugao Port

D) Kamarajar Port

- ✓ Paradip Port , the top cargo-handling port in India in 2023-24.
- ✓ Paradip Port Authority, Odisha, has displaced the Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, as the top cargo-handling major port of India in 2023-24.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the Paradip Port handled 145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo.
- ✓ Paradip Port handled 10.02 million metric tons more cargo than last year, registering a growth of 7.4%.
- ✓ The Paradip port has the capacity to handle 289 million metric tonnes.
- ✓ The Paradip Port achieved the highest productivity among all major ports in India. Its berth productivity has improved from 31050 MT to 33014 MT.
- ✓ Paradip Port is the cheapest in terms of tariff among all the ports in the country.
- ✓ About Paradip Port
- ✓ Paradip Port was initially set up by the government of Odisha in 1962. However, in 1965, the government of India took over the ownership and management of the port from the Odisha government.
- ✓ There were initially 13 major ports in India. The Chennai Port acquired the Kamarajar Port(earlier known as Ennore Port) in 2020, and now there are only 12 major ports in India

1. It enables market intermediaries and listed companies to receive complaints online from investors.
2. It provides for the redressal of complaints within two months from the date of receipt of the complaint.

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

- ✓ SEBI recently launched a new version of the SEBI Complaint Redress System (SCORES 2.0).
- ✓ What is SCORES?
- ✓ SCORES is a web-based centralized grievance redress system of SEBI launched in 2011.
- ✓ SCORES enables investors to lodge and follow up on their complaints and track the status of redressal of such complaints online from anywhere.
- ✓ This enables market intermediaries and listed companies to receive complaints online from investors, redress such complaints, and report redressal online.
- ✓ An investor who is not familiar with SCORES or does not have access to SCORES can lodge complaints in physical form at any of the offices of SEBI.
- ✓ Such complaints would be scanned and also uploaded in SCORES for processing.
- ✓ What types of complaints can be registered in the SCORE portal?
- ✓ Complaints can be lodged on SCORES for any issues covered under the Sebi Act, Securities Contract Regulation Act, Depositories Act, and rules and regulations and provisions of the Companies Act, 2013.
- ✓ Entities against which complaints are handled by SEBI include:
- ✓ Listed companies / registrar & transfer agents
- ✓ Brokers / stock exchanges
- ✓ Depository participants / depository

- ✓ Top 5 Indians in the Forbes Billionaire List 2024
 1. Mukesh Ambani, with a net worth of \$116 billion, ranked 9th in the world.
 2. Gautam Adani (\$84 billion), ranked 17th in the world.
 3. Shiv Nadar (\$36.9 billion) ranked 39th in the world.
 4. Savitri Jindal & Family (\$33.5 billion), ranked 46th globally.
 5. Dilip Shanghvi (\$26.7 billion) ranked 69th in the world.

A) USA
B) China
C) India
D) Japan

- ✓ Countries with the highest number of Billionaires
- ✓ First -The United States of America- The highest number of billionaires were from the United States of America. In 2024, there were 813 American billionaires with a combined wealth of \$ 5.7 trillion
- ✓ Second- China -The second highest number of billionaires were from China. This year's list includes 406 Chinese people with a combined wealth of \$1.3 trillion
- ✓ Third - India - The third highest number of billionaires were Indian citizens. There were 200 Indian billionaires in the 2024 list
- ✓ Fourth - Germany, with 132 billionaires
- ✓ Fifth - Russia with 120 billionaires

A) 90%
B) 100%
C) 49%
D) 74%

- ✓ HDFC Bank proposes to sell 100% stake in its subsidiary HDFC Education
- ✓ HDFC Bank has decided to sell its 100 per cent stake in HDFC Education and Development Services Private Ltd.
- ✓ The transaction will be undertaken through the Swiss challenge method.
- ✓ HDFC Bank would finalise the purchaser on the basis of the completion of the Swiss challenge process, subsequent to which such purchaser and HDFC Bank will enter into definitive documentation for the purposes of the proposed transaction.

A) Telangana
B) Karnataka
C) Tamil Nadu
D) Maharashtra

Answer : C

- ✓ Tamil Nadu is India's largest exporter of electronic goods, contributing 30% to the country's total electronic goods exports in FY24.
- ✓ From April 2023 to January 2024, Tamil Nadu's electronics exports were valued at \$7.37 billion, which is 32.52% of India's total export of electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM) goods of \$22.65 billion for the same period. Historically, Tamil Nadu lagged behind Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka in this sector until FY22.
- ✓ However, in recent years, Tamil Nadu has experienced consistent growth.

Q. How much rupee's total transactions were done through UPI?

- A) ₹130 lakh crore B) ₹210 lakh crore
C) ₹180 lakh crore D) ₹199 lakh crore

Answer : D

- ✓ UPI ends FY24 on a high note, transactions worth ₹199 lakh crore processed
- ✓ The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is going from strength to strength.
- ✓ The transactions on UPI ended FY24 on a strong high both, in terms of value and volume.
- ✓ In FY24, the UPI platform processed 13,115 crore transactions, aggregating to ₹199.29 lakh crore, compared to 8,376 crore transactions worth ₹139 lakh crore in FY23, a rise of almost 57% in volume and 43% in value, respectively.
- ✓ According to figures from NPCI, transactions worth ₹19.78 lakh crore were processed during March 2024, higher than the previous peak of ₹18.41 lakh crore in January 2024.

Q. Who has been recently appointed as a member of the Economic Advisory Panel by the World Bank Group?

- A) Amitabh Kant B) Rajiv Sinha
C) Rakesh Mohan D) Ajay Mohan Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Bank Group has recently appointed former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Rakesh Mohan, as a member of the Economic Advisory Panel.
- ✓ New Delhi-based think tank Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP) has given this information.
- ✓ Currently, Mohan is also a part-time member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

Q. What target has the India set for the export of marine products in 2023-24?

- A) \$9.1 billion B) \$7.7 billion
C) \$8.6 billion D) \$11.1 billion

Answer : A

- ✓ India aims to boost marine product exports to \$12 billion in two years through increased processing capacity and higher-value products.
- ✓ In 2022-23, exports totaled \$8.09 billion.
- ✓ However, from April to February 2023-24, exports dipped 7.5% to \$6.8 billion, largely due to decreased exports to the US and Europe.
- ✓ The government targets \$9.1 billion in exports for 2023-24.
- ✓ India ranks third in fish production globally and second in aquaculture.

Q. India will build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by which year?

- A) 2027-28
- B) 2029-30
- C) 2030-31
- D) 2031-32

Answer : B

- ✓ India plans to build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30, granting the operator the freedom to trade all of the stored oil.
- ✓ Allowing a fully commercial SPR mirrors the model adopted by countries such as Japan and South Korea, which allow private lessees, mostly oil majors, to trade the crude.
- ✓ So far, India has allowed only partial commercialization for its three existing SPRs in southern India, which have a combined capacity of 36.7 million barrels.
- ✓ India plans to build two new SPRs – the first a 18.3 million barrels cavern at Padur in southern Karnataka state, and then a 29.3 million barrels SPR in eastern Odisha state – with private partners allowed to trade all of the oil locally.
- ✓ PRL estimates the Padur SPR and linked pipeline and oil import facility would cost about 55 billion rupees (\$659 million), with the federal government providing up to 60 per cent of the total.

Q. Who has becomes first company in India to surpass 10,000 MW renewable energy capacity?

- A) NTPC Ltd
- B) Adani Green Energy
- C) JSW Energy
- D) Power Grid Corporation

Answer : B

- ✓ Adani Green Energy becomes first company in India to surpass 10,000 MW renewable energy capacity
- ✓ Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL), India's largest and one of the world's leading renewable energy (RE) companies, has surpassed 10,000 megawatts (MW) of operational portfolio, delivering reliable, affordable, and clean power to the national grid.
- ✓ AGEL's operational portfolio consists of 7,393 MW solar, 1,401 MW wind and 2,140 MW wind-solar hybrid capacity.
- ✓ The milestone is a testament to AGEL and its development partners firmly moving towards the goal of 45,000 MW renewable energy by 2030.
- ✓ AGEL's 10,934 MW operational portfolio will power more than 5.8 million homes and avoid about 21 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually.
- ✓ AGEL is developing the world's largest renewable energy project of 30,000 MW on barren land at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat. Built across 538 sq km, it is five times the size of Paris and almost as large as Mumbai city.
- ✓ Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL)
- ✓ Founded : 2015
- ✓ Headquarters : Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- ✓ MD & CEO : Vneet Jain

Q. Which bank became the first private bank to open a branch in Lakshadweep?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ HDFC becomes first private bank to open branch in Lakshadweep

- ✓ Private lender HDFC Bank has opened a branch at Kavaratti Island in Lakshadweep, making it the only private sector bank to have a branch in the Union Territory.
- ✓ This branch is aimed at upgrading the banking infrastructure in the Union Territory by offering a wide range of services with a focus on personal banking, and digital banking which also includes customised digital solutions including QRbased transaction to retailers.
- ✓ HDFC Bank has branches in the cold climes of Kashmir, the southern tip of Kanyakumari and now the island of Lakshadweep – a prominent tourist place

Q. With reference to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Central Sector scheme.
2. A specified portion of this fund must benefit SC/ST community.
3. The funds are directly transferred into the accounts of Members of Parliament to undertake social projects.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the data of Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, nearly 75% of the allocated funds to the 39 Members of Parliament (MPs) in Tamil Nadu under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) from 2019 to 2024 have not been utilised so far.
- ✓ It is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme which was launched in 1993-94.
- ✓ Objective: The Scheme enables the Members of Parliament to recommend works for creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies in the area of national priorities namely drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, roads etc.
- ✓ Under the scheme, annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.
- ✓ Lok Sabha Members can recommend works within their Constituencies.
- ✓ The Rajya Sabha Members of Parliament can recommend works in one or more districts in the State from where he/she has been elected.
- ✓ The Nominated Members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha may select any one or more districts from any one State in the Country for implementation of their choice of work under the scheme.
- ✓ MPs are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by Scheduled Tribe population.
- ✓ In case an elected MP wishes to contribute MPLADS funds outside the constituency or the State/UT, they can recommend work up to Rs 25 lakh in a financial year.
- ✓ MPs do not directly receive funds under MPLADS. The Centre directly transfers the sanctioned amount in two instalments of Rs. 2.5 crore to the district authorities of the concerned MP's nodal district after a recommended project gets approval.
- ✓ Implementation
 - ✓ The role of an MP is, however, limited to the recommendation of a project.
 - ✓ The onus is on the district authority to sanction, execute and complete the recommended project within a particular timeframe.

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ FSIB recently recommended the name of IFCI Managing Director Manoj Mittal as SIDBI Chairman and Managing Director.
- ✓ About Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB):
- ✓ It's a government body set up under the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ The primary role of FSIB is to identify manpower capabilities and ensure proper selection of talent for senior positions at financial institutions owned by the government.
- ✓ It replaced the Bank Board's Bureau (BBB), which was declared an incompetent authority.
- ✓ Structure:
- ✓ FSIB would be headed by a chairman, a central government nominee.
- ✓ The board would comprise the Secretaries of the DFS, the chairman of IRDAI, and a deputy governor of the RBI.
- ✓ Additionally, it will have three part-time members who are experts in banking and three more from the insurance sector.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ To recommend persons for appointment as Whole-Time Directors (WTDs) and Non-Executive Chairpersons (NECs) on the Boards of Directors in Public Sector Banks (PSBs), financial institutions (FIs) and Public Sector Insurers (PSIs).
- ✓ It would also issue guidelines for selecting general managers and directors of public sector general insurance companies.
- ✓ The final decision on the FSIB recommendation would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by the Prime Minister.

Q. With reference to the Retail Direct Scheme of the Reserve Bank of India, consider the following statements:

1. It is a scheme that gives access to individual investors to buy government securities.
2. It allows the purchase of government securities through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
3. No fees are levied for facilities provided to the investors under the scheme.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is planning to launch a mobile application aimed at facilitating seamless investment in government securities by retail investors under the RBI Retail Direct Scheme.
- ✓ It was initially introduced in November 2021.
- ✓ It gives access to individual investors to maintain gilt accounts with the RBI and invest in government securities.
- ✓ The scheme enables investors to buy securities in primary auctions as well as buy/sell securities through the NDS-OM platform.
- ✓ Negotiated Dealing System - Order Matching system (NDS-OM) means RBI's screen based anonymous electronic order matching system for trading in Government securities in the secondary market.

1. The green credits generated through environmentally conscious practices can be traded on a domestic market platform.
2. The registered entities can pay to finance afforestation projects in specific tracts of degraded forests.

A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

Answer : C

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Electronic Trading Platform:

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A) 1 only

C) Both 1 and 2

Answer : A

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Answer : C

- Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) sector:

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

- Answer : A

- ✓ The Rs 5-trillion domestic fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) market still faces hurdles on its path to complete recovery from the current slowdown.
- ✓ About Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG):
- ✓ FMCG, or Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG), are products sold quickly and at a relatively low cost.
- ✓ The FMCG industry is characterized by high-volume sales, quick inventory turnover, and various products catering to consumer needs.
- ✓ These goods include essential everyday items such as food and beverages, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and other low-cost household items.
- ✓ FMCGs have a short shelf life because of high consumer demand (e.g., soft drinks and confections) or because they are perishable (e.g., meat, dairy products, and baked goods).
- ✓ FMCG Industry in India:
- ✓ The FMCG sector is the fourth-largest sector in the Indian economy.
- ✓ In 2022, the urban sector accounted for 65% of the overall annual FMCG sales, while rural India contributed over 35%.
- ✓ Household and personal care products make up 50% of the industry's sales, healthcare claims 31-32%, and food and beverage products account for the remaining 18-19%.
- ✓ It provides employment to around 3 million people, accounting for approximately 5% of the total factory employment in India.

Q. Fiscal Monitor Report, recently in news, is published by:

A) World Bank	B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
C) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)	D) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Answer : B

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ It provides an overview of latest public finance developments, updates the medium-term fiscal outlook, and assesses fiscal implications of policies relevant to the global economy.
- ✓ It is prepared twice a year by the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department.
- ✓ Its projections are based on the same database used for the World Economic Outlook (WEO) and the Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR).
- ✓ The fiscal projections for individual countries have been prepared by IMF desk economists, and, in line with the WEO guidelines

Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the CDP-SURAKSHA Platform?

- A) institutionalize the process of skill development of emigrant Indian workers
- B) transform citizen services through the use of digital technology
- C) provide a platform for startups to come up with new ideas and innovation
- D) disbursal of subsidies to horticulture farmers by using e-RUPI vouchers

Answer : D

- ✓ Government of India has come up with a new digital platform called CDP-SURAKSHA to disburse subsidies to horticulture farmers under the Cluster Development Programme (CDP).
- ✓ System for Unified Resource Allocation, Knowledge, and Secure Horticulture Assistance (SURAKSHA) is a platform which will allow an instant disbursal of subsidies to farmers in their bank account by utilising the e-RUPI voucher from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

- ✓ Features: Database integration with PM-KISAN, cloud-based server space from NIC, UIDAI validation, eRUPI integration, local government directory (LGD), content management system, geotagging, and geo-fencing.
- ✓ Working
- ✓ The platform allows access to farmers, vendors, implementing agencies (IA), and cluster development agencies (CDAs), and officials of the National Horticulture Board (NHB).
- ✓ A farmer can login using their mobile number and place an order for planting material such as seeds, seedlings, and plants based on their requirement.
- ✓ Once the demand has been raised by the farmer, the system will ask them to contribute their share of the cost of planting material. The subsidy amount paid by the government will appear on the screen automatically.
- ✓ After the farmer pays their contribution, an e-RUPI voucher will be generated. This voucher will then be received by a vendor, who will provide the required planting material to the farmer.
- ✓ Once the ordered planting material is delivered to the farmer, they have to verify the delivery through geo-tagged photos and videos of their field.
- ✓ It is only after the verification that the IA will release the money to the vendor for the e-RUPI voucher.
- ✓ What is e-RUPI?
- ✓ The voucher is a one-time payment mechanism that can be redeemed without a card, digital payments app or internet banking access, at the merchants accepting e-RUPI.
- ✓ It can be shared with the beneficiaries for a specific purpose or activity by organisations or government via SMS or QR code.

Q. AS per the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024, what is the rank of India in the number of startup unicorns?

A) third	B) sixth
C) fourth	D) fifth

Answer : A

- ✓ India ranked third on the global list of unicorns but was far behind the US and China who had 703 and 340 high growth start-ups respectively.
- ✓ UK and EU ranked No 4 and No 5 in the list, respectively.
- ✓ India has a total of 67 unicorns in the list, as per a report by The Hurun Research Institute, according to which drop-outs from the chart in 2023 were Byju's and PharmEasy.
- ✓ In total, there are a total of 1,453 unicorns in the world as one unicorn is made every two days over the last year.
- ✓ TikTok owner ByteDance was the world's most valuable unicorn worth \$220 billion. The total value of the world's unicorns reached \$5 trillion which is equivalent to the GDP of Japan.
- ✓ The fastest valuation rise of a unicorn was credited to OpenAI which saw an addition of \$80 billion in value, followed by SpaceX that added \$43 billion.
- ✓ The most active city for unicorns outside of the US and China was London, followed by Bengaluru, Paris and Berlin.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the GPT-4 Vision:

1. It can interpret handwritten and printed text contained within images.
2. It can be used by developers to write code for a website from a visual image of the design.

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

- ✓ Following its launch, OpenAI's ChatGPT has evolved by leaps and bounds and also recently announced API access to GPT-4 with Vision.
- ✓ It is also referred to as GPT-4V which allows users to instruct GPT-4 to analyse image inputs.
- ✓ It has been considered OpenAI's step forward towards making its chatbot multimodal — an AI model with a combination of image, text, and audio as inputs.
- ✓ It allows users to upload an image as input and ask a question about it. This task is known as Visual Question Answering (VQA).
- ✓ It is a Large Multimodal Model or LMM, which is essentially a model that is capable of taking information in multiple modalities like text and images or text and audio and generating responses based on it.

Q. Which organization launched a new edition of the Girl Empowerment Mission?

A) DRDO

B) ISRO

C) NTPC

D) BHEL

Answer : C

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ GEM offers a 1-month workshop nurturing girls' imaginations and fostering opportunities.
- ✓ From April 2024, 3,000 underprivileged children join at 42 locations, totaling 10,000 beneficiaries. Started in 2018 with 392 participants, GEM expanded nationwide, benefitting 7,424 girls till date, despite COVID-19 challenges. 2,707 girls participated in 2023 alone.

Q. Which fintech firm has partnered with Nepal's digital wallet service eSewa and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara to promote digital payments through UPI on the Himalayan country's payment processor Fonepay Network?

A) GooglePay

B) PhonePe

C) BHIM

D) Paytm

Answer : B

- ✓ PhonePe partners with eSewa to promote UPI in Nepal
- ✓ Fintech firm PhonePe has partnered with Nepal's digital wallet service eSewa and the Hotel Association of Nepal (HAN) Pokhara to promote digital payments through UPI on the Himalayan country's payment processor Fonepay Network.
- ✓ The partnership is a part of the Fewa New Year Festival which will be held from April 11-14 in Nepal.
- ✓ Over 3,000 merchants will participate in the festival with more than 1,00,000 visitors expected to visit. It will run on-ground activation aimed at raising awareness about digital payments among local merchants while demonstrating the convenience of digital payments for customers.

Q. Which 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?

A) Yes Bank

B) HDFC Bank

C) ICICI Bank

D) Axis Bank

Answer : D

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- ✓ Axis Bank launches Digital US Dollar Fixed Deposits for NRIs at GIFT City
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The US Dollar fixed deposit scheme offers a diverse array of investment tenures ranging from seven days to an extensive ten years.
- ✓ Additionally, customers retain the flexibility to request partial or full premature closure of their FD through the Axis Bank mobile application, enhancing their control and convenience over their investments.
- ✓ With this introduction, Axis Bank becomes the first bank to offer a digital journey for GIFT City Deposits.
- ✓ The bank's NRI clientele can now initiate US dollar fixed deposits at GIFT City through 'Open by Axis Bank,' the mobile banking application offered by the lender.

Q. What target has been set up by the government of India for the production of coal by the captive and commercial coal blocks for 2024-25 years?

- A) 120 million tonnes B) 140 million tonnes
C) 150 million tonnes D) 170 million tonnes

Answer : D

- ✓ Coal production target set at 170 million tonnes for 2024-25
- ✓ The government has set the target of producing 170 million tonnes of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks in the country during the 2024-25 financial year.
- ✓ In FY24, captive and commercial coal blocks produced 147.12 million tonnes (MT) of dry fuel, 26 per cent higher from 116 MT produced in FY23.
- ✓ Out of the total output of 147.2 MT in FY24, power sector captive mines produced around 121.3 MT, captive mines of the non-power sector produced 8.4 MT while commercial mines generated 17.5 MT of fuel.
- ✓ The country's coal import rose to 244.27 MT in the April-February period of FY24 from 227.93 MT in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company mjunction

Q. Which bank has partnered with FISDOM to offer 3-in-1 accounts (savings, demat, and trading) through its mobile banking app?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Karnataka Bank collaborates with FISDOM to provide 3-in-1 accounts via Mobile app
- ✓ The private lender Karnataka Bank has partnered with FISDOM to offer 3-in-1 accounts (savings, demat, and trading) through its mobile banking app, KBL Mobile Plus.
- ✓ This strategic partnership will strengthen the present value proposition by allowing users to invest in equities and mutual funds.
- ✓ The 3-in-1 facility enables customers to streamline their investment journey by consolidating their demat and trading accounts. This integration eliminates the need for multiple platforms, simplifying account management and enhancing overall user experience.

Q. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rejected two more applications for setting up small finance banks. What is the name of these companies?

- A) Annapurna Finance Private Limited & Fino Payments Bank

- ✓ India has simplified the payment mechanism for traders importing pulses from Myanmar, requiring them to use the Rupee/Kyat direct payment system through the Special Rupee Vostro Account (SRVA) through the Punjab National Bank.
- ✓ What is a Vostro Account?
- ✓ A vostro account is an account that domestic banks hold for foreign banks in the former's domestic currency, in this case, the rupee.
- ✓ Domestic banks use it to provide international banking services to their clients who have global banking needs.
- ✓ It is an integral offshoot of correspondent banking that entails a bank (or an intermediary) to facilitate wire transfers, conduct business transactions, accept deposits and gather documents on behalf of the other bank.
- ✓ It helps domestic banks gain wider access to foreign financial markets and serve international clients without having to be physically present abroad.
- ✓ About SRVA:
- ✓ The settlement of international trade through Indian Rupees (INR) is an additional arrangement to the existing system of settlement that uses freely convertible currencies and works as a complimentary system.
- ✓ Freely convertible currency is a currency which is permitted by the rules and regulations of the country concerned to be converted into major reserve currencies like the U.S. Dollar, Pound Sterling.
- ✓ This will reduce dependence on hard (freely convertible) currency.
- ✓ SRVA requires prior approval of RBI before opening, unlike Rupee Vostro account.
- ✓ How does SRVA arrangement function?
- ✓ The framework entails three important components, namely, invoicing, exchange rate, and settlement.
- ✓ Invoicing entails that all exports and imports must be denominated and invoiced in INR.
- ✓ The exchange rate between the currencies of the trading partner countries would be market-determined.
- ✓ The final settlement also takes place in Indian National Rupee (INR).
- ✓ All reporting of cross-border transactions is to be done in accordance with the extant guidelines under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.

Q. Adwaita Nayar has been named Young Global Leader in World Economic Forum's Class of 2024. She is CEO of which company?

- A) LimeRoad B) Myntra
C) Kia Fashion D) Nykaa Fashion

Answer : D

- ✓ Adwaita Nayar, the co-founder of Nykaa and CEO of Nykaa Fashion, has been inducted into the esteemed World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders Community as part of the Class of 2024.
- ✓ Comprising 90 remarkable individuals, this group of changemakers is at the forefront of shaping the future and fostering positive change through their innovative endeavors.
- ✓ As the forum of young leaders completes 20 glorious years, this recognition reflects their commitment to fostering the next generation of changemakers.
- ✓ Some of the world's most powerful political and business leaders including several current and former Prime Ministers and Presidents, Nobel laureates, Fortune 500 CEOs and billionaires are a part of this league.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):

1. It consists of resident producers' investments, deducting disposals, in fixed assets during a given period.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Answer : A

- Answer : A

- 403

A) Ultra Tech

B) Tata Group

C) Dalmia

D) Adani Group

Answer : D

- ✓ Billionaire Gautam Adani's family infused an additional Rs 8,339 crore in Ambuja Cements, raising its stake in the company to 70.3 per cent, to help the cement maker's manufacturing capacity.
- ✓ The Adani family previously invested Rs 5,000 crore in the company on October 18, 2022, and Rs 6,661 crore on March 28, 2024.
- ✓ The promoters of the company – Adani family – has fully subscribed to the warrants program in the company by further infusing Rs 8,339 crore, thereby infusing a total amount of Rs 20,000 crore

Q. The Global Financial Stability Report is released by:

A) World Economic Forum

B) International Monetary Fund

C) United Nations

D) World Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released the latest Global Financial Stability Report.
- ✓ It is a semiannual report by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that assesses the stability of global financial markets and emerging-market financing.
- ✓ It is released twice per year, in April and October.
- ✓ It focuses on current conditions, especially financial and structural imbalances, that could risk an upset in global financial stability and access to financing by emerging-market countries.
- ✓ Highlights of the report
- ✓ It has warned about the risks to the global financial system from persistent high inflation, rising lending in the unregulated credit market, and increasing cyber-attacks on financial institutions.
- ✓ Geopolitical risks such as the ongoing war in West Asia and Ukraine could affect aggregate supply and lead to higher prices. This, it believes, might stop central banks from lowering rates anytime soon.
- ✓ In calendar year 2023, India was the second-largest recipient of foreign capital after the U.S. But things could change quickly if western central banks signal that they could keep interest rates high for a long time.
- ✓ The borrowers in the private credit market may not be financially sound and noted that many of them do not have current earnings that exceed even their interest costs

Q. Who is the MD of International Monetary Fund, who has been elected for the second five-year term?

A) Soumya Swaminathan

B) Kristalina Georgieva

C) Geeta Gopinath

D) Anshula Kant

Answer : B

- ✓ According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva has been re-appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the IMF for a new 5 year term. Kristalina Georgieva's new term will start on 1 October 2024.
- ✓ Kristalina Georgieva is from Bulgaria and was appointed as the MD of the IMF in 2019 for a five-year term. She has also been Chief Executive Officer of the World Bank. She also served as the Interim President of the World Bank Group. She also worked as Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response of the European Commission.
- ✓ International Monetary Fund

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund is a global multilateral development (MDB) bank established as a specialised agency of the United Nations on 27 December 1945. It formally started operating on 1 March 1947.
- ✓ The Bretton Woods Conference, also known as the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference, was held from 1 July to 22 July 1944 in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States.
- ✓ The conference decided to establish the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which later became part of the World Bank group.
- ✓ India is a founder member of the IMF.

Answer : A

- Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Spices Board of India:

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Answer : A

- ✓ Provision of quality evaluation services
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Q. Which bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (TPSSL) to boost solar energy adoption by providing financial support to residential consumers for installations?

- A) Canara Bank
B) Indian Bank
C) UCO Bank
D) State Bank of India

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Bank has entered into a strategic partnership with Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd. (TPSSL) to boost solar energy adoption by providing financial support to residential consumers for installations.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to provide financial support under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana scheme for installations up to 3 KW, and from 3-10 KW under the regular scheme.
- ✓ Residential consumers can avail loans up to ₹2 lakh at an annual interest rate of 7%, with a nominal margin money requirement of 10% and collateral-free financing. The repayment tenure is 10 years.
- ✓ For installations exceeding 3-10 KW, eligible applicants can avail loans up to ₹6 lakh with a margin money requirement of 20%. Interest rate ranges from 8.4% to 10.8% per annum.
- ✓ About PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana
- ✓ The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is a central government scheme that PM Narendra Modi launched on 13 February 2024.
- ✓ The Scheme aims to provide free electricity to one crore households in India.
- ✓ Households can get 300 units of free electricity per month by installing a rooftop solar electricity generating unit.
- ✓ The government of India has allocated Rs 75,021 crore for PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.
- ✓ Eligibility for the Scheme
- ✓ The PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana is for Indian citizens who own a house with a roof suitable for installing solar panels.
- ✓ The household must have an electricity connection. Also, the beneficiary household must not have been provided with any other subsidy for solar panels.
- ✓ Features of the Scheme
- ✓ Under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, the government provides a subsidy for households to install rooftop solar units.
- ✓ For solar units up to 2KW capacity, a subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost is provided and 40% of additional system cost for systems between 2 to 3 KW capacity.
- ✓ No subsidy is provided for rooftop solar units above 3 KW capacity.

Q. Amitabh Chaudhry has been reappointed as the MD and CEO of which bank?

- A) Axis Bank
B) SBI
C) PNB
D) Yes Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Axis Bank has recently reappointed Amitabh Chaudhry as the MD and CEO of the bank.
- ✓ The Axis Bank board has appointed Chaudhry for a term of three years with effect from January 1, 2025.
- ✓ This will be his second extension of three years.
- ✓ Chaudhary joined the bank as MD and CEO in 2019. Prior to this, he was the MD and CEO of HDFC Life

Q. Which company has introduced its inaugural travel-centric core credit card, 'MILES' in April 2024?

- A) SBI Card
C) Mastercard

- B) VISA
D) Rupay

Answer : A

- ✓ SBI Card introduced its inaugural travel-centric core credit card, 'SBI Card MILES'.
- ✓ The card promises comprehensive travel benefits, including the conversion of Travel Credits to Air Miles and Hotel Points, enhanced rewards on all travel bookings, and access to airport lounges.
- ✓ The bank has partnered with more than 20 leading airline and hotel brands such as Air Vistara, Air India, SpiceJet, and IHG Hotels & Resorts.
- ✓ There are three variants, SBI Card MILES ELITE, SBI Card MILES PRIME, and SBI Card MILES, which have been designed to elevate these experiences through curated travel benefits.

Q. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar for how many year(s) from May 3, 2024?

- A) 1 year
C) 3 years
- B) 2 years
D) 4 years

Answer : A

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the re-appointment of RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar for one year from May 3 this year.
- ✓ Sankar, who has a Master of Philosophy in Economics from the Jawaharlal Nehru University at Delhi, was appointed as RBI Deputy Governor in May 2021 for three years.
- ✓ He was an Executive Director of RBI before being elevated to the post of Deputy Governor in May 2021.
- ✓ Besides the RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the central bank has four Deputy Governors— M.D.Patra; M Rajeshwar Rao; J Swaminathan and T Rabi Sankar

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Llama 3:

1. It is a Large Language Model developed by Google.
2. It is an instruction-tuned version designed to augment performance in specific tasks.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, Meta introduced its most capable Large Language Model (LLM), the Meta Llama 3.
- ✓ Llama or Large Language Model Meta AI is a family of LLMs introduced by Meta AI in February 2023.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is claimed to be the most sophisticated model with significant progress in terms of performance and AI capabilities.
- ✓ It is based on the Llama 2 architecture which has been released in two sizes, 8B and 70B parameters. Both sizes come with a base model and an instruction-tuned version that has been designed to augment performance in specific tasks.
- ✓ Reportedly, the instruction-tuned version is meant for powering AI chatbots that are meant to hold conversations with users.

- ✓ It can be used on Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Messenger, and the web. It is readily available for developers as Meta has integrated the LLM into the Hugging Face ecosystem.
- ✓ At present, Meta AI is available in English across the US on WhatsApp.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi Scheme:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme to provide healthcare benefits to all rural households.
2. It provides one-time financial assistance to patients suffering from life threatening diseases.

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, the Delhi High Court instituted a case with respect to the grant of financial assistance under the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) scheme and said threshold income to claim benefit was prima facie “extremely low”.
- ✓ It was set up in 1997 and it is a central sector scheme.
- ✓ It provides one-time financial assistance to poor patients living below State/UT wise threshold poverty line and suffering from life threatening diseases relating to heart, kidney, liver, cancer, etc. for treatment at any of Super Specialty Government hospitals/institutes.
- ✓ The Umbrella Scheme of RAN has three components as under:
 - ✓ Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) - Financial assistance for treatment of life-threatening diseases relating to heart, kidney, liver, etc. at Government hospitals/institutes having Super Specialty facilities; (Maximum financial assistance is Rs. 15 lakhs)
 - ✓ Health Minister's Cancer Patient Fund (HMC PF) - Financial assistance for treatment of cancer at Regional Cancer Centres (RCCs)/ Tertiary Care Cancer Centres (TCCCs) and State Cancer Institutes (SCIs); (Maximum financial assistance is Rs. 15 lakhs)
 - ✓ Financial assistance for poor patients suffering from rare diseases - for specified rare diseases for treatment at Government hospitals/institutes having Super Specialty facilities; (Maximum financial assistance is Rs. 20 lakhs)
- ✓ Hence only statement 2 is correct

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Schengen Area:

1. It is a group of European nations that have abolished their internal borders for free and unrestricted movement of people.
2. All European Union countries are members of this Schengen Area.

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 European Union has announced that Indian nationals can now be issued long-term multi-entry Schengen visas valid for two years after having obtained and lawfully used two visas within the previous three years.
- ✓ It is an official document mandatory for some non-Europeans to travel to all the 27 countries which are part of the Schengen area.

- and all members of the European Free Trade Association (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway).
- Iceland and Norway are not in the EU but are inside of the Schengen Area.
- The Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has scrapped ____ age limit for individuals buying health insurance policies.
- A) 55 years
B) 60 years
C) 65 years
D) 70 years
- The correct answer is C) 65 years.
- The Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has scrapped the 65 age limit for individuals buying health insurance policies. This move is a significant departure from the conventional constraints that limited individuals from purchasing health insurance policies at an earlier age, thereby providing more inclusive and accessible healthcare ecosystem, ensuring adequate protection from healthcare expenses against unforeseen medical expenses.
- Earlier guidelines, individuals were allowed to purchase a new insurance policy only after turning 65 years of age. However, with the recent amendment, which has been effective from April 1, 2024, individuals of all ages, including those below 65, are eligible to buy a new health insurance policy.

A) 55 years
B) 60 years
C) 65 years
D) 70 years

- ✓ Irdai removes age limit on health insurance policies
- ✓ With a view to widen the market and foster adequate protection from healthcare expenses, insurance regulator IRDAI has removed the age limit of 65 years for individuals buying health insurance policies.
- ✓ This marks a significant departure from the conventional constraints that limited individuals in securing comprehensive coverage.
- ✓ IRDAI aims to foster a more inclusive and accessible healthcare ecosystem, ensuring adequate protection against unforeseen medical expenses.
- ✓ As per the earlier guidelines, individuals were allowed to purchase a new insurance policy only till the age of 65. However, with the recent amendment, which has been effective from April 1, anyone, regardless of age, is eligible to buy a new health insurance policy.

A) Paytm Payments Bank
B) Airtel Payments Bank
C) Jio Payments Bank
D) India Post Payments Bank

- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank has launched eco-friendly NCMC (National Common Mobility Cards) enabled debit and pre-paid cards.
- ✓ The bank has partnered with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch these interoperable cards that are powered by RuPay.
- ✓ The launch comes in alignment with the bank's commitment to India's One Nation, One Card vision.
- ✓ The bank has introduced NCMC enabled debit card for its savings account customers and NCMC enabled pre-paid card for the wallet customers.
- ✓ Both cards are being made from eco-friendly e-PVC material, which is certified for its environmental sustainability

Q. BharatPe co-founder and former Managing Director Ashneer Grover will launch a new app called 'ZeroPe'. What is the purpose of this app?

- A) Provide education loans B) Provide startups loans
C) Provide agriculture loans D) Provide medical loans

Answer : D

- ✓ BharatPe co-founder and former Managing Director Ashneer Grover will launch a new app called 'ZeroPe', an app designed for medical loans.
- ✓ ZeroPe, currently in its testing phase, has been developed by Third Unicorn, according to its Google Playstore listing.
- ✓ The ZeroPe app is set to provide instant pre-approved medical loans of up to Rs 500,000 in collaboration with Delhi-based Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) Mukut Finvest. The service is exclusively available at partnered hospitals.
- ✓ Grover's entry into this arena adds to a growing trend, with businesses like SaveIn, Qube Health, Arogya Finance, Neodocs, Fibe, Kenko, and Mykare Health already offering instant financing solutions for medical bills and elective treatments

Q. What target has been set up by the government of India for the production of coal by the captive and commercial coal blocks for 2024-25 years?

- A) 120 million tonnes B) 140 million tonnes
C) 150 million tonnes D) 170 million tonnes

Answer : D

- ✓ Coal production target set at 170 million tonnes for 2024-25
- ✓ The government has set the target of producing 170 million tonnes of coal from captive and commercial coal blocks in the country during the 2024-25 financial year.
- ✓ In FY24, captive and commercial coal blocks produced 147.12 million tonnes (MT) of dry fuel, 26 per cent higher from 116 MT produced in FY23.
- ✓ Out of the total output of 147.2 MT in FY24, power sector captive mines produced around 121.3 MT, captive mines of the non-power sector produced 8.4 MT while commercial mines generated 17.5 MT of fuel.
- ✓ The country's coal import rose to 244.27 MT in the April-February period of FY24 from 227.93 MT in the year-ago period, according to data compiled by B2B e-commerce company mjunction

1. It is India's first electric-powered rocket.

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

- ✓ India achieved a significant milestone in its space journey with the launch of its first reusable hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1, recently.
- ✓ **About RHUMI-1:**
- ✓ It is India's first reusable hybrid rocket.
- ✓ It was developed by the Tamil Nadu-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group.
- ✓ It stands out for its innovative hybrid propulsion system, combining the advantages of both liquid and solid fuels.
- ✓ Rhumi 1's hybrid design, which uses solid propellant and liquid oxidizer, reduces the risk of accidental detonation by combining these components only during combustion.
- ✓ The RHUMI Rocket is completely free of fireworks and uses no TNT.

- India launches world's first mobile-launched hybrid rocket, RHUMI-I.
- Union Ministry of Textiles Giriraj Singh has launched India's first fashion forecasting initiative 'VisioNxt'.
- IndiaFirst Life has become the first Indian life insurer to commence operations in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- SBI launches the country's first MTS RuPay NCMC and new Fastag.
- Ola Group's AI division, Krutrim to launch India's first AI silicon chips.
- This lineup, featuring chips named Bodhi, Sarv, and Ojas, underscores the company's dedication to advancing AI technology within India.
- Union Minister G Kishan Reddy granted the first Lithium block, Katghora, and the Rare Earth Element (REE) Block of Chhattisgarh to Maiki South Mining Private Limited, with a Final Percentage Ownership (FPO) of 76.05%.
- Tata Asset Management Private Limited (TAMPL) Launched India's 1st Tourism Index Mutual Fund.
- India's first coal gasification pilot project launched in Jharkhand.
- Kerala's Kozhikode becomes India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.
- National Stock Exchange (NSE) launched India's first electric vehicle (EV) index, the Nifty EV & New Age Automotive Index.
- Gopi Thotakura became the first Indian space tourist on Sunday, flying aboard Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin NS-25 mission to Kármán line – an altitude of around 100 kilometres.

- India's first commercial semiconductor fabrication unit is expected to be operational in Dholera, Gujarat, and may begin producing chips by 2026. The plant is a joint venture between Tata and Powerchip-Taiwan, and is estimated to cost Rs 91,000 crore
- Setu unveils Sesame is India's first domain-specific Large Language Model (LLM) for the Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) sector.
- TCS and IIT Bombay collaborate to create India's first semiconductor chip imaging tool.
- Zomato launched India's first crowd-supported weather infrastructure called weatherunion.com.
- India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft, the FWD-200B, developed by Flying Wedge Defence, an Indian defence and aerospace company, was unveiled recently.
- 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 'TRAH' 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.
- Kozhikode, Kerala is getting India's first cooperative museum, the International Cooperative Museum (ICM).
- 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.
- Assam Secretariat in Guwahati became India's first eco-friendly state.
- Devika, India's AI engineer, competes with US's Devin using LLMs.
- The first phase of India's Atmospheric Research Testbed in Central India (ART-CI) was inaugurated on March 12, 2024 at Silkheda village in Madhya Pradesh's Sehore district.
- IndusInd Bank launched India's first corporate credit card, the IndusInd Bank eSvarna, on the RuPay network.
- Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has been designated as India's first "Dark Sky Park".
- SBI Mutual Fund launches India's first energy fund
- Krutrim became India's first AI unicorn after raising \$50 million in funding at a valuation of \$1 billion.
- Krutrim is an AI startup founded by Bhavish Aggarwal, the co-founder of Ola.
- Tata Group is set to become India's first homegrown iPhone maker after Wistron Corporation approved the sale of its assembly plant near Bengaluru

Q. INS Arighat, recently seen in the news is a:

- A) torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- B) Shivalik- class stealth multi-role frigate
- C) nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine
- D) Kiev-class aircraft carrier

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian Navy commissioned its second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Arighat, on 29 August 2024.
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inducted the submarine in a low-key ceremony during his visit to the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The induction of the second vessel in the planned five Arihant-class nuclear-powered submarines is expected to strengthen India's nuclear triad capability and second strike capability.
- ✓ Nuclear triad capability refers to the ability of a country to launch nuclear weapons from air, sea and land.
- ✓ India's Nuclear Powered Submarine programme
- ✓ India launched Project AVT (Advanced Vessel Technology) in the 1970s to build an indigenous nuclear-powered submarine.
- ✓ The AVT programme is a joint project of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), and the Indian Navy.
- ✓ The first nuclear-powered submarine under the AVT project was INS Arihant, commissioned in August 2016.
- ✓ The government initially sanctioned four nuclear-powered submarines to be built under the Project AVT, but this was later increased to five. The submarines being built under the AVT projects are now called INS Arihant class submarines.
- ✓ The second submarine in the INS Arihant class, INS Arighat, was launched in November 2017 and was commissioned in August 2024. The Indian Navy has started the construction of the S-3 and S-4 submarines of the planned five submarines.
- ✓ According to reports, India is also planning to build six nuclear attack submarines in three phases.
- ✓ Feature of the INS Arighat
- ✓ Like the INS Arihant, the INS Arighat is powered by an 83 MW pressurised light water nuclear reactor with better stealth (noise) capability.
- ✓ The less noise a submarine produces, the harder it is to be detected by the enemy.
- ✓ The 112-meter-long INS Arighat can achieve a maximum speed of 12-15 knots on the surface and up to 24 knots when submerged.
- ✓ It has four missile launch tubes that can carry up to 12 K-15 or 4 K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs).
- ✓ The K-15 Sagarika missiles have a range of 750 kilometres operational and were inducted in the INS Arihant.
- ✓ The K-4 SLBMs developed by DRDO can carry nuclear weapons and have a range of 3,500 km.
- ✓ The INS Arihant can carry 4 K-15 missiles or one K-4 missile.
- ✓ Submarine Bases in India
- ✓ India is constructing two modern submarine bases. One is Project Sea Bird in Karwar, Karnataka.
- ✓ The other is INS Varsha in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, which will have underground docking facilities for the submarines.

INS IN NEWS 2024

- INS Arighat, India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, was commissioned into the Navy in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) recently launched the first indigenously-built Talwar class frigate, 'Triput'.
- The first indigenously built Talwar Class frigate named 'Triput' for the Indian Navy, constructed by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- The Naval Detachment Minicoy will be commissioned as INS Jatayu on March 6th, 2024, in the presence of Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff.
- Indian Naval Ship INS Ranvir, of the Eastern Fleet under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command arrived at Chattogram, Bangladesh as part of an Operational Deployment.

- Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, that was deployed on mission in south China Sea and north Pacific Ocean, has reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, world's largest naval exercise.
- Indian Naval Ship Kiltan arrived at Muara, Brunei and was accorded a warm welcome by the Royal Brunei Navy.
- INS Talwar of the Indian Navy recently seized 940 kg of drugs in the Arabian Sea as part of an operation led by the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF).
- Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar has awarded an 'On-the-spot Unit Citation' to INS Sharda for successful conduct of anti-piracy operations at sea.
- INS Tir, the lead ship of First Training Squadron (1TS) participated in Exercise Cutlass Express - 24 (CE - 24) held at Port Victoria, Seychelles from 26 Feb - 08 Mar 24.
- Indian Navy commissioned its latest survey vessel, Sandhayak, at Naval Dockyard in Vizag in the presence of defence minister.
- It is the first in a series of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships being constructed at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SHe-Box Portal, recently seen in the news:

1. It is a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women in the workplace.
2. It will also enable real-time monitoring of complaints through a designated nodal officer.

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

- ✓ Union Ministry of Women and Child Development recently launched the new SHe-Box portal.
- ✓ About SHe-Box Portal:
- ✓ It is a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women in the workplace.
- ✓ It serves as a centralized repository of information related to Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) formed across the country, encompassing both the government and private sectors.
- ✓ It offers a common platform to file complaints, track their status, and ensure time-bound processing of complaints by ICs.
- ✓ It provides assured redressal of complaints and a streamlined process for all stakeholders.
- ✓ The portal will also enable real-time monitoring of complaints through a designated nodal officer.
- ✓ The portal will ensure that complaints can be safely registered without personal information being publicly accessible.

APP & PORTAL IN NEWS 2024

- e-Sankhyiki portal launched by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) stated that eShram has registered more than 30 crore unorganised workers, showcasing its rapid and widespread adoption among the unorganised workers.
- About e-Shram Portal:
- It was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2021 for the registration and creation of a comprehensive National Database of Unorganized Workers.
- Union Health Minister recently launched the National Medical Register Portal in New Delhi.
- About National Medical Register (NMR) Portal:

- It is a portal of the National Medical Commission (NMC) for the registration of all MBBS doctors eligible for registration in India
- Union Ministry of Women and Child Development recently launched the new SHe-Box portal.
- **About SHe-Box Portal:**
- It is a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of sexual harassment of women in the workplace
- Uttarakhand government's eSwasthya Dham portal is now integrated with the Centre's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), allowing 'Char Dham' pilgrims to seamlessly create their national digital health accounts.
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah launched four apps—e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti, and e-Summon—to ensure the smooth implementation of the three new criminal laws in the country.
- Union Minister of Coal and Mines inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre at Geological Survey of India (GSI) Kolkata and also launched the Bhusanket Web Portal and Bhooskhalan Mobile App.
- Madhya Pradesh Launches 'Lokpath Mobile App' to Expedite Road Issue Resolution.
- RBI launches PRAVAAH(Platform for Regulatory Application, VALidation and AutHorisation) Portal and mobile app for G secs trading.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) Launches eSankhyiki Portal for Enhanced User Experience and Ease of Data Access.
- Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the Saksham app, a mobile application designed to facilitate voter registration and electoral services for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- Days ahead of the implementation of the three criminal laws, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is testing eSakshya (e-evidence) app.
- This mobile application developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) will be available to all police stations which register and download the App.
- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development urged the state governments to encourage more and more farmers to register on e-Samridhi portal so that they can avail the facility of assured procurement.
- e-Shram portal showcased during 112th International Labour Conference at Geneva, Switzerland.
- **About e-Shram Portal:**
- It was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2021 for registration and creation of a comprehensive National Database of Unorganized Workers.
- Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched the mobile application-Sangyaan App.
- Days ahead of the implementation of the three criminal laws, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is testing eSakshya (e-evidence) app.
- INDRA app was launched in an event conducted by School of Naval Oceanology & Meteorology (SNOM) and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command as part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations.
- Uttar Pradesh Police will now use the state-of-the-art digital platform Trinetra App 2.0, which has been designed to help in crime prevention and investigation.
- Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW) report and "Greening and Restoration of Wasteland with Agroforestry (GROW)-Suitability Mapping" portal was launched by NITI Aayog.
- Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India launched "Science for Women-A Technology & Innovation (SWATI)" Portal.
- Agriculture minister launches Sarathi portal for insurance products.
- GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite Portal have been developed and launched by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched a web portal of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) namely C- CARES.
- **About C- CARES Portal:**
- It is developed and designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- Ministry of Communications launched the “Bharat 5G Portal- an integrated portal” on the sidelines of ‘Bharat Telecom 2024’.
- **About Bharat 5G Portal:**
- It is a comprehensive platform serving the interests of startups, industry and academia in quantum, 6G, IPR and 5G domains
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the MPLADS e-SAKSHI Mobile Application.
- **About e-SAKSHI Application:**
- It was launched for revised fund flow procedure under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLAD) Scheme.
- Under the scheme annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Project NAMAN:

1. It is designed to provide dedicated support and services to Defence Pensioners, Veterans and their families.
2. It involves the establishment of reception and facilitation centres.

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

- ✓ Indian Army launched the first phase of Project NAMAN, in the presence of the General President Army Wives Welfare Association (AWWA).
- ✓ It is designed to provide dedicated support and services to Defence Pensioners, Veterans and their families.
- ✓ It is centered around the implementation of the SPARSH (System for Pension Administration Raksha), a digital pension system, which streamlines pension-related processes for Defence Pensioners, addressing the critical need for accessible facilitation points for Veterans and Next of Kin (NOK) across the country.
- ✓ It involves the establishment of reception and facilitation centres, enabled through a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Army's Directorate of Indian Army Veterans Common Service Centre (CSC) e-Governance India Limited, and HDFC Bank Limited signed last year in September 2023.
- ✓ These Common Service Centres are dedicated to Army Veterans, Pensioners, War Widows, and NOKs, offering SPARSH-enabled pension services, Government to Citizen (G2C) services, and Business to Consumer (B2C) services, all at a single, convenient location.
- ✓ In the first phase of Project NAMAN, 14 CSCs have been established at key locations across India, including New Delhi, Jalandhar, Leh, Dehradun, Lucknow, Jodhpur, Bengdubi, Gorakhpur, Jhansi, Secunderabad, Saugor, Guntur, Ahmedabad and Bangalore.
- ✓ Each CSC is managed by a Village Level Entrepreneur (VLE), selected from among the veterans or NOKs by the respective Local Military Authorities (LMAs).
- ✓ These VLEs are onboarded by CSC e-Governance India Limited and receive comprehensive training to deliver the required services.

- ✓ Financial assistance: HDFC Bank also supports the VLEs with a monthly monetary grant of ₹ 20,000 for the first 12 months, assisting in the stabilisation and sustainability of the centres.

Q. With which country did India recently sign a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism?

- A) France
- B) Malaysia
- C) Maldives
- D) Thailand

Answer : B

- ✓ India and Malaysia have signed MoU to strengthen cooperation in the field of tourism.
- ✓ Malaysia is an important tourist market for India. In the year 2022, more than 2.5 lakh Malaysian tourists came to India.
- ✓ It is expected that the MoU will further boost tourist arrivals from Malaysia

SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2024

- India and UAE sign MoU to strengthen public sector audit cooperation.
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) signs MoU with U.A.E. Accountability Authority.
- India and Malaysia have signed MoU to strengthen cooperation in the field of tourism.
- Indian Coast Guard and Jindal Steel & Power sign MoU to enhance indigenous shipbuilding
- India signs MoU with Bulgaria to enhance collaboration, exchange auditing expertise
- India and Mauritius recently amended their Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to combat tax evasion and avoidance.
- India and Nepal agree to promote Sanskrit research and education.
- India and Bhutan signed MoU in the field of Energy Efficiency and Energy Conservation Measures.
- India, Colombia sign MoU on Cooperation in the field of Sharing Successful Digital Solutions.
- India Signs Agreement for Lithium Exploration & Mining Project in Argentina.
- GAIL (India) Ltd has partnered with US biofuel producer Petron Scienteck Inc. to explore establishing a 500 kilo tonnes per annum bio-ethylene plant in India.
- Sri Lanka's LTL, India's Petronet sign MOU for LNG Infrastructure in Kerawalapitiya.
- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Chamber of Accounts of Uzbekistan.
- Ministry of External affairs and State Bank of India sign MoU for digital payment services.
- Airbus Helicopters and SIDBI sign an MoU for helicopter financing in India.
- India and Zimbabwe agreed to explore signing a MoU for regulatory cooperation in digital solutions and fast payments
- RBI and Bank of Indonesia signed an MoU to promote use of local currencies for bilateral transactions.
- Adani signs MoU with Maharashtra to invest Rs.50,000 cr in data centres.
- Tata Power signs Rs.70,000 cr MoU for setting up 10,000 MW of Hybrid renewable energy.

Q. With reference to the Virupaksha Temple, consider the following statements:

1. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
2. It was constructed by Krishnadev Rai of the Vijayanagara Empire.
3. The current Virupaksha Temple was reconstructed by the Wodeyar Dynasty on the ruins of the earlier one.
4. It is a part of the larger Group of Monuments at Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A) 1 and 2 only

B) 3 and 4 only

C) 1 and 4 only

D) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer : C

- ✓ Virupaksha Temple in Hampi, Karnataka, has been in the news due to concerns over the conservation efforts at this UNESCO World Heritage Site, particularly after a temple pavilion, saalu mantapa, collapsed during heavy rains in 2024.
- ✓ **Historical significance:**
- ✓ Dedication: The temple is dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, a form of Lord Shiva.
- ✓ Location: It is situated in Hampi, within the Vijayanagara district of Karnataka, the temple is part of the larger Group of Monuments at Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986.
- ✓ Inception: The temple has been in continuous operation since its inception in the 7th century AD, making it one of India's oldest functioning temples.
- ✓ Development: Originally a modest shrine, the temple was expanded to its current grandeur during the reign of the Vijayanagara kings, with further additions from the Chalukyan and Hoysala eras.

UNESCO IN NEWS 2024

- UNESCO names Ahom dynasty's Moidams in Assam as India's 43rd World Heritage Site.
- PM Modi announced \$1 million assistance to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre to support conservation projects in developing countries and enhance capacity-building initiatives.
- 24 new heritage sites across the world were included in the UNESCO Heritage List at the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO, which concluded in New Delhi.
- India hosted the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in New Delhi from 21 to 31 July 2024 for the first time.
- Kozhikode becomes India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.
- UNESCO's 'State of Ocean Report, 2024' provides crucial insights into the current state of global oceans, emphasising the challenges posed by climate change and human activities.
- Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra and Sahrdayaloka-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.
- 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.
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Formation : 16 November 1945
- Headquarters : Paris, France

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- Director-General : Audrey Azoulay (France)
- Member countries : 193
- There are 43 World Heritage Sites in India.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Earth Observation Satellite-8:

1. It consists of Electro Optical Infrared Payload which captures images in the mid and Long-Wave IR bands.
2. It is developed by ISRO.

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

- ✓ ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite-8 (EOS-8) is expected to be launched by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 on August 15 from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ It will be launched by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3.
- ✓ Objective: The primary objectives of the EOS-08 mission include designing and developing a microsatellite, creating payload instruments compatible with the microsatellite bus, and incorporating new technologies required for future operational satellites.
- ✓ It is built on the Microsat/IMS-1 bus and it carries three payloads:
- ✓ Electro Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR): It is designed to capture images in the Mid-Wave IR (MIR) and Long-Wave IR (LWIR) bands, both during the day and night, for applications such as satellite-based surveillance, disaster monitoring, environmental monitoring, fire detection, volcanic activity observation, and industrial and power plant disaster monitoring.
- ✓ Global Navigation Satellite System-Reflectometry payload (GNSS-R): It demonstrates the capability of using GNSS-R-based remote sensing for applications such as ocean surface wind analysis, soil moisture assessment, cryosphere studies over the Himalayan region, flood detection, and inland waterbody detection.

ISRO IN NEWS 2024

- ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite-8 (EOS-8) is expected to be launched by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3 on August 15 from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla & Prasanth Nair selected by ISRO for the upcoming International Space Station (ISS). This mission, known as Axiom Mission-4.
- Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) signed an agreement on Saturday to grant assistance for launching the Nepal-built Munal satellite
- Education Ministry sets up a 7 member high level committee to reform the exam system , committee chaired by former ISRO chairman K Radhakrishnan.
- ISRO successfully tested a new liquid rocket engine at its Propulsion Complex in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- The PSLV-C58 rocket, in its 60th mission, successfully deployed payload XPoSat into Low Earth Orbit.
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), signed an \$18 million agreement with the Australian government to launch Australia's largest satellite.
- The satellite, named Optimus, is the largest Australian-designed and built spacecraft to date. It weighs 450 kg and will be launched in 2026 on ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

- ISRO successfully carried out the second experimental flight for the demonstration of Air Breathing Propulsion Technology
- DRDO has commissioned a Bengaluru-based firm to indigenously develop a receiver chip to acquire and disseminate Indian time for Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) developed by ISRO.
- ISRO is planning to launch the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission, Gaganyaan-1, by the end of 2024.
- GSAT 20 is a hi-tech heavy-weight satellite weighing 4,700 kg. New Delhi: In a first, Indian space agency ISRO will launch its latest large satellite on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
- ISRO successfully carried out the third Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) Landing Experiment (LEX) on June 23 at the Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) in Chitradurga, Karnataka.
- ISRO recently developed Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named PraVaHa.
- ISRO Chairman S Somanath unveiled SFO Technologies' carbon reduction initiative, aiming for a 50% reduction by 2035 and zero emissions by 2040.
- Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh launches two Geoportals namely 'Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0)' portal for rural land record and "National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0)" developed by Indian Space research Organization (ISRO).
- 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
- 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.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) made an important announcement regarding their work on reusable launch vehicle (RLV) technology, called Pushpak.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- Founded : 15 August 1969
- HQ : Bengaluru, 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

Answer : C

- ✓ **Legendary Classical Dance Yamini Krishnamurthy passes away**
- ✓ The legendary Indian classical dancer Dr Yamini Krishnamurthy passed away on 3 August 2024 in New Delhi. She was 83 years old. She was considered one of the foremost classical dancers of India and influenced the classical dances in India for decades.
- ✓ **Multi-talented Dr Yamini Krishnamurthy**
- ✓ Dr Yamini Krishnamurthy was a multi-talented personality. She was born on 20 December 1940 in Madanapalle, Andhra Pradesh,
- ✓ In her childhood, she started learning Bharatanatyam classical dance at Rukmini Devi Arundale's Kalakshetra. After mastering Bharatanatyam, she also learned the Kuchipudi and Odissi classical dance forms.
- ✓ Dr Yamini Krishnamurthy was trained in Kuchipudi from Laxminarayana Sastry and Pasumarthi Venugopalan Krishna Sharma.
- ✓ She was trained in Odissi by the renowned Odissi guru Pankaj Charan Das and Kelucharan Mohapatra.
- ✓ However, later, she focussed on Bharata Natyam and Kuchipudi dance forms, earning fame in India and abroad.
- ✓ In addition to dance, she was trained in Carnatic music and also played Veena.
- ✓ **Honour and Recognition**
- ✓ Dr Yamini Krsihanmurthy received many awards and honours during her life.
- ✓ She received India's third-highest civilian award - Padma Bhushan in 2001.
- ✓ She received India's fourth-highest civilian award - Padma Shri in 1968.
- ✓ She received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1997.
- ✓ The Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam temple in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, honoured her with the title of Asthana Nartaki (Resident Dancer).
- ✓ She is the only second person to be ever honoured by the Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanam temple, the other being legendary Carnatic vocalist M.S. Subbulakshmi.
- ✓ Dr Yamini Krishnamurthy's autobiography, A Passion for Dance, was published in 1995. It was written by Renuka Khandekar

Q. Which Indian has been recently conferred with Fiji's highest civilian award, Companion of the Order of Fiji?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Droupadi Murmu
C) Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam
D) Jagdeep Dhankhar

Answer : B

- ✓ President Murmu conferred with Fiji's Highest Civilian Award
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with Fiji's highest civilian award- Companion of the Order of Fiji, during her first official visit to the country.
- ✓ President Murmu is on a three-nation tour of Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor Leste. On the first leg of her visit, she visited Fiji from 5 to 7 August 2024.
- ✓ President Murmu is the first Indian President to visit the South Pacific island nation of Fiji.
- ✓ She landed at the Nadi International Airport which is the main airport of Fiji.
- ✓ From Nadi she traveled to the Fijian capital, Suva, where she was received by Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka.
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu receiving the Suriname's highest distinction, "Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star."

Q.

- A) Novak Djokovic
B) Carlos Alcaraz
C) Rafael Nadal
D) Andy Murray

Answer : A

- ✓ Paris Olympics: Novak Djokovic 5th player to achieve Golden Slam
- ✓ Serbian Tennis legend Novak Djokovic became the fifth tennis player in history to claim the
- ✓ Golden Slam. He won the elusive Olympic gold medal at the 33rd Summer olympics in Paris, France, to complement his Grand Slam singles titles at the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open.
- ✓ He joined the list of Rafael Nadal of France, Serena Williams and Andre Agassi of the United States, and Steffi Graff of Germany, winning the singles title of the four Grand Slam and an Olympic Gold Medal.
- ✓ **Gold for Djokovic at the Paris Olympics**
- ✓ Novak Djokovic won the men's singles gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets, 7-6(3), 7-6(2), in the final on 4 August 2024.
- ✓ Displaying mental fortitude and vast experience, Djokovic defeated Carlos Alcaraz, the 2024 French Open and Wimbledon winner. Djokovic was recently defeated by Carlos Alcaraz in the 2024 Wimbledon final.
- ✓ In the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Djokovic won a bronze in the men's singles. He failed to win a medal in the 2012 London Olympics, 2016 Rio de Janeiro and again in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ **Records of Novak Djokovic**
- ✓ Novak Djokovic is the only male tennis player to win 24 Grand Slam singles titles. He shares the record with Australian female tennis player Margaret Court.
- ✓ Djokovic holds the record for appearing in 36 Grand Slam finals.
- ✓ He has won the Australian Open singles title 10 times, the French Open singles title 3 times, Wimbledon 7 times and the US Open singles title 4 times.
- ✓ He also holds the record for being ranked World No.1 eight times(2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2023).

Q.

- A) Serbia
B) Spain
C) Switzerland
D) Australia

Answer : B

TENNIS TOURNAMENT IN NEWS 2024

- Novak Djokovic won the men's singles gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz.
- Carlos Alcaraz of Spain defeated Novak Djokovic of Serbia and Barbora Krejckova of Czech Republic defeated Jasmine Paolini of Italy won the men's and women's single title respectively at the 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Championships
- Carlos Alcaraz of Spain defeated Alexander Zverev of Germany and Iga Swiatek of Poland defeated Jasmine Paolini of Italy, won the 2024 French Open men's and women's Tennis Single titles, respectively
- Indian men's tennis player Sumit Nagpal won the men's singles title at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament in Germany.

Q.

1. It is a surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
2. It is indigenously developed 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 : B

Q.

- A) Arpita Saha & Kousik Sen B) Priyanshu Varshney & Ayush Jha
C) Arshpreet Kaur & G. Madhavan Nair D) Shubhanshu Shukla & Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair

Answer : D

- ✓ Shubhanshu Shukla of IAF selected as primary Gaganyatri for ISS mission
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced the names of the two Indian gaganyatri (astronauts) for the forthcoming joint India -United States of America (USA) mission to the International Space Station(ISS). According to the ISRO, the National Mission Assignment Board has selected Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as the prime gaganyatri and Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair as the backup gaganyatri.
- ✓ Rakesh Sharma was the first and only Indian to go to space. On 3 April 1984, he travelled to space onboard the Soviet rocket Soyuz T-11.
- ✓ Humans who travel in space are called astronauts. The Chinese call them Taikonauts, Russians call them Cosmonauts and Indians Gaganyatri.
- ✓ **Axiom-4 mission to the ISS**
- ✓ During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States of America (USA) in June 2023, a joint ISRO-NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) to the ISS was agreed upon.
- ✓ NASA is the national space agency of the USA government.
- ✓ To operationalise the 2023 agreement, the Human Space Flight Center of the ISRO signed a Space Flight Agreement (SFA) with Axiom Space Inc., USA, for its upcoming Axiom-4 mission to the ISS. Axiom Company is a NASA-identified service provider which provides human space flight services to NASA for the space flight to the ISS..
- ✓ According to ISRO, the training of both the gaganyatri will commence in the first week of August 2024.
- ✓ Only one Indian will go to the ISS, and he will conduct various scientific experiments on board the ISS and engage in space outreach activities.
- ✓ **About the Gaganyatri and Gaganyaan Mission of India**
- ✓ ISRO conceived the Gaganyaan Mission in 2007, which involved sending Indians to space for a three-day mission and successfully bringing them back.
- ✓ The project was launched in 2018 with a budget of Rs 10,000 crore.
- ✓ Four Indian Air Force pilots were selected for the mission, and they underwent training in Russia.
- ✓ An astronaut training facility has been set up by ISRO in Bengaluru for this purpose.
- ✓ Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap are the four selected gaganyatri.
- ✓ These four gaganyatri were awarded the Antriksh Yatri Pankh in February at the ISROs Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre.

- ✓ These pilots are from the Air Force Test Pilot School, which is part of the Bengaluru-based Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE).
- ✓ Human Space Flight
- ✓ At present, only three countries- Russia, China and the United States of America have the capability to launch manned space missions.
- ✓ Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union was the first human to go to space. He went to space on board the Soviet Vostok Rocket on 12 April 1961.
- ✓ Valentina Tereshkova of the Soviet Union was the first woman to go to space on June 16, 1963, aboard the Vostok 6 rocket.
- ✓ Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma is the only Indian to have gone into space. On 3 April 1984, he participated in the Soviet mission aboard Soyuz T-11.

Q. Who is the first woman to be appointed as the Director General of Medical Services (Army)?

- A) Elavenil Valarivan B) Sadhna Saxena Nair
C) Rahi Sarnobat D) Mehuli Ghosh

Answer : B

- ✓ Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair : First woman DG of Medical Services (Army).
- ✓ In a boost to women empowerment in the Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair assumed the office of the Director General of Medical Services (Army) on 1 August 2024.
- ✓ She is the first woman to hold this prestigious post in the Indian Army's Medical Services.
- ✓ About Director General Armed Forces Medical Services.
- ✓ Every wing of the Indian Armed Forces -Army, Navy, and Air Force—has a medical wing that caters to the needs of the personnel employed in the respective forces.
- ✓ The head of the Armed Forces Medical Services is called the Director-General. It can be an officer of the Indian Army (rank of Lt General), Indian Navy (rank of Vice Admiral), or Indian Air Force (rank of Air Marshal).
- ✓ Current Director General Armed Forces Medical Services: Lt Gen Daljit Singh

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2024

- Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair becomes first woman DG Medical Services (Army).
- Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev became the Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot.
- Claudia Sheinbaum Elected As Mexico's First Woman President.
- 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).
- 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).

Q. Which is the highest award given by the government of India in the field of science and technology?

- A) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize B) Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar
C) G. D. Birla Award D) VASVIK Industrial Research Award

Answer : B

- ✓ 1st Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar: Chandrayaan 3 Team wins Team Award.
- ✓ The Chandrayaan 3 team of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has won the Vigyan Team Award of the first Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar. The government of India announced the first Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar on 7 August 2024, and it is considered to be one of the highest awards in the field of science, technology, and innovation.
- ✓ **About the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar**
- ✓ The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar was instituted by the government of India in 2023 after scrapping more than 300 awards given by different institutions. The award consists of a medal and a citation; no cash prize is awarded.
- ✓ The award recognises the contribution of Indian scientists, technologists, and innovators, either individually or in teams, across various fields of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.
- ✓ **Categories**
- ✓ The award is given in four categories: Vigyan Ratna (maximum 3 people), Vigyan Shri (maximum 25), Vigyan Yuva (maximum 25) and Vigyan Team (maximum 3 teams).
- ✓ Domains
- ✓ The award is given in 13 domains: Biological Sciences, Mathematics and Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology and Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and Others.
- ✓ When will the award be conferred?
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu will confer the award to the winners at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on 23 August 2024, on the occasion of National Space Day.
- ✓ Sangam Sir (Kumar Kaushal Sir), [08-09-2024 11:00]
- ✓ The list of the winners of the first Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is as follows.

Serial No	Award	Winner	Field/Domain
1	Vigyan Ratna	Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan	Biological Science
2	Vigyan Shri	Dr. Anandharamakrishnan C	Agricultural Science
3	Vigyan Shri	Dr. Avesh Kumar Tyagi	Atomic Energy
4	Vigyan Shri	Prof. Umesh Varshney	Biological Science
5	Vigyan Shri	Prof. Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar	Biological Science
6	Vigyan Shri	Prof. Syed Wajih Ahmad Naqvi	Earth Science
7	Vigyan Shri	Prof. Bhim Singh	Engineering Sciences
8	Vigyan Shri	Prof. Adimurthi Adi	Mathematics and Computer Science
9	Vigyan Shri	Prof. Rahul Mukherjee	Mathematics and Computer Science
10	Vigyan Shri	Dr Sanjay Behari	Medicine
11	Vigyan Shri	Prof. Lakshmanan Muthusamy	Physics
12	Vigyan Shri	Prof. Naba Kumar Mondal	Physics
13	Vigyan Shri	Dr. Annapurni Subramaniam	Space Science and Technology
14	Vigyan Yuva	Prof. Rohit Srivastava	Technology and Innovation
15	Vigyan Yuva	Dr. Krishna Murthy S L	Agricultural Science
16	Vigyan Yuva	Dr. Swarup Kumar Parida	Agricultural Science
17	Vigyan Yuva	Prof. Radhakrishnan Mahalakshmi	Biological Sciences
18	Vigyan Yuva	Prof. Aravind Penmatsa	Biological Sciences
19	Vigyan Yuva	Prof. Vivek Polshettiwar	Chemistry

Overall Categories

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State/Union Territory
1	IIT-Madras	1959	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
2	Indian Institute of Science	1909	Bengaluru	Karnataka
3	IIT Bombay	1958	Mumbai	Maharashtra

Universities

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State /Union Territory
1	Indian Institute of Science	1909	Bengaluru	Karnataka
2	Jawaharlal Nehru University	1969	New Delhi	Delhi
3	Jamia Millia Islamia	1920	New Delhi	Delhi

State Public Universities

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State /Union Territory
1	Anna University	1978	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
2	Jadavpur University,	1955	Kolkata	West Bengal
3	Savitribai Phule University	1949	Pune	Maharashtra

Q. With reference to different categories of Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP), consider the following statements:

1. The Vigyan Shri (VS) award will recognize lifetime achievements and contributions made in any field of science and technology.
2. The Vigyan Ratna (VR) award will recognize distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
3. The Vigyan Team (VT) award is given to a team comprising three or more scientists who have made an exceptional contribution in any field of science and technology.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ The central government recently announced the full list of the first-ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP) 2024 awardees.
- ✓ **Why in News?**
- ✓ The ISRO-Chandrayan 3 Team will be awarded the Vigyan Team award for their contribution in the field of Space Science and Technology.
- ✓ Celebrated biochemist Govindarajan Padmanabhan has been selected as the first recipient of the Vigyan Ratna Puraskar.
- ✓ **About Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (RVP):**
- ✓ It is a new set of awards introduced by the Government of India in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation.
- ✓ Objective: To recognize the notable and inspiring contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators individually or in teams in various fields of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.
- ✓ It is one of the highest recognitions in the field of science, technology, and innovation in India.
- ✓ **Eligibility:**
- ✓ Scientists/technologists/innovators working in government, private sector organizations, or any individual working outside any organization who have made distinguished contributions in terms of path-breaking research, innovation, or discovery in any field of science, technology, or technology-led innovation shall be eligible for the awards.
- ✓ People of Indian origin staying abroad with exceptional contributions benefiting Indian communities or society shall also be eligible for the awards.
- ✓ Scientists will be selected across 13 domains, namely Physics, Chemistry, Biological Sciences, Mathematics & Computer Science, Earth Science, Medicine, Engineering Sciences, Agricultural Science, Environmental Science, Technology & Innovation, Atomic Energy, Space Science and Technology, and Others.
- ✓ The representation from each domain/field, including gender parity will be ensured.
- ✓ The awards shall be given in following four categories:
- ✓ Vigyan Ratna (VR) award will recognize lifetime achievements and contributions made in any field of science and technology.
- ✓ Vigyan Shri (VS) award will recognize distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology.
- ✓ Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) award will recognize and encourage young scientists up to the age of 45 years who made an exceptional contribution in any field of science and technology.

- ✓ Vigyan Team (VT) award to be given to a team comprising three or more scientists/researchers/innovators who have made an exceptional contribution working in a team in any field of science and technology.
- ✓ All nominations received for the RVP awards are placed before the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC), headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India.
- ✓ The award ceremony for all categories of awards will be held on 23rd August (National Space Day). All Awards will have a Sanad and a medal.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Pinaka-MK3 weapon system:

1. It is a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
2. It delivers lethal and responsive fire against a variety of area targets located within a range of 2000 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

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is equipping India with a formidable new weapon: the Pinaka-MK3, which is currently under development.
- ✓ What is Pinaka?
- ✓ Pinaka is a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
- ✓ It is designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a laboratory of the DRDO.
- ✓ It delivers lethal and responsive fire against a variety of area targets, such as exposed enemy troops, armoured and soft-skin vehicles, communication centres, air terminal complexes, and fuel and ammunition dumps.
- ✓ The range of the Pinaka Mk-1 is 48 kilometers, the Pinaka Mk-I Enhanced has a range of 60 kilometers and the Pinaka Mk-II has a range of 90 kilometers.
- ✓ About Pinaka-MK3:
- ✓ The advanced version follows in the footsteps of the original Pinaka system.
- ✓ DRDO is working on two variants of the Pinaka-MK3 rocket launcher.
- ✓ The first variant is expected to have a range of 120 kilometers or even more.
- ✓ The range of the subsequent variants will be 300 kilometers.
- ✓ The speed of the Pinaka-MK3 is 5757.70 kilometers per hour.

O. Exercise Mitra Shakti, was conducted between India and:

- A) Russia
B) Nepal
C) Indonesia
D) Sri Lanka

Answer : D

- ✓ Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army will kick off their joint exercise, “Mitra Shakti,” at Maduru Oya in Sri Lanka’s Southern Province.
- ✓ It is a joint military exercise between India and the Sri Lankan army.
- ✓ This year it is the 10th edition of the exercise.
- ✓ A unit of 120 soldiers from the Indian Army’s Rajputana Rifles (Raj Rif) will participate in this exercise.

- ✓ The focus of this year's exercise is on joint operations in semi-urban environments, aligning with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which deals with actions regarding threats to peace and security.
- ✓ This collaboration is designed to enhance the armies' abilities to handle contemporary security challenges, such as counter-terrorism and urban warfare

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ India will host the international air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in two phases, taking place in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan
- ✓ India Army off to Mongolia to take part in 21st EX- KHAAN QUEST 2024 will be held in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ✓ An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent is participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024 which is scheduled to be conducted from 12 July 24 to 02 August 24 in Australia.
- ✓ Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, that was deployed on mission in south China Sea and north Pacific Ocean, has reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, world's largest naval exercise.
- ✓ Indian Air Force and Egyptian Air Force participated in the Exercise HOPEX 2024.
- ✓ The 8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise(JIMEX-24) has started at Yokosuka, Japan
- ✓ Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy are taking part in two mega multinational war games named Exercise Red Flag and RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific).
- ✓ 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.

Q. Which Indian leader has been recently conferred with Timor Leste's highest civilian award the Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste?

A) Narendra Modi	B) Draupadi Murmu
C) Amiya Kumar Bagchi	D) Abhijit Banerjee

Answer : B

- ✓ President Murmu receives the Highest Civilian Award of Timor Leste.
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the highest civilian award of Timor Leste - Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste, by Timor Leste President Jose Ramos Horta.
- ✓ The award was conferred to President Murmu on 10 August 2024 at a function in the Timor-Leste capital, Dili.
- ✓ President Murmu is on a three-nation tour of - Fiji, New Zealand and Timor Leste from 5 to 10 August 2024. First, she visited Fiji (5-7 August) then to New Zealand (8 & 9 August) and reached Timor Leste on 10 August.
- ✓ Highlights of President Murmu's Visit to Timor Leste
- ✓ President Murmu is the first Indian President to visit Timor Leste.
- ✓ She met the Timor Leste President José Ramos Horta and discussed issues of mutual interest.
- ✓ President asked for India's assistance in IT digital infrastructure, medical and pharmaceutical sectors and Capacity-building.
- ✓ Later, President Murmu met the Prime Minister of Timor Leste Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao
- ✓ Three MoUs Signed between India and Timor Leste
- ✓ Three agreements were signed between the two countries during the meeting of the Timor Leste Prime Minister and the Indian President. These MoUs are as follows;
- ✓ Prasar Bharati of India will cooperate with the Public broadcaster of Timor Leste - Radio Televisaun Timor Leste,
- ✓ No Visa requirements for official and diplomatic passport holders,
- ✓ Both countries to further cooperation on cultural exchange programs.
- ✓ About Timor Leste
- ✓ Timor Leste, which was earlier known as East Timor, is an island country in Southeast Asia.
- ✓ It has an observer status in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN).
- ✓ President: Jose Ramos Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner
- ✓ Prime Minister : Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão
- ✓ Capital: Dili
- ✓ Currency: US Dollar

HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD IN NEWS 2024

- President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the highest civilian award of Timor Leste - Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste,
- President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with Fiji's highest civilian award- Companion of the Order of Fiji.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives Russia's highest civilian honour, the Order of St Andrew the Apostle, for outstanding services in enhancing bilateral relations.
- HCL Technologies chairperson Roshini Nadar has been conferred with France's highest civilian award, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur or the Knight of the Legion of Honour.
- Bhutan has conferred its highest civilian award Order of the Druk Gyalpo on Narendra Modi.
- President of India, Droupadi Mumrmu, conferred India's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, on the former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh, PV Narasimha Rao, former Chief Minister of Bihar Karpoori Thakur, famous agricultural scientist M.S.Swaminathan & Former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani.
- Shashi Tharoor was awarded France's highest civilian honor 'Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur'
- ISRO scientist VR Lalitambika has been honored with France's highest civilian award 'The Legion of Honour'

Q. The Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is located in which one of the following states?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has commissioned the largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW at Omkareshwar.
- ✓ About Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project:
- ✓ It is located at Omkareshwar in District Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The floating power plant was developed on the backwaters of Omkareshwar dam (it is a gravity dam on the Narmada River).
- ✓ It is the biggest solar park in India and the largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW energy.
- ✓ This project was developed under the Union Ministry of Renewable Energy.
- ✓ The project is executed by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of SJVN, a joint venture between the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ Project Cost: Rs. 646 crores
- ✓ It is projected to generate 196.5 million units of electricity in its initial year of operation and a cumulative 4,629.3 million units over 25 years.
- ✓ On commissioning, it will reduce 2.3 lakh tons of carbon emissions and will significantly contribute to the Government of India's mission of net zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- ✓ The project will also help in water conservation by reducing water evaporation.
- ✓ The project has been developed through competitive tariff bidding on Build Own and Operate basis for 25 years at a rate of Rs 3.26 per unit.

Q. Which feature film has won the best feature film award in the 70th National Film Awards 2022?

- A) Manichitrathazhu
- B) Aattam
- C) Sandesham
- D) Kireedam

Answer : B

Q. Who has won the best director award in the feature film category of the 70th National Film Awards 2022?

- A) Sooraj R. Barjatya
- B) Ashutosh Gowariker
- C) Mani Ratnam
- D) Neeraj Pandey

Answer : A

- ✓ Sooraj R. Barjatya for the Hindi film Uunchai

Q. Who has won the Best Male Actor award in the feature film category of the 70th National Film Awards 2022?

- A) Mammooty
- B) Shivaji Ganesan
- C) Rishab Shetty
- D) Mahesh Babu

Answer : C

- ✓ Rishab Shetty for the film Kantara

Q.

- A) Kannada
C) Malayalam

Answer : A

Q.

- A) Ayena
C) Gulmohar

Answer : A

- ✓ Ayena (Hindi/Urdu), Directed by Siddhant Sarin
- ✓ The 70th National Film Awards for the year 2022 were announced on 16 August 2024. The head of the jury for the various segments of the National Film Awards presented the list of winners of the 70th National Film Awards to the Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi
- ✓ Rahul Rawail was the Chairperson of the Feature Film Jury, Nila Madhab Panda was the Chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury and Gangadhar Mudalair was the Chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury.
- ✓ The films which were made in 2022 were considered for the awards.
- ✓ The winners will be conferred the award in a ceremony to be hosted by the ministry later on.
- ✓ The 70th National Film Awards for the year 2022 were announced on 16 August 2024.
- ✓ The head of the jury for the various segments of the National Film Awards presented the list of winners of the 70th National Film Awards to the Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi
- ✓ Rahul Rawail was the Chairperson of the Feature Film Jury, Nila Madhab Panda was the Chairperson of the Non-Feature Film Jury and Gangadhar Mudalair was the Chairperson of the Best Writing on Cinema Jury.
- ✓ The films which were made in 2022 were considered for the awards.
- ✓ The winners will be conferred the award in a ceremony to be hosted by the ministry later on.
- ✓ List of Important Award winner (Feature Film Category)
- ✓ Best Feature Film - Aattam (Malayalam), Director: Anand Ekarshi
- ✓ Best Debut Film of a Director- Fouja (Hrriyavi), Director Parmod Kumar
- ✓ Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment- Kantara (Kannada), Director Rishab Shetty
- ✓ Best Feature Film Promoting Social, National, and Environmental Values- Kutch Express (Gujarati) - Director: Viral Shah
- ✓ Best Film in AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects Gaming & Comic)- Brahmastra Part -1 Shiva, Director: Ayan Mukerji
- ✓ Best Direction -Uunchai (Hindi), Director: Sooraj R. Barjatya
- ✓ Best Actor in a Leading Role- Rishab Shetty for the film Kantara
- ✓ Best Actress in a Leading Role- Nithya Menen for film Thiruchitrambalam (Tamil), Manasi Parekh - Kutch Express (Gujarati),
- ✓ Best Actor in a Supporting Role -Pavan Raj Malhotra for the film Fouja
- ✓ Best Actress in a Supporting Role - Neena Gupta for the film Uunchai
- ✓ Best Child Artist - Sreepath for film Malikappuram (Malayalam)
- ✓ Best Male Playback Singer -Arijit Singh for the film Brahmastra
- ✓ Best Female Playback Singer -Bombay Jayashri for film Chaayum Veyil (Malayalam)

- ✓ Best Music Direction - Pritam for the film Brahmastra
- ✓ Other Category
- ✓ Best Hindi Film- Gulmohar Directed by Rahul V. Chittella
- ✓ Best Tiwa film -Sikaisal (If Only Trees Could Talk), Directed by Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah
- ✓ Special Mention - Gulmohar (Hindi) and Kadhikan (Malayalam)
- ✓ Best Non-Feature Film- Ayena (Hindi/Urdu), Directed by Siddhant Sarin
- ✓ Award for Best Book on Cinema- Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography(English) Author-Anirudha Bhattacharjee & Parthiv Dhar
- ✓ Award for Best Film Critic-Deepak Dua (Hindi)

MOST IMPORTANT FLIMFARE AWARD IN NEWS 2024

- **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.
- Actress Anasuya Sengupta created history at the Cannes Film Festival by winning the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard segment for her film Shameless.
- Payal Kapadia's directed film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the Grand Prix award
- 96th Academy Awards 2024 (Oscar Award)
- **Best Feature Film :**
- Oppenheimer
- Best Male Actor : Cilian Murphy for Oppenheimer
- Best Actress : Emma Stone for Poor Things
- Best Director : Christopher Nolan for Oppenheimer
- BAFTA Awards 2024
- Best Film : Oppenheimer
- Best Director : Christopher Nolan for Oppenheimer
- Best Actress : Emma Stone for Poor Things
- Best Actor : Cillian Murphy, for Oppenheimer
- Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024
- Best Actor : Shah Rukh Khan for Jawan
- Best Actress : Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway
- Best Film : Jawan
- Best Director : Sandeep Reddy Vanga for Animal
- Best Film (Critics) : 12th Fail
- Best International Feature Film : Oppenheimer
- 69th Filmfare Awards 2024
- Best Film (Popular) - 12th Fail
- Best Director - Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor -Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- Best Actress - Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- Lifetime Achievement Award - David Dhawan
- 69th National Film Awards 2021
- Best Feature Film: Rocketry - The Nambi Effects
- Best Actor: Allu Arjun (Pushpa The Rise)
- Best Direction: Nikhil Mahajan (Marathi film) Godavari
- Best Actress: Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi) Kriti Sanon (Mimi)

Q.

2. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority act as a nodal agency of this programme.

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

- ✓ Union Minister of Port Shipping and Waterways officially launched the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP).
- ✓ **About Green Tug Transition Program**
- ✓ GTTP was launched on May 22, 2023, is a key initiative under the 'Panch Karma Sankalp'.
- ✓ It is designed to phase out conventional fuel-based harbour tugs operating in Indian Major Ports and replace them with green tugs powered by cleaner and more sustainable alternate fuels.
- ✓ Implementation phases
- ✓ Phase 1 of the GTTP will begin on October 1, 2024, and continue until December 31, 2027.
- ✓ During this phase, four major ports—Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Deendayal Port Authority, Paradip Port Authority, and V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority will procure or charter at least two green tugs each, based on standardized designs and specifications issued by the Standing Specification Committee (SSC).
- ✓ National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) will act as the nodal entity for this programme.
- ✓ India aims at becoming a 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030 with the launch of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP).
- ✓ National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS) will act as the nodal entity for this programme.
- ✓ India aims at becoming a 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030 with the launch of the Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP).
- ✓ 'Green Hybrid Tugs' will be powered by Green Hybrid Propulsion systems. These Green hybrid tugs will subsequently adopt non-fossil fuel solutions like (Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen).

Q.

1. It provides information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis.
2. It is developed by the Central Water Commission.

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

- ✓ Union Minister for Jal Shakti launched the Version 2.0 of the 'FloodWatch India' mobile application developed by the Central Water Commission (CWC).
- ✓ It gives information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.

- ✓ The in-house developed user-friendly app has readable and audio broadcast and all the information is available in 2 languages, viz. English and Hindi.
- ✓ Another feature of the app includes real-time flood monitoring where users can check up-to-date flood situations throughout the country.
- ✓ It utilizes near real-time river flow data from various sources.
- ✓ It also provides flood forecasts at the nearest location where users can check the flood advisory at the station nearest to them on the Home Page itself.
- ✓ The app will also provide State-wise/Basin-wise Flood Forecast (up to 24 hours) or Flood Advisory (up to 7 days) which can be accessed by selecting specific stations, state wise or basin wise from the dropdown menu.
- ✓ This app utilizes advanced technologies such as satellite data analysis, mathematical modelling, and real-time monitoring to deliver accurate and timely flood forecasts.
- ✓ New features in FloodWatch India 2.0
- ✓ It provides current information at additional 392 flood monitoring stations, taking up the total number of stations to 592, thus imparting users with an extensive and detailed overview of flood conditions across the country.
- ✓ It also provides additional information regarding the storage positions of 150 major reservoirs in the country which shall help in better understanding of the possible flood situation in their downstream areas.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding of Long Range Glide Bomb (GAURAV):

1. It is an Air to Surface LRGB with conventional warheads.
2. It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

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

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has carried out a successful maiden flight test of Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB), GAURAV from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ✓ It is an air launched 1,000 kg class glide bomb capable of hitting targets at long distance.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is an Air to Surface LRGB with conventional warheads to destroy enemy air strips, bunkers, hard installations, buildings etc.
- ✓ It is designed to integrate with fighter aircrafts.
- ✓ It consists of an Inertial Navigation based guidance system with Digital Control.
- ✓ GAURAV has been designed and developed indigenously by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.
- ✓ After being launched, the glide bomb steers towards the target using a highly accurate hybrid navigation scheme with a combination of INS and GPS data.
- ✓ During the flight test, the glide bomb hit the target erected at Long Wheeler's island with pinpoint accuracy.
- ✓ Complete flight data during the test launch was captured by Telemetry and Electro optical tracking systems deployed by Integrated Test Range along the coastline.

DRDO IN NEWS 2024

- DRDO has carried out a successful maiden flight test of Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB), GAURAV from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- DRDO has commissioned a Bengaluru-based firm to indigenously develop a receiver chip to acquire and disseminate Indian time for Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) developed by ISRO.
- DRDO has sanctioned seven new projects for the private sector under the Technology Development Fund scheme.
- DRDO has taken up a preliminary study on the design and development of an indigenous conventional submarine under Project-76
- Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) developed by the Jodhpur Laboratory of the Research DRDO was formally handed over to the Indian Navy at a function held in New Delhi
- 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 Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
- Founded : 1 January 1958
- Headquarters : New Delhi
- Motto : "Strength's Origin is in Knowledge"
- Chairman : Sameer V Kamat

Q. Teesta-V Hydropower Station, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following states?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Sikkim
- C) Assam
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ A landslide damaged six houses and a building of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at the site of its Teesta-V hydropower station in Sikkim's Gangtok district recently.
- ✓ **About Teesta-V Hydropower Station:**
- ✓ It is a 510 MW hydropower project located on the Teesta River basin in Gangtok district, Sikkim.
- ✓ This run-of-river project has an 88.6-meter high, 176.5-meter-long, concrete gravity dam impounding a regulating reservoir for daily power peaking.
- ✓ It has been developed in a single phase. The project construction commenced in 1999 and subsequently entered into commercial operation in 2008
- ✓ The project is developed and owned by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).
- ✓ **Key Facts about Teesta River:**

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- ✓ It is a trans-Himalayan River flowing through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal and Rangpur in Bangladesh.
- ✓ It is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- ✓ This river forms a boundary between Sikkim and West Bengal.

Q. Which day is observed as National Space Day in India?

- A) 22 August B) 23 August
C) 21 August D) 24 August

Answer : B

- ✓ Nation Observes first National Space Day on 23 August 2024.
- ✓ The country will celebrate its first National Space Day on 23 August 2024 to mark its remarkable capability and achievements in space.
- ✓ The Indian space programme, which started with the launching of a sounding rocket from Thumba in Kerala on 21 November 1963, has reached a stage where it has developed the capability to land rovers on moons and send rockets to explore other planets like Mars (Mangalyaan Mission) and Sun (Aditya mission).
- ✓ The Indian Space Programme flag bearer, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is considered one of the world's best space agencies.
- ✓ The government of India announced 23 August as National Space Day to mark the landing of the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan -3 mission on the moon's south pole.
- ✓ India became the fourth country after the Soviet Union, the United States of America, and China to land a rover on the moon and the first country to land on the moon's south pole.
- ✓ The Vikarm lander landed on the 23rd of August, 2023, at 18.04 Indian time at the 69.37-degree South latitude and 32.35-degree East longitude of the moon's surface.
- ✓ The government of India later renamed the place where the Vikram lander landed as Shiv Shakti Point.
- ✓ Chandrayaan -3 mission
- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched by ISRO from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on 14 July 2023 on a GSLV—Mark III (LVM-3) heavy-lift rocket. The spacecraft carried a lander, Vikram, and a rover, Pragyan.
- ✓ Unlike the Chandrayaan -2 mission, the Chandrayaan -3 mission did not have an orbiter to orbit around the moon.
- ✓ The estimated budget of the Chandrayaan -3 mission was Rs 615 crore.
- ✓ A 2-meter-tall Vikram, with a mass of just over 1,700 kg, carried a 26-kg lunar rover named Pragyan to the surface of the moon..
- ✓ The lunar Rover Pragmaan conducted a series of experiments, including a spectrometer analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface.
- ✓ The Pragyan rover, deployed on the lunar surface, explored the nearby area by traversing about 103 meters over the next ten Earth days. 14 Earth Days is equal to one Lunar Day.
- ✓ Theme of first National Space Day 2024
- ✓ 'Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga -is the theme of the first National Space Day 2024.

Q. Which institution has been ranked as the best institution in the Overall Institutions of the 9th edition of India Ranking?

- A) IIT Bombay
B) IIT Kanpur
C) IIT Madras
D) IIT Hyderabad

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology(IIT) Madras has retained its top spot in the recently released 9th India Rankings report which ranks the High Educational Institutions in India.
- ✓ IIT Madras retained its first position in the Overall Category for the sixth consecutive year, from 2019 to 2024.
- ✓ The 9th Indian Rankings report was released by the Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan on 12 August 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ Changes in the 9th India Ranking of HEIs
- ✓ In the 9th India Ranking, two changes have been made as compared to the 8th edition.
- ✓ State Public Universities, Open Universities, and Skill Universities categories have been added.
- ✓ Innovation Institution category has been included in the India Ranking.
- ✓ Top Three Institutions in the 9th India Ranking 2024
- ✓ Here is the list of the top three institutions in the following categories.

Overall Categories

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State/Union Territory
1	IIT-Madras	1959	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
2	Indian Institute of Science	1909	Bengaluru	Karnataka
3	IIT Bombay	1958	Mumbai	Maharashtra

Universities

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State /Union Territory
1	Indian Institute of Science	1909	Bengaluru	Karnataka
2	Jawaharlal Nehru University	1969	New Delhi	Delhi
3	Jamia Millia Islamia	1920	New Delhi	Delhi

State Public Universities

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State /Union Territory
1	Anna University	1978	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
2	Jadavpur University,	1955	Kolkata	West Bengal
3	Savitribai Phule University	1949	Pune	Maharashtra

✓ **About India Rankings**

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Human Resource Development approved the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2015. The Ministry was later renamed as the Union Ministry of Education.
- ✓ The NIRF outlines a methodology for ranking the country's higher educational Institutions (HEIs). The HEIs are ranked on five parameters: Teaching, Learning and Resources, Research and Professional Practices, Graduation Outcomes, Outreach and Inclusivity, and Perception.
- ✓ The ministry released the first Indian Ratings of the country's HEIs in 2016 based on the NIRF.

Q. Which new category was added for the first time in the 9th edition of the Indian Ranking report based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)?

- A) Agriculture and Allied Sectors B) Architecture and Planning
C) Research Institutions D) Innovation Institution

Answer : D

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the RESET Programme:

1. It is aimed at empowering retired athletes on their career development journey.
2. The sports persons who are aged between 20-50 years and have been winners of an International Medal are eligible for this initiative.

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

- ✓ Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment launched the “Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training” (RESET) Programme on the occasion of National Sports Day in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training Programme is aimed at empowering our retired sportspersons who have played for the country and brought immense laurels to the nation.
- ✓ It will support retired athletes on their career development journey by empowering them with the necessary knowledge and skills and making them more employable.
- ✓ It represents a significant step towards recognizing and utilizing the invaluable experience and expertise of our retired athletes.
- ✓ **Eligibility:**
- ✓ The athletes, who have retired from an active sports career and are aged between 20-50 years and who have been winners of an International Medal/participants in international events or have been National medallists/State medallists/participants in competitions recognized by National Sports Federations/Indian Olympic Association/Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports are eligible to apply for courses under RESET Programme.
- ✓ Initially, the programmes will be of two levels based on educational qualifications viz., Class 12th and above and Class 11th and below.
- ✓ For this pilot phase of the RESET Programme, Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE) will be the lead institute to implement the Programme.

Q. Which country has recently unveiled a new type of “suicide drone”?

- A) Japan
- B) China
- C) India
- D) North Korea

Answer : D

- ✓ North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently unveiled a new type of “suicide drone”.
- ✓ These drones, designed to carry explosives and crash into enemy targets like guided missiles.
- ✓ The test was successful, with all drones accurately identifying and destroying their designated targets after flying along preset routes.
- ✓ Experts suggest that the technology behind these drones may have Russian origins.
- ✓ Suicide drones are explosive-carrying unmanned drones designed to be deliberately crashed into enemy targets, effectively acting as guided missiles.

MISSILE IN NEWS 2024

- Indian Air Force has given its green signal for the production of 200 Astra mark-1 (Mk-1) missiles for its Su-30 MKI and the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft Tejas.
- The DRDO developed the Astra Mk-1, which is being manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- The Astra is an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile. Astra Mk-1 has a range of 80-110 km with a maximum speed of 4.5 Mach.
- Indian “Iron-Dome” Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) is competing against Chinese-made Sky Dragon-50 air defense systems to secure an order from Brazil.
- India has successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, the Rudram-1 (air-to-surface missile), developed by the DRDO for the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- India's Strategic Forces Command has successfully tested a new model of its Medium-Range Ballistic Missile, Crystal Maze 2.
- Russia will supply the remaining two units of the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system in the next year.
- India has started supplying BrahMos supersonic missiles to the Philippines
- DRDO successfully test-fired the long-range ‘Nirbhay cruise missile’ at the Integrated Test Range Chandipur in Odisha.
- DRDO and India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC) have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'. Agni-Prime has a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000 km
- North Korea announced testing of an anti-aircraft Pyoljji-1-2 missile and a super large strategic cruise missile Hwasal-1 Ra-3 warhead in the West Sea of Korea
- India has conducted the first successful flight test of nuclear ballistic missile Agni-5. Agni-5 missile developed under Make in India project by DRDO.
- Agni 5 missile is the longest range missile of the Agni series with a range of over 5000 km.

Q. Which day is celebrated as ‘National Sports Day’ annually?

- A) 27 August
- B) 28 August
- C) 29 August
- D) 30 August

Answer : C

- ✓ Every year since 2012, the country has observed 29 August as National Sports Day.
- ✓ This day pays tribute to one of the greatest hockey players in the world, Major Dhyan Chand, also known as a ‘Wizard of Hockey’.

- ✓ 29 August is the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand, whose wizardry with a hockey stick was instrumental in securing India a gold medal in the 1928 Amsterdam, 1932 Los Angeles, and 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics.
- ✓ The government of India started National Sports Day in 2012 to promote sports culture in the country and honour sports persons' achievements
- ✓ Dhyan Chand was born as Dhyan Singh on August 29, 1905, in Prayagraj (earlier Allahabad) in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ He joined the British India Army and took up Hockey while serving in the Army.
- ✓ He represented India in the 1928 Amsterdam Summer Olympics, where India won a gold medal.
- ✓ From 1928 until his retirement in 1948, he ruled the world of hockey, earning him the nicknames 'Hockey Wizard' and 'The Magician'.
- ✓ He represented India in 185 matches and scored over 400 goals during this period.
- ✓ Major Dhyan Chand was bestowed India's third highest civilian award -Padma Bhushan in 1956.
- ✓ He is the only hockey player in whose honour the government has issued a commemorative postage stamp.
- ✓ The government of India instituted the Major Dhyan Chand Award for lifetime achievements in sports in 2002. It is given to individuals for their contribution to the promotion of sports.
- ✓ The Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award, earlier known as the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, was renamed in 2021 to honour Major Dhyan Chand.
- ✓ It is the highest honour given by the government of India in the field of sports.
- ✓ The Khel Ratna is awarded for outstanding performances in sports spanning over four years

Q. What is the theme of 'World Water Week 2024'?

- A) Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future
- B) Valuing Water
- C) Groundwater – making the invisible visible
- D) Accelerating Change

Answer : A

- ✓ The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) organizes World Water Week annually, and has been doing so since 1991.
- ✓ The 2024 event will take place from August 25–29, both online and in-person at the Stockholm Waterfront Congress Centre.
- ✓ The theme for 2024 is “Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future”.
- ✓ World Water Week is a leading conference that focuses on global water issues, and brings together a diverse group of people from around the world, including decision-makers, business leaders, city planners, activists, and researchers.

Q. Mount Kilimanjaro, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- A) Botswana
- B) Congo
- C) Tanzania
- D) Ethiopia

Answer : C

- ✓ Five-year-old Teghbir Singh from Ropar, Punjab, climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa.
- ✓ He started the trek on August 18 and reached the Uhuru peak on August 23.
- ✓ Mount Kilimanjaro stands at over 19,340 feet (5895 meters) in Tanzania.

- ✓ The trek posed challenges like low oxygen and altitude sickness, with temperatures dropping to -10°C .
- ✓ Teghbir received a Mountain Climbing Certificate from Tanzania National Parks.
- ✓ He matched the world record set by a Serbian boy for summiting Kilimanjaro at age five.
- ✓ Teghbir is now the youngest Asian and Indian to achieve this feat.

Q. Bureau of Police Research and Development recently celebrated its foundation day, where is its headquarters?

- A) Kolkata
B) Jaipur
C) New Delhi
D) Mumbai

Answer : C

- ✓ The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) recently celebrated its 54th Foundation Day at its headquarters in New Delhi.
- ✓ BPR&D was set up in 1970 by severing the Police Research and Advisory Council under the Union Home Ministry.
- ✓ Its headquarters is located in New Delhi

Q. Which country will host the 8th Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024?

- A) China
B) Thailand
C) India
D) Malaysia

Answer : C

- ✓ Rajgir, Bihar to host 8th Women's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024.
- ✓ Rajgir, Bihar, will host the 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament 2024.
- ✓ This is the second consecutive time that India will host the tournament.
- ✓ India hosted the 7th Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament in Ranchi, Jharkhand, from 27 October to 5 November 2023, which the Indian team won.
- ✓ The Asian Hockey Federation President, Dato Fumio Ogura, announced India as the host of the 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament 2024 on 29th August 2024.
- ✓ The 8th Women's Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament 2024 will be hosted by Hockey India and the Bihar government from November 11 to 20, 2024.
- ✓ The tournament will be played at the newly developed Rajgir Hockey Stadium in Rajgir
- ✓ Asian Hockey Federation
- ✓ Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- ✓ President: Dato Fumio Ogura.
- ✓ South Korea is the most successful team, having won it three times, followed by India and Japan, which have each won twice.

Q. Which organization signed an MoU with the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, RINL for the supply of hydraulic and lubricating oils & greases for a period of 5 years from 2024 to 2029?

- A) IOCL
B) NTPC
C) HPCL
D) BPCL

Answer : A

- ✓ RINL & IOCL ink MoU towards the supply of hydraulic and lubricating oils & greases to RINL
- ✓ The corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, RINL has signed an MoU with M/s. IOCL for the supply of hydraulic and lubricating oils & greases for a period of 5 years from 2024 to 2029.

- ✓ This MoU between RINL & IOCL will stand as a benchmark to show how a progressive collaborative work can be taken by different industries towards Nation building.
- ✓ It may be noted that the 1st MoU was signed in the year 1994-95 between RINL & IOCL.

Q. Which ministry approved 4 Start-Ups in the field of Technical Textiles, each receiving a grant of approximately INR 50 Lakhs under the 'Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)' scheme?

- A) Ministry of Textiles B) Ministry of Commerce
C) Ministry of Finance D) Ministry of MSMEs

Answer : A

- ✓ Secretary, Ministry of Textiles chaired the 8th Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) meeting under the National Technical Textiles Mission, at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The committee has approved 4 Start-Ups with a grant of approx. INR 50 Lakhs, each, under the 'Grant for Research & Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT)' scheme.
- ✓ The committee has also approved a grant of approx. INR 20 Cr. to 5 Education Institutes to introduce courses in Technical Textiles under the 'General Guidelines for Enabling of Academic Institutes in Technical Textiles'.
- ✓ The approved Start-Up projects are focused on key strategic areas of Composites, Sustainable Textiles, and Smart Textiles.
- ✓ The approved Education Institutes have proposed to introduce a new B.Tech courses in different fields and applications of technical textiles including Geotextiles, Geosynthetics, Composites, Civil Structures, etc

Q. SIG 716 Rifle, recently seen in the news, is manufactured by which one of the following countries?

- A) Russia
B) Germany
C) United States
D) Israel

Answer : C

- ✓ Ministry of Defence recently signed a repeat order for 73,000 SIG716 rifles from Sig Sauer of the U.S., and deliveries are expected to be completed by end-2025.
- ✓ **About SIG 716 Rifle:**
- ✓ It is an American-made automatic assault rifle.
- ✓ It is manufactured by the United States firearms maker, Sig Sauer.
- ✓ In India, the army has extensively integrated the SIG 716 into its ranks, particularly for troops operating in mountainous areas and critical border regions.
- ✓ **Features:**
- ✓ The rifle has a total length of 34.39 inches and a barrel length of 15.98 inches.
- ✓ Its total weight is 3.58 kg.
- ✓ It has a higher recoil and higher calibre, meant to shoot-to-kill targets at 600 metres.
- ✓ These rifles have high-powered 7.62x51mm caliber, offering longer range and greater lethality than the existing INSAS and AK-47 rifles currently in the service of Indian armed forces.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Anubhav Awards:

1. It recognizes the contribution made by Retired Officials to nation-building while working in Government.
2. It requires central Government pensioners to submit their Anubhav write-ups, 8 months before retirement and up to 1 year after their retirement.

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

- ✓ Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) organised the 7th Anubhav Awards ceremony to recognise the contribution made by Central Government employees while in service.
- ✓ It recognizes the contribution made by Retired Officials to nation-building while working in Government and to document the administrative history of India by written narratives.
- ✓ The ANUBHAV Portal, established in March 2015, serves as an online platform for retiring and retired government employees to share their experiences.
- ✓ The portal was launched by the Government of India, Ministry of personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Pension & Pensioners' welfare.
- ✓ **Objectives**
- ✓ It aims to create a database of significant suggestions and work experiences.
- ✓ It channels the human resources of retiring employees for nation-building.
- ✓ Enable Ministries/ Departments to take crucial steps while considering useful and replicable suggestions.
- ✓ Eligibility: To participate in the scheme, retiring Central Government employees/pensioners are required to submit their Anubhav write-ups, 8 months prior to retirement and up to 1 year after their retirement.
- ✓ Thereafter, the write-ups will be published after assessment by concerned Ministries/Departments. The published write-ups will be shortlisted for the Anubhav Awards and Jury Certificates.
- ✓ Each ANUBHAV Awardee will be felicitated with a medal and certificate and a Prize of 10,000 rupees, whereas a Jury certificate Winner will be presented with a medal and a certificate.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Awards to Teachers:

1. It is conferred on the exemplary teachers of higher education institutions and Polytechnics.
2. All teachers of age above 55 years are eligible for this award.

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

- ✓ Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education selected 16 teachers in HEIs and Polytechnic for National Awards to Teachers (NAT) 2024.
- ✓ The purpose of this award is to celebrate the unique contribution of some of the finest teachers in the country and to honor those teachers who through their commitment and industry have not only improved the quality of school education but also enriched the lives of their students.

- ✓ In Iran, for the first time, a woman will be the government spokesperson.
- ✓ At the suggestion of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, Fatemeh Mohajerani was appointed as the first female government spokesperson.
- ✓ Mohajerani, 54, is a Doctor of Business Administration from Edinburgh and has earlier served as the head of the Technical and Vocational Training University of Shariati (for women).

Q. Joseph Francis A. Pereira, a Christian from Pakistan, has become the first person in which state to receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)?

- A) Goa
B) Gujarat
C) Maharashtra
D) Bihar

Answer : A

- ✓ Joseph Francis A. Pereira, a Christian from Pakistan, has become the first person in Goa to receive Indian citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).
- ✓ Chief Minister Pramod Sawant presented Pereira with his citizenship certificate during a ceremony in Panaji, the state capital.
- ✓ Pereira, who now resides in Cansaulim, South Goa, expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for introducing the CAA.
- ✓ Pereira, 78, retired in 2013 after working for 37 years in Bahrain. He settled in Goa with his wife, Martha Pereira, who was already an Indian citizen.
- ✓ The Citizenship Amendment Act allows Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Christians, Parsis, and Buddhists from neighboring countries—Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan—who entered India before December 31, 2014, to apply for citizenship after verification.

Q. Who is the real owner of Telegram?

- A) Mike Krieger
B) Pavel Durov
C) Sergey Brin
D) Kevin Systrom

Answer : B

- ✓ Pavel Durov, the founder and CEO of Telegram, was arrested in Paris recently on charges related to the alleged use of his messaging platform for illicit activities, including drug trafficking and the distribution of child sexual abuse material.
- ✓ Telegram
- ✓ Founded by
- ✓ Telegram was founded in 2013 by Pavel Durov and his brother Nikolai.
- ✓ Before creating Telegram, Durov founded VKontakte, Russia's largest social network, but sold his stake and left Russia in 2014 after facing pressure from the Russian government to censor and hand over data on opposition activists.
- ✓ Telegram is now based in Dubai, which Durov considers a neutral location that supports the platform's commitment to user privacy and freedom of speech

Q. Which state government has launched “Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana?”

- A) Bihar
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Jharkhand
D) Himachal Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Cabinet, in a meeting at Shimla chaired by Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has approved a new scheme, “Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana”.
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide financial support to identified socially and economically vulnerable women and parents of disabled children so as to enable the education and well-being of their children.
- ✓ The Himachal Pradesh cabinet has approved Rs 53.21 crore for the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana for the financial year 2024-25
- ✓ The following persons of the state are eligible for the benefits under the Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana :
 - ✓ Children of widows, destitute women, divorced women parents of disabled children,
 - ✓ The income of the eligible women and parents of disabled children shall not be more than Rs 1 lakh per year, Parents of children under 18 years will receive monthly financial assistance of Rs 1000 per month from the state government to cover the child's educational, nutritional, and health expenses.
 - ✓ State government assistance will be provided to children pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, or vocational courses to meet tuition fees and hostel costs.
 - ✓ According to Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the scheme aims to; provide a supportive environment to the vulnerable section of society to empower them to live dignified lives

Q. India has recently signed a Security of Supply Arrangement with which country?

- A) Russia
- B) Japan
- C) Australia
- D) USA

Answer : D

- ✓ India and the United States of America (USA) have signed two new defence agreements—a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) and a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison—during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's official visit to the USA from 23 to 26 August 2024.
- ✓ During his visit, he met the American Secretary of Defence, Lloyd Austin, at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. The Pentagon is the world's second-largest office complex and houses the United States government's defence ministry. Surat Diamond Bourse in Surat, Gujarat, is the world's largest office complex.
- ✓ He also met the United States National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan.
- ✓ Before his meeting with Lloyd Austin, two agreements—a Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA) and a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Assignment of Liaison—were signed between the two countries to boost defence ties.
- ✓ **Security of Supply Arrangement (SOSA)**
- ✓ India is the 18th country with which the USA has signed the Security of Supply Arrangement. The agreement is non-binding, under which the USA can request priority delivery of defence items from Indian companies, and India can request priority delivery of defence items from American companies.
- ✓ This means that during war or any other emergency situation, both countries can request arms and ammunition from each other, and the other countries will supply them on a priority basis. However, the SOSA agreement is not binding. It means that a country can refuse to supply arms and ammunition in such a situation.
- ✓ The agreement is significant because it is the first step in building trust between the two countries. In the next step, both countries will sign the legally binding Reciprocal Defence Procurement Agreement (RDP).
- ✓ India is expected to post a senior military officer as the Liaison Officer to the US Special Operations Command ((SOCOM/USSOCOM)) headquarters in Florida.

Q. Who won the women's team title at the U17 World Wrestling Championships 2024?

A) China

B) India

C) Kazakhstan

D) Japan

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Women Shines at the U17 World Wrestling Championships 2024
- ✓ The young Indian women's wrestlers produced a stellar performance at the U17 World Wrestling Championships 2024, winning the team title and breaking the Japanese dominance in the championship.
- ✓ The Indian women's contingent won 8 out of the 10 medals won by the Indian wrestlers at the Championships, outshining the male wrestlers.
- ✓ The Indian contingent won 10 medals- 5 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze.
- ✓ At the U17 World Wrestling Championships 2023 in Istanbul, Turkiye, India, won one gold, seven silver, and three bronze medals.
- ✓ The U17 World Wrestling Championships 2024 was organised by the world wrestling governing body, United World Wrestling, in Amman, Jordan, from 19 to 25 August 2024.
- ✓ Indian Women's Wrestler won the Team Event
- ✓ For the first time in the U-17 World Wrestling Championships history, the Indian women's wrestlers won the team title.
- ✓ They won five gold, one silver, and two bronze medals to secure 185 points and win the team title. Japan came second with 146 points, and Kazakhstan came third.
- ✓ **Medal Winners of India**

Serial Number	Wrestler	Event	Medal
1	Aditi Kumari	Women's freestyle 43kg	Gold
2	Neha Sangwan	Women's freestyle 57 kg	Gold
3	Pulkrit	Women's freestyle 65 kg	Gold
4	Kajal	Women's freestyle 69kg	Gold
5	Mansi Lather	Women's freestyle 73kg	Gold
6	Shrutika Patil	Women's freestyle 46kg	Silver
7	Sainath Pardhi	Greco-Roman 51kg	Bronze
8	Ronak Dahiya	Greco-Roman 110kg	Bronze
9	Bala Raj	Women's freestyle 40kg	Bronze
10	Muskan	Women's freestyle 53 kg	Bronze

- ✓ International Cricket Council is the world governing body of cricket.
- ✓ It was founded as the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1909, but its name was changed to the International Cricket Conference in 1965, and in 1989, it was again changed to the International Cricket Council.

Q. What is the term of the Independent Chair of the International Cricket Council?

- A) 2 years
- B) 3 years
- C) 4 years
- D) 5 years

Answer : A

- ✓ A person is elected as the Independent Chair of the ICC for two years and a maximum of three terms

Q. Which country will host the 8th Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy 2024?

- A) India
- B) China
- C) Malaysia
- D) Singapore

Answer : B

- ✓ Harmanpreet Singh to lead at the 8th Asian Hockey Champions Trophy
- ✓ Hockey India has announced a new look national men's hockey squad, led by Harmanpreet Singh for the 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024.
- ✓ The 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 will be held at Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, People's Republic of China, from 8-17 September 2024.
- ✓ India is the defending champion of the Men's Asian Champions Trophy, having won the 7th edition in Chennai in 2023.
- ✓ The in-form Indian Captain, Harmanpreet Singh, who was the leading goal scorer at the 2024 Paris Olympics, will lead the Indian team. Midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad has been named vice-captain of the team.
- ✓ This is the first time the Indian hockey team will play without its legendary goalkeeper, PR Sreejesh, who retired after the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The Indian team coach is Craig Fulton
- ✓ The men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy has been organised by the Asian Hockey Federation since 2011.
- ✓ India is the most successful team in the men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy, with four title wins, followed by Pakistan, with three title wins.
- ✓ China, India, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, and Pakistan are participating in the 8th edition
- ✓ About the Asian Hockey Federation
- ✓ Asian Hockey Federation is the governing body of hockey in Asia and is affiliated with the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- ✓ Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Security Guard?

A) Trishneet Arora

B) B. Srinivasan

C) Farrhad Acidwalla

D) Nikhil Kamath

Answer : B

- ✓ Senior IPS officer B. Srinivasan Appointed as DG of NSG.
- ✓ The Appointment Committee of the Union Cabinet, in a meeting held in New Delhi on 27 August 2024, has approved the appointment of senior Indian Police Officer (IPS) B Srinivasan as the new Director General of the elite counter-terrorism force National Security Guard.
- ✓ The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was attended by the Union Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah.
- ✓ B Srinivasan will replace CRPF Director General Anish Dayal Singh, who was given the additional charge of the National Security Guard (NSG), following the appointment of the then NSG Director General Nalin Prabhat's appointment as a special Director General of Police of the Jammu and Kashmir Police.
- ✓ B. Srinivasan has been appointed as the Director General of the NSG till his date of retirement, which is 31 August 2027.
- ✓ 1992 batch B Srinivasan is a Bihar Cadre IPS officer and is currently the Director of Bihar Police Academy, Rajgir, Bihar.
- ✓ **About National Security Guard**
- ✓ The Government of India decided to set up an elite counter terrorism force in 1984. The National Security Act was enacted in 1986 and the National Security Guard came into existence on 22 September 1986.
- ✓ The NSG is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of the government of India.
- ✓ It is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ The NSG has been modelled on the special units of the British Army, Special Air Service (SAS) and the German special force GSG-9.
- ✓ The NSG has two forces - Special Action Group and Special Ranger Group.
- ✓ The Special Action Group comprises Army personnel, while the SRG comprises personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces and the State Police.
- ✓ Operational Headquarters: Manesar, Haryana
- ✓ Motto: Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha

NEW UPDATED LIST OF CHIEF AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Daljit Singh Chawdhary : Border Security Force (BSF)
- Rajwinder Singh Bhatti : Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- B. Srinivasan: National Security Guard (NSG)
- Vikas Lakhera : Assam Rifles
- Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi : 30th Chief of the Army Staff
- Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi : 26th Chief of the Naval Staff
- Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari : 24th Chief of the Air Staff
- Anish Dayal Singh : Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Rahul Rasgotra : Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan : Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
- Daljit Singh Chawdhary : Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- Rakesh Pal : Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh : National Cadet Corps (NCC)

Q.

1. It is a portal of the National Medical Commission (NMC) for the registration of all allopathic (MBBS) doctors in India.
2. It is linked with the Aadhaar ID of the doctors to ensure the individual's authenticity.

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

- ✓ Union Health Minister recently launched the National Medical Register Portal in New Delhi.
- ✓ About National Medical Register (NMR) Portal:
- ✓ It is a portal of the National Medical Commission (NMC) for the registration of all MBBS doctors eligible for registration in India.
- ✓ The NMR is mandated under Section 31 of the NMC Act, 2019, which states that the Ethics and Medical Registration Board (EMRB) of the NMC shall maintain a National Register in electronic form containing the name, address, and all recognised qualifications possessed by a licensed medical practitioner.
- ✓ NMR will be a comprehensive and dynamic database for all allopathic (MBBS) registered doctors in India.
- ✓ The uniqueness of the NMR is that it is linked with the Aadhaar ID of the doctors, which ensures the individual's authenticity.
- ✓ The whole process of registration in NMR is a very simple online process, and all the medical colleges/institutions (including the Institutes of National Importance (INIs), etc.). State Medical Councils (SMCs) are interlinked on the portal.
- ✓ Some data will be visible to the public and others will only be visible to the EMRB in the NMC, SMCs, the National Board of Examinations (NBE), and Medical Institutions (including INIs, etc.), and Registered Medical Practitioners (RMPs) as per the requirements.
- ✓ The NMR portal offers a variety of features, including the ability to add additional qualifications, track applications, suspend licenses and issue NMR ID cards and digital doctor certificates.

Q.

1. It aims to support the States and Union Territories in promoting literacy among non-literates in the age group of 15 and above.
2. It is based on technology and implemented predominantly through online mode.

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

- ✓ In a letter to all States, the Ministry of Education has defined 'literacy,' and what it means to achieve 'full literacy,' in the light of the renewed push for adult literacy under the New India Literacy Programme (NILP).
- ✓ **About New India Literacy Programme (NILP):**

Q. Who won the silver medal in the men's team event of the 3rd Asian Surfing Championship 2024?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Silver for Indian men's team at 3rd Asian Surfing Championships 2024.
- ✓ The Indian men's surfing team won a historic silver medal at the 3rd Asian Surfing Championships 2024, held at Thulusdhoo, Maldives. Maldives is hosting the 3rd Asian Surfing Championships 2024 at the picturesque island of Thulusdhoo from 17- 27 August 2024.
- ✓ The 3rd Asian Surfing Championships is also a qualifying event for the 2026 Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan. The surfing game will be introduced for the first time in an Asian Games at the 2026 Asian Games.
- ✓ Gold for Japan and Silver for India in the Maruhaba Cup
- ✓ Over 100 athletes from 20 countries participated in the five events at the 3rd Asian Surfing Championships 2024. These events included the men's and women's open division, a junior category, and a team event entitled ASF Maruhaba Cup.
- ✓ Japan won the gold and the Maruhaba Cup with 58.40 points. The Indian men's team, consisting of Kamali P, Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D and Sanjay Selvamani, won the silver medal with a score of 24.13.
- ✓ The Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), with 23.93 points, took third place and the bronze medal.
- ✓ The first Asian Surfing Championship was held in China in 2019. Following its success, the Asian Games Organising Committee decided to include Surfing in the 2026 Asian Games.

Q. Where was the review meeting of the Left-Wing Extremism affected states held in August 2024?

- A) New Delhi, India
B) Raipur, Chhattisgarh
C) Chennai, Tamil Nadu
D) Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Amit Shah Chairs seven LWE affected state's meeting in Raipur.
- ✓ Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, chaired a review meeting on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) and an inter-state coordination meeting in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on 24 August 2024. Speaking on the occasion, Amit Shah said that the central government is committed to eradicating Left-Wing Extremism (Naxalism) from the country before March 2026.
- ✓ The meeting was attended by seven states- Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana.
- ✓ **About Naxals or Left-Wing Extremism**
- ✓ Left-wing extremism refers to those groups or persons who are inspired by the ideology of the founder of modern communist China, Mao Zedong. The leftwing extremism in India wants to replace the constitutional system in India through an armed revolution and establish a communist government like China.
- ✓ The Left-wing extremists are also called the Naxals. In 1967, there was an armed revolt by the peasants in Naxalbari, West Bengal, inspired by the ideology of Mao. Since then, they are also called naxals.
- ✓ Left Wing Districts in India
- ✓ According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the total number of Naxal-affected districts was 38 in nine states in 2024.
- ✓ In 2024, the maximum affected districts were in Chhattisgarh (15 districts), Odisha (7), Jharkhand (5), Madhya Pradesh (3), Maharashtra, Telangana and Kerala 2 each and Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal 1 each.

Q. Which country will host the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024?

- A) India
- B) UAE
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Australia

Answer : A

- ✓ India's squad for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 has been announced, in which Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the team as captain while Smriti Mandhana will accompany her as vice-captain.
- ✓ Let us tell you that the T20 World Cup 2024 will be organized in the UAE from October 3 to October 20.
- ✓ In total, 23 matches will be played in Dubai and Sharjah.
- ✓ All the teams in the tournament have been divided into two groups

Q. Indian Railways plans to adopt nuclear energy as part of its green initiative to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by which year?

- A) 2025
- B) 2030
- C) 2035
- D) 2040

Answer : B

- ✓ The Indian Railways plans to adopt nuclear energy as part of its green initiative to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.
- ✓ About Initiative:
- ✓ Indian Railways is actively exploring using nuclear power through captive units as part of its strategy to increase reliance on non-fossil fuel sources.
- ✓ The first nuclear-powered train movements are expected to focus on circuits served by the Nabinagar Thermal Power Plant, leveraging existing infrastructure to test and expand nuclear energy use in rail transport.
- ✓ What are Nuclear-Powered Trains?
- ✓ Nuclear-powered trains utilise the heat generated from a nuclear reaction to produce steam, which drives turbines. One turbine powers the train, while another generates electricity for auxiliary systems such as lighting and air conditioning.
- ✓ The idea of nuclear-powered trains gained attention in the 1950s, especially in the USSR, where it became a goal of the Ministry of Transport

Q. Which state government will launch the Subhadra Yojana for women?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Odisha
- D) Rajasthan

Answer : C

- ✓ PM Modi to launch Odisha government's Subhadra Yojana.
- ✓ The Mohan Charan Manjhi government in Odisha has announced the details and guidelines of its ambitious social welfare programme for women, Subhadra Yojana. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the scheme on his birthday, which falls on 17 September 2024.
- ✓ The Women and Child Department of the Odisha government will be the nodal agency for the implementation of the Subhadra scheme.
- ✓ The Subhadra Scheme was an important feature of the BJP's 2024 Odisha Assembly elections manifesto.

- ✓ The Odisha government's flagship programme, the Subhadra Yojana, will be implemented for five years-2024-25 to 2028-29.
- ✓ The state government has allocated Rs 55,825 crore for the scheme for the next five years.
- ✓ Benefits under the Scheme
- ✓ The scheme is expected to cover around 1 crore women of the state in the age group of 21 -60 years.
- ✓ They will be paid Rs 10,000 per year in two installments. On Rakhi Purnima and 8 March, on the occasion of International Women's Day, the women beneficiaries will receive Rs 5,000 each.
- ✓ Eligibility Criteria for the Subhadra Yojana
- ✓ The age of the women shall be between 21 years -60 years.
- ✓ They shall be the residents of the state.
- ✓ Women receiving assistance of Rs 1500 per month or Rs 18,000 per year under any government scheme.

STATE GOVERNMENT IN NEWS 2024

- Assam launches 'Nijut Moina Scheme' to boost girls' education and combat child marriage
- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in India to provide cash to girl students for purchasing sanitary napkins
- Jharkhand has launched the State Widow Remarriage Promotion Scheme
- Chhattisgarh has decided to start the Shri Ramlala Darshan (Ayodhya Dham) Scheme in the state.
- Tamil Nadu has introduced guidelines for the "Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril" (Come Look For You, In Your Village) outreach program.
- Uttar Pradesh government is transforming Ayodhya under its 'Navya Ayodhya' project.
- Jharkhand Launches 'Abua Awas Yojna' (AAY) Housing Scheme.
- Gujarat introduced the Gyan Sahayak Scheme.
- Assam has introduced an upgraded version of its poverty alleviation scheme called Orunodoi 2.0.
- Maharashtra government has launched Lek Ladki Yojana and Namu Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana.
- Chhattisgarh has launched "Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas NYAY Yojana."
- Assam government is set to launch a new scheme called "Mukhyamantrir Atmanirbharshil Asom Abhiyan."
- Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu launched Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana.
- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, has granted approval for the 'Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI)' scheme.
- Jharkhand government has launched Mukhyamantri Gram Gadi Yojana.

Q. Which among the following best describes 'INS Mumbai', recently seen in the news?

- A) It is a torpedo launch and recovery vessel.
- B) It is a nuclear-powered submarine.
- C) It is a diesel-electric submarine.
- D) It is a guided missile destroyer.

Answer : D

- ✓ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mumbai will arrive at the port of Colombo for a three-day maiden visit to Sri Lanka.
- ✓ **About INS Mumbai:**
- ✓ INS Mumbai is the third of the Delhi-class guided missile destroyers, indigenously built and commissioned into the Indian Navy on 22 January 2001.
- ✓ It was constructed at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

- ✓ It was adjudged the 'Best Ship' thrice and the 'Most Spirited Ship' twice, which is a rare feat for any warship.
- ✓ The ship has been at the forefront of major Naval Operations like Op Parakram (2002), Op Sukoon (2006: evacuation of Indian, Nepalese, and Sri Lankan citizens from Lebanon), and Op Rahat (2015: evacuation of Indian and foreign nationals from Yemen).
- ✓ The ship completed its mid-life upgrade and joined the Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam on 8 December 2023.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Sonobuoys:

1. They are small, expendable devices used in underwater acoustics and sonar systems.
2. They are primarily used for mapping the ocean floor.

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 US recently approved a USD 52.8 million government-to-government deal for the sale of Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Sonobuoys that will be integrated with the Indian Navy's Romeo helicopters.
- ✓ About Sonobuoys:
- ✓ Sonobuoys are small, expendable devices used in underwater acoustics and sonar systems to detect and analyze sound in the ocean, particularly for tracking submarines and other underwater objects.
- ✓ It is a core technology for anti-submarine warfare.
- ✓ It helps to track potentially hostile submarines operating in the open ocean and in coastal areas.

Q. With reference to the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy, recently seen in the news, consider the following:

1. Biopolymers and enzymes
2. Marine and space research
3. Precision biotherapeutics
4. Climate resilient agriculture

How many of the above are included under the thematic sectors of the BioE3 Policy?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The Union Cabinet recently approved the 'BioE3' (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy, for fostering high-performance biomanufacturing of the Department of Biotechnology.
- ✓ **About BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy:**
- ✓ To be steered by the Department of Biotechnology, the policy is for fostering high-performance biomanufacturing.
- ✓ High-performance biomanufacturing is the ability to produce products from medicine to materials, address farming and food challenges, and promote the manufacturing of bio-based products through the integration of advanced biotechnological processes.
- ✓ The policy seeks to include innovation-driven support for research and development and entrepreneurship across thematic sectors.

- ✓ This will accelerate technology development and commercialization by establishing biomanufacturing and bio-AI hubs and biofoundry.

Q. Ministry of Environment has assured that the Great Nicobar Project will not displace or disturb the indigenous tribes. For which of the following tribes, the concerns have been raised?

- A) Onge
- B) Jarawa
- C) Sentinelese
- D) Shompen

Answer : D

- ✓ The Great Nicobar Project is a multi-development initiative aimed at the holistic development of Great Nicobar Island, a strategic location in the southern end of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ It was cleared by the Ministry of Environment in November 2022 and is part of a broader strategy to enhance India's strategic presence and infrastructure in the region.
- ✓ The project is expected to be developed over 30 years in a phased manner.
- ✓ The project is designed to counter expansionist activities by neighbouring countries, particularly China, and to safeguard India's maritime interests by curbing illegal activities like poaching by Myanmar fishers.
- ✓ The island is home to the Shompen, a hunter-gatherer tribe, and the Nicobarese. An estimated 237 Shompen and 1,094 Nicobarese live in a tribal reserve covering 751 sq km, of which 84 sq km is proposed to be denotified for the project.

Q. Which Tamil actor has recently launched his party Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam?

- A) Vijay
- B) Vikram
- C) R Madhvan
- D) Surya

Answer : A

- ✓ Tamil cinema's leading actor and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam president Vijay launched his party's flag and flag song at the party headquarters at Panaiyur in Chennai.
- ✓ Vijay introduced the two-coloured flag with red on top and bottom; yellow in the middle; and a flower resembling Vaagai surrounded by 28 stars at the centre with two trumpeting tuskers facing each other on either side.
- ✓ Warriors of ancient Tamil kingdoms wore Vaagai flower garlands to symbolise victory. Mr. Vijay also hoisted the flag at the party's headquarters and launched the party's flag song Thamizhan Kodi Parakuthu.
- ✓ Mr. Vijay had in February, this year announced the formation of his political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam and declared that his party would enter the electoral fray in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections

Q. Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman has recently inaugurated the GST Bhawan, an Official complex of CGST, in which city?

- A) Udaipur
- B) Uri
- C) Ujjain
- D) Unnao

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the GST Bhawan, an Official complex of CGST, Udaipur Commissionerate under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

- ✓ The Union Finance Minister also launched ICETAB 2.0, a handheld device for customs operations, and expressed hope that it will help in uploading real-time examination reports and in quicker clearance of cargoes.
- ✓ The complex is located at one of the most preferred locations in Udaipur.

Q. Which state government has launched the Subhadra scheme under which ₹50,000 will be provided over five years to one crore women between the ages of 21 and 60?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi launched Subhadra scheme
- ✓ The Bharatiya Janata Party Government led by Chief Minister Mohan Majhi, announced the implementation of the Subhadra scheme under which ₹50,000 will be provided over five years to one crore women between the ages of 21 and 60.
- ✓ The Subhadra scheme is one of the key poll promises made by the BJP which came to power toppling 24 years rule of former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- ✓ The Scheme has been approved for implementation from the financial year 2024-25 to financial year 2028-29. An outlay of ₹55,825 crore has been made for this initiative.
- ✓ Subhadra will transform the lives of more than one crore women of the State. It will cover all eligible women aged 21 years or above and less than 60 years.
- ✓ A total of ₹10,000 per annum will be paid in two installments of ₹5000 each on Rakhi Purnima Day and International Women's Day (March 8).

Q. Who has been appointed as the new CEO of Nestle?

- A) Peter Brabeck-Letmathe
B) Rex Tillerson
C) Urs Rohner
D) Laurent Freixe

Answer : D

- ✓ Nestle chief executive Mark Schneider quit from the Swiss food group after eight years in charge.
- ✓ He will be replaced by Latin America boss Laurent Freixe.
- ✓ Laurent Freixe joined Nestle in France in 1986 and has “successfully managed” the company’s European zone during the 2008 financial crisis and until 2014.
- ✓ After this he was named CEO of the Americas region before taking over at the newly created Latin America zone in 2022, “where he has been successfully leading through challenging conditions”.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has presented four BHISHM Cubes to the Ukrainian government during his visit to the war-torn country where he met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy under the shadow of the raging war with Russia. What is the meaning of 'M' in "BHISHM"?

- A) Madad
C) Mini
- B) Maitri
D) Maple

Answer : B

- ✓ PM Modi presents BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine during first visit to Kyiv
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has presented four BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) Cubes to the Ukrainian government during his visit to the war-torn country where he met President Volodymyr Zelenskyy under the shadow of the raging war with Russia.

- ✓ Each BHISHM Cube consists of medicines and equipment for the first line of care for all kinds of injuries and medical situations. It also includes surgical equipment for a basic operation room that can manage 10-15 basic surgeries per day.
- ✓ The Cube can handle about 200 cases of diverse nature in emergencies such as trauma, bleeding, burns, fractures, etc.
- ✓ It can also generate power and oxygen in limited amounts. A team of experts from India has been deployed to provide initial training to the Ukrainian side to operate the cube.

Q. Indian wrestler Ronak Dahiya has won the bronze medal in Men's Greco-Roman ____ kilograms event at Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Jordan.

- A) 60
B) 80
C) 100
D) 110

Answer : D

- ✓ Indian wrestler Ronak Dahiya won Bronze medal in Men's Greco-Roman 110 kilograms event at Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Jordan.
- ✓ Dahiya defeated Turkish wrestler Emrullah Capkan 6-1 in the crucial medal match.
- ✓ With this, India has finished their campaign in Men's Greco-Roman category with two Bronze medals in the championship as Sainath Pardhi also secured Bronze in GR 51 kilograms category.

Q. Diana Pundole, who was in the news recently, is associated with which sport?

- A) Racing
B) Squash
C) Kho Kho
D) Squash

Answer : A

- ✓ Diana Pundole: First Indian Woman Racer to Win National Championship
- ✓ Diana Pundole, a mother of two and a teacher from Pune, has shattered the glass ceiling by claiming the national championship title in the saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024, held in Chennai.
- ✓ She holds the distinction of being the first and only woman participant in the prestigious Indian Touring Cars mixed category, a fiercely competitive racing championship where most participants boast a minimum of 10 to 20 years of experience.
- ✓ Her impressive racing resume includes competing at world-renowned venues such as the Dubai Autodrome, the Hockenheimring, and the F1 Circuit de Spa in Belgium.

Q. How many new districts have been announced to be created in the Union Territory of Ladakh?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Home Minister has announced the creation of five new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ✓ The central government has decided to create five new districts in Ladakh namely Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang.
- ✓ At present there are only two districts in Ladakh - Leh and Kargil.
- ✓ Both districts have their own autonomous district councils which govern them.
- ✓ After the formation of new districts, Ladakh will have a total of seven districts

Q. Which has become the first state to implement the Unified Pension Scheme?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

- ✓ Maharashtra has become the first state to offer Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to its employees.
- ✓ The move by the Eknath Shinde-led government comes a day after the Centre announced UPS for employees who joined the service after January 1, 2004.
- ✓ Earlier, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said that this decision would benefit 23 lakh central government employees.

Q. Who has developed the PROMPT, DRIPS, and JAL VIDYUT DPR online platforms?

- A) NTPC Limited
- B) Power Grid Corporation of India
- C) Tata Power Company Limited
- D) Central Electricity Authority

Answer : D

- ✓ 3 online platforms launched to boost country's power sector efficiency
- ✓ Union Ministry of Power has launched three new online platforms, PROMPT, DRIPS and JAL VIDYUT DPR, to boost the country's power sector's efficiency, transparency and effectiveness.
- ✓ The Union Minister for Power, Manohar Lal Khattar, launched these three new online platforms in New Delhi on 20 August 2024.
- ✓ **Who has developed these Portals?**
- ✓ All these online portals have been developed by the Central Electricity Authority under the Union Ministry of Power. NTPC helped the Central Electricity Authority in developing the PROMPT platform.
- ✓ **About PROMPT Portal**
- ✓ The PROMPT (Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects—Thermal) will facilitate real-time analysis and tracking of thermal power projects under construction in India online.
- ✓ This is expected to quickly identify and resolve the issue that leads to delays in the construction of thermal power plants
- ✓ **About JAL VIDYUT DPR Platform**
- ✓ The JAL VIDYUT DPR (Monitoring Survey and Investigation Activities of Hydroelectric Projects and Pumped Storage Projects) will provide the real-time status of Hydroelectric pumped storage projects under construction in various parts of the country.
- ✓ This will ensure better management and coordination for the construction of the pumped hydroelectric plants.
- ✓ **About Disaster Resource Inventory for Power Sector (DRIPS) portal**
- ✓ The Disaster Resource Inventory for Power Sector (DRIPS) online portal has been built to quickly identify power disruptions in the country due to natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes, flooding etc.
- ✓ It will link the designated nodal officers of all the departments of the power sector and other agencies in the affected districts and states so that necessary steps are taken to quickly restore power in the affected areas.
- ✓ **Central Electricity Authority**
- ✓ The government of India set up the Central Electricity Authority in 1951 under the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948.
- ✓ The Electricity Act 2003 has repealed and replaced the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948.

- ✓ The Central Electricity Authority comes under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power, government of India.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman: Ghanshyam Prasad

Q. Where was the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave held?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Chennai
- D) New Delhi

Answer : D

- ✓ Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave in New Delhi on 21 August 2024.
- ✓ The three-day conclave will be held from 20 to 22 August 2024.
- ✓ Senior Ministers, policymakers, and business leaders from Africa and India will participate in the Conclave
- ✓ **About the CII India Africa Business Conclave**
- ✓ The CII India Africa Business Conclave is an initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs, the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ✓ The first edition of the CII India Africa Business Conclave was held in 2005.
- ✓ The main objective of the CII India Africa Business Conclave is
- ✓ to increase trade and investment between India and Africa,
- ✓ to encourage Indian investment in identified sectors in Africa,
- ✓ Increase interaction between the Indian Industry and Africa to address specific business opportunities.
- ✓ The theme of the 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave is - Creating One Future.
- ✓ The 19th CII India Africa Business Conclave is being attended by delegates from 65 countries, 47 of which are from Africa

Q. Which country will host the 9th ICC Women's T20 World Cup?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) India
- C) UAE
- D) South Africa

Answer : C

- ✓ 9th ICC T20 Women World Cup shifted to UAE from Bangladesh.
- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has shifted the 9th ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to political turmoil in Bangladesh.
- ✓ Bangladesh is still the host of the tournament, but all the matches will be played in the UAE.
- ✓ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned and fled to India on 4 August 2024. An interim government has been formed in Bangladesh, with the Nobel prize winner Muhammed Yunus as its chief adviser.
- ✓ Ten teams are participating in the 9th ICC Women's World Cup, and they have been grouped into two groups. Harmanpreet Kaur will lead the Indian team.
- ✓ Group A: Australia, India, Pakistan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka
- ✓ Group B: Bangladesh, South Africa, England, West Indies, Scotland.
- ✓ ICC Women T 20 World Cup
- ✓ The first ICC Women T 20 World Cup was staged by the ICC in 2009 in England. Eight teams participated, and England won the inaugural World Cup.
- ✓ From the 2nd edition the world cup is being held after two years.
- ✓ At the 4th edition, the number of participating teams was increased to 10.

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the chef de mission of the Indian contingent at the upcoming Paris Paralympics?

B) Satya Prakash Sangwan

D) Karnam Malleswari

- ✓ Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) vice president Satya Prakash Sangwan has been appointed as the chef de mission of the Indian contingent at the upcoming Paris Paralympics.
- ✓ As the CDM, he will lead India's largest-ever contingent of 84 para-athletes competing across 12 sports disciplines.
- ✓ Satya Prakash Sangwan has been an integral part of the Paralympic Committee of India for over a decade. His dedication and leadership have always been an inspiration to our athletes.

1. It is produced from sugarcane-based materials, rice and maize.

2. The Department of Food and Public Distribution is the primary agency promoting the establishment of fuel-grade ethanol distilleries.

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ Ethanol is a biofuel produced through the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes such as ethylene hydration.
- ✓ It is rich in oxygen content, enabling more efficient fuel combustion in engines.
- ✓ Ethanol blending involves mixing ethanol derived from agricultural products with petrol to create a blended motor fuel.

✓ **Production of Ethanol in India:**

- ✓ The Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) is the primary agency promoting the establishment of fuel-grade ethanol distilleries.

- ✓ Ethanol is produced from sugarcane-based materials like C & B heavy molasses, sugarcane juice, sugar syrup, surplus rice from the Food Corporation of India (FCI), and maize.

- ✓ Globally, over 110 billion litres of ethanol fuel were produced in 2019, with the US and Brazil contributing 84% of this production.

- ✓ **Benefits of ethanol blending:**

- ✓ Energy security: India imports over 85% of its oil, and ethanol blending could reduce reliance on petroleum imports.

- ✓ Economic savings: In 2020-21, India's net petroleum imports amounted to 185 million tonnes at USD 551 billion.

✓ **India's Biofuel Policy:**

- ✓ The Central government amended the Biofuel Policy in 2021-22, targeting 20% ethanol and 5% biodiesel blending by 2025.

- ✓ India achieved a 10% ethanol blending rate in petrol by June 2022, ahead of the November 2022 target.

- ✓ The programme has saved over Rs 54,000 crore in foreign exchange and led to a reduction of 30 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions over the past nine years.
- ✓ **Ethanol blending targets:**
- ✓ 2025-26 Target: Achieve 20% ethanol blending with petrol.
- ✓ Current status: Blending rates have increased to 13%-15%, up from 8% in 2021.
- ✓ Major contributors: Uttar Pradesh is a significant contributor to ethanol blending, with multi-fuel distilleries producing both sugarcane and grain-based ethanol.

Q. Shiveluch Volcano, recently seen in the news, lies in which country?

- A) Italy
- B) Peru
- C) Russia
- D) Spain

Answer : C

- ✓ Shiveluch volcano in Russia erupted after a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck off the eastern coast of the country recently.
- ✓ About Shiveluch Volcano:
- ✓ It is located around 280 miles from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, a coastal city that lies in Russia's eastern region of Kamchatka.
- ✓ It is a stratovolcano—a steep-sloped volcano composed of alternating layers of solidified ash, hardened lava and volcanic rocks.
- ✓ One of Kamchatka's largest volcanoes, it sports a summit reaching 3,283 meters (10,771 feet).

Q. In which year did the World Health Organization (WHO) declare India polio-free?

- A) 2014
- B) 2016
- C) 2018
- D) 2020

Answer : A

- ✓ India's polio-free status: India was declared polio-free by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2014, with the last wild poliovirus case reported in 2011.
- ✓ Understanding Vaccine-Derived Polio (VDPV)
- ✓ Vaccine composition: The Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) contains a weakened form of the poliovirus, which stimulates an immune response.
- ✓ cVDPV development: On rare occasions, in under-immunized populations, the excreted vaccine virus can circulate, undergo genetic changes, and potentially revert to a form capable of causing paralysis. This is known as circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV).
- ✓ Global context: Since 2000, over 10 billion doses of OPV have been administered globally, resulting in 24 cVDPV outbreaks in 21 countries, with fewer than 760 cases.
- ✓ Prevention: To stop cVDPV transmission, WHO recommends multiple rounds of high-quality immunisation campaigns.
- ✓ **Key Facts about Polio:**
- ✓ Polio overview: Polio is a viral infectious disease that can cause irreversible paralysis and even death by affecting the nervous system.
- ✓ Wild Poliovirus strains: There are three distinct strains of wild poliovirus:
- ✓ Wild Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1)
- ✓ Wild Poliovirus Type 2 (WPV2)
- ✓ Wild Poliovirus Type 3 (WPV3)

Q. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for GRM Basmati Rice?

- A) Sharukh Khan
- B) Salman Khan
- C) Amitabh Bachchan
- D) MS Dhoni

Answer : B

- ✓ Salman Khan named brand ambassador for GRM Basmati Rice
- ✓ GRM Overseas Limited, an exporter of basmati rice and an FMCG player, has signed Bollywood actor Salman Khan as the brand ambassador for its basmati rice and wheat flour products.
- ✓ The partnership aims to leverage Khan's iconic status to strengthen GRM's brand presence and connect with consumers globally, the company

LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2024

- Salman Khan : GRM Basmati Rice
- Shikhar Dhawan : MotoGP in India
- Sania Mirza, Mary Kom & Rannvijay Singh : 'Play Sports'
- Aditya Roy Kapur : Bisleri
- Shah Rukh Khan : Muthoot Pappachan Group
- 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
- Neeraj Chopra : Eveready Battery

Q. Which airport has won the title of Best Airport at the India Travel Awards?

- A) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- B) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
- C) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad
- D) Mangaluru International Airport, Mangaluru

Answer : C

- ✓ RGIA Hyderabad wins best airport award for third consecutive year
- ✓ Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has once again clinched the prestigious title of Best Airport at the India Travel Awards, marking its third consecutive win.
- ✓ Last year, RGIA was also honored with Skytrax's 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award in Frankfurt, Germany.
- ✓ The airport received recognition at the Passenger Terminal EXPO 2024 in Frankfurt, Germany for emerging on top among all other airports across South Asia and India.
- ✓ The RGIA team is dedicated to building upon this success and maintaining its position as the Best Airport. Ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure, upgrade facilities, and introduce innovative services will be crucial in sustaining this level of excellence.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2024

- Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) wins best airport award for third consecutive year.
- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Limited (TIAL) Receives Greentech Award For Zero Waste To Landfill.
- Delhi Airport launches India's first self-service mechanism for check-in luggage
- 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.

Q. Who is the author of the book 'Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity'?

- A) Tarun Chugh
B) Amit Shah
C) J. P. Nadda
D) Manohar Lal Khattar

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah has released a book written by BJP leader Tarun Chugh which, captures the “transformative” changes brought by the Modi government in a host of sectors and regions, including in the poll-bound Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The book ‘Modi’s Governance Triumph: Reshaping India’s Path to Prosperity’ was “inspired” by the prime minister’s decades-long public life which was always “dedicated” to the country.

Q. Who has won the 26th CEAT Men's International Cricketer of the Year Award?

- A) Virat Kohli
B) Rohit Sharma
C) KL Rahul
D) Shubman Gill

Answer : B

- ✓ Rohit Sharma Virat Kohli honoured at the 26th CEAT Cricket Awards.
- ✓ The Indian men's cricket team captain Rohit Sharma was awarded the 26th CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award at a ceremony held in Mumbai on 21 August 2024
- ✓ The CEAT Cricket Awards is one of the most prestigious awards in cricket. It honours the exceptional performance of cricketers worldwide.
- ✓ The CEAT Cricket Awards started in 1995-96, is sponsored by RP Goenka Group company CEAT Tyres. The latest 26th CEAT Award takes into account the players' performance during the 2023-24 cricketing session.

Q. Who has won the 26th CEAT Men's ODI Batsman of the Year Award?

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) Rohit Sharma
- C) Shubman Gill
- D) Shreyas Iyer

Answer : A

- ✓ Complete List of the Winners of the 2023-24 CEAT Cricket Award
- ✓ Lifetime Achievement Award: Rahul Dravid
- ✓ International Cricketer of the Year: Rohit Sharma
- ✓ Performance in Test Match (Men's)
- ✓ Test Batter of the Year: Yashashvi Jaiswal
- ✓ Test Bowler of the Year: Ravichandran Ashwin
- ✓ Performance in ODI (Men's)
- ✓ Batter of the Year: Virat Kohli
- ✓ Bowler of the Year: Mohammad Shami
- ✓ Performance in T20(Men's)
- ✓ Batter of the Year: Phil Salt (England)
- ✓ Bowler of the Year: Tim Southee (New Zealand)
- ✓ Best Indian Women cricketer
- ✓ Batter of the Year: Smriti Mandhana
- ✓ Bowler of the Year: Deepti Sharma
- ✓ Memento
- ✓ Most matches as a captain in Women's T20I history: Harmanpreet Kaur
- ✓ Outstanding Leadership in TATA IPL: Shreyas Iyer
- ✓ Fastest Double Century in Women's Test Match: Shafali Verma
- ✓ Other Award
- ✓ Excellence in Sports Administration: BCCI Secretary Jay Shah

Q. Which among the following institutions has announced the establishment of India's first Constitution Museum, "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution?

- A) IIT Delhi
- B) National Law School of India University
- C) Lovely Professional University
- D) Jindal Global University

Answer : D

- ✓ O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) is set to launch India's first Constitution Museum, marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- ✓ The museum, named "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," will be inaugurated on November 26, 2024, at the JGU campus.
- ✓ The museum aims to "demystify the Constitution and make it accessible to wider audiences." The museum will feature a Children's Corner with interactive installations and educational materials designed to introduce young visitors to the Constitution in an engaging manner.

Q. Recently, NASA has launched the Tanager-1 Satellite for which of the following purposes?

- A) To detect carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) emissions
- B) To test the feasibility of Artemis Programme
- C) To test the performance of hypersonic ballistic missile
- D) To enhance the functioning of Global Positioning System

Answer : A

- ✓ NASA has launched a satellite to track methane emissions.
- ✓ **About Tanager-1 Satellite:**
- ✓ **Launch details:**
- ✓ Launch vehicle: SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- ✓ Launch site: Vandenberg Space Force Base, California.
- ✓ Development collaboration: Jointly developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and other partners.
- ✓ **Mission purpose:**
- ✓ Primary Objective: Detection of major carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane (CH₄) emissions.
- ✓ Environmental Focus: Targeting key greenhouse gases that significantly contribute to global warming.
- ✓ Technological features:
- ✓ Spectrometer technology: Utilizes advanced imaging spectrometers from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
- ✓ **Emission tracking:**
- ✓ Method: Measures light wavelengths reflected from the Earth's surface to identify specific atmospheric compounds.
- ✓ Spectral fingerprints: Identifies and quantifies greenhouse gases like CO₂ and CH₄ by their unique infrared signatures.
- ✓ Coverage capacity: Capable of monitoring emissions across 130,000 square kilometres daily.
- ✓ Data access: Plume data will be publicly available to support global emission reduction efforts.

NASA IN NEWS 2024

- Peru became the 41st signatory to the Artemis Accords at a ceremony at NASA Headquarters in Washington.
- 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.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- Founded : 1958
- Headquarters : Washington, D.C
- Administrator : Bill Nelson

Q. What was the theme of the inaugural edition of the e-magazine Sapno ki Udaan?

- A) Space
- B) Chandrayaan
- C) GSAT
- D) Amazonia-1

Answer : A

- ✓ NCERT and Education Ministry launches e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan'.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Education released the inaugural edition of the e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan' on 23 August 2024.
- ✓ The e-magazine was launched on the occasion of the first National Space Day, which was observed across the country on 23 August to commemorate the soft landing of the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan -3 mission on the south pole of the Moon on 23 August 2023.
- ✓ As an e-magazine, Sapno ki Udaan's inaugural and forthcoming editions will be available online for all readers on the NCERT portal.
- ✓ The e-magazine was launched virtually by the Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan, at a function in New Delhi.
- ✓ The theme of the inaugural Sapno ki Udaan e-magazine was Space.
- ✓ All the articles, poems, etc., published in the inaugural edition are related to Space and the Chandrayaan Missions of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ The e-magazine is an effort of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- ✓ The Magazine is published quarterly

Q. Which is India's first reusable hybrid rocket to be launched successfully in August 2024?

- A) RASHMI -1
- B) RHUMI-1
- C) RASIKA -1
- D) SIROHI -1

Answer : B

- ✓ India launches world's first mobile-launched hybrid rocket, RHUMI-I.
- ✓ In a boost to India's space effort, the world's first mobile hybrid rocket, RHUMI-1, was successfully launched on 24 August 2024.
- ✓ The successful launch of the RHUMI-1 rocket also marks the launch of the first reusable hybrid rocket in India.
- ✓ The rocket was developed by Chennai-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group.
- ✓ The success of RHUMI-1 is expected to improve the efficiency and reduce the operational cost of rocket launches, making space exploration more accessible.
- ✓ The RHUMI-1 rocket is launched from a mobile launcher like a special truck, and the rocket can be used again; hence, it is called a reusable rocket
- ✓ The RHUMI-1 reusable hybrid rocket was launched from a mobile launcher in Thiruvudandhai, a coastal village in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The RHUMI-1 reusable hybrid rocket launched three CubeSats and 50 PICO satellites into a suborbital trajectory.
- ✓ The satellites will collect data for research on Global warming and Climate Change.
- ✓ RHUMI-1, a sounding rocket, flew at an altitude of about 35 km and returned to Earth after conducting several experiments within seconds.

Q. Shikhar Dhawan, who was in the news recently, belongs to which field?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Shikhar Dhawan retires from all forms of Cricket.
- ✓ One of the finest One Day Internationals (ODI) batsmen in the world, Shikhar Dhawan, has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. In a post on the social media 'X', Shikhar Dhawan announced his retirement from international and domestic cricket on 24 August 2024.
- ✓ His last competitive match was for Punjab Kings in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in April 2024.
- ✓ Shikhar Dhawan played 269 international matches in his cricketing career and scored 24 hundreds-17 in ODIs and 7 in test matches.
- ✓ His last game for India was an ODI against Bangladesh in December 2022.
- ✓ Shikhar Dhawan, nicknamed 'Gabbar' by his teammate, is a left-handed batsman who made his debut for India in an ODI Match against Australia in Visakhapatnam in 2010.
- ✓ He created a world record by scoring the fastest century by a debutant in a Test match, an 85-ball hundred against Australia in Mohali in the 2013 Test match.

Q. How many agreements /Memorandum of Understanding were signed between India and Ukraine during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Ukraine?

- A) three
- B) four
- C) five
- D) six

Answer : B

- ✓ PM Modi's Historic Visit to Ukraine, four MoU/Agreement signed.
- ✓ During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Ukraine, both countries signed four Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/agreements to strengthen their bilateral relations.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two-nation visit to Poland and Ukraine from 21-23 August 2024.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi's visit to Ukraine is the first by any Indian Prime Minister since establishing diplomatic relations with Ukraine in January 1992.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived for a short seven-hour stay in Ukraine on 23 December after visiting Poland on a special Train 'Rail Force One'.
- ✓ Four MoU/Agreement Signed During Modi's Visit
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his seven-hour brief visit to Ukraine in Kyiv. The leaders discussed the war situation and bilateral relations and later issued a Joint Statement.
- ✓ Four agreements/MoUs were signed during PM Modi's visit. These are
- ✓ Cooperation in Agriculture and Food Industry;
- ✓ Cooperation in Medical Products Regulation;
- ✓ India to provide Humanitarian Grant Assistance to Ukraine for Implementation of High Impact Community Development Projects and
- ✓ Cultural Cooperation for the 2024-2028 period.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted four BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) Cubes to Ukraine.
- ✓ The BHISHM Cubes, known as the Arogya Maitri Aid Cube, is the world's first portable hospital. It was first unveiled in Gurugram(Haryana) on 2 December 2023.

- ✓ The BHISHM project is a joint effort of the Union Ministry of Defence and the Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also visited the Mahatma Gandhi statue in Kyiv's Oasis of Peace park.
- ✓ About Ukraine
- ✓ Ukraine is the second largest country in Europe after Russia in terms of area.
- ✓ Capital: Kyiv
- ✓ Currency: hryvnya
- ✓ President : Volodymyr Zelensky

Q. Students of which classes are eligible for scholarships under the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana?

- A) VI to IX
- B) V to X
- C) IX to XII
- D) IV to IX

Answer : A

- ✓ Postal Dept launches Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to encourage Philately
- ✓ The Department of Post under the Union Ministry of Communication has launched the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to promote research and scholarship in stamps amongst the country's students.
- ✓ Krishna Kumar Yadav was speaking at the closing ceremony of the 'The Ideal and Great Stamps' Paintings exhibition, which was held in Ahmedabad from 21 to 23 August 2024.
- ✓ Philately refers to the collection and study of postage stamps and related products. As a hobby, Philately includes collecting stamps, acquiring, organising, cataloguing, storing, displaying, and maintaining them or related products in thematic areas.
- ✓ **About the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana**
- ✓ The Deen Dayal SPARSH (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) Yojana is an all-India scheme open to class VI, VII, VIII & IX students of a recognised school.
- ✓ Only students who are members of a philately club or have a Philately Deposit Account will be selected for the scholarship.
- ✓ 920 scholarships will be awarded at all India levels to students who are pursuing Philately as a hobby.
- ✓ Every postal circle in the country can award a maximum of 40 scholarships to 10 students each from Standard VI, VII, VIII, and IX.
- ✓ The scholarship amount is Rs 6000 per year and will be paid quarterly.
- ✓ Selections for the scholarship will be made for one year, and students can apply next year, subject to fulfilling the terms and conditions of the Yojana.

Q. Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world, is located in which one of the following countries?

- A) Nepal
- B) Malaysia
- C) Vietnam
- D) Cambodia

Answer : D

- ✓ Visitors are replicating the Temple Run video game at Cambodia's Angkor Wat, sparking concerns among conservationists about potential damage to the 900-year-old site.
- ✓ **About Angkor Wat:**
- ✓ It is the largest religious monument in the world and is located in the Cambodia.
- ✓ It covers an area of 200 acres.
- ✓ It was built by the Khmer King Suryavarman II in the first half of the 12th century, around the year 1110-1150, making Angkor Wat almost 900 years old.

- ✓ It was originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu before becoming a Buddhist temple by the end of the 12th century.
- ✓ In 1992, the temple complex was named a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ✓ The temple is at the top of the high classical style of Khmer architecture.

Q. Which of the following are related to the Right to Education in India?

1. Unnikrishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh, 1993
2. Article 51A
3. Article 21A
4. 91st Constitutional Amendment Act

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) 1 and 2 only B) 1, 3 and 4 only
C) 3 and 4 only D) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer : D

- ✓ Delhi High Court addressed the issue of separate identification numbers (IDs) for different wings of the same school, impacting the admission of students under the Economically Weaker Section/Disadvantaged Group (EWS/DG) category.
- ✓ **About the Right to Education (RTE) Act:**
- ✓ The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE) is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted on 4 August 2009, which describes the modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children between the age of 6 to 14 years in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution.
- ✓ **Background:**
- ✓ RTE Act originates from the 1993 Supreme Court ruling in the Unnikrishnan vs. State of Andhra Pradesh case, establishing education as a fundamental right under Article 21.
- ✓ The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 introduced Article 21A, guaranteeing free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14 years.
- ✓ **Key Constitutional Amendments:**
- ✓ Article 21A: State's responsibility to provide free and compulsory education to children aged 6-14.
- ✓ Article 45: State to provide early childhood care and education until the age of six.
- ✓ Article 51A: Parents' duty to provide educational opportunities for children aged 6-14.

Q. Which organization partnered with the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) to scale up indigenous Zinc-ion battery technologies and develop new variants of zinc materials?

- A) Bharat Aluminum Company B) Tata Steel Ltd
C) Sterlite Copper D) Hindustan Zinc Ltd

Answer : D

- ✓ JNCASR partners with HZL to scale up indigenous Zn-ion battery technologies
- ✓ Vedanta-owned Hindustan Zinc Ltd., India's largest integrated zinc producer, has signed an MoU with the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) to collaborate and develop new variants of zinc materials to propel the commercialisation of zinc-based batteries.

- Q.** Which among the following institutions has announced the establishment of India's first Constitution Museum, "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution?

B) National Law School of India University

D) Jindal Global University

- ✓ JGU to establish India's First Constitution Museum for 75th Anniversary of Constitution
- ✓ O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) is set to launch India's first Constitution Museum, marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India.
- ✓ The museum, named "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," will be inaugurated on November 26, 2024, at the JGU campus.
- ✓ The museum aims to "demystify the Constitution and make it accessible to wider audiences." The museum will feature a Children's Corner with interactive installations and educational materials designed to introduce young visitors to the Constitution in an engaging manner.

1. It is a central sector scheme managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) designed to enhance India's Science and Technology (S&T) capabilities through a streamlined approach.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ Union Cabinet recently approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes merged into a unified central sector scheme called “Vigyan Dhara” under the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

- ✓ It is a new central sector scheme unifying three umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

- ✓ Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building,

- ✓ Research and Development and

- ✓ Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment.

- ✓ These three schemes have been merged into the unified scheme 'Vigyan Dhara'.

- ✓ This initiative, managed by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), is designed to enhance India's S&T capabilities through a streamlined approach.

✓ The proposed outlay for the implementation of the unified scheme 'Vigyan Dhara' is Rs.10,579.84 crore during the 15th Finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

- ✓ The merger of the schemes into a single scheme would enhance efficiency in fund utilization and establish synchronization among the sub-schemes/programs.

- ✓ The primary objective of the 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme is to promote S&T capacity building as well as research, innovation, and technology development towards strengthening the Science, Technology and Innovation ecosystem in the country.
- ✓ All the programs proposed under the 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme would be aligned with the 5-year goals of DST towards realising the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- ✓ The R&D component of the scheme will be aligned in line with the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

Q. Who among the following athletes won the Lausanne Diamond League javelin event 2024, surpassing Neeraj Chopra's impressive season-best throw of 89.49m, with a remarkable second-round throw of 90.61m?

- A) Oliver Helander B) Julius Yego
C) Julian Weber D) Anderson Peters

Answer : D

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra won silver in Lausanne Diamond League
- ✓ Star Indian javelin throw athlete Neeraj Chopra registered a season-best throw of 89.49m at the Lausanne Diamond League 2024, in his first competitive appearance since he bagged silver for the nation at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- ✓ The 26-year-old was edged out by Grenada's Anderson Peters, who claimed the top spot in Switzerland with a mammoth throw of 90.81m. Julian Weber of Germany came in third on the day with a best throw of 87.08m.
- ✓ The top six javelin throwers in the season's standings qualify for the final in Belgium slated to be held on the 14th of September

Q. How many wetlands of India have been declared as Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar sites as of August 2024?

- A) 82 B) 85
C) 92 D) 75

Answer : B

- ✓ Three new sites -Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary and Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu and Tawa Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh—have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance or Ramsar Sites, bringing the total number of wetlands declared as Ramsar sites in India to 85.
- ✓ Bhupender Yadav, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, announced the addition of the three new wetlands to the Ramsar site on 14 August 2024.
- ✓ Newly Added Ramsar Sites In India
- ✓ The addition of the three new wetlands--Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary (125.865 hectares), Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary(5151.6 hectares), and Tawa Reservoir (20050 hectares)) takes the total area under Ramsar sites to 1358067.757 hectares.

Wetland Name	Location	Area
Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)	Situated in the Northeastern region of Uthukuli Taluk of Tiruppur District, Tamil Nadu.	125.865 Hectares
Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)	located on the Coromandel Coast in Villupuram district, Tamil Nadu.	5151.6 hectares
Tawa Reservoir (Madhya Pradesh)	Inside the Satpura Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh.	20,050 Hectares.

- Q.** The newly declared Ramsar Site Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary lies in which state of India?
- A) Kerala
B) Karnataka
C) Tamil Nadu
D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : C

Q. The newly declared Ramsar Site Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary lies in which state of India?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Odisha
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : D

Q. The newly declared Ramsar site Tawa Reservoir lies in which state of India?

- A) Odisha
- B) Assam
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : D

✓ **What is a Ramsar Site?**

- ✓ Ramsar Site refers to wetlands that have been notified by the signatory countries of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance as being of international importance.
- ✓ The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance came into force in 1975.
- ✓ An international conference was held in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 to build an international consensus on conserving and preserving wetlands worldwide.
- ✓ The list of the Ramsar sites is maintained by the Ramsar convention's secretariat, based at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) headquarters in Gland, Switzerland

✓ **India and Ramsar Convention**

- ✓ India ratified the Ramsar Convention on 1 February 1982.
- ✓ First Indian wetland sites- Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Chilika Lake (Odisha) in 1981.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has 18 sites, and Uttar Pradesh has 10.
- ✓ Largest Ramsar site: Sunderban of West Bengal
- ✓ Smallest Ramsar: Renuka in Himachal Pradesh

✓ **What is a Wetland?**

- ✓ Wetlands are areas where water covers the soil or is present either at or near the soil's surface all year or for varying periods of time during the year. The wetlands can be on lands or coastal areas.

Q. Who will be the Indian flag bearer at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Paralympics?

- A) Devendra Jhajharia and Ekta Bhanu
- B) Varun Singh Bhati and Jayanti Behera
- C) Sumit Antil and Bhagyashree Jadhav
- D) Mariyappan Thangavelu and Avani Lekshara

Answer : C

- ✓ Sumit Antil & Bhagyashree Jadhav: 2024 Paris Paralympics Flag Bearer.
- ✓ The Paralympic Committee of India has named Tokyo Paralympics gold medallist para-athletes Sumit Antil and Shot Putter Bhagyashree Jadhav as the Indian flag bearers for the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Paralympics Games, which will be held on 28 August 2024.
- ✓ The 17th Summer Paralympics for disabled athletes will take place in Paris, France, from 28 August to 8 September 2024.
- ✓ The International Paralympics Committee organises the Summer and Winter Paralympics games. Since the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, the Paralympics have been held shortly after the conclusion of the Summer Olympics. The 33rd Summer Olympics ended on 11 August 2024 in Paris.
- ✓ Indian Flag Bearer at Opening Ceremony

- ✓ Like the Olympics, the opening and closing ceremonies of the Paralympics Games involve two flag bearers—one male and one female.
- ✓ Para-athlete Sumit Antil and Bhagyashri Jadhav will be the flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Paralympics.
- ✓ 25-year-old World Champion Sumit Antill won a gold medal in the javelin throw at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics in the men's F64 category. Sumit also holds the world record in the category.
- ✓ 39-year-old Bhagyashri Jadhav is a silver medallist in the women's shot put event in the F34 category at the Asian Para Games.
- ✓ She has also won a silver medal in women's F34 shot put at the World Para Athletics Championships in May 2024.
- ✓ Indian Contingent for the Paris Paralympics
- ✓ Before the Paris Paralympics, India competed in the 11 edition of the Summer Paralympics. The first Summer Paralympic Games was held in the Italian capital city of Rome in 1960.
- ✓ The Indian contingent consists of 84 athletes, including 32 women athletes. It is the largest contingent of Indian athletes to participate in a Summer Paralympics edition.
- ✓ Indian athletes will compete in 12 sporting events, including para-cycling, para-rowing, and blind judo, which they will be participating in for the first time.
- ✓ A total of 22 sports will be held at the Paris Paralympics.
- ✓ Indian Medal Record at Summer Paralympics
- ✓ Before the start of the Paris Paralympics, India had won 31 medals- 9 gold, 12 silver, and 10 bronze.
- ✓ India's most successful Paralympics were the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics, where it won 19 medals—five gold, eight silver, and six bronze.
- ✓ Murlikant Petkar was the first Indian to win a medal in the Paralympics. He won a gold medal in the 1972 Heidelberg Games in the men's 50m freestyle 3 event.
- ✓ Deepa Malik was the first female athlete to win a medal in Paralympics for India. She won a silver in the Women's shot put in the F53 category at the 2016 Rio Summer Paralympics.
- ✓ Avani Lekhara was the first Indian woman to win a gold medal in the Paralympics. She won a gold medal in the women's 10m air rifle shooting, standing SH1 category at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics.
- ✓ Mascot and Motto of the 2024 Paris Paralympics
- ✓ Mascot -Paralympic Phryge—It is based on the Phrygian cap, a historical symbol of liberty and freedom. Its colours were blue, white, and red, reflecting the colours of the French Flag.
- ✓ Motto-.Games Wide Open

Q. What is the mascot of the 2024 Paris Summer Paralympics Games?

- A) Schneemann
- B) Lillehammer
- C) Hodori
- D) Phryge

Answer : D

Q. What is the motto for the Paris Paralympics 2024?

- A) Passion Connected
- B) Hot. Cool. Yours.
- C) Games Wide Open
- D) With Glowing Hearts

Answer : C

- ✓ **PARIS OLYMPIC 2024**
- ✓ Aman Sehrawat became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal after he won a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg wrestling event at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and pistol shooter Manu Bhaker will be the co-flag bearers for India at the closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra has won the Silver Medal in the men's javelin throw event with a best throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Indian men's hockey team led by Harmanpreet Singh won the bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics, beating Spain 2-1.
- ✓ In a heartbreak for women's wrestler Vinesh Phogat and India, she has been disqualified from the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ She was to compete in the final of the women's 50 kg category on 7 August 2024. Phogat was disqualified for being overweight in her category.
- ✓ she was overweight by 100 grams
- ✓ Novak Djokovic won the men's singles gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz .
- ✓ The 33rd Summer Olympics opened with a first-of-its-kind opening ceremony in the French capital city of Paris on 26 July 2024.
- ✓ It is the third time Paris is hosting the Summer Olympics, having hosted in 1900,1924 and now in 2024.
- ✓ The 2024 Paris Olympics Mascot is Olympic Phryge.
- ✓ Alone we go faster, but together we go further," is the motto of the Paris Olympics and the Paralympic Games.
- ✓ Breaking, Surfing, sports climbing, and Skateboarding are the four new sports to be included in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.
- ✓ Manu Bhaker of Haryana opened the medal account for India at the 33rd Summer Olympics, being held in Paris, France. She won the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol event.
- ✓ Shooter Manu Bhaker teamed up with Sarabjot Singh to win the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team shooting event.
- ✓ Shooter Swapnil Kusale of Maharashtra won a bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 Positions.
- ✓ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed 2012 London Olympics bronze medalist shooter Gagan Narang as the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian team for the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.
- ✓ PV Sindhu, the badminton ace, has been chosen as the female flag bearer for the Indian contingent.
- ✓ Sharath Kamal, the veteran table tennis player, will serve as the male flag bearer.
- ✓ Ace India shooter Manu Bhaker has been named India's flag bearer for the closing ceremony at the Paris Olympics 2024.

Q. Which state government has announced the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Bihar
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Jharkhand

Answer : C

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced the 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana' to boost employment opportunities for the state's youth.
- ✓ The yojana was announced on 15 August 2024, on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day celebration in the state capital, Lucknow.
- ✓ **Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana**
- ✓ Under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana, the state government will provide financial support to the state's young entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Under the Yojana, the state government has set a target of establishing 10 lakh new MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises) in the state.
- ✓ The government hopes to create 50 lakh employment opportunities directly and indirectly through the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyam Vikas Abhiyan Yojana.

- ✓ It contains medical equipment and supplies such as a mini-ICU, an operation theatre, a cooking station, food, water, a power generator, blood test equipment, power generator, an X-ray machine, and more.

Q. Who has become the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product Index?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Haryana
- D) Uttarakhand

Answer : D

- ✓ Uttarakhand has become the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product Index.
- ✓ It is presented as a novel, integrative metric designed exclusively to evaluate ecological development caused by human interventions.
- ✓ It will be determined by the condition of four main constituents of the environment which are directly impacted by development activities including air and water quality, number of trees planted in a year and the measure of the area of organic soil.
- ✓ The formula is, GEP index = (Air-GEP index + Water-GEP index + Soil-GEP index + Forest-GEP index)
- ✓ It provides quantized assessments of improvements in air, water, soil, and forest quality.

Q. Indian has joined hands with country for the establishment of a new water technology center at IIT-Madras, which is expected to serve as a “key contributor” to India’s efforts to achieve sustainable water supply for all?

- A) Japan
- B) Israel
- C) USA
- D) Russia

Answer : B

- ✓ India & Israel join hands for new water technology centre at IIT Madras
- ✓ India and Israel have joined hands for the establishment of a new water technology centre at IIT-Madras, which is expected to serve as a “key contributor” to India’s efforts to achieve sustainable water supply for all.
- ✓ This tripartite agreement, signed by the Embassy of Israel, IIT Madras, and the AMRUT mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, reflects a shared commitment to address the critical challenges of water management in India.
- ✓ The Center of Water Technology aims to become a hub for innovation, research, and capacity-building in water technologies, particularly focusing on sustainable solutions for urban water supply.

IIT IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ IIT Madras Partners with IDBI To Launch Cybersecurity Lab
- ✓ The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) partners with IIT Roorkee and Mandi to boost 6G standardization, connectivity.
- ✓ TCS And IIT Bombay Collaborate To Create India’s First Semiconductor Chip Imaging Tool.
- ✓ 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.

Answer : A

- ✓ Shiveluch volcano in Russia erupted after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck off the eastern coast of the country.
- ✓ Location: It is located around 280 miles from Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, in Russia's Kamchatka.
- ✓ It is one of the largest and most active volcanoes in Kamchatka, having erupted at least 60 times in the past 10,000 years

Q. Guam Island, recently seen in the news, is located in:

- A) South China Sea
- B) Baltic Sea
- C) Indian Ocean
- D) Pacific Ocean

Answer : D

- ✓ INS Shivalik reached Guam for an Operational Turnaround on successful completion of the recently concluded world's largest Multinational Maritime Exercise RIMPAC 2024.
- ✓ Guam island is the largest, most populous, and southernmost of the Mariana Islands in the Northern Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ It is an island territory of the United States of America.
- ✓ It was a Spanish colony till 1898, then became a US territory after the Spanish-American War.
- ✓ Climate: has a pleasant tropical climate tempered by the northeast trade winds and the north equatorial ocean current that flows west across the Pacific.
- ✓ Native Guamanians, ethnically called Chamorros, are of basically Malayo-Indonesian descent with a considerable admixture of Spanish, Filipino, Mexican, and other European and Asian ancestries.
- ✓ Capital: The capital city is Hagatna.
- ✓ Key facts about INS Shivalik
- ✓ It is the first stealth multi-role frigates built for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ It is built at the Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), located in Mumbai.
- ✓ It was commissioned into the Indian Navy on April 29, 2010.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Maximum Speed: 32 knots (59 km/h)

Q. India has agreed to purchase how many MW of additional electricity from Nepal during the visit of Nepal's foreign minister to India in August 2024?

- A) 251 MW
- B) 350 MW
- C) 440 MW
- D) 550 MW

Answer : A

- ✓ India Agree to buy additional 251 MW of Power from Nepal.
- ✓ India has agreed to purchase an additional 251 MW of electricity from Nepal, bringing its total import to 941 MW. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishnagar announced the new electricity deal with Nepal after meeting the visiting Nepalese Foreign Minister, Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, in New Delhi on 19 August 2024.
- ✓ The Nepalese foreign minister, Dr Arzu Rana Deuba, is on a five-day official visit to India from 18 to 22 August 2024.
- ✓ The Nepalese foreign minister's visit comes after the K P Sharma Oli government was sworn in in Nepal in July 2024. In a sign of improving ties between the two countries, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited Nepal on 11 and 12 August 2024, and the Nepalese Prime Minister attended the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit, hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 August 2024.

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- ✓ Currently, Nepal exports 620 MW of electricity through the 400 kV Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur cross-border transmission line.
- ✓ Another 70 MW is being exported via the 132 kV Mahendranagar-Tanakpur transmission line.
- ✓ The Nepal Electricity Authority has also entered into medium-term power sales agreements with state electricity boards in Haryana and Bihar.
- ✓ For the first time, Bihar has agreed to buy electricity from Nepal through a medium-term power sales agreement.

Q. With how many countries India holds 2+2 Dialogue?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Five: United States of America, Russia, Australia, Japan and Brazil.
- ✓ 3rd India Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 3rd India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue of the Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministers of both countries was held in New Delhi on 20 August 2024. The 2+2 Dialogue is a mechanism for both countries to discuss bilateral, regional, and global issues of mutual importance. It was started in 2019 to deepen and enhance India and Japan's security and defence cooperation.
- ✓ India and Japan share close ties and will celebrate the 10th year of their Special Strategic and Global Partnership in 2024.
- ✓ India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue
- ✓ During the 13th India-Japan Annual Summit meeting in Japan in October 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe decided to start a 2+2 meeting of their foreign and Defence Ministers to deepen and institutionalise bilateral security and defence cooperation.
- ✓ The first India-Japan 2+2 dialogue was held in New Delhi in November 2019.
- ✓ The second India-Japan 2+2 dialogue was held in Tokyo, Japan, in September 2022.
- ✓ 3rd India Japan 2+2 Dialogue
- ✓ Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hosted the 3rd India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue. The Japanese side was led by Defence Minister Kihara Minoru and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms Yoko Kamikawa.
- ✓ India and 2+2 Dialogue
- ✓ India holds 2+2 Dialogues with the United States of America, Russia, Japan, Australia, and Brazil. With Brazil, India holds secretary-level talks, while with the other countries, it holds ministerial-level talks.
- ✓ United States: The United States was the first country with which India started the 2+2 Dialogue. The first India -US 2+2 Dialogue was held in September 2018 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 5th India- United States 2+2 Dialogue was held in New Delhi in November 2023.
- ✓ Russia: The first India -Russia 2+2 Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 6 December 2021.
- ✓ Australia: The first India -Australia 2+2 Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 11 September 2021. The second Dialogue was held on 20 November 2023 in New Delhi, and the third will be held in 2025.
- ✓ Japan: First in 2019 in New Delhi, second in Tokyo in 2022 and third in 2024.
- ✓ Brazil: The first 2+2 Dialogue was held in New Delhi in March 2024. However, it was led by secretaries of the respective departments rather than Ministers

Q.

2. It was instituted by the Union Ministry of Earth Science.

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 President of India will confer the prestigious National Geoscience Awards - 2023 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre, New Delhi.
- ✓ It is one of the oldest and most prestigious national awards in the field of geosciences.
- ✓ This award was instituted by the Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India in the year 1966.
- ✓ Before the year 2009, these awards were called as National Mineral Awards.
- ✓ Objective: The objective of these Awards is to honour individuals and teams for extraordinary achievements and outstanding contributions in various fields of geosciences i.e. mineral discovery & exploration, Mining Technology & Mineral Beneficiation, fundamental/ applied geosciences.
- ✓ Eligibility: Any citizen of India with significant contribution in any field of geosciences is eligible for the award.
- ✓ The Ministry of Mines confers National Geoscience Awards every year in three categories:
 - ✓ National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement
 - ✓ National Geoscience Award
 - ✓ National Young Geoscientist Award
- ✓ This award is a symbol of recognition and appreciation for exceptional individuals and organizations that have demonstrated excellence, dedication and innovation in the realm of Geosciences.
- ✓ For NGA 2023, after detailed deliberations, the Ministry of Mines has finally selected 12 awards which include 09 individual awards and 03 team awards.

Q.

- A) Arun Bansal

B) Sukumaran Nair

C) Sunil Grover

D) Manik Chhabra

Answer : D

- ✓ Deutsche Bank has appointed Manik Chhabra as its head of global corporate coverage for India and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Chhabra is moving to the German bank from US-based lender Citibank where he held many senior corporate banking roles over the last 22 years.
- ✓ Within the role Chhabra will report to Chintan Shah, head of corporate coverage, and head of cash management sales APAC as well as Kaushik Shaparia, CEO of emerging Asia and chief country officer of India.
- ✓ Chhabra will also become a member of the Deutsche Bank India Branch Management Board.

Q.

- ### A) Kerala

B) Maharashtra

C) Bihar

D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Maharashtra launched 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan
- ✓ The Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government is set to officially launch the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana' on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.
- ✓ This initiative aims to provide ₹1500 every month to more than one crore women across the state.
- ✓ The Maharashtra Chief minister will roll out the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme modelled on the lines of Madhya Pradesh's 'Ladli Behna Yojana'.

Q. The Shaheen-II Missile is a surface-to-surface ballistic missile developed by which one of the following countries?

- A) Iran
- B) North Korea
- C) Egypt
- D) Pakistan

Answer : D

- ✓ The Pakistani military recently conducted the successful training launch of its surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-II.
- ✓ **About Shaheen-II Missile:**
- ✓ It is a Pakistani medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
- ✓ It is believed that the Shaheen II is derived from the People's Republic of China (PRC)-developed M-18, though this has not been confirmed.
- ✓ **Specifications:**
- ✓ It is a solid-fueled, two-stage missile with an estimated 1,500–2,000 km range.
- ✓ It measures 17.2 m long, 1.4 m in diameter, and weighs 23,600 kg at launch.

Q. Teesta-V Hydropower Station, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following states?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Sikkim
- C) Assam
- D) Arunachal Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ A landslide damaged six houses and a building of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) at the site of its Teesta-V hydropower station in Sikkim's Gangtok district recently.
- ✓ **About Teesta-V Hydropower Station:**
- ✓ It is a 510 MW hydropower project located on the Teesta River basin in Gangtok district, Sikkim.
- ✓ This run-of-river project has an 88.6-meter high, 176.5-meter-long, concrete gravity dam impounding a regulating reservoir for daily power peaking.
- ✓ It has been developed in a single phase. The project construction commenced in 1999 and subsequently entered into commercial operation in 2008
- ✓ The project is developed and owned by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC).
- ✓ **Key Facts about Teesta River:**
- ✓ It is a trans-Himalayan River flowing through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal and Rangpur in Bangladesh.
- ✓ It is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- ✓ This river forms a boundary between Sikkim and West Bengal.

Q. Which day is observed as National Space Day in India?

- A) 22 August
- B) 23 August
- C) 21 August
- D) 24 August

Answer : B

- ✓ Nation Observes first National Space Day on 23 August 2024.
- ✓ The country will celebrate its first National Space Day on 23 August 2024 to mark its remarkable capability and achievements in space.
- ✓ The Indian space programme, which started with the launching of a sounding rocket from Thumba in Kerala on 21 November 1963, has reached a stage where it has developed the capability to land rovers on moons and send rockets to explore other planets like Mars (Mangalyaan Mission) and Sun (Aditya mission).
- ✓ The Indian Space Programme flag bearer, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is considered one of the world's best space agencies.
- ✓ The government of India announced 23 August as National Space Day to mark the landing of the Vikram lander of the Chandrayaan -3 mission on the moon's south pole.
- ✓ India became the fourth country after the Soviet Union, the United States of America, and China to land a rover on the moon and the first country to land on the moon's south pole.
- ✓ The Vikram lander landed on the 23rd of August, 2023, at 18.04 Indian time at the 69.37-degree South latitude and 32.35-degree East longitude of the moon's surface.
- ✓ The government of India later renamed the place where the Vikram lander landed as Shiv Shakti Point.
- ✓ Chandrayaan -3 mission
- ✓ The Chandrayaan-3 mission was launched by ISRO from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, on 14 July 2023 on a GSLV—Mark III (LVM-3) heavy-lift rocket. The spacecraft carried a lander, Vikram, and a rover, Pragyan.
- ✓ Unlike the Chandrayaan -2 mission, the Chandrayaan -3 mission did not have an orbiter to orbit around the moon.
- ✓ The estimated budget of the Chandrayaan -3 mission was Rs 615 crore.
- ✓ A 2-meter-tall Vikram, with a mass of just over 1,700 kg, carried a 26-kg lunar rover named Pragyan to the surface of the moon..
- ✓ The lunar Rover Pragyaan conducted a series of experiments, including a spectrometer analysis of the mineral composition of the lunar surface.
- ✓ The Pragyan rover, deployed on the lunar surface, explored the nearby area by traversing about 103 meters over the next ten Earth days. 14 Earth Days is equal to one Lunar Day.
- ✓ Theme of first National Space Day 2024
- ✓ 'Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga -is the theme of the first National Space Day 2024.

Q. Which is India's second indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)?

- A) INS Arighat
- B) INS Arihant
- C) INS Talwar
- D) INS Vikramaditya

Answer : A

- ✓ India is now all set to commission its second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighat, armed with nuclear missiles for strategic deterrence
- ✓ About INS Arighat:
- ✓ It is India's second indigenously built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), following India's first nuclear submarine, INS Arihant, commissioned in 2018.
- ✓ It was constructed at the Indian Navy's Ship Building Centre (SBC) in Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ It represents a critical component of India's nuclear triad, enabling the nation to launch nuclear missiles from land, air, and sea.
- ✓ Sangam Sir (Kumar Kaushal Sir), [08-09-2024 11:41]

- ✓ It measures 111.6 meters in length, has a beam of 11 meters, a draught of 9.5 meters, and a displacement of 6,000 tonnes.
- ✓ It will have one seven-blade propeller powered by a pressurized water reactor.
- ✓ It can achieve a maximum speed of 12–15 knots (22–28 km/h) when on surface and 24 knots (44 km/h) when submerged.
- ✓ It can carry up to four nuclear-capable K-4 SLBMs (Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile) with a range of over 3500 kilometers or twelve conventional warheads K-15 SLBMs with a range of about 750 kilometers.

Q. Paul Kagame began his fourth term as President of which country?

A) Cabo Verde	B) Seychelles
C) Comoros	D) Rwanda

Answer : D

- ✓ Paul Kagame Takes Oath for Fourth Term as Rwanda's President.
- ✓ Paul Kagame began his fourth term as President of Rwanda.
- ✓ Kagame won the election with more than 99% of the vote.
- ✓ About Rwanda
- ✓ Capital - Kigali
- ✓ Currency - Rwandan Franc
- ✓ Prime Minister - Édouard Ngirente

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2024

- Paul Kagame : Rwanda
- Nicolas Maduro : Venezuela
- Paul Kagame : Rwanda
- Gitanas Nausėda : Lithuanian
- Masoud Pezeshkian : Iran
- Claudia Sheinbaum : Mexico (First Woman President)
- Businesswoman Halla Tomasdóttir : Iceland
- 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
- Daniel Noboa : Ecuador
- Mohammed Muizzu : Maldives

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Limited?

A) Raj Kumar Chaudhary	B) Dilip Kumar
C) Ramesh Singh	D) Alok Sharma

Answer : A

- ✓ Raj Kumar Chaudhary has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Limited.
- ✓ Prior to his current appointment, Chaudhary held the critical position of Director (Technical) at NHPC.

NHPC IN NEWS 2024

- NHPC REL and Tata Power Renewable Energy Forge Strategic Alliance to Solarize Government Buildings Under PM Surya Ghar Yojna.
- NHPC Partners with Norwegian Firm Ocean Sun to Advance Floating Solar Technology in India.
- Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited and NHPC Renewable Energy Limited Sign MoU for Major Solar Initiative Targeting Government Buildings
- About NHPC Limited
- Founded : 1975
- Headquarters: Faridabad
- Chairman & Managing Director : Raj Kumar Chaudhary
- Owner- Government of India (70.95%)

Q. Vinay Mohan Kwatra took charge as India's Ambassador to which country?

- A) France
- B) Russia
- C) Japan
- D) USA

Answer : D

- ✓ Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra took charge as India's Ambassador to the United States.
- ✓ Kwatra replaced former Indian Ambassador to the United States Taranjit Singh Sandhu.
- ✓ Kwatra has previously served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office.

Q. Which Indian para shuttler was recently suspended by the Badminton World Federation?

- A) Mandeep Kaur
- B) Manasi Joshi
- C) Pramod Bhagat
- D) Vinay Singh

Answer : C

- ✓ Para shuttler Pramod Bhagat has been suspended for a period of 18 months by the Badminton World Federation for violating anti-doping rules.
- ✓ Pramod will not be able to participate in the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games.
- ✓ Let us tell you that Bhagat won the gold medal in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics

Q. The Javelin Throw gold medallist in the Paris Olympics 2024, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem is set to be honoured with Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the country's government. Hilal-e-Imtiaz is the _ highest civilian award given by the Government of Pakistan.

- A) First
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) Fourth

Answer : B

- ✓ The Javelin Throw gold medallist in the Paris Olympics 2024, Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem is set to be honoured with Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the country's government.

- ✓ Hilal-e-Imtiaz is the second-highest civilian award given by the Government of Pakistan and Nadeem will get this award following his brilliant performance in the final of the competition.
- ✓ Pakistan's athlete won gold with a throw of 92.97 meters, setting a new Olympic record and surpassing Denmark's Andreas Thorkildsen's mark from Beijing 2008. Grenada's Anderson Peters secured bronze with a throw of 88.54 meters.
- ✓ India's Neeraj Chopra fell short of retaining his gold medal, finishing with a best throw of 89.45 meters.
- ✓ Chopra became the second male athlete from post-independence India to win two Olympic medals in an individual event.

Q. Which is the first state to provide cash to adolescent girls to buy sanitary napkins?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Haryana D) Gujarat

Answer : A

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Becomes First State to Offer Cash for Sanitary Napkins.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in India to provide cash to girl students for purchasing sanitary napkins.
- ✓ Unlike states such as Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Delhi, which distribute free sanitary napkins, Madhya Pradesh is offering financial aid instead.
- ✓ Under the Sanitation and Hygiene Scheme, ₹300 has been transferred to the accounts of each girl student for one year.
- ✓ This initiative has benefited approximately 19 lakh students from classes 7 to 12.

Q. The primary objective of the Jiyo Parsi Scheme is to:

- A) promote the cultural heritage of the Parsi community
B) provide educational scholarships to Parsi students
C) reverse the declining trend of the Parsi population in India
D) establish new Parsi settlements in India

Answer : C

- ✓ Minister for Minority Affairs recently launched the Jiyo Parsi Scheme portal.
- ✓ **About Jiyo Parsi Scheme:**
- ✓ It is a unique Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs for arresting the population decline of the Parsi Community in India.
- ✓ The scheme was launched in 2013-14.
- ✓ The objective of the scheme is to reverse the declining trend of the Parsi population by adopting scientific protocols and structured interventions to stabilize their population in India.
- ✓ The scheme has three components: Medical Assistance, Advocacy, and Health of Community.
- ✓ Under the Medical Component of the scheme, financial assistance is provided to Parsi Couples for medical treatment under standard medical protocol.
- ✓ Under the Health of Community Component, financial assistance is provided to Parsi Couples for child care and assistance of elderly people.
- ✓ Under the Advocacy Component, advocacy/outreach programmes are conducted to generate awareness among the Parsi population.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:

1. It is an ongoing Indian Railways mission to redevelop railway stations across India.
2. It shall cater for the introduction of new amenities as well as the upgradation and replacement of existing amenities.

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

- ✓ Western Railway has announced the inclusion of Kandivali and Dahisar railway stations in the recently launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS).
- ✓ **About Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:**
- ✓ It is an ongoing Indian Railways mission launched in February 2023 by the Ministry of Railways to redevelop railway stations across India.
- ✓ It is designed for the ongoing development of railway stations with a long-term perspective.
- ✓ It involves the creation of master plans and their phased implementation to improve various aspects of station facilities.
- ✓ The development plan takes into account the unique needs of each station, promoting a holistic approach to railway station enhancement.
- ✓ The scheme aims to transform railway stations into modern, well-equipped hubs with improved passenger amenities, better traffic circulation, inter-modal integration, and enhanced signage.
- ✓ The scheme shall cater for the introduction of new amenities as well as the upgradation and replacement of existing amenities.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) Scheme:

1. It provides the facility to have at least one residential school for girls from Classes VI-XII in every educationally backward block (EBB) of the country.
2. It provides for 100% reservation of the seats for girls belonging to SC, ST, OBC, or minority communities.

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

- ✓ Lack of transparency in the utilisation of funds, weak infrastructure, shortage of teachers, low salaries, and concerns over student safety are among the challenges identified in an evaluation of 254 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) by the NCERT.
- ✓ About Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas:
- ✓ KGBV Scheme was launched by the Government of India in August, 2004 for setting up residential schools at upper primary level for girls belonging predominantly to the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes (OBC), and Minority Communities in difficult areas.
- ✓ KGBV is being implemented in educationally backward blocks (EBBs) of the country where the female rural literacy is below the national average and the gender gap in literacy is above the national average.

- ✓ The scheme provides for a minimum reservation of 75% of the seats for girls belonging to SC, ST, OBC, or minority communities, and priority for the remaining 25% is accorded to girls from families below the poverty line.
- ✓ The objective of KGBV is to ensure access and quality education to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools at upper primary level.
- ✓ The objective of KGBV is to ensure access and quality education to the girls of disadvantaged groups of society by setting up residential schools at upper primary level.
- ✓ The scope of the scheme is the setup of schools in areas with:
 - ✓ Concentration of tribal population,
 - ✓ With low female literacy and/or a large number of girls out of school;
 - ✓ Concentration of SC, OBC, and minority populations,
 - ✓ Areas with a large number of small, scattered habitations that do not qualify for a school;
- ✓ Eligibility Criteria:
 - ✓ Girls belonging to disadvantaged groups such as SC, ST, OBC, Minority and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families.
 - ✓ Girl students in the age group of 14 to 18 years.
 - ✓ Girls living in areas with low female literacy.
 - ✓ Girls in difficult circumstances who are unable to complete primary education can be enrolled under exceptional cases.
- ✓ KGBV scheme was merged with Sarva Shiksha (SSA) in the 12th Plan with effect from 1st April, 2007.
- ✓ SSA itself has been absorbed in the newly launched Integrated Scheme of School Education- Samagra Shiksha, effective from the year 2018-19, and along with this development provision has been made to upgrade the existing KGBVs at upper primary level to up to senior secondary level with a capacity of 150-250 girls in convergence with the erstwhile Girls Hostel Scheme.
- ✓ Thus, the Scheme now provides for access and quality education to girls from disadvantaged groups of girls in the age group of 10-18 years aspiring to study in Classes VI to XII.
- ✓ KGBV provides the facility to have at least one residential school for girls from Classes VI-XII in every EBBs.

Q. The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have collaborated to launch __ initiative to enhance the travel experience for passengers on Indian Railways and Nammo Bharat Trains.

- A) One India – One Ticket
- B) One India – One Nammo
- C) One India – One Coach
- D) One India – One Window

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Railways and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have joined forces to advance the 'One India – One Ticket' initiative, aimed at enhancing the passenger experience for those traveling on mainline railways and Nammo Bharat trains.
- ✓ This partnership seeks to streamline travel by allowing passengers to book and travel seamlessly using both Indian Railways and RRTS services.
- ✓ How does One India-One Ticket initiative work?
- ✓ After purchasing an IRCTC train e-ticket, users can now also book Nammo Bharat train tickets for up to eight travellers in a single transaction.
- ✓ The option to book RRTS tickets will be available on the PNR confirmation page and through the user's booking history.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Krishi-Decision Support System:

1. It is a geospatial platform specifically designed for Indian agriculture.
2. It is developed jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Space.

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

- ✓ Union government launched a unique digital geospatial platform called Krishi-Decision Support System (Krishi-DSS).
- ✓ It is a first-of-its-kind geospatial platform specifically designed for Indian agriculture.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It captures minute details from the vast expanse of fields to the smallest soil particle.
- ✓ The platform provides seamless access to comprehensive data including satellite images, weather information, reservoir storage, groundwater levels and soil health information, which can be easily accessed from anywhere at any time.
- ✓ It'll also give near real-time information on various indicators such as soil moisture, water storage, crop condition, dry spells, etc.
- ✓ It is developed jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Space.

Q. Mera Peak, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- A) Afghanistan B) Pakistan
C) India D) Nepal

Answer : D

- ✓ A British man recently set a new Guinness World Record for the highest altitude ski BASE jump, leaping 18,753 feet from a cliff on Mera Peak.
- ✓ About Mera Peak
- ✓ It is located in the Khumbu region of Nepal.
- ✓ It lies at 6,476m above sea level. It is the highest trekking peak in Nepal.
- ✓ It dominates the watershed between the heavily wooded valleys of the Hinku and Hongu Drangkas.
- ✓ It is known as the gateway to Everest. It sits on the southeastern side of the Everest region.
- ✓ Generally, trekkers climb to Mera Central, although the highest one is Mera North Peak.
- ✓ Mera Peak was first climbed in 1953 by Col. Jimmy Roberts and Sen Tenzing.

Q. What was the theme of the 78th Independence Day celebration of India?

- A) Viksit Bharat B) Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
C) Viksit Bharat @ 2047 D) Jan-Bhagidari

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi hoisted the national flag on the ramparts of Red Fort, New Delhi, on 15 August 2024 for the 11th consecutive time on the occasion of the 78th Independence Day. This was the first Independence Day address to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his third term as the Prime Minister of India.

- ✓ The Prime Minister of India hoists the national flag on Independence Day. In contrast, the President of India hoists the national flag on Republic Day.
- ✓ During this year's Independence Day celebration, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspected a Guard of Honour before unfurling the national flag. This year, the Guard of Honour was coordinated by the Indian Navy's personnel.
- ✓ The Prime Minister was given a 21-gun salute by the 1721 Field Battery of the Indian Army, which used indigenously developed 105mm Light Field Guns.
- ✓ Around 6,000 special guests from diverse sections of society, including youth, tribal communities, farmers, women, and beneficiaries of various government schemes, were invited to witness the ceremony.
- ✓ The theme of the 78th Independence Day celebration was 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047'. It aims to make India a developed nation by 2047.
- ✓ Record of Narendra Modi
- ✓ After Pandit Nehru, PM Modi holds the record for hoisting the national flag for the most successive times on the occasion of Independence Day.
- ✓ Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru hoisted the national flag for the 17th consecutive time, while PM Modi hoisted it for the 11th consecutive time.
- ✓ Record of Prime Ministers for Hoisting National Flag on I-Day
- ✓ Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, on 15 August 1947, was the first prime minister to hoist the Indian national flag on the occasion of Independence Day.
- ✓ Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru holds the record for hosting the national flag the most times, with 17 times during his tenure as Prime Minister from August 15, 1947, to May 27, 1964.

Q. Who has been appointed as India's Permanent Representative to United Nations (UN)?

A) Parvathaneni Harish	B) Raj Kumar Chaudhary
C) Harish Dudani	D) Praveena Rai

Answer : A

- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs has appointed seasoned diplomat Parvathaneni Harish as India's next Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York.
- ✓ Harish, a 1990-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is presently serving as India's ambassador to Germany.
- ✓ The position of India's ambassador or permanent representative to the UN has been lying vacant after Ruchira Kamboj retired in June

Q. Which airport has become the first Indian airport to achieve the status of 'Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport' (Level 5 certification) under the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme of Airport Council International (ACI)?

- A) Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi
- B) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- C) Cochin International Airport, Kochi
- D) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad

Answer : A

- ✓ Delhi's IGI Airport has become the first Indian airport to achieve the status of 'Net Zero Carbon Emission Airport' (Level 5 certification) under the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) programme of Airport Council International (ACI).

- ✓ Initially the airport had set a target of achieving a net zero carbon emission by 2030. But through various measures including use of renewable energy, promotion of electric vehicles and development of infrastructure for a green airport, DIAL achieved its target ahead of schedule.
- ✓ Achieving carbon-neutral status in 2016 and level 4+ transition accreditation in 2020 were only the beginning. Achieving the level five net-zero emission accreditation in 2024, we have once again demonstrated our commitment to continuous improvement and green initiatives.'

Q. Renowned Indian scientist Dr Ram Narain Agarwal, a pivotal figure in the development of India's missile system, died at the age of 84. He known as the Father of ____.

- A) Prahaar
B) Agni
C) BrahMos
D) Pralay

Answer : B

- ✓ Renowned Indian scientist Dr Ram Narain Agarwal, a pivotal figure in the development of India's missile system, died at the age of 84.
- ✓ Known as the 'Father of Agni Missiles', Dr Agarwal played a key role in defence research and in the development of India's long-range ballistic missile program, particularly the Agni series of missiles.
- ✓ The Agni missile was the most ambitious of the five missiles sought to be developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme launched in 1983 by the Government of India. The others were Prithvi, Akash, Nag, and Trishul.
- ✓ Dr Agarwal led India's Agni missile programme from its inception in 1983 until his retirement in 2005
- ✓ He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004 by the Prime Minister of India for his contributions to aerospace and the Agni missile.
- ✓ He also received the DRDO Technology Leadership Award and Chandrasekhara Saraswati National Eminence Award.
- ✓ He was honored with the Padma Shri in 1990 and Padma Bhushan in 2000 by the President of India.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Investor Education and Protection Fund:

1. It was established under the Companies Act, 1956.
2. It is managed by the Reserve Bank of 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 : A

- ✓ The Union Finance Minister introduced the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which proposes to enable the transfer of unclaimed dividends, shares, and interest or redemption of bonds to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF).
- ✓ It has been established under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 by way of the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.
- ✓ The following amounts that remained unpaid and unclaimed for a period of seven years from the date they became due for payment are credited to the Fund:
 - ✓ Amounts in the unpaid dividend accounts of the companies
 - ✓ The application money received by companies for allotment of any securities and due for refund
 - ✓ Matured deposits with companies
 - ✓ Matured debentures with companies

- ✓ Grants and donations are given to the fund by the Central Government, State Governments, companies or any other institutions for the purposes of the Fund
- ✓ The interest or other income received out of the investments made from the fund
- ✓ This fund is managed by the Investor Education Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA)
- ✓ IEPFA was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, of 2013.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Q. India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, Abhinav Bindra was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the 142nd IOC Session in Paris. Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold in the Men's 10-meter Air Rifle event at which Olympics?

- A) 2010 Winter Olympics Vancouver B) 2012 Summer Olympics London
C) 2004 Summer Olympics Athens D) 2008 Summer Olympics Beijing

Answer : D

- ✓ India's first individual Olympic gold medalist, Abhinav Bindra was awarded the prestigious Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at the 142nd IOC Session in Paris.
- ✓ The Olympic Order is the highest honour bestowed by the IOC, recognizing exceptional contributions to the Olympic Movement.
- ✓ Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold in the Men's 10-meter Air Rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Games.
- ✓ With a distinguished career that includes over 150 individual medals, Bindra has become a prominent figure in Indian sports.

Q. Which is the first state to provide cash to adolescent girls to buy sanitary napkins?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Bihar D) Jharkhand

Answer : A

- ✓ MP: 1st State to provide cash to girls student to buy sanitary napkins.
- ✓ The Dr Mohan Yadav government in Madhya Pradesh has become the first state government in India to provide cash to adolescent girls to buy sanitary napkins. The cash is being provided under the state government's Sanitation and Hygiene scheme.
- ✓ Many state governments in India provide free sanitary napkins to adolescent girls, but none of them give cash to the beneficiaries
- ✓ Main features of the Cash for Sanitary Napkins scheme
- ✓ School girls from class seventh to twelfth are eligible for these cash benefits.
- ✓ They will get Rs three hundred for one year.
- ✓ The government has transferred more than 57 crore 18 lakh rupees to more than 19 lakh beneficiary girl students
- ✓ Udita Scheme of the Madhya Pradesh Government
- ✓ The state government launched the Udita Scheme on 1 November 2016 under its Women and Child Development Project to address the myths and taboos related to menstruation.
- ✓ The Scheme is being implemented through Anganwadi workers and assistants.
- ✓ The first phase of the scheme was implemented in Gwalior, Indore and Badwani and later in all the districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Adolescents and women in the age group of 18 to 49 years are eligible under the Udita scheme.

MADHYA PRADESH IN NEWS 2024

- Madhya Pradesh has become the first state in India to provide cash to girl students for purchasing sanitary napkins.
- World's First Vedic Clock Unveiled in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has submitted three nominations from India for Wetland City Accreditation (WCA) of Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) & Udaipur (Rajasthan) under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Madhya Pradesh government will set up PM College of Excellence in all districts of the state.
- Mohan Yadav has been elected as the new Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.
- The city of Kozhikode in Kerala was added in UNESCO's Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- Gwalior from Madhya Pradesh was also among the 55 new cities to join the network.
- Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve becomes the 7th tiger reserve of Madhya Pradesh and 55th in India.

Q. How many memoranda of understanding were signed between India and Maldives during S.Jaishnakar's visit to Maldives?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India Maldives Sign two MoU on Cooperation during S.Jaishankar Visit.
- ✓ India and the Maldives have decided to strengthen their bilateral relations by signing two memorandums of understanding (MoU) during the visit of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishnakar. Dr S. Jaishankar was on a three-day visit to the Maldives from 9 to 11 August 2024.
- ✓ Dr Jaishankar's visit was the first by an Indian minister to the Maldives since the Mohamed Muizzu government came to power in November 2023.
- ✓ Relations between India and the Maldives were strained due to President Muizzu's pro-China policies and his association with the India Out campaign in the Maldives
- ✓ Two MoUs signed between India and Maldives
- ✓ During the visit of Dr Jaishnakar two Memorandum of Understanding were signed between the two countries.
- ✓ India will train 1000 Maldivian civil servants during the 2024-2029 period.
- ✓ The Indian payment system, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) will be introduced in Maldives.

Q. The Ministry of External Affairs has granted a grant to which Indian space agency for the launch of the Nepalese satellite Munal?

- A) New Space India Limited (NSIL)
- B) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
- C) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV)
- D) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk-III (LVM3)

Answer : A

- ✓ MEA to provide a grant to NSIL to launch Nepal's Munal Satellite
- ✓ Indian Ministry of External Affairs has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with New Space India Limited (NSIL) for the launch of the Nepalese satellite Munal. Under the MoU, the Ministry of External Affairs will provide NSIL with a grant to launch the satellite.

- ✓ The MoU was signed by Anurag Srivastava, Joint Secretary (North) from the ministry and Arunachalam A, Director from NSIL in New Delhi.
- ✓ **About Munal Satellite**
- ✓ The Munal satellite has been developed by Nepalese students under the aegis of the Nepal Academy of Science and Technology (NAST). The NAST is an autonomous body which has been set up by the government of Nepal to promote science and Technology in the country.
- ✓ A Nepalese Space startup, Antarikhya Pratishan Nepal (APN), has assisted Nepalese students in the design and fabrication of the Munal satellite.
- ✓ The Munal satellite aims to build a vegetation density database of the Earth's surface.
- ✓ The satellite will be launched by NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

SATELLITE IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ India's first private sector built earth observation satellite TSAT-1A , has been launched by Tata Advanced System Limited.
- ✓ The TSAT-1A was launched on board the SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, United States.
- ✓ ISRO successfully launched its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) -C56 rocket carrying 7 satellites of Singapore on 30 July 2023 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) Sriharikota Range (SHAR), Andhra Pradesh. This was the 58th flight of the PSLV.
- ✓ NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) are planning to launch the world's first wooden satellite called the LignoSat probe into space to make space flight more sustainable.
- ✓ ISRO is going to launch meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS on February 17. The INSAT-3DS mission will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.
- ✓ Proba-3 Mission of ESA to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO.

Q. Om Prakash Mathur was sworn in as the 18th Governor of which state?

A) Madhya Pradesh	B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Haryana	D) Sikkim

Answer : D

- ✓ Om Prakash Mathur Sworn in as 18th Governor of Sikkim.
- ✓ Chief Justice of the Sikkim High Court, Justice Biswanath Somadder, administered the oath of office and secrecy.
- ✓ The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang, Cabinet Ministers, and other dignitaries.
- ✓ About Sikkim
- ✓ It is a state in northeast India.
- ✓ Bordered by Bhutan, Tibet, and Nepal.
- ✓ Founded - 16 May 1975
- ✓ Capital - Gangtok
- ✓ Governor - Om Prakash Mathur
- ✓ Chief minister - Prem Singh Tamang (SKM)

Q. The joint military exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is being conducted between India and which country?

A) Sri Lanka	B) Nepal
C) Thailand	D) Vietnam

Answer : A

- ✓ The 10th edition of the joint military exercise 'Exercise Mitra Shakti' between the armies of India and Sri Lanka is being organised from 12-25 August at the Training School, Maduru Oya.
- ✓ Joint Exercise 'Mitra Shakti' is an annual training event held alternately in India and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ Its last edition was held in Pune in November 2023.

Q. Which state government has launched the 'Nijut Moina Scheme', an initiative aimed at eradicating child marriages by empowering female students and promoting education over early marriage?

- A) Odisha
B) Assam
C) Madhya Pradesh
D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Assam launches 'Nijut Moina Scheme' to boost girls' education and combat child marriage
- ✓ Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the 'Nijut Moina Scheme', an initiative aimed at eradicating child marriages by empowering female students and promoting education over early marriage.
- ✓ The scheme is designed to provide monthly financial assistance to female students from higher secondary to post-graduate levels.
- ✓ The initiative comes a year after Assam Police arrested over 4,000 people in crackdowns against child marriage. The 'Nijut Moina' scheme is universal, allowing students to voluntarily opt out if they do not want to avail of it.
- ✓ The Rs.1500 crore scheme will benefit 10 lakh girls in four years.
- ✓ Monthly assistance under the 'Nijut Moina' scheme
- ✓ Higher secondary students: Rs 1,000/month.
- ✓ Graduate level students: Rs 1,250/month.
- ✓ Post-graduate level students: Rs 2,500/month

Q. NEOWISE Telescope, recently seen in news, was launched by:

- A) ISRO
B) NASA
C) European Space Agency
D) World Meteorological Organisation

Answer : B

- ✓ Nasa's Near-Earth Object Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer (NEOWISE) has concluded its mission, marking the end of a journey spanned over a decade.
- ✓ It was launched in 2009 by NASA as the Wide-Field Infrared Survey Explorer, or WISE.
- ✓ The space telescope was originally designed to survey the sky in infrared, detecting asteroids, stars and some of the faintest galaxies in space.
- ✓ It completed its primary mission in February 2011.
- ✓ Observations resumed in December 2013, when the telescope was taken out of hibernation and re-purposed for the NEOWISE project as an instrument to study near-Earth objects, or NEOs, as well as more distant asteroids and comets.

Q. Exercise Udara Shakti, was conducted between India and:

- A) France
B) Malaysia
C) Australia
D) Bhutan

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Air Force and Royal Malaysian Air Force participated in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024.

- ✓ The joint air exercise was conducted in collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) at Kuantan, Malaysia.
- ✓ It was aimed at bolstering operational efficiency, technical experts of both Air Forces engaged in exchange of the.
- ✓ During the exercise, IAF's Su-30MKI fighter jets engaged in air combat missions alongside the RMAF's Su-30MKM fighters, enabling the crew of both air forces to familiarize with each other's operational protocols, thereby enhancing interoperability, commonality and overall effectiveness in Su-30 aircraft operations.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Pinaka-MK3 weapon system:

1. It is a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
2. It delivers lethal and responsive fire against a variety of area targets located within a range of 2000 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

- ✓ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is equipping India with a formidable new weapon: the Pinaka-MK3, which is currently under development.
- ✓ **What is Pinaka?**
- ✓ Pinaka is a Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL).
- ✓ It is designed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), a laboratory of the DRDO.
- ✓ It delivers lethal and responsive fire against a variety of area targets, such as exposed enemy troops, armoured and soft-skin vehicles, communication centres, air terminal complexes, and fuel and ammunition dumps.
- ✓ The range of the Pinaka Mk-1 is 48 kilometers, the Pinaka Mk-I Enhanced has a range of 60 kilometers and the Pinaka Mk-II has a range of 90 kilometers.
- ✓ **About Pinaka-MK3:**
- ✓ The advanced version follows in the footsteps of the original Pinaka system.
- ✓ DRDO is working on two variants of the Pinaka-MK3 rocket launcher.
- ✓ The first variant is expected to have a range of 120 kilometers or even more.
- ✓ The range of the subsequent variants will be 300 kilometers.
- ✓ The speed of the Pinaka-MK3 is 5757.70 kilometers per hour.

Q. Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve is situated in which one of the following States?

- A) Chhattisgarh
B) West Bengal
C) Gujarat
D) Jharkhand

Answer : A

- ✓ The Chhattisgarh government on Wednesday announced that it would establish a new tiger reserve and named it as Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ It is located in the northern part of the state Chhattisgarh, bordering Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.
- ✓ This will be the fourth Tiger Reserve in Chhattisgarh, after the Udanti-Sitanadi, Achanakmar, and Indravati Reserves.

- ✓ It is spread across the combined areas of the Guru Ghasidas National Park and Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary in Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ Guru Ghasidas National Park
- ✓ It connects Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh and provides a corridor for tigers to move between the Bandhavgarh and Palamau Tiger Reserves.
- ✓ It was originally part of the Sanjay Dubri National Park, Guru Ghasidas Park was created as a separate entity in Chhattisgarh's Sarguja region after the formation of the state in 2001.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Clean Plant Programme:

1. It prioritizes affordable access to clean plant material for all farmers, regardless of their landholding size.
2. It is implemented by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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 Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister approved the Clean Plant Programme (CPP) proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ✓ It will prioritize affordable access to clean plant material for all farmers, regardless of their landholding size or socioeconomic status.
- ✓ The Programme will actively engage women farmers in its planning and implementation, ensuring their access to resources, training and decision-making opportunities.
- ✓ Also it will address the diverse agro-climatic conditions across India by developing region-specific clean plant varieties and technologies.
- ✓ Core Components:
- ✓ Clean Plant Centers (CPCs): Nine world class state-of-the-art CPCs, equipped with advanced diagnostic therapeutics and tissue culture labs, will be established across India.
- ✓ These include Grapes (NRC, Pune), Temperate Fruits - Apple, Almond, Walnuts etc. (CITH, Srinagar & Mukteshwar), Citrus Fruits (CCRI, Nagpur & CIAH, Bikaner), Mango/Guava/Avacado (IIHR, Bangaluru), Mango/Guava/Litchi (CISH, Lucknow), Pomegranate (NRC, Sholapur) and Tropical/Sub-Tropical Fruits in Eastern India.
- ✓ Implementation: This programme will be implemented by the National Horticulture Board in association with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Q. Bhoj Wetland, recently in news is located in:

- A) Tamil Nadu
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Maharashtra
D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Government denied that the international Ramsar site, Bhoj Wetland in Bhopal faces no threat of delisting from Ramsar Convention list of wetlands of International importance.
- ✓ Location: It is located in the city of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ It consists of two contiguous human-made reservoirs, the upper and lower lakes.
- ✓ The Upper lake is called Bhojtal (Bada Talaab) and the Lower Lake is known as Chhota Talaab.

- ✓ The Upper Lake is surrounded by Van Vihar National Park on the south, human settlements on the east and north, and agriculture fields on the west.
- ✓ The Upper Lake is a major source of potable water for Bhopal.
- ✓ **What is the Ramsar Convention?**
- ✓ This convention was signed on 2nd February 1971 to preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- ✓ It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed in 1971, and places chosen for conservation under it are given the tag 'Ramsar site'.

Q. Who is the youngest Indian to win a medal in the Summer Olympics?

- A) Aarti Saha
B) Aman Sehrawat
C) Manu Bhaker
D) Saurabh Chaudhary

Answer : B

- ✓ Aman Sehrawat Breaks Sindhu Record to be Youngest Medallist at Olympics.
- ✓ Aman Sehrawat became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal after he won a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg wrestling event at the Paris Olympics. Aman Sehrawat broke the record of PV Sindhu, who won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics at the age of 21 years, 1 month, and 14 days.
- ✓ First and Only Medal in Wrestling at the Paris Olympics
- ✓ India sent a six-member wrestling team to the 2024 Paris Olympics, including Vinesh Phogat, who was disqualified before the final match,
- ✓ India won only one medal in wrestling. Aman Sehrawat won the solitary medal by defeating Puerto Rico's Darian Cruz in the bronze medal match.
- ✓ Youngest and Oldest Indian Medal Winner at Summer Olympics
- ✓ The youngest Indian to win an Olympic Medal is wrestler Aman Sehrawat. He won the medal at the age of 21 years and 24 days.
- ✓ He broke the record of PV Sindhu, who won a silver medal in badminton at the 2016 Rio Olympics at the age of 21 years, 1 month, and 14 days.
- ✓ The youngest woman to win a medal in the Summer Olympics is PV Sindhu.
- ✓ The Oldest Indian to win a medal at the Summer Olympics is Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore. He won a silver medal in the double trap shooting event at the 2004 Athens Olympics at the age of 34 years, 6 months, and 19 days.
- ✓ The Oldest Indian woman to win a medal at the Summer Olympics is boxer Mary Kom.
- ✓ Mary Kom won a bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics at the age of 29 years, 8 months, and 15 days.
- ✓ PR Sreejesh to be flag bearer at the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced that PR Sreejesh, along with Manu Bhaker, will be the flag bearer of the Indian contingent at the closing ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The 36-year-old PR Sreejesh, the goalkeeper for the Indian men's hockey team, represented India at four editions of the Summer Games. He retired from international hockey following the team's bronze medal win in the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ PS Sreejesh will be the co-flag bearer with Paris Olympics double bronze medal winner shooter Manu Bhaker.
- ✓ Sharath Kamal and PV Sindhu were the Indian flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ India has so far won 6 medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics - 1 silver and 5 bronze medals.

Serial number	Players	Event	Medal
1	Manu Bhaker	Women's 10m air pistol	Bronze
2	Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh	10m air pistol Mixed Team Shooting	Bronze
3	Swapnil Kusale	Men's 50m rifle 3 Positions	Bronze
4	Men's Hockey Team	Men's Hockey	Bronze
5	Neeraj Chopra	Javelin	Silver
6	Aman Sehrawat	Wrestling 57 kg freestyle	Bronze
Total			6 medals

PARIS OLYMPIC 2024

- Aman Sehrawat became the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal after he won a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg wrestling event at the Paris Olympics.
- Hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and pistol shooter Manu Bhaker will be the co-flag bearers for India at the closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.
- Neeraj Chopra has won the Silver Medal in the men's javelin throw event with a best throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics.
- Indian men's hockey team led by Harmanpreet Singh won the bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics, beating Spain 2-1.
- In a heartbreak for women's wrestler Vinesh Phogat and India, she has been disqualified from the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- She was to compete in the final of the women's 50 kg category on 7 August 2024. Phogat was disqualified for being overweight in her category.
- she was overweight by 100 grams
- Novak Djokovic won the men's singles gold medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating Spain's Carlos Alcaraz .
- The 33rd Summer Olympics opened with a first-of-its-kind opening ceremony in the French capital city of Paris on 26 July 2024.
- It is the third time Paris is hosting the Summer Olympics, having hosted in 1900,1924 and now in 2024.
- The 2024 Paris Olympics Mascot is Olympic Phryge.
- Alone we go faster, but together we go further," is the motto of the Paris Olympics and the Paralympic Games.
- Breaking, Surfing, sports climbing, and Skateboarding are the four new sports to be included in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.
- Manu Bhaker of Haryana opened the medal account for India at the 33rd Summer Olympics, being held in Paris, France. She won the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol event.

- Q.** How many agreements were signed during the visit of Saint Kitts and Nevis's foreign minister to India recently?

B) 3

D) 6

- ✓ India and Saint Kitts & Nevis sign agreement on India Stack.
- ✓ India and Saint Kitts and Nevis have signed an agreement with India STACK, which will enable cooperation in digitalisation in Saint Kitts and Nevis. This agreement was signed during the visit of the foreign minister of the Federation of Kitts and Nevis, Dr Denzil Douglas, to India.
- ✓ Dr Denzil Douglas, who was on an official visit to India from 4-9 August 2024, is the first foreign minister of Saint Kitts and Nevis to visit India.
- ✓ India Stack is a set of digital infrastructure components that enable various entities, including governments, businesses, and individuals, to interact and conduct transactions electronically.
- ✓ India Stack refers to a collection of different technology products and frameworks. It includes Aadhaar products such as e-auth, e-KYC, Digilocker UPI, etc.
- ✓ Three Agreement signed between India and Saint Kitts and Nevis
- ✓ Both countries agreed on India STACK, which will enable cooperation in the field of digitalisation
- ✓ Both countries agreed to cooperate in the field of Sports, especially sports medicine and the training of athletes.
- ✓ An MoU was also signed for regular consultations between the Foreign Ministries of both countries.
- ✓ About Saint Kitts and Nevis
- ✓ Saint Kitts and Nevis is an island country in the eastern Caribbean Sea. It consists of two islands in the Lesser Antilles.
- ✓ Saint Kitts and Nevis is part of the West Indies cricket team.
- ✓ Capital: Basseterre
- ✓ Currency: Eastern Caribbean Dollar
- ✓ Prime Minister: Terrance Drew
- ✓ Head of the State: United Kingdom Monarch King Charles III

Q. The Indian men's hockey team won the bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics by defeating which team?

B) Spain

D) France

- ✓ Bronze for Men's Hockey team In Paris Olympics as P R Sreejesh retires.

- ✓ The Indian men's hockey team led by Harmanpreet Singh won the bronze medal in the 2024 Paris Olympics, beating Spain 2-1. The match to decide the bronze medal was held at the Yves-du-Manoir Stadium in Paris, France, on 8 August 2024.
- ✓ This is the second back-to-back bronze medal for the Indian men's hockey team after their bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ The match against Spain was also the last international match for the veteran Indian goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who had an outstanding Olympics.
- ✓ Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh scored both goals in the match, and Miralles scored the only goal for Spain.
- ✓ The Indian captain finished the Paris Olympics as the highest goal scorer in the Paris 2024 men's hockey tournament with ten goals.
- ✓ Earlier in the semi-final, India lost to Germany 3-2.
- ✓ Men's Hockey Team Record at Summer Olympics
- ✓ The bronze medal at the Paris Olympics was the 13th medal won by the Indian men's hockey team in the Summer Olympics.
- ✓ It was the first time since the 1972 Munich Olympics that India had won back-to-back medals in the Olympics.
- ✓ Indian men's hockey team has won 8 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze in the Olympics.

Q. Which state/states in India is/are yet to implement the Right to Education Act 2009?

- A) Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal, and Kerala
- B) Bihar, Rajasthan, Odisha, and Haryana
- C) Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Assam, and Ladakh
- D) Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan

Answer : A

- ✓ The states of Punjab, Telangana, West Bengal, and Kerala have not implemented the Right to Education Act.
- ✓ The Union Minister of State for Education, Jayant Chowdhary, gave this information in the Rajya Sabha in reply to a question on 7 August 2024.
- ✓ The minister said that education is on the concurrent list, and the state government has the power to make rules under the Right to Education Act. These state governments have not yet framed such rules.
- ✓ **Right to Education Act 2009**
- ✓ The 86th constitutional amendment 2002 amended the constitution and inserted a new Article 21 A, which provided for free and compulsory education to children between 6 -14 years of age.
- ✓ The Fundamental right to education provided in Article 21 A was to become operational when Parliament passed an enabling law.
- ✓ Parliament passed the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, to implement the 86th Constitutional Amendment.
- ✓ The Right to Education Act came into effect on 1 April 2010.
- ✓ Main Provisions of the Right to Education Act 2009
- ✓ Free and compulsory education to 6-14 years of age children till completion of elementary education in a neighbourhood school.
- ✓ The children will not pay any fee for their education.
- ✓ Mentions the duties of the concerned state government local authority.
- ✓ Specify the teacher-student ratio in a class.
- ✓ It prohibits physical punishment, mental harassment, etc
- ✓ Allocation for Education in Union Budget 2024-25

- ✓ In the Union Budget 2024-25, Rs 1.20 lakh crore has been allocated to the education sector.

Q. Who has won the 4th CAVA(Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League tournament?

- A) Nepal
- B) India
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Maldives

Answer : B

- ✓ India wins the 4th CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League.
- ✓ The Indian women's national volleyball team has won the 4th CAVA(Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League by defeating the host Nepal by 3-2 sets in the final. The final was played at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 7 August 2024. This was the second CAVA title for the Indian women.
- ✓ Participating team in the 4th CAVA Women's Nations League
- ✓ Five women's national teams from India, Nepal, Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Iran participated in the week-long CAVA Women's Nations League tournament.
- ✓ Final Medal position
- ✓ Gold Medal winner - India
- ✓ Silver Medal -Nepal runner up and Silver Medal
- ✓ Bronze Medal - Iran
- ✓ India's Shalini was declared the most valuable player of the tournament

Q. Neeraj Chopra won the Silver Medal in the men's javelin throw event with a best throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics and Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won gold with a throw of _.

- A) 92.77 meters
- B) 92.87 meters
- C) 92.97 meters
- D) 92.57 meters

Answer : C

- ✓ Neeraj Chopra has won the Silver Medal in the men's javelin throw event with a best throw of 89.45 meters at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Following his performance, Chopra became the second male athlete post-independence to win two Olympic medals in an individual event.
- ✓ Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won gold with a throw of 92.97 meters, setting a new Olympic record and surpassing Denmark's Andreas Thorkildsen's mark from Beijing 2008.
- ✓ Grenada's Anderson Peters secured bronze with a throw of 88.54 meters.
- ✓ Javelin throwing is an event of both the men's decathlon and the women's heptathlon.
- ✓ men throw a javelin between 2.6 and 2.7 m (8 ft 6 in and 8 ft 10 in) in length and 800 g (28 oz) in weight, and women throw a javelin between 2.2 and 2.3 m (7 ft 3 in and 7 ft 7 in) in length and 600 g (21 oz) in weight.
- ✓ Javelin throw.
- ✓ World records
- ✓ Men : Czech Republic's, Jan Železný 98.48 m (323 ft 1 in) (1996)
- ✓ Women : Czech Republic's, Barbora Špotáková 72.28 m (237 ft 1 in) (2008).
- ✓ Olympic records
- ✓ Men : Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem 92.97 m (305 ft 0 in) (2024)
- ✓ Women : Cuba's Osleidys Menéndez 71.53 m (234 ft 8 in) (2004)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Advanced Land Navigation System:

1. It is a Ring Laser Gyro (RLG) based navigation system.
2. It provides GPS and Hybrid Navigation data for the navigation requirements.

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

- ✓ Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was accorded to the procurement of Advanced Land Navigation System (ALNS) Mk-II for Armoured Fighting Vehicles (AFVs) of the Indian Army.
- ✓ It is a Ring Laser Gyro (RLG) based navigation system.
- ✓ It is used for traversing a path defined by the coordinates of a military map in ESM format.
- ✓ The system provides Inertial, GPS and Hybrid Navigation data for the navigation requirements.
- ✓ The system is spoof-proof with high levels of encryption.
- ✓ ALNS Mk-II is compatible with Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, NAVigation using Indian Constellation (IRNSS, NavIC), India in addition to Global Positioning System (GPS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS).
- ✓ The ALNS Mk-II offers compatibility with Defence Series Maps resulting in very high accuracy in navigational applications for AFVs.
- ✓ This equipment will be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Chennai under Buy [Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)] category.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Mission LiFE:

1. It is an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect the environment
2. It was launched at the 28th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow.

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

- ✓ Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched Ideas4LiFE at IIT Delhi.
- ✓ It was launched to invite ideas related to products and services, which induce behavioral changes related to environment-friendly lifestyles.
- ✓ This initiative aims to encourage and motivate students, faculty and research scholars to contribute their innovative ideas to the global initiative of Mission LiFE.
- ✓ is a remarkable opportunity for inspired minds to participate in a global movement dedicated to environmental sustainability.
- ✓ **Key facts about Mission LiFE**
- ✓ Mission LiFE, or Lifestyle for Environment, is an India-led global mass movement to nudge individual and community action to protect and preserve the environment.
- ✓ It was launched at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2021.

- ✓ President of India Droupadi Murmu has appointed Preeti Sudan, a 1983 batch IAS officer and former Union Health Secretary, as the new Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on 31 July 2024. She will replace Dr Manoj Soni, who resigned earlier this month.
- ✓ Preeti Sudan is the second woman to be appointed as the Chairperson of the UPSC after Mrs. R.M.Bathew (Kharbuli)(1992-96).
- ✓ **About IAS Preeti Sudan**
- ✓ 1983 batch Andhra Pradesh cadre IAS officer Preeti Sudan has held key positions in the Central government's Department of Food and Public Distribution, the ministries of Women and Child Development and Defence.
- ✓ Preeti Sudan has also played a crucial role in central government programmes such as Ayushman Bharat, Beti Bachao, and Beti Padhao, and significant legislations like the National Medical Commission and the ban on e-cigarettes.
- ✓ **Term of Preeti Sudan office**
- ✓ The Chairperson or a member of the UPSC holds office for six years or until they reach age 65, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ **About UPSC**
- ✓ The Union Public Service Commission is an Independent constitutional body that came into existence on 26 January 1950 under the provisions of Article 378(1) of the Constitution.
- ✓ The first Chairman of the UPSC was R.N Banerjee.

Q. India has been elected as the Vice-Chair of which supply chain body of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)?

- A) India
- B) USA
- C) France
- D) Germany

Answer : A

- ✓ India elected as Vice-Chair of the Supply Chain Council of IPEF.
- ✓ India has been elected as the Vice-Chair of one of the three supply chain bodies set up under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Agreement relating to Supply Chain Resilience.
- ✓ The 14-member IPEF established these bodies at its virtual meetings.
- ✓ They are the Crisis Response Network (CRN) , Supply Chain Council (SCC) and Labor Rights Advisory Board (LRAB).
- ✓ The Chair and Vice Chair will serve a two-year term.
- ✓ Supply Chain Council: Chair-USA, Vice-Chair - India.
- ✓ The IPEF seeks to achieve its objective through four pillars relating to
- ✓ Pillar I- Fair and resilient trade
- ✓ Pillar II- Supply chain resilience;
- ✓ Pillar III-Infrastructure, decarbonisation and clean energy; and
- ✓ Pillar IV- Tax and anti-corruption.
- ✓ India has not joined the Pillar I and has an observer status.
- ✓ The 14 Member countries of IPEF are India, Japan, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the USA.

Q. How many countries are the members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)?

- A) 15
- B) 14
- C) 17
- D) 20

Answer : B

- ✓ 14 countries -India, Japan, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the USA.

Q. Which city of India will host the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Mumbai
- C) Chennai
- D) Kolkata

Answer : A

- ✓ 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists in New Delhi.
- ✓ India will host the prestigious International Conference of Agricultural Economists after a 66-year gap.
- ✓ India will host the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists at the Pusa Institute New Delhi from 2 to 7 August 2024. After a gap of 66 years, India will be hosting this prestigious Conference again, which it hosted in 1958.
- ✓ The International Conference on Agricultural Economics is held every three years.
- ✓ The 2021 conference was held in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems" is the theme of the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists to be held in New Delhi.
- ✓ India hosted the 10th International Conference of Agricultural Economists held in Mysore in India in 1958.

Q. Which Indian city is the latest to receive the World Craft City tag from the World Crafts Council International?

- A) Jammu
- B) Baramulla
- C) Kashmir
- D) Kishtwar

Answer : A

- ✓ Kashmir, 4th Indian city to receive World Craft City Certificate.
- ✓ Kashmir City received the Certificate of World Craft City from the World Crafts Council International in a ceremony held in Srinagar, capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The ceremony was attended by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Sa'ad Hani Al-Qaddumi, President of the World Crafts Council, and other prominent Council personalities
- ✓ 4th Indian city to get a World Craft City certificate
- ✓ Kashmir is the fourth Indian city to be included in the World Craft City list of the World Crafts Council. Jaipur of Rajasthan and Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu were included in 2015, and Mysore in Karnataka was included in 2018.
- ✓ While Jaipur, Mamallapuram, and Kashmir have received the World Craft City tag, Mamallapuram has been recognised for its stone craft (World Craft City for Stone Carving).
- ✓ **About World Craft Council International**
- ✓ The World Crafts Council International was set up in 1964 by Ms Aileen Osborn Vanderbilt Webb, Ms Margaret Merwin Patch, and Ms Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in New York, USA.
- ✓ The World Crafts Council International is a non profit organisation which works for the preservation, promotion, and advancement of global craftsmanship and traditional crafts.

Q. Which Indian shooter has won a bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 Positions event at the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- A) Swapnil Kusale
- B) Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar
- C) Saurabh Chaudhary
- D) Arjun Babuta

Answer : A

- ✓ Shooter Swapnil Kusale wins 3rd Medal for India at 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The Indian shooting contingent bagged the third medal for India at the 2024 Paris Olympics Games. Shooter Swapnil Kusale of Maharashtra won a bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 Positions final played at the National Shooting Center in Châteauroux, Paris, on 1 August 2024. He finished his match with 451.4 to settle for a bronze medal.
- ✓ The gold medal was won by the world record holder Liu Yukun of China with 463.6 points, while the silver was won by Ukraine's Serhiy Kulish with 461.3 points
- ✓ 3rd Olympic medal in Rifle events for India
- ✓ Swapnil Kusale's bronze medal was the 3rd medal for India in the Rifle event in Olympic history.
- ✓ Abhinav Bindra won the first medal for India in the rifle shooting event. He won a gold medal in the 10m air rifle at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
- ✓ Gagan Narang won a bronze in the 10m air rifle event at the 2012 London Olympics.
- ✓ **Medal Winners of India.**

Serial number	Players	Event	Medal
1	Manu Bhaker	Women's 10m air pistol	Bronze
2	Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh	10m air pistol Mixed Team Shooting	Bronze
3	Swapnil Kusale	Men's 50m rifle 3 Positions	Bronze

Q. Where was the State Conclave on Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum held?

- A) Chennai
B) Mumbai
C) Hyderabad
D) New Delhi

Answer : D

- ✓ State Conclave on Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ✓ The GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums) Division of the Union Ministry of Culture has organised a three-day (1-3 August 2024) 'State Museum Conclave on the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum' in New Delhi.
- ✓ The conclave will discuss ways and means by which the state governments and other stakeholders can contribute to the central government's project to build the world's largest museum -Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 'State Museum Conclave on the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum' was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on 1 August 2024
- ✓ The conclave is part of a series of exercises undertaken by the Union Ministry of Culture to get input from stakeholders on building the world's largest Museum, Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum, in New Delhi using best global practices.
- ✓ **About the Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum**
- ✓ As part of the Central Vista Redevelopment project, the central government will establish the Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum in the North and South Block area, located near Raisina Hill in New Delhi.

- ✓ The plan is to shift the National Museum in New Delhi to the North and South Block and develop it as Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum.
- ✓ The proposed museum spread over 1,54,000 sqm, will be the largest museum in the world.
- ✓ The Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum is being developed in partnership with France.
- ✓ Central Vista Project
- ✓ The central government launched the Central Vista Project in 2019 to redevelop the area in New Delhi, where important central government offices are situated.
- ✓ The Rs 20,000 crore project includes redeveloping the 3.2-kilometer stretch of the Rashtrapati Bhavan to India Gate, including the Parliament House and Central Secretariat, relocating the National Museum to North Block and South Block, etc.
- ✓ The government plans to complete all the projects planned under the Central Vista project in a phased and sequential manner by 2026.

Q. Exercise Tarang Shakti, recently seen in the news, is an:

- A) air exercise
- B) navy exercise
- C) army exercise
- D) None of the above

Answer : A

- ✓ India will host the international air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in two phases, taking place in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.
- ✓ It will be the largest international air exercise ever conducted in India, with invitations extended to 51 countries.
- ✓ This exercise aims to strengthen strategic relations with our friends from the international community.
- ✓ Objective: The plan is to invite friendly foreign countries with whom the IAF interacts regularly and has a certain degree of interoperability.
- ✓ Participating countries: Fifty-one countries were invited to take part in the exercise and nearly 30 of them will be taking part in it
- ✓ Phase one of the exercise will be conducted at Sullur in Tamil Nadu from August 6 to August 14 and four countries including France, Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom will participate with their assets.
- ✓ Phase two will be held at Jodhpur in Rajasthan from September 1 to 14 and it will see participation from Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, UAE and the USA with their assets.
- ✓ It represents a unique opportunity for these nations to collaborate and enhance their tactical and operational capabilities.

Q. "Jhumur" is a traditional dance performed in which one of the following states?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Assam government is gearing up for a grand Jhumur dance performance featuring 8,000 tea tribe artists.
- ✓ About Jhumur:
- ✓ It is a traditional dance of the tea tribe communities of Assam.
- ✓ It is usually performed during the Autumn season in Assam.
- ✓ It is also found in a few parts of West Bengal.
- ✓ It is performed by young girls mostly in an open area like a field or under a tree.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding Tejas Light Combat Aircraft:

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

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ The Indian Air Force is grappling with significant delays in the delivery of Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) from the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, raising concerns over its combat readiness and operational capabilities.
- ✓ About Tejas Light Combat Aircraft:
- ✓ It is a 4.5-generation single-seat supersonic multirole fighter aircraft.
- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) led the design and development of the aircraft under the light combat aircraft (LCA) programme, with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) working as the prime industrial contractor.
- ✓ LCA programme was envisioned in the late 1980s to replace the MiG-21 and Su-7 fleet.
- ✓ It entered service with the Indian Air Force (IAF) in July 2016.
- ✓ It is India's second indigenous fighter jet after the HAL HF-24 Marut.
- ✓ The aircraft weighs approximately 5,450 kg and has a maximum take-off weight of 13,500 kg.
- ✓ It is powered by a single uprated General Electric F404-GE-IN20 engine.
- ✓ It is designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided, weapons.

- Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:

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

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers informed the Rajya Sabha that many pharmaceutical companies received notices from the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and govt recovered of Rs 73 crore in violation of the Drug Price Control Order.
- ✓ It was set up in 1997 to fix and revise the prices of controlled bulk drugs, and formulations and to enforce prices and availability of the medicines in the country, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.
- ✓ To implement and enforce the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order in accordance with the powers delegated to it.
- ✓ To deal with all legal matters arising out of the decisions of the Authority.

- ✓ Nodal Ministry: It is an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Q. With reference to the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is one of the flagship programmes for Skilling Indian Youth in Trade disciplines.
2. All apprentices are issued a Certificate of Proficiency by the Government under this scheme.
3. It provides a guarantee of employment after completion of training as an apprentice.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Education Minister launched the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal and disbursed Rs 100 crore stipends to apprentices through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- ✓ It is one of the flagship programmes of the Government of India for Skilling Indian Youth in Trade disciplines.
- ✓ The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme under the provisions of the Apprentices Act, 1961 amended in 1973.
- ✓ It offers Graduate and diploma students and Vocational certificate holders; practical, hands-on On-the-Job-Training (OJT) based skilling opportunities.
- ✓ Duration: Ranging from 6 months to 1 year.
- ✓ During the period of apprenticeship, the apprentices are paid a stipend amount, 50% of which is reimbursable to the employer from the Government of India.
- ✓ There is no guarantee of employment after completion of training as an apprentice.
- ✓ National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal
- ✓ It facilitates the registration and application process for apprenticeships, allowing industries to manage vacancies and contracts.
- ✓ It is developed by the Ministry of Education with AICTE and the Board of Apprenticeship Training/Practical Training (BoATs/BoPT).
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. Which of the following has received the 'Global Water Tech Award 2024' in the 'organization' category for its initiatives in environmental conservation?

- A) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
B) Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation
C) Jaipur Metro Rail Corporation
D) Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation

Answer : A

- ✓ The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has received the 'Global Water Tech Award 2024' in the 'organisation' category for its initiatives in environmental conservation.
- ✓ Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF) presented the honour, recognising DMRC's efforts in water conservation and efficient utilisation of water resources across Delhi.
- ✓ Its key initiatives include rainwater harvesting pits, sewage treatment plants, and the use of treated effluent for construction, horticulture, and dust suppression at various sites.
- ✓ During its first phase of construction, DMRC rejuvenated the dry Sarpakar Lake in the ridge area using "dewatered water" obtained from one of its construction site near Delhi University.

Q. What is India's rank among 119 countries in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 report?

- A) 19th
- B) 29th
- C) 31st
- D) 39th

Answer : D

- ✓ India is ranked 39th among 119 countries, according to the Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 report published by the World Economic Forum.
- ✓ As per the UNWTO barometer for May 2024, there were 975 million international tourist arrivals around the world in 2022, wherein India recorded 14.3 million international tourist arrivals that represented 1.47 per cent of the international inbound tourism market share.
- ✓ The share of India's international tourist arrivals in Asia and the Pacific will be 15.66 per cent in 2022. India's scores have improved in three areas: prioritisation of travel and tourism, safety and security, and health and hygiene.

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES 2024

✓ **Global Liveability Index 2024**

- ✓ Released By : Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- ✓ TOP : Vienna, Austria
- ✓ 2nd : Copenhagen, Denmark
- ✓ 3rd : Zurich, Switzerland
- ✓ 4th : Melbourne, Australia
- ✓ 5th : Calgary, Canada
- ✓ 6th : Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ 7th : Sydney, Australia
- ✓ 8th : Vancouver, Canada
- ✓ 9th : Osaka, Japan (Only Asian City)
- ✓ 10th : Auckland, New Zealand

✓ **Global Energy Transition Index 2024**

- ✓ Released By : World Economic Forum(WEF)
- ✓ TOP : Sweden
- ✓ 2nd : Denmark
- ✓ 3rd : Finland
- ✓ 4th : Switzerland
- ✓ 5th : France
- ✓ INDIA : 63

✓ **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024**

- ✓ TOP : Estonia
- ✓ 2nd : Luxembourg
- ✓ 3rd : Germany
- ✓ 4th : Finland
- ✓ 5th : United Kingdom
- ✓ INDIA : 176

✓ **Global Gender Gap Report 2023**

- ✓ Released By : World Economic Forum (WEF)
- ✓ TOP : Iceland
- ✓ 2nd : Finland
- ✓ 3rd : Norway

- ✓ 4th : New Zealand
- ✓ 5th : Sweden
- ✓ INDIA : 129
- ✓ **Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024**
- ✓ Released By : World Economic Forum(WEF)
- ✓ TOP : United States of America
- ✓ 2nd : Spain
- ✓ 3rd : Japan
- ✓ 4th : France
- ✓ 5th : Australia
- ✓ INDIA : 39
- ✓ **World Press Freedom Index 2024**
- ✓ Released By : Reporters without Borders
- ✓ TOP : Norway
- ✓ 2nd : Denmark
- ✓ 3rd : Sweden
- ✓ 4th : Netherlands
- ✓ 5th : Finland
- ✓ INDIA : 159
- ✓ **Human Development Report 2023-2024**
- ✓ Released By : United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- ✓ TOP : Denmark
- ✓ 2nd : Norway
- ✓ 3rd : Switzerland
- ✓ 4th : Sweden
- ✓ 5th : Netherlands
- ✓ INDIA : 108 with a score of 0.437
- ✓ **Global Intellectual Property Index 2024**
- ✓ Released By : US Chamber of Commerce
- ✓ TOP : United States
- ✓ 2nd : United Kingdom
- ✓ 3rd : France
- ✓ 4th : Germany
- ✓ 5th : Sweden
- ✓ INDIA : 42
- ✓ **Corruption Perceptions Index 2023**
- ✓ Released By : Transparency International
- ✓ TOP : Denmark
- ✓ 2nd : Finland
- ✓ 3rd : New Zealand
- ✓ 4th : Norway
- ✓ INDIA : 39

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Women Entrepreneurship Program:

1. It is designed to address the distinct challenges that women face when starting and growing businesses.
2. It offers financial grants and features its products on the Skill India Digital Hub.

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

- ✓ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) unveiled the Women Entrepreneurship Program to empower women entrepreneurs and spur economic growth.
- ✓ It is designed to address the distinct challenges that women face when starting and growing businesses.
- ✓ This initiative aims to empower approximately 25 lakh women across India, providing them with the skills, knowledge, and resources needed to start and grow successful businesses.
- ✓ It is in partnership with Britannia Industries Limited.
- ✓ The initiative will also offer financial grants and feature their products and services on the Skill India Digital Hub, reflecting a strong commitment to fostering an inclusive environment for women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ NSDC, with support from the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), will offer free online self-learning entrepreneurship courses through the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH).

Q. The 2000 MW Sharavathy Hydro-Pumped Storage plant is being developed in which state?

A) Odisha

B) Kerala

C) Andhra Pradesh

D) Karnataka

Answer : D

- ✓ The Central Electricity Authority has recently approved two Hydro-Pumped Storage plants in the country. One will be built in Karnataka and another in Odisha.
- ✓ The 2000 MW Sharavathy Hydro-Pumped Storage plant is being developed on the river Sharavathy in the Shimoga district of Karnataka. The Talakalale dam of the existing Sharavathy hydel project will be used as the upper reservoir, and the Gerusoppa dam will be used as the lower dam for the proposed Pumped Storage.
- ✓ The Rs 8000 crore 2000 MW Sharavathy project is the country's largest pump storage power generation unit.
- ✓ The project is being developed by the state government company KPCL and constructed by Megha Engineering and Infrastructure Limited.
- ✓ The 600 MW Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Plant will be built in the Kalahandi district of Odisha. It will be built on the Indravati River near the existing Indravati Hydel project and will use the released water of the Upper Indravati Reservoir.
- ✓ The Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Plant is being developed by the state government-owned Odisha Hydropower Corporation Limited.

Q. How much loan will be provided by the government of India to Vietnam?

A) \$300 million

B) \$500 million

C) \$100 million

D) \$200 million

Answer : A

- ✓ India Announces \$300 Million Loan to Vietnam During Vietnam PM Visit.
- ✓ The government of India has announced two loans totalling \$300 million to Vietnam during the visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Pham Minh Chinh. The loan is for strengthening Vietnam's maritime security.

- ✓ The Vietnamese Prime Minister was on an official three-day, from 30 July to -1 August 2024 visit to India.
- ✓ Nine agreements were signed between India and Vietnam during the visit of the Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. During the visit, it was announced that Vietnam will join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).
- ✓ Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 1 August 2024 in New Delhi. Both leaders virtually inaugurated the Army Software Park at Telecommunications University in Nha Trang, Vietnam. The Army Software Park has been built with a \$5 million grant from India.
- ✓ India to provide two loans totalling \$300 million to Vietnam.
- ✓ Agreement to develop National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.
- ✓ Both countries will work out a plan of action for implementing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the 2024-2028 period.
- ✓ About Vietnam
- ✓ Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country which is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- ✓ Capital: Hanoi
- ✓ Currency: Dong
- ✓ President: To Lam
- ✓ Prime Minister :Pham Minh Chinh

Q. Which country will help in the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat?

- A) Singapore
- B) Vietnam
- C) Indonesia
- D) Malaysia

Answer : B

- ✓ Agreement to develop National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat

Q. Where was the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 held?

- A) Patna, Bihar
- B) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- C) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- D) Hyderabad, Telangana

Answer : C

- ✓ The 4th edition of the Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was held in the Madhya Pradesh capital, Bhopal, on 30 and 31 July 2024.
- ✓ The Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan's main purpose is to provide a platform for researchers to present and discuss their work in Hindi, enrich science and technology-based research in Hindi and popularise science and technology through Hindi medium.
- ✓ The conference featured six sessions on diverse topics of Science, Technology, Ayurveda, Engineering, and Science Communication.
- ✓ The 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI), Bhopal.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr Mohan Yadav, inaugurated the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 on 30 July 2024.
- ✓ The theme of the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was "Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal."

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the concept of Amrit Kal or Amrit Yug in his address to the nation on the 75th Anniversary of India's independence.
- ✓ Amrit Kaal is the Prime Minister's vision to make India a developed country by 2047, which will allow the country to fulfil its aspirations.

Q. Which among the following educational institution has been granted the distinguished Special Consultative Status by the UN Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) for its substantial contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals?

- A) KIIT
B) IISc Bengaluru
C) JNU
D) Amity University

Answer : A

- ✓ KIIT DU Awarded Prestigious UN ECOSOC Special Consultative Status
- ✓ KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology) Deemed to be University has been granted the distinguished Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC), recognizing the University's substantial contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✓ From a pool of 476 applications around the World, only 19 organizations, including KIIT DU, were selected for this prestigious honour.
- ✓ This recognition underscores KIIT's unwavering commitment to the United Nations' Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

Q. Who has been conferred the V Venkayya Epigraphy Award for 2024?

- A) Neeli Bendapudi
B) V. Vedachalam
C) Shanti Lakra
D) Deepika Misra

Answer : B

- ✓ An eminent Tamil epigrapher and historian, V. Vedachalam has been conferred the V Venkayya Epigraphy Award for 2024.
- ✓ Dr. Vedachalam, who has written and co-written more than 25 books on subjects such as epigraphy, numismatics, temple art, religion, and society.
- ✓ The annual award, instituted by Sunitha Madhavan, the great-granddaughter of Mr. Venkayya, in association with the Tamil Heritage Trust, commemorates the pioneering epigrapher and celebrates exceptional contributions to epigraphy in any Indian language, including discovering new inscriptions, offering fresh interpretations, sharing knowledge through various media, and preserving epigraphic resources.

Q. Who has created history by becoming India's youngest Olympic referee in boxing at Paris Olympics 2024?

- A) Rahul Dsa B) Venkatesh Ramachandran
C) Tejas Nagvenkar D) Kabilan Sai Ashok

Answer : D

- ✓ Lt Col Kabilan Sai Ashok, India's youngest boxing referee at Olympics
- ✓ A distinguished officer of the Indian Army, Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok has made history by becoming India's youngest Olympic referee in boxing at the Paris Olympics 2024.

- ✓ This extraordinary accomplishment highlights his dedication, professionalism, and integrity, embodying the high standards of the Indian Army.

Q. World Breastfeeding Week is a global healthcare event celebrated annually from August 1st to 7th. What is the theme of World Breastfeeding Week 2024?

- A) Step up for Breastfeeding – Educate and Support
- B) Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility
- C) Support breastfeeding for a healthier planet!
- D) Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all

Answer : D

- ✓ World Breastfeeding Week is a global healthcare event celebrated annually from August 1st to 7th.
- ✓ World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) is a global campaign to raise awareness and galvanise action on themes related to breastfeeding.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all
- ✓ WBW is celebrated every 1-7 August in commemoration of the 1990 Innocenti Declaration.

Q. Consider the following:

1. Sunflower Oil	2. Rubber crop
3. Sugar	4. Coffee

How many of the above commodity prices are monitored by the Union Minister of Consumer Affairs?

A) Only one	B) Only two
C) Only three	D) All four

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New and Renewable Energy launched Version 4.0 of Price Monitoring System (PMS) Mobile app.
- ✓ Price Monitoring Division (PMD) in the Department of Consumer Affairs is responsible for monitoring prices of selected essential commodities.
- ✓ To improve the quality of price data, the department launched a Mobile App in 2021 - the PMS App - for the reporting of daily prices by the price reporting centres.
- ✓ Source of price data: Retail and wholesale prices of commodities from 550 centers are received daily from the State Civil Supplies Departments of the respective State Governments through Mobile App developed by the Department.
- ✓ **Total commodities monitored**
- ✓ At present the price is monitored for 22 essential commodities (Rice, Wheat, Atta, Gram Dal, Tur (Arhar) Dal, Urad Dal, Moong Dal, Masur Dal, Sugar, Gur, Groundnut Oil, Mustard Oil, Vanaspati, Sunflower Oil, Soya Oil, Palm Oil, Tea, Milk, Potato, Onion, Tomato and Salt).
- ✓ The newly added 16 items included are Bajra, Jowar, Ragi, Suji (wheat), Maida (wheat), Besan, Ghee, Butter, Brinjal, Egg, Black Pepper, Coriander, Cummin seed, red chilies, Turmeric powder and Banana.
- ✓ The 38 commodities constitute close to 31% of the total CPI weights as against 26.5% of CPI weights captured by the 22 commodities.

Q. The WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (WHO GCTM) is located in which one of the following states?

- A) Telangana
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Gujarat

Answer : D

- ✓ India has committed \$85 million over 10 years, 2022–2032, to support the programming of the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Traditional Medicine Centre.
- ✓ **About WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (WHO GCTM):**
- ✓ WHO GCTM in Jamnagar, Gujarat, is a knowledge centre for traditional medicine.
- ✓ The Indian Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the centre in the presence of the WHO Director-General in April 2022.
- ✓ It is the first global outpost centre for traditional medicine across the globe and was established under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- ✓ It will concentrate on building a solid evidence base for policies and standards on traditional medicine practices and products and help countries integrate it as appropriate into their health systems and regulate its quality and safety for optimal and sustainable impact.

Q. Which games are NOT depicted in the commemorative stamp issued by the Postal Department on the 33rd Paris Olympics?

- A) Javelin Throw
- B) Field Hockey
- C) Sailing
- D) Badminton

Answer : D

- ✓ The Department of Post under the Union Ministry of Communication has released four commemorative stamps for the 33rd Summer Olympics, which is being held in Paris, France, from 26 July to 11 August 2024.
- ✓ The stamp was released at a function held in New Delhi on 5 August 2024.
- ✓ Who released the Commemorative stamps?
- ✓ The commemorative stamps were released by the Union Minister of Communication, Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ✓ The function was attended by Paris Olympics bronze medallist shooter Sarabjot Singh, Steeplechase Athlete Sudha Singh, and former Cricketer Akash Chopra.
- ✓ Sarabjot Singh won a historic bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event, partnering Manu Bhaker in the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Sports Depicted in the Commemorative Stamp
- ✓ The four stamps released by the ministers depict five Olympic sports - Javelin Throw, Field Hockey, Sailing and Table Tennis.
- ✓ India has one gold medal in Javelin at the Olympics. Neeraj Chopra won the medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ The Indian men's hockey team has won 12 medals—8 gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze—in the Olympics. It won a bronze medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ Leander Paes is the only Indian to win a medal in tennis at the Olympics. He won a bronze medal in the men's singles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced that shooter Manu Bhaker will be one of the flag bearers of India at the closing ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Manu Bhaker is the only Indian to have won two medals in a single Olympics. She won a bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol event.

- ✓ She again won a bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event with Sarabjot Singh.
- ✓ Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and Commonwealth Games medallist table tennis veteran Sharath Kamal were the flag bearers of the Opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Q. Robert “Kelly” Ortberg has been appointed as the CEO of which of the following company?

- A) Spirit AeroSystems
- B) Boeing
- C) Airbus SE
- D) Tesla

Answer : B

- ✓ Kelly Ortberg appoints as new CEO of Boeing
- ✓ Longtime aerospace executive Robert “Kelly” Ortberg has been selected as the CEO of Boeing.
- ✓ She will replace Dave Calhoun.

Q. Who will be India’s flagbearer in the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics?

- A) Manu Bhaker
- B) PV Sindhu
- C) Rhythm Sangwan
- D) Ramita Jindal

Answer : A

- ✓ India’s two-time Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker is set to be India’s flagbearer in the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ India’s men’s flagbearer for the ceremony is yet to be confirmed.
- ✓ The closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics will take place on August 11.
- ✓ Bhaker is the first athlete from the Indian contingent after independence to get two medals in a single edition of the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Earlier in the 1900 Olympics, Norman Pritchard won two medals while representing India, both silver in the 200m and 200m hurdles.
- ✓ Bhaker also joined an elite group of athletes to have multiple individual medals at the Olympics: PV Sindhu (badminton silver at Rio 2016 and bronze medal at Tokyo 2020) and Sushil Kumar (wrestling bronze at the 2008 Beijing Olympics and silver medal at the 2012 London Olympics).

Q. Tata Group unveils ₹27,000 crore semiconductor facility in which state?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Assam

Answer : D

- ✓ Tata Group unveils ₹27,000 crore semiconductor facility in Assam
- ✓ At the Tata Group’s ₹27,000-crore greenfield semiconductor assembly and test facility in Assam, which is expected to be operationalised by next year, around 15 billion chips will be packaged annually for customers globally.
- ✓ The chips, which will be packaged at the Jagiroad facility in Assam, will power electric vehicles, healthcare devices, mobile phones, laptops, and other key products of leading global companies around the world.
- ✓ The facility is expected to generate over 27,000 direct and indirect jobs in the region.
- ✓ The project is envisioned under the Government of India’s Semiconductor policy, which is driven by the India Semiconductor Mission and the Government of Assam’s Electronics policy.

Q.

- A) 2003

B) 2004

- C) 2006

D) 2001

Answer : D

- ✓ Veteran Gandhian and social worker Shobhana Ranade passed away at the age of 100.
- ✓ She was honoured with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, for her social work in 2001.
- ✓ Ranade's work for destitute women and children is remarkable. She helped set up the Gandhi National Memorial Society at Aga Khan Palace, Pune, and a training institute for women.
- ✓ She established a children's village called 'Baal Gram' and gave a home to hundreds of orphan children. She was an active member of the Save Ganga Movement, a movement established to prevent pollution of the Ganga River through the Gandhi National Memorial Society.

Q.

- A) Haryana

B) Punjab

- ### C) Uttar Pradesh

D) Bihar

Answer : A

- ✓ Haryana's Chief Minister announced the state's procurement of all crops at Minimum Support Price (MSP), making it the first in India to do so.
- ✓ Additionally, he waived Rs 133 crore in irrigation charges and promised Rs 137 crore in pending compensation for crop damage due to natural calamities.
- ✓ MSP, recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), ensures fair prices for farmers and promotes crop diversification.

Q.

- A) Hindon air base

B) Air Force Station Arjan Singh

- ### C) Awantipur Air Force Station

D) Ambala Air Force Station

Answer : A

- ✓ Sheikh Hasina Wazed, five five-time Bangladesh Prime Minister, resigned on 4 August 2024 and fled to India in a military helicopter after a month-long deadly student protest. The student protests against the job quota soon turned into an anti-government agitation, which has led to over 300 people, mainly civilians, dead in the country.
- ✓ Her resignation ended her uninterrupted 15-year rule in Bangladesh. She had been the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for 20 years.
- ✓ Bangladesh's longest-serving prime minister helicopter landed at the Indian Air Forces Hindon air base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met her at the Hindon air base.
- ✓ Immediate cause of unrest in Bangladesh

- ✓ In June 2024, the High Court in Bangladesh, in a ruling, reinstated 30 per cent of government jobs for the descendants of those who participated in the country's 1971 liberation movement. This meant that around 56 per cent of the government jobs in Bangladesh were reserved for various sections of society in Bangladesh.
- ✓ This immediately triggered protests in Bangladesh, and a movement started in Dhaka led by students. The protest soon turned into a movement against the Hasina government, and they started demanding the resignation of the government.
- ✓ The protest continued against the government despite the Bangladesh Supreme Court in its 21 July judgement, struck down the High Court verdict on job quota.
- ✓ The main opposition parties -Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamaat-i-Islami supported the student movement demanding the resignation of Sheikh Hasina.

BANGLADESH IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ India and Bangladesh have agreed to strengthen their bilateral relationship by extending their partnership in connectivity, infrastructure, and energy.
- ✓ India to train Bangladeshi's civil servants for the next 5 years.
- ✓ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won the general elections for the fourth consecutive time
- ✓ Bangladesh approves 4 transit routes for north-eastern India goods transport
- ✓ 3rd Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) meeting of BIMSTEC held In Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ✓ India and Bangladesh opened trade via the Maia (West Bengal)-Sultanganj (Bangladesh) river ports on the Ganga river.
- ✓ India's Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has opened its first overseas office in Dhaka.
- ✓ About Bangladesh
- ✓ Capital: Dhaka
- ✓ Currency: Taka
- ✓ President: Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu

Q. Who is the author of the book titled "Breaking Rocks and Barriers"?

- A) Arvind Subramanian
- B) Shashi Tharoor
- C) Sudipta Sengupta
- D) Pulapre Balakrishnan

Answer : C

- ✓ A new book chronicling the work and adventures of Sudipta Sengupta, a pioneering geologist-mountaineer and one of the first Indian women to set foot in Antarctica in 1983.
- ✓ "Breaking Rocks and Barriers", published by HarperCollins India, narrates Sengupta's adventures as a geologist studying and doing fieldwork in remote areas across the world – from encounters with snakes in the mines of Bihar and trekking across a 'black glacier' in Norway to being engulfed by a thundercloud in Sweden and being greeted by a flock of penguins in Antarctica.

Q. Who has been appointed as the 22nd Director General of the Assam Rifles?

- A) Sujoy Lal Thaosan
- B) Vineet McCarty
- C) Umesh Mishra
- D) Vikas Lakhera

Answer : D

- ✓ Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera took over as the 22nd Director General of the Assam Rifles known by the sobriquet of “Sentinels of the North-East”.
- ✓ He has varied and rich professional experience of Assam Rifles and the North East region, having served extensively in North East including being Inspector General in Assam Rifles at Nagaland.
- ✓ The General Officer was commissioned from Indian Military Academy into 4 SIKH LI 1990, the Unit which he subsequently commanded in lower Assam under the Red Horn Division.

Q. Noah Lyles edged past Jamaican Kishane Thompson to win his first Olympic gold medal in a lifetime-best 9.784 seconds. He is from which country?

- A) Poland
- B) France
- C) Australia
- D) United States

Answer : D

- ✓ USA's Noah Lyles edged past Jamaican Kishane Thompson to win his first Olympic gold medal in a lifetime-best 9.784 seconds.
- ✓ Lyles crossed the finish line just five-thousandths of a second ahead of Thompson, who posted a time of 9.789.
- ✓ The result wasn't clear until nearly 30 seconds after the end of the race, as the competitors waited nervously for the details of their photo finish.
- ✓ Noah Lyles was a gold medalist. Thompson took silver, and American Fred Kerley claimed bronze, Kerley's second career Olympic medal in the 100m.

Q. Where was the first BIMSTEC Business Summit meeting held?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Kathmandu
- C) Dhaka
- D) Thimphu

Answer : A

- ✓ New Delhi host the first BIMSTEC Business Summit meeting
- ✓ The first BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Business Summit meeting is being held in New Delhi from 6 to 8 August 2024. The Summit will facilitate discussions on key areas of cooperation and bring together all BIMSTEC stakeholders on one platform.
- ✓ The first BIMSTEC Business Summit was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar in New Delhi on 6 August 2024. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal was also present on the occasion.
- ✓ The summit is being attended by ministers of the BIMSTEC countries, high-ranking Government officials, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and industry associations.
- ✓ The first Business Summit meeting of BIMSTEC has been organised by the Ministry of External Affairs in association with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).
- ✓ **BIMSTEC Meetings**

- ✓ BIMSTEC was established as a regional group in 1997 to promote cooperation among the littoral states of the Bay of Bengal regions. Its members are India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Thailand, and Myanmar.
- ✓ Thailand will host the 6th BIMSTEC Summit Meeting in September 2024.
- ✓ A series of BIMSTEC meetings are being held to prepare for the forthcoming summit meeting.
- ✓ New Delhi hosted the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's Retreat (meeting) on July 11 and 12, 2024.
- ✓ The 4th BIMSTEC Security Chiefs meeting was held on 27 July 2024 in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of Myanmar.

Q. Wrestler Vinesh Phogat was found overweight by how many grams, which led to her disqualification from the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- A) 100 grams
- B) 150 grams
- C) 200 grams
- D) 125 grams

Answer : A

- ✓ Paris Olympics- Heartbreak for Vinesh Phogat Disqualified Before Final
- ✓ In a heartbreak for women's wrestler Vinesh Phogat and India, she has been disqualified from the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ She was to compete in the final of the women's 50 kg category on 7 August 2024. Phogat was disqualified for being overweight in her category.
- ✓ Although she usually competes in the 53 kg category, she competed in the 50 kg event at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Before her disqualification, Vinesh was the first Indian women wrestler to reach the final of the Olympics. Before her, Sakshi Malik is the only Indian women's wrestler to have won a medal -bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics
- ✓ **Under which rule Vinesh was disqualified?**
- ✓ At the 33rd Summer Olympics being held in Paris, France, each weight category wrestling event is held on two competition days. On the morning of each competition day, the wrestlers are weighed.
- ✓ Vinesh Phogat was eligible for competition on the first day of the competition. However, when she was weighed on the morning of the final (7 August 2024), she was overweight by 100 grams.
- ✓ According to wrestling rules, if a wrestler fails the weigh-in on either day of the competition, they are eliminated from the event
- ✓ Vinesh was to face Sarah Hildebrandt of the USA in the final on 7 August 2024. Now, the American Sarah Hildebrandt will face Yusneylis Guzman for the gold medal.
- ✓ Wrestling Medals for India in Olympics
- ✓ India has won seven medals -2 silvers and 5 bronze-in the Olympics before the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The first individual medal in the Olympics for India after Independence was won by KD Jadhav in wrestling at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. He won a bronze medal.
- ✓ India has never won a gold medal in the wrestling event in the Olympics.
- ✓ Sakshi Malik is the only female wrestler to win an Olympic medal for India. Sushil Kumar has won two medals in wrestling.

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in 2015 that the 7th of August will be observed as National Handloom Day every year. This day was chosen to highlight the historical Swadeshi movement, which was launched on 7 August 1905.
- ✓ The first National Handloom Day was observed in Chennai by the Prime Minister on 7 August 2015.
- ✓ 10th National Handloom Day Celebration
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Textile is organising the 10th National Handloom Day event on 7th August 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India, will be the Chief Guest on the occasion.
- ✓ The Sant Kabir Awards and National Handloom Awards will be conferred to handloom weavers for their outstanding contributions to the handloom sector during the function.
- ✓ The National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. has organised the "VIRAASAT" handloom exhibition in New Delhi on the occasion of the 10th National Handloom Day.
- ✓ The "VIRAASAT" exhibition will be held from 3 to 16 August 2024. Handloom products from various parts of the country are on display and for sale at the exhibition.

Q. Who took the oath as the 25th Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry?

- A) Vinai Kumar Saxena B) K. Kailashnathan
C) Manoj Sinha D) Praful Khoda Patel

Answer : B

- ✓ K. Kailashnathan took the oath as the 25th Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry on August 7, 2024.
- ✓ The oath was administered by the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, D. Krishnakumar.
- ✓ Kailashnathan, a retired Gujarat cadre IAS officer, is the first full-time Lt. Governor of Puducherry since Kiran Bedi left in 2021
- ✓ About Puducherry
- ✓ Formation: July 1, 1963
- ✓ Capital: Pondicherry
- ✓ Chief Minister: N. Rangasamy

Q. Which is the 43rd site of India to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage list?

- A) Tilinga Mandir
B) Moidams
C) Navagraha Hill
D) Ugratara Temple

Answer : B

- ✓ 43rd UNESCO Heritage Site of India: Moidams of Assam.
- ✓ The Moidams of Assam, the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty, have been included in the cultural category of the UNESCO World Heritage Site list. It is the 43rd site in India to be included in UNESCO's World Heritage Site list.
- ✓ The Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, gave this information on 26 July 2024.
- ✓ The decision to include the Moidam of Assam was taken at the 46th session of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation(UNESCO)'s World Heritage Committee.
- ✓ The UNESCO World Heritage Committee session is being held for the first time in India at New Delhi from 21-31 July 2024
- ✓ 3rd site of Assam to be included in UNESCO's Heritage List.
- ✓ The Moidams of Assam- the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty is the third site in Assam and North East to be included in UNESCO's World Heritage List and the first in the cultural category.
- ✓ Kaziranga National Park of Assam and Manas Wildlife Sanctuary were included in the UNESCO list in 1985 under the Natural category.
- ✓ About Moidam
- ✓ Moidams, or "home for spirit," are burial sites which are basically hollow vaults of brick stone and contain the remains of kings and royals of the Tai-Ahom.
- ✓ The Tai Ahom, who arrived in Assam in the 13th century, constructed moidams for the royal families initially with wood and later with stone and burnt bricks,
- ✓ UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- ✓ The UNESCO World Heritage Sites categorises heritage into Cultural, Natural, and Mixed categories.
- ✓ Italy has the most sites on the UNESCO World Heritage List, with 60, followed by China, with 59 sites.
- ✓ India is sixth with 43 sites.
- ✓ Ajanta Cave, Ellora Cave (both Maharashtra), the Taj Mahal in Agra, and the Agra Fort in Uttar Pradesh were the first Indian sites to be included in UNESCO's list in 1983.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the NIPUN Bharat Mission:

1. It focuses on children of the age group of 3 to 9 years to acquire Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills.
2. It is one of the centrally sponsored schemes of Samagra Shiksha.

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 new National Education Policy (NEP 2020) was launched four years ago and there are a set of interlinked social and demographic trends which, if leveraged, could provide a boost to the NIPUN Bharat Mission.
- ✓ The National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN Bharat) Bharat mission was launched by the Ministry of Education.
- ✓ The mission will focus on children of the age group of 3 to 9 years including pre-school to Grade 3.
- ✓ A five-tier implementation mechanism will be set up at the National- State- District- Block- School level in all States and UTs, under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha.
- ✓ The goals and objectives of the mission are required to be achieved by all government Government-aided and Private Schools so that universal acquisition of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) skills can be achieved by 2026-27.
- ✓ It has been launched under the aegis of the centrally sponsored scheme of Samagra Shiksha and will focus on providing
- ✓ Access and retaining children in foundational years of schooling; teacher capacity building; development of high quality and diversified Student and Teacher Resources/Learning Materials; and tracking the progress of each child in achieving learning outcomes.

Q. Which one of the following best describes 'INS Tripur', recently seen in the news?

- A) It is a Kiev-class aircraft carrier. B) It is a diesel-electric submarine.
C) It is a Talwar-class frigate. D) It is a nuclear-powered submarine.

Answer : C

- ✓ Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) recently launched the first indigenously-built Talwar class frigate, 'Tripur'.
- ✓ About INS Tripur:
- ✓ It is the first indigenously built Talwar-class frigate.
- ✓ Project:
- ✓ In October 2016, India and Russia signed a deal to buy four stealth frigates of the Admiral Grigorovich class (also known as Project 1135.6 class).
- ✓ Two of these frigates, 'Tushil' and 'Tamal', will be directly imported, and the remaining two frigates will be built in India by GSL through a transfer of technology (ToT).
- ✓ Tripur is the first ship built by GSL under this. The second frigate, 'Tamal', will be delivered by February 2025.
- ✓ The Indian Navy already operates six ships of this class: INS Talwar, INS Trishul, INS Tabar, INS Teg, INS Tarkash, and INS Trikand.
- ✓ Features of INS Tripur:
- ✓ The 124-m-long and 15.5-m-wide ship is propelled by four gas turbines which are designed to achieve a maximum speed of 28 Knots at a displacement of approx. 3200 tons

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Project PARI:

1. It aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of India.
2. It is executed by the Lalit Kala Akademi, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.

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 Ministry of Culture, Government of India, on the occasion of the 46th Session of the World Heritage Committee Meeting, which is being held in New Delhi from 21st-31st July 2024, has initiated Project PARI (Public Art of India).
- ✓ The Project PARI (Public Art of India) aims to stimulate dialogue, reflection, and inspiration, contributing to the dynamic cultural fabric of the nation.
- ✓ It provides a platform to uplift the aesthetic and cultural outlook of Delhi while adding grandeur to the rich historical legacy of our national capital.
- ✓ The representation of Art in public spaces is particularly significant as it showcases the nation's rich and diverse cultural heritage.
- ✓ The proposed sculptures being created for Project PARI include wide-ranging ideas such as paying tributes to nature, ideas inspired by the Natyashastra, Gandhi ji, toys of India, hospitality, ancient knowledge, Naad or Primeval Soun, Harmony of life, Kalpataru – the divine tree, etc.
- ✓ Women artists have been an integral part of Project PARI and their participation in large numbers is a testimony of Bharat's NARI SHAKTI.
- ✓ This initiative is being executed by the Lalit Kala Akademi, an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.

Q. Elisa de Anda Madrazo has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF). She is from which country?

- A) France
- B) New Zealand
- C) Germany
- D) Mexico

Answer : D

- ✓ Mexico's Elisa de Anda Madrazo has been appointed as the president of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ✓ She succeeded Mr. T. Raja Kumar of Singapore.
- ✓ Elisa is the president from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026.
- ✓ Ms. De Anda has over a decade of experience in leadership positions in the anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) sector.
- ✓ Ms. De Anda currently serves as Director General in Mexico's Ministry of Finance and Public Credit. Elisa joined the Ministry in 2015.
- ✓ About Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- ✓ The Group of Seven (G-7) countries set up the FATF at the Paris summit meeting in 1989.
- ✓ Function of FATF
- ✓ It is an inter-governmental body;
- ✓ which sets the global standards on anti-money laundering(AML), combating the financing of terrorism(CFT) and proliferation financing (providing funds or financial services for the development of weapons of mass destruction, i.e. chemical, biological or nuclear weapons),
- ✓ Members of FATF
- ✓ At present, 39 countries are members of FATF. However, Russia has been suspended since 2023. India joined the FATF in 2010.
- ✓ Headquarters: Paris, France.
- ✓ President of FATF: Elisa de Anda Madrazo of Mexico.

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- ✓ Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002, based on the recommendation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), is the main law dealing with money laundering in India. It was implemented on 1 July 2005. The provision of the PMLA is enforced by the Directorate of Enforcement or ED

Q. With reference to Rudram-1, consider the following statements:

1. It is an Air-to-surface missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
2. It has a maximum range of up to 500 kilometers.
3. It is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A) One only
- B) Two only
- C) All three
- D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ India has successfully test-fired its first indigenous anti-radiation missile, the Rudram-1, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ✓ It is an Air-to-surface missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- ✓ It is integrated with the IAF's Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets which serves as the launch platform.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile.
- ✓ It features Inertial Navigation Systems (INS)-GPS navigation and a Passive Homing Head for final attack, allowing it to accurately hit radiation-emitting targets.
- ✓ INS-GPS navigation provides a technological edge, enabling accurate targeting over a wide range of frequencies.
- ✓ Range: The missile can be launched from varying altitudes, ranging from 500 meters to 15 kilometers, and has a range of up to 250 kilometers depending on the launch conditions.
- ✓ Speed: Up to Mach 2
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Project 76:

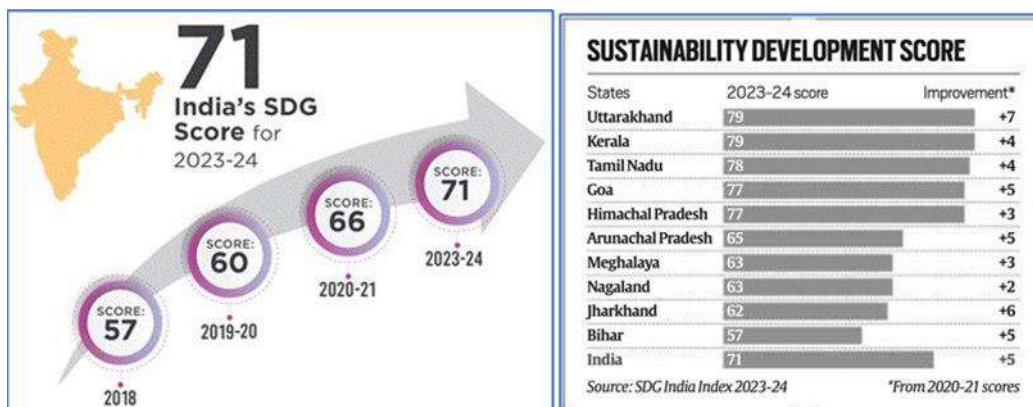
1. It aims to succeed the renowned Sindhughosh (Kilo) class.
2. Under Project 76, Indian Navy is developing the country's first indigenously conventional diesel-electric submarine.

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 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken up a preliminary study on the design and development of an indigenous conventional submarine under Project-76.



- ✓ The government think tank NITI Aayog released its fourth evaluation report of India's progress on the 16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by all United Nations member countries.
- ✓ SDG India Index 2023-24:
- ✓ SDG India Index 2023-24, the fourth edition of the country's principal tool for measuring national and subnational progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was released by NITI Aayog.
- ✓ SDG India Index 2023-24 measures and tracks national progress of all States and UTs on 113 indicators aligned to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's (MoSPI) National Indicator Framework (NIF).
- ✓ The SDG India Index computes goal-wise scores on the 16 SDGs for each State and UT.
- ✓ **Key Highlights from the 4th Edition of the SDG India Index:**
- ✓ The composite score for India improved from 57 in 2018 to 66 in 2020-21 to further to 71 in 2023-24.
- ✓ India has taken significant strides in accelerating progress on the SDGs between the 2020-21 and 2023-24 editions of the Index.
- ✓ Noteworthy advancements have been observed in Goals 1 (No Poverty), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 13 (Climate Action).
- ✓ The SDG India Index 2023-24 reports a positive trend in the performance of States and UTs in their SDG journey.
- ✓ The scores for States now range from 57 to 79, while UTs score between 65 and 77.
- ✓ This represents an improvement over the 2020-21 scores, where the range was 52 to 75 for States and 62 to 79 for UTs.
- ✓ Uttarakhand and Kerala have taken the top spot among states with a score of 79 each while Bihar was ranked last with a score of 57.
- ✓ About NITI Aayog's SDG Index:
- ✓ The NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Index is a vital tool that tracks and ranks the progress of Indian states and Union Territories (UTs) towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ Launched in 2018, the index provides a comprehensive overview of the performance of states and UTs on various SDG indicators.
- ✓ Comprehensive Framework:
- ✓ The index evaluates states and UTs based on 16 out of the 17 SDGs, using 113 indicators derived from official national data sources.
- ✓ Performance Categories:
- ✓ States and UTs are classified into four categories based on their scores:
- ✓ Achiever (100),

- ✓ Front Runner (65-99),
- ✓ Performer (50-64), and
- ✓ Aspirant (0-49).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM):

1. It is a long-range cruise missile to protect vulnerable areas and vulnerable points from air attacks.
2. It was indigenously designed and developed by India's 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 : B

- ✓ Indian “Iron-Dome” Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM) is competing against Chinese-made Sky Dragon-50 air defense systems to secure an order from Brazil.
- ✓ About Akash Surface-to-Air Missile (SAM):
- ✓ It is a Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missile system to protect vulnerable areas and vulnerable points from air attacks.
- ✓ It was indigenously designed and developed by India’s Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and is produced by Hyderabad-based Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL).
- ✓ It is 5.8 m long, has a diameter of 350 mm and a wingspan of 1,105mm.
- ✓ It has a launch weight of 720 kg.
- ✓ The missile can fly at a speed of up to Mach 2.5 and has a height ceiling of 18 km.
- ✓ It can target aircraft up to 45 km away.

Q. Who was recently awarded France's highest civilian honour?

- A) Gautam Adani
B) Roshni Nadar Malhotra
C) Mukesh Ambani
D) Amitabh Bachchan

Answer : B

- ✓ Roshni Nadar of HCL Tech honoured with France Highest Civilian Award.
- ✓ HCL Technologies chairperson Roshini Nadar has been conferred with France's highest civilian award, the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur or the Knight of the Legion of Honour.
- ✓ Roshini Nadar was honoured for her outstanding contributions to the business world, her constant endeavour to promote economic ties between France and India and her unwavering commitment to social and environmental causes.
- ✓ The Order of Légion d'honneur is the highest civilian award conferred by the government of France. The award was instituted by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.
- ✓ The Order of Legion of Honour has been divided into five degrees: Grand Croix (Grand Cross), Grand Officer, Commandeur (Commander), Officier and Chevalier (Knight)
- ✓ The Grand Cross is the highest-ranked award, followed by Grand Officer, Commander, Officer, and Knight.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour in 2023.
- ✓ Durga Charan Rakshit was the first Indian to receive the Legion of Honour award. He was conferred the award in 1896.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Repair Portal:

1. It is launched by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs.
2. It aims to offer a cheaper alternative to expensive replacements to customers, instead of buying new products altogether.

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 Central government of India asked the automobile companies to join the unified Right to Repair Portal India.
- ✓ It aims to provide consumers with access to repair information for their products and reduce e-waste.
- ✓ It was launched by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs (MCA) on National Consumer Rights Day 2022.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It provides information about the circular economy, which is the new economic model that focuses on repairing and reusing products, as opposed to throwing them away.
- ✓ The portal brings together information from different sectors, including automobiles, consumer durables, mobile and electronics, and farming equipment.
- ✓ All public information related to products, services, warranties, terms, and conditions, etc. will also be easily accessible through this portal.

Q. Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), which produces the AK-203 Assault Rifles in India, is located in which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Bihar
C) Maharashtra D) Karnataka

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL), a joint venture between India and Russia, has successfully delivered 35,000 AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles to the Indian Army.
- ✓ About AK-203 Rifle:
 - ✓ It is a modern firearm originating from Russia, designed by the renowned engineer Mikhail Kalashnikov between 2007 and 2010.
 - ✓ It is a gas-operated, magazine-fed, select fire assault rifle.
 - ✓ It is a version of the AK-200 rifle chambered for the 7.62x39mm cartridge used in the Indian Army.
 - ✓ These AK-203 rifles are produced in India using proprietary Russian technologies and certified equipment, ensuring high product quality and adherence to specifications.
 - ✓ It will be manufactured by Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).
 - ✓ IRRPL is a joint venture between India and Russia, set up in 2019 to produce AK-203 rifles in the Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi district, Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ The joint venture plans to ensure 100% localisation of the production of AK-203 rifles in India.
 - ✓ India is the first country outside Russia which has started the production of the AK-200 series assault rifles.
- ✓ Features of AK-203 Rifle:
 - ✓ Weighing 3.8 kg, this rifle measures between 880 and 940 mm in length with the stock extended, while its barrel is 415 mm long.

Q. Who has been appointed as the 58th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom?

- A) Angela Rayner
- B) Rachel Reeves
- C) Sir Keir Starmer
- D) David Lammy

Answer : C

- ✓ Keir Starmer appointed 58th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- ✓ Sir Keir Starmer has been appointed as the new Prime Minister of the United Kingdom by Monarch King Charles III on 5 July 2024 at Buckingham Palace in London.
- ✓ Sir Keir Starmer is the 58th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.
- ✓ Sir Keir Starmer's Labour Party won a landslide victory in the recently held parliamentary election.
- ✓ He replaced the Conservative Party leader, Rishi Sunak, whose party badly lost the election.
- ✓ United Kingdom Parliament consists of two houses: the House of Lords, which is the upper house, and the lower house, the House of Commons.
- ✓ The House of Commons is the popularly elected house with 650 seats.
- ✓ The Labour party has won 412 seats, with results on 2 seats yet to be declared.
- ✓ The first prime minister of the United Kingdom and in the world was Sir Robert Walpole (1721-1742).
- ✓ About the United Kingdom
- ✓ The United Kingdom is a sovereign country that consists of four countries: England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.
- ✓ The Kingdom of Great Britain refers to England, Wales and Scotland.
- ✓ Capital : London
- ✓ Currency : Pound Sterling

NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS 2024

- Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli : Nepal
- Keir Starmer : 58th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- Dick Schoof : Netherlands
- 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
- Robert Fico : Slovakia
- Christopher Luxon : 42nd PM of New Zealand

Q. Consider the following statements regarding MeDevIS Platform:

1. It is the first global open access clearinghouse for information on medical devices.
2. It is launched by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced an online platform called MeDevIS.
- ✓ Medical Devices Information System (MeDevIS) is the first global open access clearinghouse for information on medical devices.
- ✓ It is designed to support governments, regulators and users in their decision-making on selection, procurement and use of medical devices for diagnostics, testing and treatment of diseases and health conditions.
- ✓ It replaces paper-based literature search across multiple publications with non-standard device names which can add to the complexity.
- ✓ The European Medical Device Nomenclature (EMDN): It is mostly used in European countries for registration in the European database.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC):

1. It is the indigenous satellite-based navigation system, developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
2. It enables users to determine their precise geographic location and track their movements anywhere in India and 5000 km beyond India's territorial boundary.

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 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has commissioned a Bengaluru-based firm to indigenously develop a receiver chip to acquire and disseminate Indian time for Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) developed by ISRO.
- ✓ About Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC):
- ✓ NavIC, formerly known as the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is the indigenous satellite-based navigation system, developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).
- ✓ NavIC consists of seven satellites (IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1C, IRNSS-1D, IRNSS-1E, IRNSS- 1F, IRNSS-1G, IRNSS-1I) orbiting Earth to provide accurate positioning and timing information.
- ✓ Three satellites of the constellation are placed in geostationary orbit, and four satellites are placed in inclined geosynchronous orbit.
- ✓ The ground network consists of a control centre, precise timing facility, range and integrity monitoring stations, two-way ranging stations, etc.
- ✓ It enables users to determine their precise geographic location and track their movements anywhere in India and 1500 km beyond India's territorial boundary.

- ✓ The system provides positioning accuracy of better than 10 metres throughout India and better than 20 metres for the area surrounding India by 1,500 km.
- ✓ NavIC SPS signals are interoperable with the other global navigation satellite system (GNSS) signals, namely GPS (US), Glonass (Russia), Galileo (European Union), and BeiDou (China).

Q. According to the India State of Forest Report 2021, what area of India is under forest cover?

- A) 24.98% B) 23.82%
- C) 21.71% D) 27.24%

Answer : C

- ✓ 21.71% of country's area under forest cover.
- ✓ According to Kirti Vardhan Singh, the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the country's total forest cover is 7,13,789 square kilometres or 21.71% of its geographical area.
- ✓ The Minister gave this information by quoting the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021.
- ✓ The India State of Forest Report is prepared biennially by the Forest Survey of India, which is based in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The Forest Survey of India comes under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ✓ State/UT with the highest and lowest Forest Cover
- ✓ The maximum forest area in the country was reported in Madhya Pradesh, with 77,493 square kilometres of the state under forest cover. After Madhya Pradesh, the maximum area under forest was in Arunachal Pradesh, followed by Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- ✓ Among the states and Union Territories, Chandigarh had the least area under forest cover, a mere 23 square kilometres. After Chandigarh, Lakshadweep had 27 kilometres under forest cover, followed by Puducherry, 57 kilometres under forest cover.
- ✓ Among the states, Haryana had the least forest cover (1603 sq km), followed by Punjab (1847 sq km).

Q. Which state of India has the maximum area under forest cover as per the India State of Forest Report 2021?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Madhya Pradesh
C) West Bengal D) Chhattisgarh

Answer : B

Q. Which state /Union Territory has the least area under forest cover as per the India State of Forest Report 2021?

- A) Lakshadweep
B) Chandigarh
C) Puducherry
D) Andaman and Nicobar

Answer : B

- ✓ Among the states and Union Territories, Chandigarh had the least area under forest cover, a mere 23 square kilometres. After Chandigarh, Lakshadweep had 27 kilometres under forest cover, followed by Puducherry, 57 kilometres under forest cover.

Q. Which State has the least area under forest cover as per the India State of Forest Report 2021?

- A) Punjab
- B) Haryana
- C) Gujarat
- D) Bihar

Answer : B

- ✓ Among the states, Haryana had the least forest cover (1603 sq km), followed by Punjab (1847 sq km).

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Air Breathing Propulsion Technology:

1. It is a technology in which rockets utilise atmospheric oxygen as an oxidiser to burn the fuel.
2. It can be used only within the denser layers of the Earth's atmosphere.

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

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out the second experimental flight for the demonstration of Air Breathing Propulsion Technology.
- ✓ In this system the rocket will carry its fuel, but will not carry an on-board oxidiser.
- ✓ Instead, this system will utilise atmospheric oxygen as an oxidiser to burn the fuel. This makes rockets significantly lighter and more efficient.
- ✓ However, such air-breathing technologies can be used only within the denser layers of the Earth's atmosphere, where there is an adequate supply of oxygen.
- ✓ Such technologies might be feasible in the denser layers of Earth's atmosphere (up to 70kilometres altitude), and thereafter the rocket must switch to another stage that has both fuel and an on-board oxidizer.

Q. Which country has unveiled the world's first carbon fiber-only passenger train?

- A) Germany
- B) France
- C) India
- D) China

Answer : D

- ✓ China Unveils World's First Carbon Fiber-Only High-Speed Train.
- ✓ China has unveiled the world's first carbon fiber-only passenger train, marking a significant advancement in high-speed rail technology
- ✓ The carbon fiber train is significantly lighter than traditional trains, contributing to reduced pollution.
- ✓ It is designed to be more energy-efficient, consuming 7% less energy compared to conventional steel trains.
- ✓ The train can reach speeds of up to 87 mph

Q. C-DOT partners with which of the following two IITs to boost 6G standardization and connectivity?

- A) IIT Delhi and IIT Madras
- B) IIT Roorkee and IIT Mandi
- C) IIT Roorkee and IIT Kanpur
- D) IIT Madras and IIT Mandi

Answer : B

Answer : C

INDIA'S HOST IN NEWS 2024

- India has taken over as the Chair of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for 2024-25.
- India is set to host the second Asia Pacific (APAC) ministerial conference on civil aviation, which will be jointly organised by the Indian government and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- 64th International Sugar Organisation Council meeting commenced on 25th June 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi
- India has been selected for the first time to chair and host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee will be held in New Delhi between 21 and 31 July 2024.
- 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.
- India to host 'Global India AI 2023' conference.
- India To Host Global Technology Summit will be organized in New Delhi.

Q. With reference to the State of the World's Forests 2024 Report, consider the following statements:

1. It is published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. In 2020, forests covered approximately 40% of the global land area.
3. More than one-third of the global mangrove area is located in South and Southeast Asia.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ State of the World's Forests 2024, released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently, has brought both relief and concern regarding the state of the world's forests.
- ✓ About State of the World's Forests 2024 Report:
- ✓ It is published by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.
- ✓ It provides a comprehensive analysis of forest conditions and trends.
- ✓ Highlights of the Report:
- ✓ It highlighted a decline in deforestation rates compared to previous decades, with several countries showing significant improvements.
- ✓ The data also reveals a disturbing picture of the challenges forests face due to climate change.
- ✓ In 2020, the global forest covered approximately 4.1 billion hectares (ha), or 31 per cent of the land area.
- ✓ Russia, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America, and China account for 54 per cent of the global forest area, in descending order.
- ✓ Another 10 countries, including Australia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Peru, and India, contribute about two-thirds of the global forest area.
- ✓ The report estimated that between 1990 and 2020, approximately 420 million ha of forest were converted to land use.

- ✓ India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest annually from 2010-2020, ranking third globally in forest area gains.
- ✓ The global mangrove area was recorded to be 14.8 million ha, out of which South and Southeast Asia contributed almost 44 per cent of the total global area.

Q. Nicolas Maduro has been recently reelected as the President of which country?

- A) Nigeria
B) Ethiopia
C) Venezuela
D) Kenya

Answer : C

- ✓ The National Electoral Council (CNE) of Venezuela has declared the sitting President Nicolas Maduro as the winner of the Presidential poll held in the country.
- ✓ Venezuela went to the polls to elect a new president on 28 July 2024.
- ✓ The sitting president, Nicolas Maduro of the United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV), was contesting for the third time.
- ✓ He was facing a combined opposition candidate, Edmundo Gonzalez, a former diplomat.
- ✓ About Venezuela
- ✓ Venezuela is a South American country with the world's highest waterfall- Angel Falls (979 meters in height).
- ✓ South America's largest lake - Lake Maracaibo, is in Venezuela.
- ✓ Capital : Caracas
- ✓ Currency : Venezuelan bolivar
- ✓ President : Nicolas Maduro

Q. Carlos Alcaraz won the 2024 Wimbledon Men's singles title by defeating whom in the final?

- A) Rafael Nadal
B) Novak Djokovic
C) Alexander Zverev
D) Dominic Thiem

Answer : B

Q. Barbora Krejčíková, who has won the women's singles title of the 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Championship, belongs to which country?

- A) Spain
B) Australia
C) Czech Republic
D) Italy

Answer : D

- ✓ Carlos Alcaraz ,Barbora Krejčíková wins 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Title.
- ✓ Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Barbora Krejčíková of Czech Republic won the men's and women's single title respectively at the 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Championships .
- ✓ It was the second consecutive Wimbledon singles title for Carlos Alcaraz and first Wimbledon singles title for Barbora Krejčíková.
- ✓ The 137th edition of the All England Championship ,famous as Wimbledon Championship, was held at Wimbledon in England from 1-14 July 2024.
- ✓ It is the third Grand Slam event of a calendar year after the Australian Open and the French Open.
- ✓ Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam tournament that is played on natural grass.
- ✓ Second Wimbledon Single title for Alcaraz
- ✓ The 2024 men's single final was the repeat of the previous year where the eventual champion Carlos Alcaraz took on Novak Djokovic of Serbia .

- ✓ Like last year, this year also, 21-year-old Carlos Alcaraz beat 37-year-old Novak Djokovic 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4) in two hours and 28 minutes in the final played on 14 July 2024.
- ✓ This was the fourth Grand Slam singles title for Alcaraz having won the French Open in 2024, the US Open in 2022 and Wimbledon in 2023 and 2024.
- ✓ The Serbian great was looking for his 8th Wimbledon singles title to equal Roger Federer's record of eight Wimbledon men's singles titles.
- ✓ Novak Djokovic holds the record of winning the maximum number of Grand Slam singles titles. He has won 24 singles titles.
- ✓ He is the sixth man to win the French Open and Wimbledon in the same year.
- ✓ Second Grand Slam Singles Title for Barbora Krejčíková
- ✓ Barbora Krejčíková of the Czech Republic won her second Grand Slam singles title after beating Jasmine Paolini of Italy in the final of the 2024 Wimbledon Championship played on 13 July 2024.
- ✓ Barbora Krejčíková had earlier won the 2021 French Open women's singles title, and the 2024 Wimbledon crown was her first singles title win at Wimbledon.
- ✓ About Wimbledon
- ✓ The All England Championship which is more famous as Wimbledon is the oldest tennis tournament in the world and was held for the first time in 1877.
- ✓ It is organised by the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club Limited at Wimbledon, London, England.
- ✓ Martina Navratilova of the USA holds the record for winning 9 singles titles in the women's section.
- ✓ In the men's, Roger Federer of Switzerland holds the record of winning 8 singles titles
- ✓ **Winners of the 2024 Wimbledon Championship**

Event	Winner's (their Nationality)	Runners Up (their Nationality)	Trophy Name
Men's Single	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Gentlemen's Singles Trophy
Women's Single	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic)	Jasmine Paolini (Italy)	Ladies Singles Trophy (also known as Rosewater Dish or Venus Rosewater Dish)
Men's Double	Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson (Both Australian)	Harri Heliövaara (Finland) and Henry Patten (Britain)	Gentlemen's Doubles Trophy or Silver Challenge Cup
Women's Double	Taylor Townsend (USA) and Katriona Siniakova (Czech Republic)	Gabriella Dabrowski (Canada) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)	Ladies Doubles Trophy or Duchess of Kent Challenge Cup
Mixed Doubles	Santiago Gonzalez And Giuliana Olmos (both of Mexico)	Jan Zieliński (Poland) Hsieh Su-Wei (Taiwan)	Silver Challenge Cup

Q. Who has been elected as the President of the European Commission?

- A) Ursula von der Leyen B) Sabine Bergmann
C) Edelgard Bulmahn D) Aenne Brauksiepe

Answer : A

- ✓ German Ursula von der Leyen reelected European Commission President.
- ✓ The European Parliament re-elected German politician Ursula von der Leyen as the European Commission President for another 5-year term on 18 July 2024.
- ✓ She was first elected in July 2019 and joined the office on 1 November 2019.
- ✓ Her current term expires on 31 October 2024.
- ✓ She will resume her second term on 1st November 2024 and will remain in office until October 2029
- ✓ The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 created the European Union, which came into force on 1 November 1993.
- ✓ The Parliament sits at Luxembourg, Brussels(Belgium) and Strasbourg (France)
- ✓ Members: 27 countries.
- ✓ Headquarters: Brussels(Belgium).
- ✓ About European Union (EU)
- ✓ Founded : 1993
- ✓ Founders : Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg
- ✓ Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ Members Country : 27
- ✓ President of European Council : Antonion Costa (Portugal)
- ✓ President of Commission : Ursula von der Leyen (Germany)
- ✓ President of European Parliament : Roebert Metsol (Malta)

RE-ELECTED IN NEWS 2024

- European Parliament re-elected German politician Ursula von der Leyen as the European Commission President for another 5-year term.
- Sanjeev Krishan re-elected as chairman of PwC in India for second term.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the re-appointment of Govind Singh as the managing director and chief executive officer of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
- Ms Jagjit Pavadia of India has been re-elected to the International Narcotics Board(INCB) for a third term.
- Gitanas Nauseda has been re-elected President of the Baltic state of Lithuania.
- Emmerson Mnangagwa was re-elected 2nd Time for President of Zimbabwe
- Cyril Ramaphosa has been re-elected as the President of South Africa..

Q. According to WorldAtlas.com, which is the second largest coal mine in the world?

- A) Belchatow Mine B) Sangatta Mine
C) Gevra Coal Mine D) Kusmunda Coal Mine

Answer : C

- ✓ Gevra & Kusmunda coal mine included in World's 10 largest coal mines.
- ✓ Two coal mines in Chhattisgarh, Gevra and Kusmunda, have been included in WorldAtlas com's top ten coal mines of the world.
- ✓ These two coal mines in Chhattisgarh account for about 10 % of the country's annual coal production, and their combined coal production was more than 100 million tons in 2023-24.

- ✓ Indonesia dominates the top ten coal mines list, with four mines, and the United States Black Thunder Mine has been ranked the world's largest coal mine.
- ✓ China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, and India is the second largest producer.
- ✓ The United States of America has the largest known coal reserves in the world.

Q. Where is the Kusmunda coal mine located, which has been ranked as the world's fourth-largest mine by WorldAtlas.com?

- A) Jharkhand
- B) West Bengal
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer : C

Q. Which is the world's largest coal mine, according to WorldAtlas.com?

- A) Gevra Coal Mine
- B) Black Thunder Mine
- C) Northern Shaanxi Mine
- D) Sangatta Mine

Answer : B

- ✓ Top Ten Coal Mines of the World

Rank in the World	Coal Mines	Country
1	Black Thunder Mine	United States of America
2	Gevra Coal Mine	Chhattisgarh, India
3	North Antelope Rochelle Mine	United States of America
4	Kusmunda Coal Mine	Chhattisgarh, India
5	Northern Shaanxi Mine	China
6	Sangatta Mine	Indonesia.
7	Belchatow Mine	Poland
8	FTB Project	Indonesia
9	Tutupan Mine	Indonesia
10	Borneo Indobara Mine	Indonesia

Q. Which state/UT recently organized the ‘Hemis festival 2024’?

- A) Ladakh B) Assam
C) Manipur D) Lakshadweep

Answer : A

- ✓ Hemis Tsechu Festival 2024 Commences in Ladakh.
- ✓ Hemis Tsechu, or Hemis Festival, is celebrated annually in Ladakh.
- ✓ Hemis festival is celebrated annually in Ladakh on the 10th day of the Tse-Chu lunar month in the Tibetan calendar, commemorating the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava.
- ✓ Purpose: The festival commemorates the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava, a revered Indian Buddhist mystic and the founder of Tibetan Buddhism

FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2024

- Hemis Tsechu, or Hemis Festival : Ladakh
- Ambubachi Mela : Assam
- 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
- Dhillu festival : Goa
- Longte Festival : Arunachal Pradesh

Q. Who has won the 2024 Leon Master Chess tournament?

- A) Arjun Erigaise
B) Veselin Topalov
C) Jaime Santos Latasa
D) Vishwanathan Anand

Answer : D

- ✓ Former world chess champion V Anand wins Leon Masters for 10th time
- ✓ Former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand of India has won the Leon Master chess championship for the 10th time .
- ✓ He defeated Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain in the final 3-1 played on 30 June 2024 at Leon in Spain to win the 2024 Leon Masters .
- ✓ Five time world champion Viswanathan Anand has previously won the Leon Masters in 1996, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2016, and 2024.
- ✓ The Leon Masters chess tournament is held in the Leon city of Spain. The tournament features four players.

- ✓ Apart from Viswanathan Anand, other players participating in the tournament were world number four ranked Arjun Erigaise of India, Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria and Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain.
- ✓ About Viswanathan Anand
- ✓ Viswanathan Anand was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ He has been world chess champion five times. From 2000 to 2002 , Anand was the FIDE World Chess Champion.
- ✓ Vishwanathan Anand was the first recipient of India's highest sports award instituted by the government of India - Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna . He was conferred the award in 1991-92 . The Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna has been renamed as Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award by the government of India.
- ✓ He was awarded India's second highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan in 2007. He is the first sports person to achieve the Padma Vibhushan award.

Q. Who took over as the 30th Army Chief of st

- A) Upendra Dwivedi
B) V K Singh
C) Manoj Pandey
D) NS Raja Subramani

Answer : A

- ✓ Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi Takes Charge as 30th Chief of the Army Staff.
- ✓ Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, the former Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) took charge as the 30th Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army (IA).
- ✓ He succeeded General Manoj Pande, who took charge as COAS in May 2022.
- ✓ Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani took charge as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) of the IA.
- ✓ He succeeded General Upendra Dwivedi, who was appointed as VCOAS on February 19 2024
- ✓ Lt General Upendra Dwivedi is an alumnus of Sainik School, Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Indian Army and its Chief
- ✓ The Indian army is the second largest Army in the world after China, with around 1.46 million active personnel.
- ✓ The Indian Army is under the Union Ministry of Defence, and the President of India is its Commander in Chief.
- ✓ The Army is led by a Chief of Army Staff(COAS), popularly called an Army Chief.
- ✓ At the time of Independence, the Army chief was General Sir Robert Lockhart.
- ✓ The first Indian to become the Army chief was Field Marshal K.M Cariappa.
- ✓ He became the Army chief on 15 January 1949, and to mark the historic occasion, Army Day is celebrated in India on 15 January every year.
- ✓ The Chief of Army Staff is a Four-Star Rank head of the Indian Army.

Q. Dick Schoof has recently become the new Prime Minister of which country?

- A) Netherlands
B) Sweden
C) Poland
D) Switzerland

Answer : A

- ✓ Dick Schoof Elected as New Prime Minister of Netherlands.
- ✓ Dick Schoof, former head of the Dutch intelligence agency and counterterrorism office, is sworn in as the new Prime Minister of the Netherlands by King Willem-Alexander
- ✓ The Netherlands has a new Prime Minister for the first time in 14 years.

- ✓ The new government was sworn in seven months after the far-right Party for Freedom won the largest share of seats in the elections.
- ✓ First non-party-aligned PM since World War II.
- ✓ About Netherlands
- ✓ The Netherlands, also known as Holland, is a country located in northwestern Europe.
- ✓ Monarch: King Willem-Alexander
- ✓ Prime Minister: Dick Schoof
- ✓ Capital: Amsterdam
- ✓ Currency: euro

Q. Which country recently introduced holographic technology in new banknotes?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Japan introduced new banknotes featuring advanced holography, creating 3D rotating portraits of historic figures as an anti-counterfeit measure.
- ✓ This innovative technology marks the world's first use of such holography on currency.
- ✓ The redesign, Japan's first in 20 years, aims to enhance security and prevent counterfeiting.
- ✓ About Japan
- ✓ Capital: Tokyo
- ✓ King: Prince Naruhito (The reign of the 126th king will be known as 'Riwa'.)
- ✓ Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida
- ✓ Currency: Japanese Yen

Q. How long the spacecraft will travel under the Aditya L1 mission?

- A) 3.5 million kilometres
- B) 4.5 million kilometres
- C) 2.1 million kilometres
- D) 1.5 million kilometres

Answer : D

- ✓ Aditya-L1 Completes First Halo Orbit around Sun-Earth L1 Point.
- ✓ India's Aditya-L1 spacecraft, the country's first solar mission, has completed its first halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point
- ✓ ISRO conducted a station-keeping maneuver recently to transition Aditya-L1 into its second halo orbit smoothly.
- ✓ Launched on September 2, 2023, the Aditya-L1 mission is an Indian solar observatory stationed at Lagrangian point L1.
- ✓ It was inserted into its targeted halo orbit on January 6, 2024.
- ✓ Aditya-L1 takes approximately 178 days to complete one revolution around the L1 point in its halo orbit.
- ✓ ISRO highlighted the complexity of modeling the spacecraft's dynamics around the Sun-Earth L1 Lagrangian point.
- ✓ Aditya-L1 Mission Overview
- ✓ Objective: Study the solar atmosphere, solar magnetic storms, and their impact on Earth's environment.
- ✓ Spacecraft Name: Aditya-L1
- ✓ Developed By: ISRO and Indian Space Research Institutes
- ✓ Orbit: Halo orbit around Lagrange point 1 (L1), 1.5 million km from Earth

- ✓ Mission Director: Nigar Shaji
- ✓ Launch: 2nd September 2023, aboard PSLV C57 at 11:50 IST
- ✓ Orbit Achievement: Reached intended orbit about an hour after launch
- ✓ Insertion at L1 Point: 6th January 2024, 4:17 pm IST
- ✓ Significance: First Indian Sun observation mission

Q. Which state government has extended the age limit for the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana to 65 years?

- A) Gujarat
B) Bihar
C) Maharashtra
D) West Bengal

Answer : C

- ✓ Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has extended the age limit for the Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana to 65 years.
- ✓ The requirement for women from families owning government land has been removed
- ✓ Eligible beneficiaries to receive ₹1500 monthly aid starting from July.
- ✓ Chief Minister warns against bribery for scheme registration, ensures transparency.
- ✓ Eligible women aged 21 to 65 years will receive a monthly allowance of Rs 1,500 under this scheme.
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide financial relief and empower women by supporting their health, nutrition, and overall well-being

Q. Which team was defeated by India in the final of the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup?

- A) Australia
B) England
C) Pakistan
D) South Africa

Answer : D

- ✓ India won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 by defeating South Africa by 7 Runs.
- ✓ India men's national cricket team, captained by Rohit Sharma, won the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's Twenty20 (T20) World Cup 2024 by defeating South Africa (The Proteas), captained by Aiden Markram, by 7 runs in the finals held in the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies.
- ✓ This marks India's 2nd T20 World Cup title. India previously won the inaugural edition of the T20 World Cup held in 2007 under the captaincy of Mahendra Singh (MS) Dhoni.
- ✓ With this win, India became the 3rd Country to win the title twice after England(2010 & 2022) and West Indies (2012 & 2016).
- ✓ BCCI Announced Rs 125 Crore prize for Team India.
- ✓ After winning the ICC T20 World Cup, Indian Cricketers, Virat Kohli(35 years old), Rohit Sharma (37 years old) & Ravindra Jadeja have announced their retirement from T20 International(T20I) cricket.
- ✓ **T20 WORLD CUP 2024 DETAILS WITH AMAZING FACTS**

 India beat South Africa by 7 runs to win ICC T20 World Cup 2024

● ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

- ◆ First edition : 2007 (South Africa)
- ◆ Latest edition : 2024 (USA & West Indies)
- ◆ Number of team : 20 (2024)

◆ Next edition 2026 : India & Sri Lanka.

◆ Current champion : INDIA

◆ Most successful team : INDIA (2007, 2024), England (2010, 2022) & West Indies (2012, 2016)

🏆 ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024

◆ Host : USA & West Indies

◆ Final match : Kensington Oval stadium in Bridgetown, Barbados, West Indies

◆ Champions : INDIA (2nd title)

◆ Runners-up : South Africa

◆ INDIA team captain : Rohit Sharma

◆ South Africa team captain : Aiden Markram

◆ India Men's Coach : Rahul Dravid

◆ Prize Money Winner : \$2.45 million(Rs 20.42 crore)

◆ Prize Money runner-up : \$1.28 million (Rs 10.67 crore)

◆ Player of the series : Jasprit Bumrah (India)

◆ Most runs : Rahmanullah Gurbaz (Afghanistan) [281]

◆ Most wickets : Fazalhaq Farooqi (Afghanistan) [17] & Arshdeep Singh (India) [17]

◆ Smart Catch of the Match award : Suryakumar Yadav

🏆 ICC T20 Cricket World Cup Winners

◆ 1st title 2007 : INDIA

◆ 2009 : Pakistan

◆ 2010 : England

◆ 2012 : West Indies

◆ 2014 : Sri Lanka

◆ 2016 : West Indies

◆ 2021 : Australia

◆ 2022 : England

🎉 2024 : INDIA ❤️

❤️ Unique facts about ICC T20 World Cup 2024

- ◆ Canada, Uganda and the United States team are playing for the first time in the ICC Men's T-20 World Cup.
- ◆ For the first time, 20 teams will participate in the T-20 World Cup.
- ◆ Pakistan's Shahid Afridi joins Indian Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle of West Indies, and Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt as brand ambassadors for ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.
- ◆ India, 3rd team to win Men's T20 World Cup Twice, West Indies (2012, 2016) and England (2010, 2022)
- ◆ Rohit Sharma became the third Indian captain after Kapil Dev (1983 ODI World Cup) and Dhoni (2007 T 20 World Cup, 2011 ODI World Cup) to win an ICC World Cup.
- ◆ BCCI announces Rs 125 Crore prize money for T20 World Cup champions India.
- ◆ Amul becomes 'Official Sponsor' of Sri Lanka Men's Cricket Team for T20 World Cup 2024.
- ◆ Amul becomes Lead Sponsor for USA and South Africa in T20 World Cup 2024.
- ◆ Nandini Dairy to Sponsor for Scotland & Ireland for T20 World Cup.

Q. After how many years has the Indian men's cricket team won the ICC T20 World Cup?

- A) 13 B) 15
C) 17 D) 11

Answer : C

- ✓ 17 Years. India won the first ICC T20 World Cup Under Mahender Singh Dhoni in 2007 in South Africa.
- ✓ 13 years. India won the 2011 ICC ODI World Cup under Mahender Singh Dhoni.

Q. Where was the 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held?

- A) Tehran, Iran B) Astana, Kazakhstan
C) Beijing, China D) New Delhi, India

Answer : B

- ✓ The 24th Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held on 4 July 2024 in Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan.
- ✓ Kazakhstan President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev hosted the summit meeting.
- ✓ The Eurasian country of Belarus was admitted as the 10th full member of the SCO.
- ✓ The Indian Prime Minister skipped the meeting, and India was represented by the External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar.
- ✓ Belarus admitted as the 10th Member of SCO
- ✓ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was established on June 15, 2001, by five countries: Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. It was a regional organisation that replaced the China-led Shanghai Five Organisation.
- ✓ The SCO was first expanded in 2017 when India and Pakistan joined the organisation.
- ✓ It was further expanded in 2023, and Iran was admitted as its 9th Member.

- India, the United States of America, South Korea, Japan and the European Union have launched a Biopharmaceuticals Alliance.
- American President Joe Biden hosted the first-ever trilateral summit meeting between the leaders of the United States of America, the Philippines, and Japan at the White House, Washington D.C, on 11 April 2024.
- Max Verstappen of Red Bull Red Bull team comfortably won the Japanese Formula One (F1) Grand Prix 2024.
- Japan commits over JPY 232 billion for nine projects across India.
- Japan has become the fifth country in the world to successfully make a soft landing on the Moon
- About Japan
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese Yen
- King: Prince Naruhito (The reign of the 126th king will be known as 'Riwa'.)
- Prime Minister: Fumio Kishida

Q. Hemant Soren, who was sworn in as the 13th chief minister of Jharkhand, belongs to which political party?

- A) Jharkhand Disom Party B) Jharkhand Vananchal Congress
C) Jharkhand People Party D) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha

Answer : D

- ✓ Hemant Soren Takes Oath as Jharkhand CM for Third Term.
- ✓ Hemant Soren, the Executive President of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) party was sworn in as the 13th Chief Minister (CM) of Jharkhand for the 3rd term.
- ✓ The oath of office and secrecy was administered by Governor CP Radhakrishnan
- ✓ He was recently released on bail by the high court in an alleged money laundering case.
- ✓ Hemant Soren staked his claim before Governor CP Radhakrishnan following Champai Soren's resignation.
- ✓ Champai Soren, known as "Jharkhand Tiger," served as the 12th Chief Minister after Hemant Soren's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate on January 31, 2024.
- ✓ Jharkhand has seen seven Chief Ministers since its formation on November 15, 2000.
- ✓ Babulal Marandi from the BJP Party was the first CM, taking office in November 2000.
- ✓ Jharkhand has been under President's rule twice for short periods.
- ✓ The major ruling parties in Jharkhand have been the BJP and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha Party.
- ✓ About Jharkhand
- ✓ Founded - 15 November 2000
- ✓ Before was - Part of Bihar
- ✓ Capital - Ranchi
- ✓ Chief minister - Hemant Soren
- ✓ Governor - C. P. Radhakrishnan
- ✓ Symbols of Jharkhand
- ✓ Bird - Koel
- ✓ Flower - Palash
- ✓ Mammal - Indian elephant
- ✓ Tree - Sal

NEWLY CHIEF MINISTER IN NEWS 2024.

- Hemant Soren took oath as the 13th Chief Minister of Jharkhand for the third time. [Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM)]

- Pema Khandu takes oath as the Arunachal Pradesh 9th Chief minister for third time. [Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)]
- Chandrababu Naidu sworn in as Andhra Pradesh 18th CM for the fourth time. [Telugu Desam Party]
- Mohan Charan Majhi was sworn in as the 15th chief minister of Odisha. [Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)]
- Prem Singh Tamang 6th Chief Minister of Sikkim. [Sikkim Krantikari Morcha]
- Nayab Saini was sworn in as the 11th chief minister of Haryana. [(BJP)]
- Nitish Kumar is has served as the 22nd chief minister of Bihar.
- Bihar's longest serving chief minister, and also holding the post for 9th term. [Janata Dal United (JDU) Mahagathbandhan BJP].
- Bhajan Lal Sharma is serving as the 14th and current Chief Minister of Rajasthan [(BJP)]
- Dr. Mohan Yadav is serving as the 19th and Current Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh [(BJP), he represents Ujjain South]
- Lalduhoma is Indian Police Service officer who is serving as the 6th Chief Minister of Mizoram [Zoram People's Movement (ZPM)].
- Vishnu Deo Sai serving as the 4th Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. [(BJP)].
- Anumula Revanth Reddy is serving as the second and current Chief Minister of Telangana .[Indian National Congress (INC)]

Q. What was the total value of defence production in India in 2023-24?

- A) Rs 1,08,684 crore B) Rs 1,28348 crore
C) Rs 1,26,887 crore D) Rs 1,58378 crore

Answer : C

- ✓ Defence production reaches a record Rs 1.26 lakh crore in 23-24.
- ✓ According to the Union Ministry of Defence, India's total annual defence production reached Rs Rs 1,26,887 crore in 2023-24. It is India's highest-ever production of defence equipment and products in any financial year.
- ✓ In 2022-23, the total defence production in the country was Rs 1,08,684 crore.
- ✓ According to the Defence Ministry, the contribution of the public sector undertaking to the total value of production in 2023-24 was around 79.2%, and the contribution of the private sector was 20.8%.
- ✓ Both the private and public sectors recorded steady growth in their production.
- ✓ Defence production in 2023-24 was Rs 1,26,887 crore compared to Rs 1,08,684 crore, registering a growth rate of 16.7 per cent.
- ✓ In the last five years, the value of defence production has been increasing steadily and has grown by over 60%. In 2019 -20, the total defence production was Rs 79071 crore, which has grown to Rs 1,26,887 crore in 2023-24.
- ✓ The increase in domestic production has been due to record exports of defence products from India. In 2023-24, India exported defence goods worth Rs 21,083 crore compared to Rs 15,920 crore in 2022-23.
- ✓ The government has set a target to export defence goods worth Rs 35,000 crores in 2024-25.

Q. Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of the National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN), recently seen in the news, is an initiative of which one of the following?

- A) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
B) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
C) Ministry of Railways

D) Coal India Limited (CIL)

Answer : D

- ✓ The Union Minister for Coal and Mines recently launched the portal “Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN)”.
- ✓ About NIRMAN Scheme:
- ✓ Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of the National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN) is a unique Corporate social responsibility (CSR) scheme by Coal India Limited (CIL) designed to support meritorious candidates from its operational districts.
- ✓ The NIRMAN scheme is tailored to provide financial assistance of ₹1,00,000 to candidates who have successfully cleared the preliminary round of the UPSC Civil Services and Forest Service Examinations in 2024.
- ✓ The eligible beneficiaries include those with an annual family income of less than ₹8 lakhs, and who are permanent residents of the 39 districts where CIL operates.
- ✓ This support extends to individuals from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), as well as female and third-gender candidates.
- ✓ The application process for NIRMAN is fully digital, facilitated through a dedicated portal

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Zorawar Light Tank:

1. It is jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Larsen & Toubro.
2. It is equipped with all the modern technologies like Artificial Intelligence and drone Integration.

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, defence officials said that the prototype of the country's indigenous light tank Zorawar is ready and will soon be subjected to extensive trials.
- ✓ It is an indigenously designed and developed Light Tank.
- ✓ It was jointly developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with Larsen & Toubro (L&T) as the lead integrator.
- ✓ It was named after a military general, Zorawar Singh Kahluria, who had served under Jammu's Raja Gulab Singh in the 19th Century.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It weighs a maximum 25 tonnes, a key requirement of the light tank which ensures it can be transported by air.
- ✓ It is expected to be inducted into the Indian Army by the year 2027 after all trials

Q. Who has been elected as the new President of Iran?

- A) Alireza Zakani B) Mohammad Javad Zarif
C) Mohammad Fazeli D) Masoud Pezeshkian

Answer : D

- ✓ Moderate Masoud Pezeshkian elected as the new President of Iran.
- ✓ Reformist and moderate leader Masoud Pezeshkian has been

- ✓ elected as Iran's new president.
- ✓ Saeed Jalili conceded his defeat and congratulated Masoud Pezeshkian for his electoral victory.
- ✓ The presidential election was necessitated in Iran after the death of President Ebrahim Raisi, foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, in a helicopter crash on 19 May 2024.
- ✓ The term of the Iranian President is four years, and he is eligible for re-election.
- ✓ About the Islamic Republic of Iran
- ✓ The modern country of Iran was earlier known as Persia.
- ✓ Capital : Tehran
- ✓ Currency : Iranian Rial
- ✓ President : Masoud Pezeshkian

Q. Who has received the Spice Award 2024 in July 2023?

- A) Sopna Kallingal B) Raghu Ram Pillariseti
C) Shanti Lakra D) Deepika Misra

Answer : A

- ✓ Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation, Thrissur, has received Spice Award 2024, instituted by ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research.
- ✓ The award has been given to her for her initiatives in enterprise diversification and integrated crop management strategies, promoting a sustainable spice-based cropping system.
- ✓ Kallingal plantation has a diverse range of crops, embodying a dedication to enterprise diversification and agriculture innovation, according to the award citation

Q. Shree Jagannath Temple lies in which one of the following states?

- A) Kerala B) Rajasthan
C) Odisha D) West Bengal

Answer : C

- ✓ The high-level committee constituted under the chairmanship of the Orissa High Court judge for supervising the inventorisation of valuables stored in Ratna Bhandar of Shree Jagannath Temple has fast-tracked the process of opening the temple treasury after 46 years.
- ✓ About Shree Jagannath Temple:
- ✓ It is a Hindu temple located in Puri, Odisha.
- ✓ It is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, a form of the Hindu deity Vishnu.
- ✓ It is believed to have been built during the reign of King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva, of the Eastern Ganga dynasty, in the 12th century.
- ✓ Ratha Yatra is a Hindu festival associated with Lord Jagannath temple.
- ✓ The festival commemorates Jagannath's annual visit to Gundicha Temple via Mausī Maa Temple (aunt's home) near Balagandi Chaka, Puri.
- ✓ It begins on the second day of the bright half of the lunar month of Ashadha (June–July) and lasts for nine days.
- ✓ It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Q. Which country will host the three-day NATO summit?

- A) Japan B) Ukraine
C) Brazil D) United States

Answer : D

- ✓ USA will host the 3-day NATO summit in Washington DC.
- ✓ The three-day NATO summit to be held here from July 9 to 11 will be the first to include Sweden as a member of the alliance.
- ✓ Sweden officially joined the alliance in March.
- ✓ The summit is likely to show a strong demonstration of America and its allies' support for Ukraine and make significant new announcements to increase military, political and financial support for the war-torn European country.
- ✓ The historic summit would also mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which is now a strong military alliance of 32 countries.

Q. Who has won the 2024 Men's Asian Billiards Championship title?

- A) Pankaj Advani
B) Kamal Chawla
C) Abhay Kapoor
D) Dhruv Sitwala

Answer : D

- ✓ Dhruv Sitwala wins his third Asian Billiards Title at Riyadh
- ✓ Dhruv Sitwala defeated Pankaj Advani to win the 2024 Asian Billiards Championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ The Asian Championship was organised by the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 27th June to 5th July 2024.
- ✓ The Asian Championship included the Men's Snooker Team Championship, Men's Billiards Championship and Women's Asian Snooker Championship events.
- ✓ Third Asian Billiards Title for Dhruv Sitwala
- ✓ The victory in Riyadh was the third Asian billiards title for Dhruv Sitwala. Dhruv Sitwala had earlier won the Asian billiards title in 2015 and 2016.
- ✓ The defeat at Riyadh also dashed Pankaj Advani's hope of winning his third Asian men's Billiards title. Earlier, Pankaj Advani consecutively won the 2022 and 2023 billiards titles.
- ✓ About Pankaj Advani
- ✓ Pankaj Advani has won world Billiards and Snooker titles 27 times. He has also won Asian titles 10 times, 7 in billiards and three in snooker.
- ✓ Pankaj Advani won the gold medal in the billiards in the 2006 Doha and 2010 Guangzhou Asian Games.
- ✓ Awards and Honours for Advani
- ✓ Sports Award
- ✓ Pankaj Advani was awarded India's highest sporting award, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2006. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna was renamed the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award by the central government in 2021.
- ✓ In 2005, Pankaj Advani was honoured with the Arjuna Awards.
- ✓ Civilian Award
- ✓ He was conferred with India's third-highest civil award, the Padma Bhushan 2018.
- ✓ Pankaj Advani was honoured with India's fourth-highest Padma Shri in 2009.

Q. Who has become the first woman Finance Minister of the United Kingdom?

- A) Rachel Reeves
B) Liz Truss
C) Preeti Patel
D) Anupama Tyagi

Answer : A

- ✓ A new government led by Keir Starmer has been formed in the United Kingdom.

- ✓ Starmer has appointed Rachel Reeves as the country's first female finance minister.
- ✓ Reeves became Britain's first female Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- ✓ The Labour Party has returned to power after a landslide victory in the United Kingdom general elections.

Q. The 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee has chosen which state for its Best Agriculture State Award for 2024?

- A) Gujarat
B) Maharashtra
C) Rajasthan
D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Maharashtra bags the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024.
- ✓ The 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee has announced that Maharashtra has won the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024
- ✓ The Maharashtra chief minister, Eknath Shinde, will receive the award on 10 July 2024 at a function in New Delhi.
- ✓ Maharashtra has been chosen for this award for its innovative agricultural and rural initiatives.
- ✓ The award recognises the Maharashtra government's innovative policies and high-impact developmental initiatives, which have led to the advancement of agricultural and rural prosperity in the state.
- ✓ The Maharashtra government has launched the country's largest bamboo mission covering 21 lakh hectares.
- ✓ Agriculture Leadership Award
- ✓ The annual Agricultural Leadership Award was instituted by Agricultural Today magazine in 2008. The award honours the contributions of various stakeholders—government, individuals, and organisations—who have demonstrated exemplary leadership in agriculture.

MAHARASHTRA IN NEWS 2024

- Maharashtra bags the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024.
- Sujata Saunik Appointed Maharashtra's First Woman Chief Secretary
- NTPC Green Energy Inks Rs 80,000 Cr MoU With Maharashtra Govt for Green Hydrogen
- The government of India has approved the construction of a new major port at Vadhavan, situated in the Dahanu taluka of the Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- Ramesh Bais, Governor of Maharashtra, launched a book titled 'Gateways to the Sea: Historic Ports and Docks of Mumbai Region' at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai.
- Maharashtra Cabinet has announced its decision to rename Ahmednagar district as 'Ahilya Nagar'. The renaming is in honor of the 18th-century Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar

Q. Tharun Mannepalli won the badminton men's singles title of the 3rd Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024 by defeating whom?

- A) Yudai Okimoto
B) Viktor Axelsen
C) Johanne Axelsen
D) Lee Chong Wei

Answer : A

- ✓ Tharun Mannepalli won the men's singles title.
- ✓ Tharun Mannepalli of Telangana won the men's singles title by defeating Yudai Okimoto of Japan in straight sets 21-15, 21-15 in the final. It was the second international title for Tharun Mannepalli. Earlier, he had won the singles title of the Kazakhstan International Challenge held in April 2024.

Q. Who has won the women's singles badminton title of the 3rd Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024?

- A) Akane Yamaguchi B) Tasnim Mir
C) Chen Yufei D) Ratchanok Intanon

Answer : B

- ✓ Tasnim Mir & Mannepli won singles title at 2024 BWF Reunion Open.
- ✓ The Indian badminton players dominated the 3rd BWF Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024 by winning both the men's and women's singles titles.
- ✓ However, India had to settle for a silver in the men's doubles.
- ✓ The Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024 was held from 3 to 7 July in Saint-Denis, the capital of the French overseas département of Réunion in the Western Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Tasnim Mir won the women's single title
- ✓ World no 75 ranked women's badminton single player Tasnim Mir of Gujarat defeated Rakshitha Sree of India in straight sets 21-15, 21-19 in the final to lift the single titles. The 2024 Saint-Denis Reunion Open Badminton title was the third challenger title for Tasnim Mir and her first since 2022.
- ✓ The Saint-Denis Reunion Open 2024 is part of the Badminton Confederation Africa tour of the BWF.
- ✓ Badminton World Federation (BWF)
- ✓ Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ✓ President: Poul Erik Hayer Larsen

Q. The government of India has set a target to achieve the Zero Waste goal by which year?

- A) 2040 B) 2035
C) 2045 D) 2070

Answer : D

- ✓ The government of India has set a target to achieve a Zero Waste goal by 2070 to strengthen environmental sustainability in the country.

Q. CAMCOPTER S-100, recently seen in the news, is an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), developed by which one of the following countries?

- A) United States of America B) Israel
C) Germany D) Australia

Answer : D

- ✓ India is in the process of harnessing the capability of a rotary unmanned aerial system as part of a deal with Austrian company Schiebel for their renowned Camcopter S-100 ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to the country.
- ✓ About CAMCOPTER S-100:
- ✓ It is an Australian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) using a rotorcraft design.
- ✓ Produced by the Austrian company Schiebel, it was developed from 2003 to 2005.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It has a maximum take-off weight (MTOW) of 200 kg with 6 hours endurance.
- ✓ It has a maximum speed of 220 km/hr and a ceiling of 5,500 m.

Q. Who has been named by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian contingent to compete at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, beginning on July 26?

- A) Sharath Kamal
B) Sania Mirza
C) PV Sindhu
D) Gagan Narang

Answer : D

- ✓ Gagan Narang to be Indian team Chef-de Mission in Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed 2012 London Olympics bronze medalist shooter Gagan Narang as the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian team for the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, replacing Mary Kom.
- ✓ Ace Badminton player PV Sindhu was also appointed as the co-flag bearer along with table tennis player Sharath Kamal.
- ✓ The appointment of Gagan Narang and PV Sindhu was announced by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha on 8 July 2024.
- ✓ Shiva Keshavan will remain the deputy Chef -de- Mission.
- ✓ Role of the Chef -de-Mission
- ✓ Chef de Mission, in French, means 'head of mission'. The Chef de Mission is an important administrative post for any national contingent taking part in an international multidisciplinary sporting event.
- ✓ They are also mentors, supporters, and cheerleaders who aim to motivate and inspire the team while protecting the athletes' performances.
- ✓ Indian flag bearer at Summer Olympics
- ✓ Athlete Purma Banerjee was the first Indian to carry the Indian flag at the Summer Olympics at the 1920 Antwerp Olympics.
- ✓ Shiny Wilson became the first woman to be an Indian Flag bearer at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.
- ✓ Mary Kom and Manpreet Singh were jointly the Indian flag bearers at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ 2024 Paris Summer Olympics
- ✓ The 33rd Summer Olympics will be hosted by the French capital city of Paris from 26 July to 11 August 2024.
- ✓ Paris will be hosting the Summer Olympics for the third time after 1900 and 1924.
- ✓ Around 10,500 athletes from 206 National Olympic committees are expected to participate in the Paris Olympics in 2024.
- ✓ Four new sports have been introduced in the Paris Olympics 2024: Breaking, Surfing, Sport Climbing, and Skateboarding.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Order of Saint Andrew the Apostle:

1. It is Russia's highest civilian honour given to prominent government and public figures.
2. It is only awarded to citizens of Russia.

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

- ✓ PM Modi Set to Receive Russia's Highest Civilian Honor for Exceptional Service.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will receive the Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called on 9 July at the Moscow Kremlin's St Catherine's Hall.

- ✓ The award, established in 1698 by Tsar Peter the Great, honors exceptional civilian or military service.
- ✓ It was bestowed upon PM Modi in 2019 for his significant role in enhancing the strategic partnership and friendly relations between Russia and India.
- ✓ Named after Saint Andrew, the patron saint of Russia, the Order is highly prestigious and recognizes outstanding contributions to bilateral relations.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi's Two-Day Visit to Russia.
- ✓ **STATE HONOURS GIVEN TO NARENDRA MODI**

16. Order of the Druk Gyalpo Award : Bhutan's highest civilian award (2024).
15. PM Modi conferred with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour (2023)
14. Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour : France's highest civilian and military honour (2023)
13. Order of the Nile : Egypt's highest honor (2023)
12. Companion of the Order of Logohu: the highest civilian award of Papua New Guinea (2023)
11. Companion of the Order of Fiji: Highest honour of Fiji (2023)
10. Ebakl Award by the Republic of Palau (2023)
9. Order of the Dragon King is the highest civilian honour of Bhutan (2021)
8. Legion of Merit is a military award of the USA (2020)
7. Order of Zayed is the highest civilian honour of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) (2019)
6. Order of St. Andrew is the highest civilian honour of Russia (2019)
5. Order of the Distinguished Rule of Izzuddin is the highest honour of the Maldives (2019)
4. King Hamad Order of the Renaissance is the highest honour of Bahrain (2019)
3. Grand Collar of the State Of Palestine is the highest civilian order of Palestine (2018)
2. Order of Abdulaziz Al Saud is the Highest honour of Saudi Arabia (2016)
1. Amir Amanullah Khan Award is the highest civilian award of Afghanistan (2016)

Q. Who become the first State in the country to adopt an action plan for road safety for the next 10 years?

A) Gujarat	B) Maharashtra
C) Rajasthan	D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ Rajasthan to Become 1st State to Adopt a Road Safety Action Plan for 10 Years.
- ✓ Rajasthan is all set to become the 1st state in India to adopt an action plan for road safety for the next 10 years.
- ✓ The proposed action plan aimed at reducing road accidents in the state by 50% till 2030.
- ✓ The World Bank (WB) would provide assistance to the State government in the preparation of an action plan and safety plan by incorporating the best practices adopted in different countries.
- ✓ As per the draft, the action plan will be implemented in 3 phases. The phase 1 will be implemented between 2025 till 2027. It will focus on safety audits of 500 kilometer (km) of state highways and major district roads.

Q. President Droupadi Murmu conferred 36 Peacetime Gallantry Awards at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. Which is the highest peace time gallantry award in India?

- A) Ashok Chakra
B) Kirti Chakra
C) Mahavir Chakra
D) Param Vir Chakra

Answer : A

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu conferred 36 Peacetime Gallantry Awards at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi.
- ✓ The awards included 10 Kirti Chakras, with 7 awarded posthumously, and 26 Shaurya Chakras, with 7 awarded posthumously.
- ✓ Recipients were personnel from the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), and State or Union Territory Police.
- ✓ The awards were for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage, and extreme devotion to duty.
- ✓ **List of Recipients of the Kirti Chakra (Posthumous):**
 1. Dilip Kumar, COBRA, CRPF
 2. Raj Kumar Yadava, COBRA, CRPF
 3. Bablu Rabha, COBRA, CRPF
 4. Sambhu Roy, COBRA, CRPF
 5. Sepoy Pawan Kumar, The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles
 6. Captain Anshuman Singh, The Army Medical Corps, 26th Battalion The Punjab Regiment
 7. Havildar Abdul Majid, 9th Battalion The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)
- ✓ **List of Recipients of the Kirti Chakra (Non-Posthumous):**
 1. Major Digvijay Singh Rawat serves in the 21st Battalion of The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces).
 2. Major Deependra Vikram Basnet is with the 4th Battalion of The Sikh Regiment.
 3. Naib Subedar Pawan Kumar Yadav serves in the 21st Battalion of The Mahar Regiment.
- ✓ **About Kirti Chakra**
- ✓ It is India's second highest peacetime gallantry award, after the Ashoka Chakra.
- ✓ It is awarded by the President of India, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.
- ✓ It is awarded to civilians and military personnel (including posthumously), recognising valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield.
- ✓ Originally established in 1952 as the "Ashoka Chakra, Category II", it was renamed and amended in 1967.
- ✓ The medal is made of standard silver and is circular in shape. Its green ribbon is divided into three equal parts by two vertical orange lines.
- ✓ **List of Recipients of the Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous)**
 1. Constable Safiullah Qadri, J&K Police
 2. Major Vikas Bhambhu, Sena Medal, 252 Army Aviation Squadron
 3. Major Mustafa Bohara, 252 Army Aviation Squadron
 4. Rifleman Kulbhushan Manta, J&K Rifles, 52nd Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles
 5. Havildar Vivek Singh Tomar, 5th Battalion The Rajputana Rifles
 6. Rifleman Alok Rao, 18 Assam Rifles
 7. Captain MV Pranjal, Corps of Signals, 63rd Battalion The Rashtriya Rifles
- ✓ **About Shaurya Chakra**
- ✓ It is the 3rd highest Peacetime Gallantry Award in India, after Ashok Chakra and Kirti Chakra.
- ✓ Awarded for valour, courageous action, or self-sacrifice away from battle; for civilians and military personnel, including posthumous awards.
- ✓ Initially called "Ashok Chakra, Class III" since 4th January 1952; renamed on 27th January 1967.

- ✓ Made of bronze, circular, with a green ribbon divided into 4 parts by 3 vertical lines
- ✓ Additional Information
- 1. Peacetime gallantry awards were established on 4 January 1952, but effective from 15th August 1947.
 - (i) Ashoka Chakra : Most conspicuous bravery or some act of daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice otherwise than in the face of the enemy.
 - (ii) Kirti Chakra : Second, in order of a military decoration award.
 - (iii) Shaurya Chakra : Third in order of Indian military decoration award.
- 2. Wartime gallantry awards were established on 26 January 1950. But effective from 15th August 1947.
 - (i) Param Vir Chakra : Highest-military award in India. The name of this award is "Wheel of the ultimate brave". Awarded for national bravery in the presence of the enemy.
 - (ii) Maha Vir Chakra : The second-highest military decoration in India.
 - (iii) Vir Chakra : Third in precedence in the awards for wartime gallantry.

Q. India and Russia have agreed to increase bilateral trade to USD 100 billion by which year?

- A) 2035
- B) 2030
- C) 2040
- D) 2045

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi concludes his two-day Russian Visit.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi successfully concluded his two-day (8 & 9 July 2024) visit to Russia by signing various agreements and a commitment to boost the traditionally strong special and strategic bilateral relationship between the two countries.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi departed to Vienna, Austria, from Moscow on the second leg of his two nations - Russia and Austria visit.
- ✓ Achieve USD 100 billion bilateral trade target by 2030.
- ✓ Continue cooperation in Nuclear energy and space exploration. Russia is setting up a nuclear power plant in Koodankulam, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ During the visit, Russian President Putin conferred Russia's highest state award and Russia's highest national award, "The Order of St. Andrew the Apostle," on Narendra Modi. The award was announced in 2019 but conferred in 2024

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project:

1. It is a run-of-the-river hydropower project being developed on the Karnali River in Nepal.
2. The project will supply power to Nepal, India and Bangladesh.

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

- ✓ Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is set to invest approximately ₹290 crore in the Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project.
- ✓ About Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project:
- ✓ It is a 900 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project being developed on the Karnali River in Nepal.
- ✓ The project will supply power to Nepal, India and Bangladesh for a contracted period of 25 years.

- ✓ The Government of Nepal awarded the project to GMR Upper Karnali Hydro Power Limited (GUKHL), a subsidiary of GMR Group India, under a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed in January 2008.
- ✓ GMR is developing the project on a build-own-operate-transfer (BOOT) basis.
- ✓ The Nepal Government received 27% free equity in the project as part of the MoU with GMR.
- ✓ It is estimated to generate 3,466 million units of electricity, while offsetting approximately two million tons of greenhouse gas emissions a year.

Q. Name the two Indian tennis players who have been recently inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame?

- A) Mahesh Bhupathi and Vijay Amritraj B) Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj
C) Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna D) Leander Paes and Sania Mirza

Answer : B

- ✓ Paes & Vijay Amritraj :1st Asian in International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- ✓ Indian tennis legends Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj became the first Indian and first Asian men's tennis players to be inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the United States of America.
- ✓ India became the 28th country in the world whose tennis players have been inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- ✓ Along with Leander Paes and Vijay Amritraj, British sports journalist Richard Evans was also inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.
- ✓ The total number of tennis legends inducted into the Tennis Hall of Fame is 267 from 28 nations.
- ✓ Leander Paes was inducted into the Player Category, while Amritraj and Evans were recognised as part of the Contributor Category
- ✓ About Leander Paes.
- ✓ Leander Paes is considered one of the top doubles players in men's tennis history and has won 18 Grand Slam titles, with ten titles in mixed doubles and eight in men's doubles.
- ✓ He is one of only three men in tennis history to win a Grand Slam in men's and mixed doubles disciplines.
- ✓ The Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open are the four Grand Slam tournaments in Tennis.
- ✓ Leander Paes is the only tennis player in the world who has competed in a record seven Olympics.
- ✓ Leander Paes became the first and, to this day, only Indian tennis player to win an Olympic medal. He won bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.
- ✓ About Vijay Amritraj
- ✓ Vijay Amritraj was inducted into the contributor category, which honours individuals and groups that have made a significant impact on the sport.
- ✓ He popularised tennis in India and led the country to two Davis Cup finals in 1974 and again in 1987. After retirement, he became a popular tennis commentator and administrator for the Chennai Open Tennis tournament.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research:

1. It is an autonomous research institute established under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It is tasked with planning and executing polar expeditions and scientific research in Antarctica and the Arctic.

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 National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) is building a new ocean research vessel to explore the deep Indian Ocean for rare minerals and metals as part of India's Deep Ocean Mission.
- ✓ It is an autonomous research institute established in 1998.
- ✓ It is India's premier R&D institution responsible for the country's research activities in the Polar and Southern Ocean realms.
- ✓ It is tasked with planning and executing polar expeditions and scientific research in Antarctica, the Arctic, the Himalayas and the Southern Ocean.
- ✓ It also researches some of the country's strategically vital projects like mapping of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), continental shelf margins and the Deep Ocean Mission.
- ✓ Location: It is located in Vasco da Gama, Goa, and was formerly known as the National Center for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR).
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India.
- ✓ What is Deep Ocean Mission?
- ✓ It is an ambitious Indian initiative to explore and harness the depths of the ocean.
- ✓ It is a five-year mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021, with a budget of nearly ₹4,077 crore.
- ✓ The mission aims to develop technologies for deep-sea mining, manned submersibles, and underwater robotics, as well as for ocean climate change advisory services, deep-ocean survey and exploration.

Q. Which state has secured the first place under the 'Best Performing State' category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme?

A) Madhya Pradesh

B) Maharashtra

C) Telangana

D) Gujarat

Answer : A

- ✓ MP tops in PM SVANidhi Scheme as Best Performing State
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh has secured the first place under the 'Best Performing State' category in the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme.
- ✓ The micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors, which provides collateral-free loans up to Rs 50,000, was launched by the Narendra Modi government in 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak.
- ✓ Assam has been ranked second in the 'Best Performing States- Innovation and Best Practices Award' category.
- ✓ In the 'Best Performing ULBs – Loan Performance with mega and million plus cities' category, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has received the first place, followed by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation
- ✓ PM SVANidhi scheme
- ✓ The PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) was launched on June 01, 2020 for providing affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.
- ✓ Time duration: Initially It was until March 2022. After that it has been extended till December 2024.
- ✓ Eligibility: The Scheme is available for beneficiaries belonging to only those States/UTs which have notified Rules and Scheme under Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014.
- ✓ Benefits: A micro credit scheme, facilitating a working capital collateral free loan of Rs. 10,000, with subsequent loans of Rs. 20,000 and 50,000 with 7% interest subsidy.

- ✓ Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Q. Which state government has launched the “Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayahastam” Scheme to provide financial assistance to the Civil Services aspirants?

- A) Telangana
B) Haryana
C) Uttar Pradesh
D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ “Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastham” launched by Telangana CM
- ✓ Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has launched a unique programme to provide financial assistance to the Civil Services aspirants from Telangana, under which the candidates who qualify for the Mains exams will be provided with ₹1 lakh for preparation.
- ✓ Named “Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastham”, the scheme will be helpful to about 400 candidates from Telangana region who qualify for the Mains every year.
- ✓ Candidates from the SC, ST, OBC, Women and the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category are eligible for the scheme but their family annual income must be below ₹8 lakhs. The applicants must be permanent residents of Telangana.

Q. Renowned heart surgeon and founder of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Dr. MS Valiathan passed away recently. In which year did he received the Padma Vibhushan award?

- A) 2005
B) 2006
C) 2017
D) 2019

Answer : A

- ✓ Renowned cardiac surgeon and the founder of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Dr MS Valiathan passed away at the age 90 years.
- ✓ Dr Valiathan was an alumnus of the first batch of Government Medical College Thiruvananthapuram, after which he attended the University of Liverpool. In 1960, he was awarded a fellowship at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and England. He has also worked at multiple hospitals in the US and India.
- ✓ Dr. Valiathan was also the first Vice-Chancellor of Manipal Academy of Higher Education and was awarded Padma Shri in 2002 and Padma Vibhushan in 2005 for his contributions to healthcare.

Q. Who has been elected as the President of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India for the 2024-25 period?

- A) TCA Srinivasa Prasad B) Matam Venkata Rao
C) Chandra Shekhar Ghosh D) Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak

Answer : D

- ✓ Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak elected new president of ICAI for 2024-25.
- ✓ Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak has been elected unanimously as the new President of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) for the 2024-25 period.
- ✓ He will succeed Ashwin Dalwadi, who was the president for the 2023-24 period.
- ✓ The election to elect the new president and vice president of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India for 2024-25 was held on 22 July 2024 in New Delhi.

- ✓ TCA Srinivasa Prasad has been elected as the vice president of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India for 2024-25
- ✓ Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI)
- ✓ The Institute of Cost Accountants of India was set up as a statutory body on 28 May 1959 under the provisions of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959.
- ✓ The Institute of Cost Accountants of India comes under the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- ✓ The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is the second-largest Cost and Management Accounting body in the world and the largest in Asia.
- ✓ The headquarters of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India is in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Q. Who will be awarded the Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)?

- A) Saina Nehwal
B) Mary Kom
C) Saikhom Mirabai Chanu
D) Abhinav Bindra

Answer : D

- ✓ Abhinav Bindra: 1st Indian to be Honoured with Olympic Order by IOC.
- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has awarded its prestigious Olympic Order to the ace Indian shooter Abhinav Bindra.
- ✓ The award, which recognises Abhinav Bindra's outstanding service to the Olympic movement, will be bestowed on him on 10 August 2024 during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris, France.
- ✓ Paris will host the 33rd Summer Olympics from 26 July to 11 August 2024.
- ✓ About Abhinav Bindra and the Olympics
- ✓ Abhinav Bindra was the first Indian athlete to win an individual gold medal in the olympics.
- ✓ He won a gold medal in the men's 10-metre air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
- ✓ Before Bindra, India had won gold in the Olympics, but only in the men's hockey event.
- ✓ Abhinav Bindra was the first Indian athlete to donate his gold medal-winning sports equipment to the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra is the second Indian to donate his gold-winning Javelin to the Olympic Museum. Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the javelin event.

Q. Atal Innovation Mission has signed an agreement with which international body to promote innovation, entrepreneurship and intellectual property rights in Global South countries?

- A) UNESCO
B) WEF
C) WTO
D) WIPO

Answer : D

- ✓ WIPO & AIM to jointly launch Innovation programmes for Global South.
- ✓ The Atal Innovation Mission(AIM) of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has signed a letter of intent with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) to jointly build suitable programmes to promote Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Intellectual property for Global South.
- ✓ It will aim to enhance understanding and awareness about Intellectual property rights in these countries from the school level onwards, which will boost innovation in these countries and lead to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.
- ✓ Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)
- ✓ The Atal Innovation Mission is an autonomous body of NITI Aayog that was established in 2016.
- ✓ It is a flagship initiative of the government of India to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the country

- ✓ About World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)
- ✓ The World Property Intellectual Organisation is a United Nations agency set up in 1967.
- ✓ Members -193 countries
- ✓ Headquarters : Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ Director General : Daren Tang

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Air Breathing Propulsion Technology:

1. It is a technology in which rockets utilise atmospheric oxygen as an oxidiser to burn the fuel.
2. It can be used only within the denser layers of the Earth's atmosphere.

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

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully carried out the second experimental flight for the demonstration of Air Breathing Propulsion Technology.
- ✓ In this system the rocket will carry its fuel, but will not carry an on-board oxidiser.
- ✓ Instead, this system will utilise atmospheric oxygen as an oxidiser to burn the fuel. This makes rockets significantly lighter and more efficient.
- ✓ However, such air-breathing technologies can be used only within the denser layers of the Earth's atmosphere, where there is an adequate supply of oxygen.
- ✓ Such technologies might be feasible in the denser layers of Earth's atmosphere (up to 70kilometres altitude), and thereafter the rocket must switch to another stage that has both fuel and an on-board oxidizer.

Q. Which company has partnered with Tata to manufacture India's first FAL (Final Assembly Line) H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026?

- A) Blue Origin B) BAE Systems
C) Boeing D) Airbus

Answer : D

- ✓ Airbus and Tata are joining forces to manufacture India's first FAL (Final Assembly Line) H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026.
- ✓ This partnership aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and reflects Airbus's commitment to investing in the Indian aerospace market despite regulatory challenges.
- ✓ The initial production capacity will be 10 helicopters per year, with the potential to scale up to 50 helicopters annually in subsequent years.

Q. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador for MotoGP in India?

- A) Shikhar Dhawan B) Rohit Sharma
C) Virat Kohli D) MS Dhoni

Answer : A

- ✓ Star India opener Shikhar Dhawan has been appointed the brand ambassador for MotoGP in India.
- ✓ Dhawan, known for his dynamic presence on the cricket field, will ignite his passion for racing through the latest campaign, 'Face Kar Race Kar'.

- ✓ The 'Face Kar Race Kar' campaign encapsulates the indomitable spirit of MotoGP,celebrating resilience and inspiring fan.
- ✓ This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in the promotion of motorcycle racing in a country traditionally dominated by cricket fandom.

Q. Who has become the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence, to be operationally deployed at Siachen Glacier?

- A) Bhawana Kanth
B) Shivangi Sing
C) Punita Arora
D) Supreetha C.T

Answer : D

- ✓ Captain Supreetha C.T., who hails from Mysuru, has become the first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence, to be operationally deployed at Siachen Glacier.
- ✓ The Siachen Glacier, which is also known as the world's highest battlefield located in the Eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas.
- ✓ India launched Operation Meghdoot in 1984 to capture the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir from Pakistan, successfully gaining control of the strategically important glacier.
- ✓ It is the second-longest glacier in the world's non-polar areas and lies south of the drainage divide separating the Eurasian Plate from the Indian subcontinent. The Nubra River originates from the Siachen Glacier.

Q. What is India's rank in the recently released 2024 Henley Passport Index?

- A) 85
B) 86
C) 82
D) 84

Answer : C

- ✓ India Jumps to 82nd Rank ,Singapore No1 in Henley Passport Index 2024.
- ✓ India's rank on the Henley Passport Index improved by two places to 82, according to the recently released 2024 Henley Passport Index.
- ✓ Singapore displaced Japan to become the world's most powerful passport, while Pakistan remained the fourth-worst-ranked country for the fourth consecutive year.
- ✓ Last year, the Indian passport was ranked 84th in the world. This year, the Indian passport rank has improved by two places to 82nd.
- ✓ At present, an Indian passport holder can travel to 58 countries without the requirement of any visa.
- ✓ Singapore improved its rank to become the world's most powerful passport. Singapore citizens can visit visa-free 195 of 227 travel destinations around the world.
- ✓ At the joint second place were France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain, each with visa-free access to 192 destinations.
- ✓ Pakistan's Passport has been ranked the fourth worst passport in the world for the fourth consecutive year. It is ranked 100th, and a Pakistani citizen can visit 33 countries visa-free.
- ✓ Afghanistan's passport is ranked at the bottom, at 103, in the 2024 Henley Passport Index. An Afghan citizen can travel only to 26 countries visa-free. According to Henley, it is the lowest-ever visa-free destination for a country's citizens in the 19 years of the publication of the Henley Passport Index.
- ✓ Above Afghanistan are Syria(102) and Iraq(101).

Q. According to the recently released 2024 Henley Passport Index, which country's passport is considered to be the most powerful in the world?

- A) Japan
- B) Singapore
- C) France
- D) Italy

Answer : B

- ✓ List of the top ten ranked countries on the 2024 Henley Passport Index

Q. According to the recently released 2024 Henley Passport Index, an Indian passport holder can visit visa-free to how many countries in the world?

- A) 78
- B) 58
- C) 68
- D) 88

Answer : B

Q. Which country was ranked at the bottom of the recently released 2024 Henley Passport Index?

- A) Iraq
- B) Afghanistan
- C) Pakistan
- D) Syria

Answer : B

- ✓ Afghanistan's passport is ranked at the bottom, at 103, in the 2024 Henley Passport Index. An Afghan citizen can travel only to 26 countries visa-free. According to Henley, it is the lowest-ever visa-free destination for a country's citizens in the 19 years of the publication of the Henley Passport Index.
- ✓ Above Afghanistan are Syria(102) and Iraq(101).

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES 2024

- **Global Liveability Index 2024**
- Released By : Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)
- TOP : Vienna, Austria
- 2nd : Copenhagen, Denmark
- 3rd : Zurich, Switzerland
- 4th : Melbourne, Australia
- 5th : Calgary, Canada
- 6th : Geneva, Switzerland
- 7th : Sydney, Australia
- 8th : Vancouver, Canada
- 9th : Osaka, Japan (Only Asian City)
- 10th : Auckland, New Zealand
- **Global Energy Transition Index 2024**
- Released By : World Economic Forum(WEF)
- TOP : Sweden
- 2nd : Denmark
- 3rd : Finland
- 4th : Switzerland
- 5th : France
- INDIA : 63
- **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2024**

- TOP : Estonia
- 2nd : Luxembourg
- 3rd : Germany
- 4th : Finland
- 5th : United Kingdom
- INDIA : 176
- **Global Gender Gap Report 2023**
- Released By : World Economic Forum (WEF)
- TOP : Iceland
- 2nd : Finland
- 3rd : Norway
- 4th : New Zealand
- 5th : Sweden
- INDIA : 129
- **Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024**
- Released By : World Economic Forum(WEF)
- TOP : United States of America
- 2nd : Spain
- 3rd : Japan
- 4th : France
- 5th : Australia
- INDIA : 39
- **World Press Freedom Index 2024**
- Released By : Reporters without Borders
- TOP : Norway
- 2nd : Denmark
- 3rd : Sweden
- 4th : Netherlands
- 5th : Finland
- INDIA : 159
- **Human Development Report 2023-2024**
- Released By : United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- TOP : Denmark
- 2nd : Norway
- 3rd : Switzerland
- 4th : Sweden
- 5th : Netherlands
- INDIA : 108 with a score of 0.437
- **Global Intellectual Property Index 2024**
- Released By : US Chamber of Commerce
- TOP : United States
- 2nd : United Kingdom
- 3rd : France
- 4th : Germany
- 5th : Sweden
- INDIA : 42
- **Corruption Perceptions Index 2023**
- Released By : Transparency International
- TOP : Denmark
- 2nd : Finland

- 3rd : New Zealand
- 4th : Norway
- INDIA : 39

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Vishnupad Temple:

1. It is located on the banks of the Godavari.
2. It was built on the orders of Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Ahmadnagar.

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, the finance minister announced during her Union Budget speech that corridor projects will be built for the Vishnupad Temple at Gaya and the Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.
- ✓ Vishnupad Temple
- ✓ It is in the state of Bihar and dedicated to Lord Vishnu.
- ✓ It was built in 1787 on the orders of Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Ahmadnagar.
- ✓ It is located on the banks of the Falgu River.
- ✓ Architecture: Architecturally, the temple is around 100 feet tall and has 44 pillars.
- ✓ Devotees visit the temple during pitra paksha, a period in the Hindu calendar when people take part in rituals to remember their ancestors.
- ✓ Key facts about Mahabodhi Temple
- ✓ The temple stands to the east of the Mahabodhi Tree, where Gautam Buddha is believed to have attained nirvana. The temple has a unique shape and a height of 170 feet.
- ✓ It is located in Bodh Gaya, in central Bihar, on the banks of the Niranjana River.
- ✓ The Mahabodhi Temple Complex is the first temple built by Emperor Asoka in the 3rd century B.C., and the present temple dates from the 5th–6th centuries.
- ✓ It is one of the earliest Buddhist temples built entirely in brick, still standing, from the late Gupta period and it is considered to have had significant influence in the development of brick architecture over the centuries.
- ✓ It was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2002.
- ✓ Hence only statement 2 is correct

Q. Which government has launched the 'Shramik Basera' scheme?

- A) Gujarat
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Rajasthan
D) Bihar

Answer : A

- ✓ Bhupendra Rajnikant Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat, launched the 'Shramik Basera' scheme.
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide temporary accommodation for around 15,000 construction workers at a daily rent of Rs 5.
- ✓ Aim : Improve the living standards of unorganised sector and construction workers with amenities like clean water, kitchen, electricity, CCTV, toilets, street lights, security, and sanitation.
- ✓ Free for Children : Accommodation is free for the children of labourers up to 6 years old.
- ✓ Additional Benefits : Food provided under 'Shramik Annapurna Yojana' and free health check-ups.

- ✓ Budget and Duration : The Rs 1,500 crore project aims to benefit around 3 lakh construction workers over the next three years.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Sub-regional Representative for South Asia?

- A) Mariyappan Thangavelu B) Devendra Jhajharia
C) Deepa Malik D) Avani Lekhara

Answer : C

- ✓ Dr. Deepa Malik Becomes APC's First Female Sub-regional Representative for South Asia.
- ✓ Dr. Deepa Malik, India's first woman Paralympic medallist, has been appointed as the Sub-regional Representative for South Asia by the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) at its 34th Executive Board meeting.
- ✓ Kazuhiro Yagi from Japan has been appointed as the new Vice President of the APC.
- ✓ Notable Achievements of Deepa Malik:
- ✓ First Indian woman to represent the country at international level sports in her disability category (F-53).
- ✓ The first Indian paraplegic woman swimmer, biker, and car rallyist.
- ✓ Won a Silver Medal in Shotput F53 at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games with a personal best performance of 4.61 meters.
- ✓ Awards and Honors:
- ✓ Arjuna Award (National Sports Award) in 2012.
- ✓ Padma Shri for Sports in 2017.
- ✓ Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2019.

Q. Parandur Greenfield Airport is located in which state that has recently received approval from the Steering Committee on Greenfield Airports?

- A) Karnataka B) Telangana
C) Tamil Nadu D) Kerala

Answer : C

- ✓ TIDCO gets site clearance from the centre to develop Parandur airport
- ✓ The greenfield airport at Parandur near Chennai is closer to becoming a reality as the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation gets the site clearance from the Centre.
- ✓ The Steering Committee on Greenfield Airports has recommended for grant of Site Clearance to Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) for developing the Greenfield airport at Parandur, Kancheepuram District.
- ✓ An investment of ₹20,000 crore is being planned to develop a greenfield airport at Parandur, which would annually handle 10 crore people; it will have two runways, terminal buildings, taxiways, an apron, and a cargo terminal.

Q. Olympic gold medalist Andy Murray has recently announced his retirement from tennis tournaments. He is from which country?

- A) United Kingdom B) Belgium
C) Germany D) France

Answer : A

- ✓ Andy Murray from UK has said the tennis tournament in the Paris Olympics will be the last of his professional career.
- ✓ Murray, who became the first man to win two singles Gold medals at the Olympics.
- ✓ Andy Murray won the Olympic Gold in men's singles tennis in 2012 and defended it in 2016. The 37-year-old also won a mixed doubles silver in London in 2012.
- ✓ Murray won two Wimbledon crowns in 2013 and 2016. The former World No. 1 tasted success on clay, winning the Roland Garros in 2016.

Q. Where has the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) first Asian "Pre-clinical Network Facility" been set up?

- A) Faridabad
- B) Patna
- C) Lucknow
- D) Hyderabad

Answer : A

- ✓ 1st Asian CEPI Pre-clinical Network Facility inaugurated in Faridabad.
- ✓ The Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) 's first Asian "Pre-clinical Network Facility" was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, and MoS Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh in Faridabad, Haryana, on 16 July 2024.
- ✓ CEPI's first Asian and 9th Lab in the World
- ✓ The Faridabad-based Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) – Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) or BRIC-THSTI is the first laboratory in Asia and 9th in the world to be accredited by the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations.
- ✓ The CEPI labs are in Europe, Australia, and the United States of America.
- ✓ The Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) was founded in 2017 in Davos, Switzerland, to develop vaccines against future epidemics.

Q. Roberta Metsola has been elected President of the European Parliament for a second term. She is from which country?

- A) Malta
- B) Somalia
- C) Germany
- D) France

Answer : A

- ✓ Roberta Metsola Re-elected as President of European Parliament; 1st Woman to win 2nd Term.
- ✓ Roberta Metsola of European People's Party (EPP), was re-elected as President of the European Parliament for another two and a half years, until 2027.
- ✓ With this, she became the first woman to win a second term as the President of the European Parliament, the directly elected legislative body of the European Union(EU).
- ✓ About European Union (EU)
- ✓ Founded : 1 November 1993
- ✓ Founders : Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg
- ✓ Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ Members Country : 27
- ✓ President of European Council : Antonion Costa (Portugal)

- ✓ President of Commission : Ursula von der Leyen (Germany)
- ✓ President of European Parliament : Robert Metsol (Malta)

Q. Who has launched the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) portal, which aims to increase transparency and facilitate easy access to skill development opportunities across India?

- A) Dharmendra Pradhan B) Amit Shah
C) Arjun Ram Meghwal D) Jayant Chaudhary

Answer : D

- ✓ Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) at the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), launched the Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH) Portal.
- ✓ The portal's primary objective is to ensure beneficiaries have access to complete information about all schemes.
- ✓ It aims to enhance transparency and facilitate easier access to skill development opportunities across India.
- ✓ About SIDH
- ✓ SIDH is integral to India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), a flagship initiative by the Government of India aimed at leveraging digital technologies for skill development
- ✓ Its primary goal is to enhance transparency and provide detailed information about government schemes to beneficiaries.
- ✓ The portal offers education aligned with industry needs, career opportunities, and support for entrepreneurship, catering to the aspirations of millions of Indians seeking better prospects

Q. President Draupadi Murmu has appointed Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and Justice R. Mahadevan as judges of the Supreme Court. With these two appointments, the sanctioned number of judges in the Supreme Court will increase to ____.

- A) 33 B) 34
C) 31 D) 30

Answer : B

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Justice N. Kotiswar Singh and R. Mahadevan as Judges of the Supreme Court.
- ✓ Justice N. Kotiswar Singh is currently Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, while Justice R. Mahadevan as Judge of Madras High Court.
- ✓ A five-member Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had recommended their names in a resolution on July 11.
- ✓ The Centre notified the two appointments which would return the top court to its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges.
- ✓ The two judges would replace Justices Aniruddha Bose and A.S. Bopanna, who had retired in April and May, respectively, this year.

Q. Nallathambi Kalaiselvi has been appointed as Director General for the second time in which of the following organizations?

- A) Indian council of medical research
B) Steel Authority of India Limited
C) Defence Research & Development Organization

D) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

Answer : D

- ✓ Nallathamby Kalaiselvi, the first woman Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), was granted a two-year extension in service.
- ✓ She was appointed to the post in August 2022 following the superannuation of Shekhar Mande in April that year.
- ✓ She will also hold the charge of Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Q. What is the primary goal of the ASMITA project, recently seen in the news?

- A) To digitize educational content for online learning
- B) To enhance infrastructure in rural schools
- C) To promote and integrate Indian languages into the education system
- D) To promote sustainable agriculture practices

Answer : C

- ✓ Ministry of Education and the University Grants Commission (UGC) recently unveiled the ASMITA Project, aimed at bolstering the availability of educational resources in Indian languages.
- ✓ About ASMITA Project:
- ✓ ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing) is an initiative to develop 22,000 books in Indian languages in the next five years.
- ✓ It is a collaborative effort of the UGC and the Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti, a high-powered committee under the Ministry of Education.
- ✓ The primary objective of this initiative is to promote and integrate Indian languages more deeply into the education system, thereby enriching the learning experience and making it more inclusive.

Q. Who is the author of book titled 'Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi'?

- A) R Balasubramaniam
- B) Amitav Ghosh
- C) Dr S. Jaishankar
- D) Jumpa Lahiri

Answer : A

- ✓ The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi met Dr R Balasubramaniam and signed a copy of his book 'Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi'.
- ✓ The book captures Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership journey and interprets it through Western and Indic lenses, amalgamating them to provide a roadmap for those who aspire to a life of public service.
- ✓ "Power Within" is not just another political biography. It presents a unique analytical framework, examining Prime Minister Modi's leadership through a dual lens.

Q. Which state government has launched the Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana (Chief Minister Youth Work Training Scheme) aiming to provide valuable internship opportunities, equipping young individuals with essential skills and enhancing their employability in a competitive job market?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Bihar
- D) Telangana

Answer : A

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- ✓ Government of Maharashtra has unveiled the Mukhyamantri Yuva Karya Prashikshan Yojana (Chief Minister Youth Work Training Scheme) aiming to provide valuable internship opportunities, equipping young individuals with essential skills and enhancing their employability in a competitive job market.
- ✓ The government has made provision of ₹5,500 crore for the scheme.
- ✓ Candidates aged between 18 to 35 years and residing in Maharashtra are eligible to apply under the scheme.
- ✓ Minimum educational qualifications range from 12th pass to post-graduation, ensuring a broad spectrum of youth can benefit from practical training opportunities.
- ✓ Interns will receive monthly stipends through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). For the 12th pass, a stipend of ₹6,000 is allotted, and for ITI/Diploma – ₹8,000 and degree/post-graduation – ₹10,000 will be offered.

Q. Which one of the following is the best description of 'MV Sea Change', that was in the news recently?

- A) The first autonomous container ship with zero carbon emissions.
- B) A cargo ship designed to navigate the Arctic routes.
- C) The world's first fully electric ferry powered by hydrogen fuel cells.
- D) A specialized vessel for deep-sea mining operations

Answer : C

- ✓ The world's first commercial passenger ferry powered by 100% hydrogen fuel, the MV Sea Change, was launched recently at the San Francisco Ferry Building.
- ✓ About MV Sea Change:
- ✓ It is the world's first commercial passenger ferry powered entirely by zero-emission hydrogen fuel cells.
- ✓ The 75-passenger ferry was built by All American Marine Shipyard for the compatriot shipowner SWITCH Maritime.
- ✓ The vessel, designed by Incat Crowther, is fitted with hydrogen-powered fuel cells producing electricity to power electric motors, enabling the vessel to operate for about 16 hours, traveling around 300 nautical miles, between refueling sessions.

Q. Nelson Mandela International Day is observed on every year on which day?

- A) 16 July
- B) 17 July
- C) 18 July
- D) 19 July

Answer : C

- ✓ Nelson Mandela International Day (also Mandela Day) is held every year on July 18 globally to honour the legacy of the late President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.
- ✓ The day 18 July marks the birth anniversary of the great South African leader, who was born in 1918.
- ✓ United Nations officially declared July 18 as UN Mandela Day in November 2009.
- ✓ The first UN Mandela Day was held on 18 July 2010.
- ✓ 18th July 2024 marks the 106th birth anniversary of Nelson Mandela
- ✓ The first UN Mandela Day was held on 18 July 2010
- ✓ Nelson Mandela South Africa's first black President (1994-1999)
- ✓ He has served 27 years in prison

FAMOUS BOOKS PENS BY MANDELA

- Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela.
- Conversations with Myself.
- Favorite African Folktales.
- Nelson Mandela: In His Own Words.
- IMPORTANT AWARDS
- India's Highest civilian honour 'Bharat Ratna' in 1990
- Pakistan's Highest civilian honour 'Nishan-e-Pakistan' in 1992
- Nobel Peace Prize 1993 : Nelson Mandela & Frederik Willem de Klerk
- The first two Non-Indians who receive the Bharat Ratna are -Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan(1987) {first foreigner to received Bharat ratna} and Nelson Mandela (1990

Q. Gitanas Nausėda was sworn in as the President of which country for a second five-year term?

- A) Lithuania
- B) Luxenberg
- C) Kyrgyzstan
- D) Kenya

Answer : A

- ✓ Gitanas Nausėda Begins Second Five-Year Term as Lithuanian President.
- ✓ Lithuanian President Gitanas Nausėda began his second five-year term following a swearing-in ceremony at the Seimas, the Lithuanian Parliament.
- ✓ About Lithuania
- ✓ It is one of the three Baltic countries located in the northeastern region of Europe, alongside Estonia and Latvia.
- ✓ Capital: Vilnius
- ✓ Currency: Lithuanian litas (LTL)
- ✓ Prime Minister: Ingrida Simonyte

Q. Which country will host the 6th BIMSTEC summit meeting in 2024?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ PM Modi lauds the BIMSTEC as an engine of growth in the region.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the role of the BIMSTEC(Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) in furthering and deepening economic and social growth.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also supported Thailand's hosting of the 6th BIMSTEC Summit Meeting in September 2024.
- ✓ He said this after meeting the foreign ministers of the BIMSTEC member states- India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Myanmar on 12 July 2024.
- ✓ The foreign ministers were in India to attend the 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's Retreat.
- ✓ 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's Retreat
- ✓ The 2nd BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's Retreat (meeting) was held in New Delhi on 11 and 12 July 2024.
- ✓ Bangkok, Thailand, hosted the first BIMSTEC Foreign Minister's Retreat in 2023.
- ✓ The Foreign Minister's Retreat was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and hosted by the Minister for External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar.
- ✓ About BIMSTEC

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- ✓ The BIMSTEC(Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) was founded in 1997 as BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation).
- ✓ With the joining of Myanmar in 1997, the organisation's name was changed to BIMSTEC.
- ✓ BIMSTEC includes the littoral and adjoining countries of the Bay of Bengal. At present, it has seven members: India, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar.
- ✓ The BIMSTEC focuses on deepening the trade and economic ties amongst the member countries and promotion of people to people contact etc.
- ✓ Secretariat: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ✓ Secretary General - Indra Mani Pandey (Indian Citizen)
- ✓ Summit Meeting of BIMSTEC
- ✓ 1st Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2004
- ✓ 2nd in New Delhi in 2008
- ✓ 6th summit meeting will be hosted by Thailand in 2024..

Q. Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli has been sworn in as the prime minister of which country?

- A) Nepal
- B) Maldives
- C) Bhutan
- D) Kazakhstan

Answer : A

- ✓ K P Sharma Oli sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister for Fourth time.
- ✓ Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli (K P Sharma Oli) was sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the fourth time by President Ram Chandra Paudel on 15 July 2024 in Kathmandu.
- ✓ KP Sharma Oli will lead a coalition government after the fall of the previous coalition government led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'.
- ✓ This is the fourth time that K P Sharma Oli has become the Prime Minister of Nepal.
- ✓ He first became the prime minister in October 2015 and remained in power til August 2016. His second term as the prime minister was from February 2018 to May 2021, and his third was from May 2021 to July 2021
- ✓ Pushpa Kamal Dahal's Communist Party of Nepal(Maoist Center) formed a coalition government with KP Sharma Oli-led Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) after the parliamentary election held in 2022.
- ✓ Nepali Congress has 88 members in the 275-member House of Representatives, while the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist Leninist) has 78 members.
- ✓ Nepal is a parliamentary democracy, and its parliament is called Sanghiya Sansad or Federal Parliament.
- ✓ The 275 members of the House of Representatives are directly elected by the people for a five-year term.

Q. Which of the following country will host the first 'Olympics Esports Games' in 2025?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Saudi Arabia to host first 'Olympics Esports Games' in 2025
- ✓ Saudi Arabia and the International Olympic Committee have announced a 12-year agreement to host the new esports Olympics in the oil-rich kingdom starting from 2025.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):
1. It was established by the Chicago Convention and is headquartered in Montreal, Canada.
 2. It sets standards and regulations necessary for aviation safety, security, efficiency, and regularity, as well as for aviation environmental protection.

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

- ✓ India is set to host the second Asia Pacific (APAC) ministerial conference on civil aviation, which will be jointly organised by the Indian government and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) APAC.
- ✓ About International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):
- ✓ ICAO is an intergovernmental specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- ✓ It was established in 1947 by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944), known as the Chicago Convention.
- ✓ Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- ✓ ICAO was created to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world.
- ✓ It serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 193 member states.

- A) Vinay Mohan Kwatra B) Vikram Misri
C) K.P.S Menon D) S Jaishnakar

- ✓ Vikram Misri Appointed India's Foreign Secretary.
- ✓ Vikram Misri assumed charge as India's new Foreign Secretary, succeeding Vinay Kwatra.
- ✓ Misri is a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service officer with extensive diplomatic experience.
- ✓ Misri previously served as Deputy National Security Advisor and played a crucial role in India-China relations post the Galwan Valley clashes.
- ✓ He served as India's ambassador to China from 2019 to 2021, navigating challenging bilateral relations.
- ✓ Misri has also held ambassadorial positions in Spain (2014-2016) and Myanmar (2016-2018).

- A) Argentina B) France
C) Germany D) Croatia

- ✓ Argentina wins its 16th Copa America title beating Colombia in final.
- ✓ Argentina won their 16th Copa America Football title by defeating Colombia 1-0 in the final of the 48th Copa America, played at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, the United States of America.

- ✓ The 48th Copa America was hosted by the United States of America from 21 June - to 15 July 2024, and 16 countries' men's football teams participated in it.
- ✓ Argentina is the most successful team in the history of the Copa America tournament, having won it 16 times.
- ✓ About Copa America
- ✓ Copa America is the world's oldest international football tournament, which was started by CONMEBOL- South American football governing body, in 1916.

Q. Who has won the 2024 UEFA European Football Championship?

- A) Croatia
B) UAE
C) Qatar
D) Spain

Answer : D

- ✓ Spain Lifts its 4th UEFA Euro CUP beating England in Final.
- ✓ The Spanish men's football team, also known as La Roja, won their fourth UEFA European Football Championships or the Euro Cup by defeating England 2-1 in the final played at Berlin's Olympiastadion stadium on 14 July 2024.
- ✓ The 17th edition of the Euro Cup was hosted by Germany from 15 June to 14 July 2024. Twenty-four teams from Europe participated in the 17th Euro Cup.
- ✓ UEFA European Football Championship/ Euro Cup
- ✓ The UEFA European Football Championship, popularly known as Euro Cup is organised by the European football governing body Union of European Football Association (UEFA).
- ✓ The Championship started as the European Nations Cup, and later, its name was changed in 1968 to UEFA European Football Championships or Euro Cup.
- ✓ It is held every four years, but due to COVID-19, the 2020 edition was held in 2021, which was hosted by a record 11 European countries.
- ✓ France hosted the first edition of the Cup in 1960, and the Soviet Union emerged as the winner.
- ✓ Spain is the most successful team, having won it four times, followed by Germany with three wins

Q. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated the Prime Minister College of Excellence in 55 districts of which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Maharashtra
D) Chhattisgarh

Answer : B

- ✓ Amit Shah Inaugurates Prime Minister College of Excellence in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the Prime Minister College of Excellence in all 55 districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The initiative aims to provide excellent and high-quality education to students across Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ Emphasis on the new education policy equipping Indian students to compete globally for the next 25 years.
- ✓ Reconnection of students with India's rich cultural heritage and languages.
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh is the first state to implement the new education policy

Q. Who took oath as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan, making her the first woman to be elevated as the court's top judge?

- A) Ishaq Dar

C) Rita Faria

D) Aalia Neelum

Answer : D

- ✓ Justice Aalia Neelum took oath as the Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC) of Pakistan, making her the first woman to be elevated as the court's top judge.
- ✓ Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan administered the oath of office to her.
- ✓ Punjab province's first woman Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz was also present in the oath-taking ceremony.

Q. Which state's community managed natural farming program has been awarded the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024?

A) Andhra Pradesh

B) Telangana

C) Karnataka

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ International honour Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming
- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) program, led by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has been awarded the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity 2024.
- ✓ The announcement was made by Dr. Angela Merkel, chair of the Jury and former Federal Chancellor of Germany, during a ceremony in Lisbon, Portugal.
- ✓ APCNF shares the €1 million prize with Dr. Rattan Lal, a renowned soil scientist from the USA, and SEKEM, an Egyptian network promoting biodynamic farming.
- ✓ The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), a state-wide program of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, has been recognized for its significant contributions to global food security, climate resilience, and ecosystem protection.

Q. Which country is set to host the second Asia Pacific (APAC) ministerial conference on civil aviation?

A) Japan

B) Russia

C) India

D) Australia

Answer : C

- ✓ India to host 2nd Asia Pacific ministerial conference on civil aviation in Sept.
- ✓ India is set to host the second Asia Pacific (APAC) ministerial conference on civil aviation, which will be jointly organised by the Indian government and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ✓ About International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO):
- ✓ ICAO is an intergovernmental specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- ✓ It was established in 1947 by the Convention on International Civil Aviation (1944), known as the Chicago Convention.
- ✓ Headquarters: Montreal, Canada
- ✓ ICAO was created to promote the safe and orderly development of international civil aviation throughout the world.
- ✓ It serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation among its 193 member states.

Q. Paul Kagame re-elected for 4th term as President of which country?

A) Ethiopia

B) Zimbabwe

C) Rwanda

D) Kenya

Answer : C

- ✓ President Paul Kagame wins the fourth term as Rwandan President.
- ✓ According to the National Electoral Commission of Rwanda, President Paul Kagame has won the country's presidential election for the fourth term.
- ✓ Paul Kagame has been elected for a fresh five-year term.
- ✓ About Rwanda
- ✓ Rwanda is a landlocked country in East Central Africa. The country is also known as the land of a thousand hills.
- ✓ Capital: Kigali
- ✓ Currency: Rwandan franc
- ✓ President : Paul Kagame

Q. Who has won the Golden sand master award with a gold medal at the International Sand Sculpture Championship held in St. Petersburg, Russia?

A) Subodh Gupta

B) Shilpa Gupta

C) Neeraj Gupta

D) Sudarsan Pattnaik

Answer : D

- ✓ Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won Golden sand master award with a gold medal at international sand sculpture championship held at St. Petersburg, Russia.
- ✓ Pattnaik, the only participant from India has created a 12 feet high sand Ratha (chariot) of Mahaprabhu Jagannath with his devotee and poet Balaram Das.
- ✓ Balaram Das who was the author of Dandi Ramayan was a great devotee of Lord Jagannath in fourteenth century A.D.

Q. In which city will Eastern India's first university for disabled students be opened?

A) Agartala

B) Bhubaneswar

C) Ranchi

D) Patna

Answer : C

- ✓ Eastern India's 1st University for students with disabilities to be opened in Ranchi
- ✓ The Jharkhand government is working on a plan to open eastern India's first university for physically challenged students in the state.
- ✓ The proposed university will offer education according to the needs of students with disabilities.
- ✓ There will be arrangements for special courses and educational equipment for students with disabilities. They will be provided education according to their needs.
- ✓ The department also proposed a 'Navothan Scholarship Scheme', under which the government will reimburse the full course fee (up to a maximum of Rs 10 lakh per year) of meritorious orphan and physically challenged students of the state.

Q. India has signed an agreement with which country to provide an annual grant for four community development projects as part of New Delhi's outreach to Pacific Island states?

A) Solomon Islands

B) Tuvalu

C) Papua New Guinea

D) Marshall Islands

Answer : D

- ✓ India and Marshall Islands sign MoU on development projects
- ✓ India has signed an agreement with the Marshall Islands to provide an annual grant for four community development projects as part of New Delhi's outreach to Pacific Island states.
- ✓ The MoU was signed at the Indian embassy in Tokyo by India's ambassador to Japan, Sibi George, and foreign minister Kalani Kaneko of Marshall Islands.
- ✓ The embassy in Tokyo is also responsible for overseeing relations with Marshall Islands.

Q. The central government will annually observe 25 June as ?

- A) Sarvodaya Day
B) Parakram Diwas
C) Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas
D) Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas

Answer : C

- ✓ 25 June to be observed as 'Samvidhan Hatya Diwas'.
- ✓ The government of India announced on 12 July 2024 that 25 June would be observed annually as Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas, or Constitution Murder Day. On 25 June 1975, the then Indira Gandhi Congress government imposed a national emergency in the country under Article 352 of the constitution, which lasted 21 months.
- ✓ This year also marks the beginning of the 50th year of the imposition of a national emergency by the Indira government

Q. Who has been appointed as the Principal Adviser at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP)?

- A) Madhura Swaminathan B) Nitya Rao
C) Suresh Kumar Nayak D) Soumya Swaminathan

Answer : D

- ✓ Former Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research and World Health Organization's Chief Scientist Dr. Soumya Swaminathan has been appointed as the Principal Adviser at the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).
- ✓ She will be serving in MoHFW on a pro bono basis.
- ✓ Dr. Swaminathan will be based out of Chennai, where she heads the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation that works on issues of agriculture and climate change.
- ✓ India accounts for 25% of world's TB burden and over 25 lakh new cases of TB were notified in 2024 in India, according to the India TB report released by the Centre.

Q. Which day is observed as the World Population Day every year?

- A) 11 July B) 10 July
C) 12 July D) 9 July

Answer : A

- ✓ Every year since 1990, 11 July has been observed as World Population Day around the world.
- ✓ The day seeks to focus the attention of global stakeholders on the issues of population growth, their relations to the environment and development and related issues.
- ✓ World Population Day was established by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1989.
- ✓ The first Population Day was observed on 11 July 1990.

- ✓ The 2024 World Population Day theme is “To Leave No One Behind, Count Everyone”.
- ✓ Most and least Populous Country in the World
- 1. According to the United Nations, India became the most populous country in the world in April 2023, overtaking China.
- 2. Mainland China
- 3. United States
- 4. Indonesia
- ✓ Vatican City is the least populated country in the world, with an estimated population of 526, according to the World Population Review.

Q. Which country becomes the fifth member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Bangladesh officially joined the Colombo Security Conclave as its fifth full member during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) on 10 July 2024. Bangladesh joins India, Mauritius, Maldives and Sri Lanka as the members of the Colombo Security Conclave,
- ✓ Bangladesh earlier had an Observer status at the Colombo Security Conclave.
- ✓ At present, Seychelles has an Observer status at the Colombo Security Conclave.
- ✓ The 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) was hosted by Mauritius virtually.
- ✓ Deputy National Security Adviser (Internal Affairs) Pankaj Kumar Singh represented India at the meeting.
- ✓ The meeting decided that the next 7th National Security Advisor level meeting will be held in India later this year.
- ✓ About the Colombo Security Conclave
- ✓ The Colombo Security Dialogue is a security-focused group of countries in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Its origins lie in the 2011 India-Sri Lanka-Maldives maritime security dialogue.
- ✓ In 2020, the group was renamed the Colombo Security Conclave.
- ✓ Later, Mauritius was made the fourth member of the Colombo Security Conclave.
- ✓ In March 2022, the five pillars of the Colombo Security Conclave were adopted. They are:
- ✓ maritime safety and security, countering terrorism and radicalisation; combating trafficking and transnational organised crime;
- ✓ cybersecurity and protection of critical infrastructure and technology; and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief Secretariat: In 2021, the Colombo Security Conclave's secretariat was established in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme:

1. It aims to enable MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions for further technological advancement.
2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Defence.

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, Raksha Rajya Mantri launched “GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024) of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata.
- ✓ It is an innovative scheme which seeks solutions to the problems related to the shipyards and promotes technology development using the start-ups created and nurtured in the country.
- ✓ It encourages and enables MSMEs and Start-Ups to develop innovative solutions for further technological advancement. It will give a new dimension to the future of Indian defence and with technological advancements and dedication it will enhance the strength of our armed forces and enhance maritime security.
- ✓ The aim is to leverage the vast ecosystem of MSMEs and Start-Ups to address present and emerging challenges in the ship design and construction industry, while achieving the objectives of Atma Nirbharta.
- ✓ This initiative is in keeping with the ‘Make in India’ and ‘Start-up India’ policies of the Government of India.
- ✓ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Defence.

Q. Who has become the first state in India to publish People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR)?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Kerala
- D) Karnataka

Answer : C

- ✓ Kerala set to become the first state in India to publish People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR).
- ✓ Kerala was the first State in the country to publish the 1st volume of the People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR) across all local bodies.
- ✓ This document is dynamic, requiring periodic updates on ecosystem details, landscapes, species, and traditional knowledge.
- ✓ The Kerala state biodiversity board (KSBB) complete the updation of the PBR in 50% of local bodies in the State before the end of 2024
- ✓ Thazhakara(Alappuzha) has become the 1st Gram panchayat (GP) in Kerala, and one of the 1st in Kerala to update and publish the 2nd volume of the comprehensive PBR, a document on local biological resources and traditional knowledge, involving the local communities.

Q. Where is the world's largest Ramayan temple being built?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Karnataka
- D) Telangana

Answer : B

- ✓ World’s Largest Ramayan Temple in Bihar.
- ✓ Recently, The second phase of construction of the “world’s largest Ramayan temple” began in East Champaran district of Bihar. The construction of the three-storey temple, spread over an area of 3.76 lakh sq.ft., began in June 2023 and is expected to be complete in 2025.
- ✓ The Viraat Ramayan Mandir will be three times larger than the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya.
- ✓ Constructed at a cost of Rs 500 crore, it will feature a 33-foot-tall Shivling in the arghya (sanctum sanctorum).
- ✓ There will be 22 sanctum sanctorum for different deities in the temple complex.
- ✓ The second phase will include the construction up to the plinth level, which will go up to a height of about 26 feet from the ground level.

- ✓ Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, who belongs to Darbhanga (Bihar), has created history by becoming the India's first female fighter of the Indian Air Force .

CREATES HISTORY IN NEWS 2024

- Bhawana Kanth of Bihar makes history as Indian Air Force (IAF) participates in EX-Pitch Black.
- Sreeja Akula of Hyderabad creates history by winning World Table Tennis Contender singles title.
- Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar of Tripura creates history wins gold at Asian Championship 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- Yuzvendra Chahal Creates History to Become First Indian Bowler to 350 T20 Wickets.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to eSankhyiki Portal:

1. It provides real-time inputs for planners and policy-makers in India.
2. It consists of data catalogue module in which Index of Industrial Production information can be accessed.

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 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has developed an eSankhyiki portal.
- ✓ It provides real-time inputs for planners, policy-makers, researchers and the public at large.
- ✓ The objective of this portal is to establish a comprehensive data management and sharing system for ease of dissemination of official statistics in the country.
- ✓ It has two modules namely:
- ✓ Data Catalogue Module: This module catalogues the major data assets of the Ministry at one place for ease of access.
- ✓ It allows users to search within datasets, including within tables, and download data of interest to increase its value and re-usability.
- ✓ The module has seven data products, namely National Accounts Statistics, Consumer Price Index, Index of Industrial Production, Annual Survey of Industries, Periodic Labour Force Survey, Household Consumption Expenditure Survey and Multiple Indicator Survey.
- ✓ The Data Catalogue section already includes over 2291 datasets along with specific metadata and visualization for each dataset for user convenience.
- ✓ The first phase of the module includes four major products of MoSPI: National Accounts Statistics, Consumer Price Index, Index of Industrial Production, and Annual Survey of Industries, encompassing the data of last ten years. The portal currently hosts more than 1.7 million records.

Q. Which Ministry of the government of India has launched the Fauna of India Checklist Portal?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- D) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Answer : D

- ✓ According to the Union minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, India has become the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna population. -covering 104,561 species.
- ✓ This makes India the global leader in biodiversity documentation and conservations.
- ✓ The minister gave this information at a ceremony held in Kolkata to observe the 109th anniversary of the Zoological Survey of India in Kolkata, West Bengal on 30 June 2024. He also formally launched the Fauna of India Checklist Portal maintained by the Zoological Survey of India which contains the check list of India's entire known -104,561 fauna species.
- ✓ The minister also inaugurated the 2nd Animal Taxonomy Summit-2024 organised by Zoological Survey of India at Kolkata.
- ✓ He also participated with childrens and women in the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign and they planted saplings. The 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of World Environment Day on 5 June 2024.
- ✓ The 2nd Animal Taxonomy Summit was organised by the Zoological Survey of India at Kolkata from 30 June -. 3 July 2024.
- ✓ About Zoological Survey of India
- ✓ The Zoological Survey of India was set up on 1 July 1916 at Kolkata (earlier Calcutta).
- ✓ It was set up to study and document the fauna of the country.
- ✓ It is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ✓ Headquarters : Kolkata, West Bengal
- ✓ Director : Dr Dhriti Banerjee

Q. Who recently became the first country to prepare a complete list of Fauna?

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

Answer : A

Q. BCCI announced a prize of how many crores of rupees for the T20 World winning Indian team ?

- A) 125 crores
- B) 150 crores
- C) 110 crores
- D) 105 crores

Answer : A

- ✓ BCCI announces Rs 125 Cr Prize Money for Team India after T20 World Cup win.
- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a massive Prize Money of 125 crore rupees for Team India after winning the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.
- ✓ The announcement was made by BCCI secretary Jay Shah following India's iconic victory at the Kensington Oval.
- ✓ The ICC (International Cricket Council) had already announced a record prize pool of \$11.25 million for the T20 World Cup 2024
- ✓ Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- ✓ Founded : 1928
- ✓ Headquarters : Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
- ✓ 1st President : R E Grant Govan
- ✓ 36th President : Roger Binny
- ✓ CEO : Hemang Amin
- ✓ Vice president : Rajeev Shukla
- ✓ Secretary : Jay Shah

- ✓ Men's coach : Rahul Dravid
- ✓ Women's coach : Ramesh Powar

Q. Who is the author of the book titled India's Trade Policy: The 1990s and Beyond?

- A) Hasmukh Adhia
- B) Subhash Chandra Garg
- C) Ajay Narayan Jha
- D) Arvind Panagariya

Answer : D

- ✓ Book Title: India's Trade Policy: The 1990s and Beyond
- ✓ Author: Arvind Panagariya.
- ✓ Economist and chairperson of the Sixteenth Finance Commission Arvind Panagariya has closely observed the Indian economy over decades and written extensively about it.
- ✓ In this book, he has collected his writings from 1989 to the present day to provide an overview of the Indian economy from when liberalization started to where it has reached.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the Income Tax Department?

- A) Ravi Agrawal
- B) Navin Sharma
- C) Anshika Singh
- D) Sunil Menon

Answer : A

- ✓ Ravi Agrawal appointed as Chairman of CBDT
- ✓ Ravi Agrawal, a 1988-batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the administrative body for the Income Tax Department.
- ✓ He takes over from Nitin Gupta, a 1986-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, whose extended tenure as the chairman ended on June 30.
- ✓ Agrawal's appointment extends till June 2025, with a reappointment on a contract basis to ensure continuity in CBDT's policy framework.
- ✓ Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- ✓ Founded : 1860
- ✓ Headquarteres : New Delhi
- ✓ Chairman : Ravi Agrawal
- ✓ Minister responsible : Ministry of Finance

Q. Exercise MAITREE, a joint military exercise is conducted between India and:

- A) Thailand
- B) Nepal
- C) Bhutan
- D) Japan

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Army contingent departed to take part in India- Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE.
- ✓ It is the 13th edition of India- Thailand joint military Exercise MAITREE.
- ✓ The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 1st to 15th July 2024 at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province of Thailand.
- ✓ Last edition of the same exercise was conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya in September 2019.
- ✓ The Indian Army contingent comprising 76 personnel is being represented mainly by a Battalion of the LADAKH SCOUTS along with personnel from other arms and services.

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff?

B) NS Raja Subramani

D) Madhvendra Singh

- ✓ Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani assumed the charge as the Vice Chief of Army Staff on 1 July 2024.
- ✓ He replaced former Vice Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi, who took charge as the 30th Chief of Army Staff on 1 July 2024.
- ✓ Before his appointment as the Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani was the Commander-in-Chief of the Army's Central Command based in Lucknow

B) Amit Shah

D) Draupadi Murmu

- ✓ Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the Global India AI Summit in New Delhi.
- ✓ Vision of AI Utilization: India aims to democratize technology through its approach to artificial intelligence (AI).
- ✓ India AI Mission
- ✓ India AI Mission: The government will launch the India AI Mission, a ₹10,000 crore initiative.
- ✓ Investment Focus: It will focus on creating AI computing infrastructure with 10,000 or more GPUs through public-private partnerships.
- ✓ AI Innovation Center
- ✓ Establishment: An AI Innovation Center will be established.
- ✓ Focus: It will concentrate on acquiring high-quality datasets to enhance research and startup efforts.

B) WHO

D) UNODC

- ✓ United Nations (UN) agency tackling crime and drug abuse (UNODC) released its annual World Drug Report recently.
- ✓ About World Drug Report 2024:
- ✓ It is an annual report released by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- ✓ Highlights of the Report:
- ✓ The number of people who use drugs has risen to 292 million in 2022, a 20 percent increase over the past ten years.
- ✓ Cannabis remains the most widely used drug worldwide (228 million users), followed by opioids (60 million users), amphetamines (30 million users), cocaine (23 million users), and ecstasy (20 million users).

- ✓ Abhinav Bindra Awarded Prestigious Olympic Order by International Olympic Committee.
- ✓ BCCI To Provide Rs 8.5 Crore To Indian Olympic Association (IOA) For Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Sharath Kamal, the veteran table tennis player, will serve as the male flag bearer for Paris 2024 Olympics.
- ✓ PV Sindhu, the badminton ace, has been chosen as the female flag bearer for the Indian contingent.
- ✓ MC Mary Kom has been named as the chef de mission for the Paris 2024 Summer Games.
- ✓ Gagan Narang has been appointed as India's Chef-De-Mission for the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ 'Games Wide Open' unveiled as Paris Olympics 2024 official slogan
- ✓ Adani Group Announced as Principal Sponsor for Indian Team at 2024 Paris Olympics
- ✓ PUMA Partners with Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics 2024
- ✓ YES Bank Partners with Indian Olympic Association for Paris Olympics

Q. Which space scientist has been honoured with the Harrie Massey Award by the Committee on Space Research?

- A) Lalthazuala Rokhum B) Prahlad Chandra Agrawal
C) Akalesh Kumar Verma D) Koushik Chakraborty

Answer : B

- ✓ Space Scientist Prahlad Agrawal & Anil Bhardwaj honoured by COSPAR.
- ✓ Space scientists Prahlad Chandra Agrawal and Anil Bhardwaj were honoured by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) at its biannual meeting in Busan, South Korea, for their contributions to space research.
- ✓ The 45th COSPAR scientific assembly is being held in Busan, South Korea
- ✓ Harrie Massey Award to Prahlad Chandra Agrawal
- ✓ Noted space scientist Prahlad Chandra Agrawal was honoured with the Harrie Massey Award. The Harrie Massey Award is given to a person's outstanding contribution to space research, for which a leadership role is particularly important
- ✓ Professor Aggarwal led the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) AstroSat programme, which was dedicated to studying celestial sources in the X-ray, optical, and UV spectral bands
- ✓ ISRO launched the AstroSat mission in 2015. Professor Aggarwal was also part of the Chandrayaan - 1 mission, which was launched by ISRO on 22 October 2008 to study the moon

Q. Who has been honoured with the Vikram Sarabhai Medal by the Committee on Space Research?

- A) Anil Bhardwaj B) Divya Sharma
C) Paltu Kumar Dhal D) Losiana Nayak

Answer : A

- ✓ Vikram Sarabhai Medal for Anil Bhardwaj
- ✓ Anil Bhardwaj was honoured with the Vikram Sarabhai Medal at the 45th COSPAR Scientific Assembly.
- ✓ The Vikram Sarabhai Medal, instituted by COSPAR in association with ISRO, is given to a space scientist from a developing country for his outstanding contribution to space research.
- ✓ Anil Bhardwaj is currently the director of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- ✓ He has been involved in ISRO's interplanetary missions, including Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan, and the Aditya-L1 (study of Sun) missions
- ✓ The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) was set up in 1958 after the successful launch of an artificial satellite named Sputnik by the Soviet Union in 1957

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) program:

1. It is aimed at school children between 9 and 18 years age group.
2. It has an objective to use sports as a tool to curb addiction towards drugs and other gadgetry distractions.

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 Government's ambitious Khelo India Rising Talent Identification (KIRTI) program is set to get a fresh boost under the leadership of the Union Minister for Youth Affairs.
- ✓ It is aimed at school children between nine and 18 years age group.
- ✓ The nation-wide scheme will have two main objectives:
- ✓ To hunt talent from every nook and corner of the country and
- ✓ To use sports as a tool to curb addiction towards drugs and other gadgetry distractions.
- ✓ KIRTI made a solid launch across 50 centres in India. Fifty thousand applicants are being assessed in the first phase across 10 sports, including athletics, boxing, wrestling, hockey, football and wrestling.
- ✓ It aims to conduct 20 lakh assessments across the country throughout the FY 2024-25 to identify talent through notified Talent Assessment Centres.

Q. Who is the author of the book “Tantra on the Edge”, which recently won the Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize?

- A) Vikram Seth B) Salman Rushdie
C) Jumpa Lahiri D) Madhu Khanna

Answer : D

- ✓ Art historian Madhu Khanna has won the second edition of the Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize for her book, “Tantra on the Edge”.
- ✓ The award ceremony, hosted by Ambassador of Norway to India and Sri Lanka May-Elin Stener, saw Khanna and book’s publisher DAG being felicitated with the trophy, certificate and one lakh rupees cash prize.

LITERARY AWARDS IN NEWS 2024

- Madhu Khanna has won the second edition of the Oxford Bookstore Art Book Prize for her book, “Tantra on the Edge”.
- Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy has been chosen for the 2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize for her courageous and unswerving writing.
- German author Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann have won the prestigious International Booker Prize for their novel “Kairos.”
- Kannada poet, Mamta Ji Sagar was honored with the World Literary Prize for her contribution to literature by the World Organization of Writers (WOW)
- Indian writer Amitav Ghosh was awarded with the 'Erasmus Prize' 2024 for highlighting the climate change crisis.
- Nishant has been announced to be given the 29th Devi Shankar Awasthi Award for the year 2023 for his criticism book 'Kavita Pathak Aalochna'.

- Gulzar and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya as recipients of the 58th Jnanpith Award 2023.
- The award includes prize money of Rs 21 lakh.
- Norwegian author Jon Olav Fosse for the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Irish writer Paul Lynch wins 2023 Booker Prize for 'Prophet Song

Q. Which city of India will host the 46th World Heritage Committee session of UNESCO?

- A) Mumbai
B) Chennai
C) Hyderabad
D) New Delhi

Answer : D

- ✓ New Delhi to host the 46th World Heritage Committee session of UNESCO.
- ✓ The Indian capital, New Delhi, is all set to host the 46th World Heritage Committee session of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation(UNESCO) from 21 -31 July 2024. This is the first time such an event is being held in India.
- ✓ The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the function on 21 July 2024 in the presence of the Union Minister for Culture, G.Kishan Reddy.
- ✓ The event, which will be held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, will also include the participation of UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay and Culture Ministers, Ambassadors, and domain experts from various countries.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Culture is organising the event in association with UNESCO.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES):

1. It is a planetary defence mission of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).
2. It aims to intercept the Apophis asteroid and study its characteristics during its close flyby of Earth in 2029.

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 European Space Agency recently announced that its new Ramses spacecraft may accompany the asteroid Apophis before and after its safe, albeit rather close, pass of Earth.
- ✓ About Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES):
- ✓ It is a planetary defence mission of the European Space Agency (ESA).
- ✓ It will intercept the asteroid 99942 Apophis and accompany it through its safe but exceptionally close flyby of Earth in 2029.
- ✓ Roughly 375 m across, Apophis will pass within 32,000 km from Earth's surface on 13 April 2029.
- ✓ RAMSES will work in synergy with the NASA mission OSIRIS-APEX and will arrive at Apophis a few days after the closest approach of the asteroid to the Earth, allowing a comparison of the asteroid properties measured by the two missions.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Portal:
1. It is a centralized platform to gather information on the District Mineral Foundations across the country.
 2. It aims to facilitate access to the DMF data and track the developments and utilizations thereunder.
- 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

- ✓ Union Minister of Coal and Mines launched the Mineral Exploration Hackathon and the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Portal.
- ✓ It is a centralized platform to gather information on the District Mineral Foundations across the country.
- ✓ Aim: The aim for launching this portal is to facilitate access to the DMF data and track the developments and utilizations thereunder.
- ✓ This portal provides details of 645 DMFs in the country with enhanced transparency, featuring centralized visibility of activities, project oversight, and dynamic analytics, as well as a repository of best practices for effective implementation.

- Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Pralay Missile:
1. It is a quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile.
 2. It was developed 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 : C

- ✓ Armenia's reported interest in acquiring India's Pralay missile is a great opportunity for India.
- ✓ About Pralay Missile:
- ✓ 'Pralay' is a 350-500 km short-range, quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile with a payload capacity of 500-1,000 kg.
- ✓ The solid-fuel, battlefield missile is based on the Prithvi Defence Vehicle.
- ✓ The missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in view of the country's defence requirements along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Line of Control (LoC).
- ✓ Range: It can hit targets 150-500 km away.

- Q.** Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary is situated in which one of the following states?
- A) Odisha B) Bihar
C) Madhya Pradesh D) Rajasthan

Answer : C

- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh State Wildlife Board has accorded approval to declare Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, on the outskirts of Bhopal, as the eighth tiger reserve of MP.
- ✓ About Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary:
- ✓ It stretches across 823 sq. km in the Raisen and Sehore districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ This rocky forest with aquatic environment is spread on the Vindhya Hills.
- ✓ It runs parallel on the northern side of the Narmada River. The Kolar River forms the western boundary of the Sanctuary.
- ✓ The sanctuary was first notified in 1976 and then extended in 1983. In 2008, it was declared as a Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ The Sanctuary has Bhimbetika, "a group of rock shelters and rock paintings", which is one of the " World Heritage Site " declared by UNESCO

Q. Bhusanket Web Portal, which was recently launched, provides information about:

- A) Magnetic changes in earth's core area
- B) invasive plant species
- C) Swell waves in the coastal areas
- D) landslide hazards

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Minister of Coal and Mines inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre at Geological Survey of India (GSI) Kolkata and also launched the Bhusanket Web Portal and Bhooskhalan Mobile App.
- ✓ This web portal will facilitate the dissemination of relevant data and information on landslide hazards, initiating short-range and medium-range landslide forecasting in the country.
- ✓ Integrated with the Bhusanket Web Portal, the user-friendly Bhooskhalan Mobile App will enable quick dissemination of daily landslide forecasts and allow stakeholders to share and update spatial and temporal information on landslide occurrences.
- ✓ The app is available on Bhusanket web portal and will soon be available on Google Play Store.

Q. Which person has reclaimed the top spot to become India's most valued celebrity, boasting a brand value of \$227.9 million in 2023?

- A) Virat Kohli
- B) MS Dhoni
- C) Ranveer Singh
- D) Akshay Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ Virat Kohli is India's most valued celebrity with a brand value of USD 227.9 million marking a significant increase of nearly 29% from USD 176.9 million in 2022.
- ✓ Consultancy firm Kroll shared a list ranking India's most influential celebrity brands in which Virat Kohli featured on the top followed by Ranveer Singh who slipped to the second spot with a brand value of USD 203.1 million.
- ✓ The report, titled Kroll's Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2023, features Shah Rukh Khan at the third spot after the success of films like "Jawaan" and "Pathaan" - with a brand value of USD 120.7 million in 2023

- ✓ Akshay Kumar is at the fourth place with a brand value of USD 111.7 million, down from third in 2022 while Alia Bhatt dropped to fifth from fourth with a valuation of USD 101.1 million. Deepika Padukone is at the sixth place with a brand value of USD 96 million.

Q. Which country has recently announced a new visa-free regime allowing citizens from 35 European countries to stay in the country for up to 90 days per year?

- A) Germany
B) Britain
C) Belarus
D) Lithuania

Answer : C

- ✓ Belarus has announced a new visa-free regime allowing citizens from 35 European countries to stay in the country for up to 90 days per year.
- ✓ Under the new policy, citizens of the 35 listed nations – which include Germany, Britain and France – will be able to enter Belarus without a visa and stay for up to 90 days per year.
- ✓ Currently, travellers from those countries can only remain in Belarus for 30 days and must fly in via Minsk airport
- ✓ The visa-free entry can be utilized multiple times within a year but does not apply to holders of special passports such as diplomatic or official passports

Q. Which of the following trusts has been honoured with the “Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024”?

- A) Smile Foundation Trust B) Akshay Patra Foundation
C) Disha Foundation Trust D) Sri Kurumba Trust

Answer : D

- ✓ Sobha Group's CSR wing, Sri Kurumba Educational and Charitable Trust has been honoured with the "Best Child and Women Development Initiatives of the Year 2024".
- ✓ This esteemed accolade was presented at the Global CSR, Sustainability, and ESG Awards 2024, at the Hyatt Regency, Gurgaon.
- ✓ The event was organised by Marketing and Brand Honchos and brought together industry leaders and champions of social responsibility.
- ✓ About Global CSR & ESG Awards 2024
- ✓ The Global CSR & ESG Awards 2024 are designed to recognise and honour social and visionary leaders, organisations, and individuals involved in acts of humanity or social welfare that bring positive change or impact to society.
- ✓ The award ceremony celebrates various dignitaries, guests of honour, social activists, volunteers, corporates, institutes, organisations, and distinguished individuals from various walks of life from the global arena.

Q. Who has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to the United States of America?

- A) Santosh Jha
B) Pranay Verma
C) Arindam Bagchi
D) Vinay Mohan Kwatra

Answer : D

- ✓ Ex-Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra appointed India's Ambassador to USA.
- ✓ The Ministry of External Affairs has announced the appointment of former foreign secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra as India's next ambassador to the United States of America.

- ✓ The announcement was made by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on 19 July 2024.
- ✓ The Ambassadorial post has been lying vacant since January 2024 after the retirement of Taranjit Singh Sandhu.
- ✓ Former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Vinay Mohan Kawatra retired as the 34th Foreign Secretary of India in July. He was replaced by Vikram Misri as the 35th Foreign Secretary of India

Q. 'Wind Demon', recently seen in the news, refers to:

- A) a next-generation weather forecasting satellite
- B) a state-of-the-art anti-ballistic missile defense system
- C) an advanced air-to-surface cruise missile
- D) a new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) for reconnaissance missions

Answer : C

- ✓ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) recently unveiled the country's new air-to-surface missile dubbed "Wind Demon".
- ✓ About Wind Demon:
- ✓ It is an advanced air-to-surface cruise missile designed for precise, long-range attacks at a low cost.
- ✓ It was developed by the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- ✓ The missile can be launched from a helicopter or aircraft and is capable of striking both mobile and stationary targets according to a predetermined plan without the need for operator intervention.
- ✓ With a range of over 200 kilometers and a weight of 140 kg, this missile is distinguished by its remarkable accuracy, with a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of just 1 meter.

Q. With reference to the MERCOSUR, consider the following statements:

1. It was created by signing the Treaty of Asunción in 1991.
2. India has signed the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with MERCOSUR.
3. It originally comprised Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay as its members.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Bolivia became a full-time member of MERCOSUR groupings to increase trade with member countries.
- ✓ Mercosur (MERCOSUR for its Spanish initials) or the Southern Common Market is an economic and political bloc of Latin America.
- ✓ Members: It originally comprised Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay as its members. Bolivia and Venezuela joined it later. (Venezuela has been suspended since December 1, 2016).
- ✓ It was created in 1991 by signing the Treaty of Asunción, an accord calling for the "free movement of goods, services, and factors of production between countries."
- ✓ MERCOSUR aims to promote economic integration, free trade, and the movement of goods, services, and people among member countries.
- ✓ Its official working languages are Spanish and Portuguese.
- ✓ India and MERCOSUR signed the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) in 2004, which allowed New Delhi to forge closer economic ties with one of the world's largest trade blocs.

- ✓ Headquarters: Montevideo, Uruguay.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q. Where was the 14th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting (EAS FMM) held?

- A) Beijing, China
- B) Vientiane, Lao PDR
- C) New Delhi, India
- D) Jakarta, Indonesia

Answer : B

- ✓ External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar attended the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with India in Vientiane, the capital city of Lao People's Democratic Republic, on 26 July 2024.
- ✓ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is on a three-day visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic from July 25 to 27, 2024, to attend the Foreign Minister's Meetings under the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) framework in the format of ASEAN-India, East Asia Summit(EAS), and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
- ✓ Lao People's Democratic Republic, the current chairman of ASEAN, is hosting the ASEAN foreign minister's meeting, EAS meeting, ARF meeting, and India-ASEAN meeting
- ✓ The ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference with India was held in Vientiane on 26 July 2024 and was attended by the foreign ministers of the 10 member states of ASEAN and S.Jaishankar
- ✓ The 31st ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Foreign Minister meeting will be held in Vientiane on 27 July 2024.
- ✓ About ASEAN
- ✓ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most successful regional groups in the world.
- ✓ It was set up in 1967 with five Southeast nations - Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and Indonesia.
- ✓ It was later gradually expanded and now consists of 10 Southeast nations -Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- ✓ Timor Leste has an Observer status in ASEAN.
- ✓ Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia

Q. India has set a target to double its bilateral trade with the United Kingdom to \$100 billion by which year?

- A) 2025
- B) 2030
- C) 2040
- D) 2035

Answer : B

- ✓ India and the United Kingdom launched a free trade negotiation in 2022 during Boris Johnson's British government. The British government prioritised a trade deal with India after the United Kingdom left the European Union in 2020.
- ✓ An agreement was reached to double the bilateral trade between the two countries from \$50 billion in 2022 to \$100 billion by 2030.

Q. How much amount has been allocated by the Ministry of Railways for installing Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system "Kavach" for the financial year 2024-25?

- A) 1012 crore
- B) 1112 crore
- C) 1512 crore
- D) 2012 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ It is an auction portal of the President's Secretariat (office of the President of India), Rashtrapati Bhavan for auctioning of gift items presented to the Hon'ble President and former Presidents of India.
- ✓ The portal was launched by the President of India, on July 25, 2024,
- ✓ It is conceptualized, designed, developed and hosted by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ✓ The aim of this initiative is not only to increase citizen engagement but also to support a noble cause. All proceeds from the auction will be donated to help children in need.

Q. Tell Umm Amer, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, recently in the news, is located in:

- A) Australia
- B) Indonesia
- C) Israel
- D) Palestine

Answer : D

- ✓ The World Heritage Committee (WHC) decided to include the Palestinian site of Tell Umm Amer in both the UNESCO World Heritage Site List and the Lost of World Heritage in Danger during its 46th session in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is situated on the coastal dunes of the Nuseirat Municipality, just 10 km south of Gaza City.
- ✓ It is the ancient Christian monastery that was founded in the fourth century by Hilarion the Great (291-371 CE).
- ✓ It is also known as the 'Monastery of Saint Hilarion.

Q. What is the motto of the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics?

- A) Come out and play
- B) Bring It On
- C) Share the Dream
- D) Alone we go faster, but together we go further

Answer : D

- ✓ 2024 Paris Olympics Opening Parade held on River Seine, Paris.
- ✓ The 33rd Summer Olympics opened with a first-of-its-kind opening ceremony in the French capital city of Paris on 26 July 2024. For the first time in the Summer Olympics' history, the traditional opening ceremony was not held in a stadium but in the open on the Seine.
- ✓ Out of the 117-strong Indian side, 78 participated in the opening ceremony. The Indian contingent was led by four-time Olympian table tennis player Sharath Kamal and two-time Olympian badminton player P.V. Sindhu.
- ✓ Paris will host the 33rd Summer Olympics from 26 July to 11 August and Paralympics for the physically challenged athletes from 28 August to 8 September 2024.
- ✓ It is the third time Paris is hosting the Summer Olympics, having hosted in 1900, 1924 and now in 2024.
- ✓ Parade of Nations on River Seine
- ✓ The opening ceremony was conducted on the Seine river, on whose banks the city of Paris lies. About 6800 athletes on 90 boats traveled a 6 km route through Paris.
- ✓ As always, Greece was the first country to lead the opening ceremony, being the birthplace of the Olympic games about 3,000 years ago. The host country, France, was the last to enter the opening ceremony.
- ✓ The Indian contingent was 84th in the order, and it shared its boat with Iran and the Indonesian teams.

- ✓ In the Paris Olympics, five Tokyo Olympic medalists are competing. Gold medallist javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, silver medalist weightlifter Mirabai Chanu, bronze medalist boxer Lovlina Borgohain, bronze medalist PV Sindhu and bronze-winning men's hockey team

Q. Which new sports have NOT been included for the first time in the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- A) Breaking
- B) Doga Kobo
- C) Sport Climbing
- D) Skateboarding

Answer : B

- ✓ Breaking, Surfing, sports climbing, and Skateboarding are the four new sports to be included in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics

Q. With which country has India signed a Cultural Property Agreement to stop the illegal trade in smuggled Indian antiquities?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India -US sign Agreement to curb illegal trade in Indian antiquities.
- ✓ India and the United States of America have signed a Cultural Property Agreement to stop the illegal trade in Indian antiquities in the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the 46th session of the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Cultural and Educational Organizations (UNESCO) in New Delhi on 26 July 2024.
- ✓ The Agreement will help bring back smuggled Indian artefacts impounded by the American Customs.
- ✓ About the significance of the Agreement
- ✓ The signing of the agreement culminated a year-long negotiation between the governments of India and the USA.
- ✓ The agreement is in line with the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970, of which both India and the USA are members.
- ✓ Under the Cultural Property Agreement the USA government will return to India any Indian artefacts which have been mentioned in the Designated list of the USA government as per the Cultural Property Agreement.

Q. Where was the 4th meeting of the BIMSTEC Security Chiefs held?

- A) Thailand
- B) Vietnam
- C) Myanmar
- D) Indonesia

Answer : C

- ✓ The 4th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Security Chiefs meeting was held in the capital city of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, on 27 July 2024.
- ✓ At the meeting, India was represented by the National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
- ✓ The security chiefs of India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand discussed issues related to traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the Bay of Bengal region

- ✓ BIMSTEC was established in 1997 as a regional group to promote cooperation among the littoral states of the Bay of Bengal regions.
- ✓ It currently has seven members - India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, Thailand and Myanmar.
- ✓ BIMSTEC headquarters is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Q. 'The Perseverance rover', recently seen in the news, aims to:

- A) map the entire surface of Mars
- B) search for signs of ancient life on Mars
- C) study Mars' weather and climate patterns
- D) find and analyze sources of water on Mars

Answer : B

- ✓ NASA's Perseverance rover recently made an intriguing discovery that could shed light on the ancient history of Mars and the possibility of past microbial life.
- ✓ Why in the News?
- ✓ The rover has identified a rock named "Cheyava Falls" that exhibits intriguing characteristics, suggesting it may have hosted microbial life billions of years ago.
- ✓ Cheyava Falls, an arrowhead-shaped rock, was found on the northern edge of Neretva Vallis, an ancient river valley that once channeled water into Jezero Crater, where Perseverance is working.
- ✓ About Perseverance Rover:
- ✓ Perseverance, nicknamed "Percy", is a semi-autonomous rover the size of a small car designed to explore the surface of Mars.
- ✓ It is part of NASA's ongoing Mars 2020 Mission.
- ✓ Launch: It was launched on July 30, 2020, from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- ✓ Landing: Successfully landed on the surface of Mars's Jezero Crater on February 18, 2021.
- ✓ Main Job: Seek signs of ancient life and collect samples of rock and regolith (broken rock & soil) for possible return to Earth.

Q. Which is the first country in the world to release the first postage stamp on Ram Lalla of Ayodhya?

- A) Vietnam
- B) Lao People's Democratic Republic
- C) Singapore
- D) Indonesia

Answer : B

Q. Which country will host the sixth QUAD Summit Meeting in 2024?

- A) Japan
- B) India
- C) Australia
- D) USA

Answer : B

- ✓ External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar unveiled the first postage stamp on Ram Lalla of Ayodhya during his three-day visit to Vientiane, the capital city of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, from 25 to 27 July 2024.
- ✓ He was in Vientiane to attend ASEAN related foreign minister meeting.
- ✓ Dr Jaishankar left for Tokyo, Japan, to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of QUAD.
- ✓ During his visit to Vientiane, S Jaishankar and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Laos, Saleumxay Kommasith, jointly unveiled two sets of postal stamps.

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the Governor of Jharkhand?
- A) Thawar Chand Gehlot B) Satya Pal Malik
C) Santosh Kumar Gangawar D) Kalraj Mishra

Answer : C

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the Governor of Chhattisgarh?
- A) Gurmit Singh B) Anandiben Patel
C) Satyadev Narayan Arya D) Ramen Deka

Answer : D

- Q.** C.H.Vijayshekhar has been appointed as the Governor of which state by the President?
- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Telangana
C) Meghalaya D) Odisha

Answer : C

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the Governor of Rajasthan?
- A) Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde B) PS Sreedharan Pillai
C) Gulab Chand Kataria D) Biswa Bhusan Harichandan

Answer : A

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the Governor of Maharashtra?
- A) S. Abdul Nazeer B) C P Radhakrishnan
C) Ramesh Bais D) R.N. Ravi

Answer : B

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the Governor of Punjab and also the Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh by President Murmu recently?
- A) Gulab Chand Kataria B) Tamilisai Soundararajan
C) Thawar Chand Gehlot D) Bandaru Dattatreya

Answer : A

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the Governor of Assam and Manipur?
- A) Ramesh Bais B) Mangubhai Chaganbhai Patel
C) Shiv Pratap Shukla D) Lakshman Prasad Acharya

Answer : D

- Q.** Who has been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry?
- A) Raghubar Das B) K. Kailashnathan
C) Jagdish Mukhi D) Acharaya Devvrat

Answer : B

- ✓ President Murmu Appoints Governors in 9 states & the LG of Puducherry.
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu appointed Governors to nine states and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry.
- ✓ In a communique issued by the office of the President, the President has also accepted the resignation of Banwarilal Purohit as Governor of Punjab and Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- ✓ Newly Appointed Governors
- ✓ Jishnu Dev Varma- Governor of Telangana.
- ✓ Om Prakash Mathur- Governor of Sikkim.
- ✓ Santosh Kumar Gangwar- Governor of Jharkhand.
- ✓ Ramen Deka- Governor of Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ C H Vijayashankar- Governor of Meghalaya.
- ✓ Haribhau Kisanrao Bagde- Governor of Rajasthan.
- ✓ C.P. Radhakrishnan- Governor of Maharashtra (He was earlier Governor of Jharkhand with Additional Charge of Telangana).
- ✓ Gulab Chand Kataria- Governor of Punjab. He has also been appointed as Administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh (He was earlier Governor of Assam).
- ✓ Lakshman Prasad Acharya- Governor of Assam and has also been given additional charge of the Governor of Manipur (He was earlier the Governor of Sikkim).
- ✓ K. Kailashnathan- Lt. Governor of Puducherry
- ✓ About State Governors
- ✓ Article 153 of the constitution provides for a state governor for each state of India. The state governor is the head of the state executive branch.
- ✓ The governors are appointed by the President of India on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- ✓ The Governor can be transferred from one state to another by the President.
- ✓ Qualifications.
- ✓ Person shall be a citizen of India and at least 35 years of age.
- ✓ Tenure of the Office
- ✓ The normal term of a governor is five years, but the governor holds the office at the president's pleasure.
- ✓ Salary and Emoluments.
- ✓ The Governor's current salary is Rs 3.5 lakhs per month and is mentioned in the second schedule of the constitution.
- ✓ The governor is not entitled to any pension.

Q. Manu Bhaker has won a bronze medal for India in the women's which air pistol shooting event at the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- A) 10m
B) 15m
C) 20m
D) 50m

Answer : A

- ✓ Manu Bhaker Opens India's Medal Account in 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Manu Bhaker of Haryana opened the medal account for India at the 33rd Summer Olympics, being held in Paris, France. She won the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol event held on 28 July 2024.
- ✓ She became the first Indian women shooter to win a medal in the shooting event at the Summer Olympics.
- ✓ Bronze Medal for Manu Bhaker

- ✓ The 22-year-old Manu Bhaker, with a score of 221.7 points, finished third in the eight-woman final and settled for a bronze medal.
- ✓ The gold medal was won by South Korean Oh Ye Jin, with an Olympic record of 243.2 points, and the silver medal was bagged by fellow South Korean Yeji Kim, with 241.3 points.
- ✓ Fifth Shooting Medal for India in the Olympics History.
- ✓ Manu Bhaker's bronze medal was the fifth-ever medal won by an Indian shooter in the Olympics.
- ✓ Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won the first shooting medal, a silver medal, in the Men's double trap at Athens 2004.
- ✓ **The Indian winners of the Olympics medals in shooting are as follows.**

Serial Number	Shooter	Event	Medal	Olympics
1	Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore	Men's Double Trap	Silver	2004 Athens
2	Abhinav Bindra	Men's 10m air rifle	Gold	2008 Beijing
3	Gagan Narang	Men's 10m air rifle	Bronze	2012 London
4	Vijay Kumar	Men's 25m rapid-fire pistol	Silver	2012 London
5	Manu Bhaker	Women's 10m air pistol	Bronze	2024 Paris

Q. The International Tiger Day falls on which day of the year annually?

- A) 26 July B) 28 July
C) 27 July D) 29 July

Answer : D

- ✓ Since 2010, every year, 29 July is observed as International Tiger Day.
- ✓ This day is also observed as World Tiger Day or Global Tiger Day.
- ✓ The Day is observed to raise public awareness about the threat faced by the Tigers due to illegal hunting and the destruction of their habitats due to human encroachment.
- ✓ They launched TX2 - the global goal to double the number of
- ✓ wild tigers by the year 2022.
- ✓ The first Tiger Day was observed on 29 July 2010.
- ✓ The theme of the 2024 International Tiger Day is Call for Action.
- ✓ Status of Tiger in India
- ✓ To protect the endangered tiger population in India, the government of India declared the Tiger the national animal, replacing the Lion in 1973. The government of India, in partnership with the World Wildlife Fund, launched Project Tiger on 1 April 1973 to protect and conserve tigers in India.
- ✓ Initially, there were nine Tiger reserves in India, but at present, there are 55.
- ✓ Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve of Rajasthan is the 55th Tiger Reserve in the country.

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- ✓ According to the All India Tiger Estimation 2022, there are 3,167 tigers in India, and more than 70% of the world's wild tiger population are found in India.
- ✓ State-wise, the maximum number of tigers is found in Madhya Pradesh (785), followed by Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560), and Maharashtra (444).
- ✓ Amongst the Tiger Reserves maximum 260 is in Jim Corbett

Q. Manu Bhaker partnered with which shooter to win a bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team shooting at the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- A) Sarabjot Singh
B) Vijay Kumar
C) Gagan Narang
D) Abhinav Bindra

Answer : A

- ✓ Shooter Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot win historic bronze at Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Continuing her medal-winning spree in the 2024 Paris Olympics, shooter Manu Bhaker teamed up with Sarabjot Singh to win the bronze medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team shooting event.
- ✓ In the bronze medal match held on 30 July 2024 at the National Shooting Center in Chateauroux, Paris, Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh defeated the South Korean pair of Oh Ye Jin and Wonho Lee 16-10.
- ✓ Paris is hosting the 33rd Summer Olympics from 26 July to 11 August 2024. India has sent a strong 21-member shooting contingent to the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The mascot of Paris Olympics: Olympic Phryge (It is a hat).
- ✓ The motto of the Paris Olympics: Alone we go faster, but together we go further,”
- ✓ Historic Medal for Bhaker and Sarabjot .
- ✓ For the first time, India won a medal in a mixed event of shooting in the Olympics.
- ✓ This was the second medal for Manu Bhaker, while it was the first Olympic medal for Sarabjot Singh.
- ✓ The team of Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh came third in the qualifying round behind Turkiye's Sevvall Ilayda Tarhan-Yusuf Dikec and Serbia's Zorana Arunovic-Damir Mikec.
- ✓ The Serbian pair of Zorana Arunovic-Damir Mike won the gold medal, while the Turkiye pair had to settle for a silver medal.
- ✓ Records made by Manu Bhaker in the Olympics
- ✓ Earlier, on 28 July 2024, Manu Bhaker became the first Indian women shooter to win a medal—bronze in the 10-meter air pistol event.
- ✓ She is also the first Indian after independence to win two medals in the same edition of the Olympics.
- ✓ Earlier, Norman Pritchard won two medals in the 1900 Paris Olympics: silver medals in the men's 200-meter race and 200-meter hurdles.

Q. Who is the youngest para swimmer to swim across the English Channel successfully?

- A) Anita Sood
C) Arunima Sinha
- B) Jiya Rai
D) Radhika Sharma

Answer : B

- ✓ 16-year-old Jiya Rai of Mumbai became the youngest and the fastest para swimmer in the world to cross the English Channel.
- ✓ She started her 34-kilometer swim from Abbot's Cliff in England on 28 July 2024 and reached her final destination, Pointe de la Courte-Dune, in France on 29 July.
- ✓ She covered the entire distance in a new world record time of 17 hours and 25 minutes for a para swimmer.
- ✓ Jiya Rai, who suffers from Autism Spectrum Disorder, is the daughter of an Indian Navy personnel.

- ✓ World Record for crossing Palk Strait.
- ✓ Jiya Rai also holds the world record for being the youngest and the fastest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait, which separates India from Sri Lanka.
- ✓ She covered the 29 kilometers distance from Talaimannar, Sri Lanka, to Dhanuskodi, India, in 13 hours and 10 minutes.
- ✓ English Channel and Indian Swimmer.
- ✓ The English Channel is a narrow part of the Atlantic Ocean that separates the southern coast of England from the northern coast of France.
- ✓ The first Indian to swim across the English Channel was Mihir Sen in 1958.
- ✓ The first Indian woman to cross the English Channel was Aarti Saha on 29 September 1959.
- ✓ Anita Sood holds the record for the fastest swim with a time of 8.15 minutes on 17 August 1987.
- ✓ Captain Matthew Webb of England was the first person to swim across the English Channel successfully in 1875.
- ✓ Australian swimmer Chloe McCardel holds the record for swimming across the English Channel for a record 44 times.

Q. Which country will host the Men's Cricket Asia Cup in 2025?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) India
- D) South Africa

Answer : C

- ✓ Men's Cricket Asia Cup: India to host 2025 and Bangladesh 2027 edition.
- ✓ The Asian Cricket Council has announced the host of the forthcoming biennial Men's Cricket Asia Cup to be held in 2025 and 2027.
- ✓ India will host the 2025 edition in T20 format, and Bangladesh will host the 2027 edition in One-Day International (ODI) format.
- ✓ The last 2023 Asia Cup hosted by Pakistan was held in a hybrid model as India refused to play in Pakistan. Indian matches were held in Sri Lanka and the final involving India was also held in Sri Lanka. India won the final, defeating Sri Lanka by 10 wickets to lift its 8th Asia Cup title.
- ✓ India will host the 2025 Asia Cup in T-20 format, as the 10th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka in 2026. India is the current world champion in the T-20 format.
- ✓ The 2027 Asia Cup will be held in ODI format in Bangladesh as the 14th ICC Men's ODI World Cup will be held in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia in 2027.
- ✓ Men's Cricket Asia Cup
- ✓ The Asian Cricket Council organises the Men's Cricket Asia Cup.
- ✓ It is held every two years.
- ✓ India is the most successful team in the Asia Cup, with eight title wins.
- ✓ About Asian Cricket Council.
- ✓ The Asian Cricket Council was founded as the Asian Cricket Conference in New Delhi in 1983 to develop and promote cricket in the region.
- ✓ Headquarters : Dubai, United Arab Emirates
- ✓ President : Jay Shah

Q. Which country will host the Men's Cricket Asia Cup in 2027?

- A) Pakistan
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) India
- D) Bangladesh

Answer : D

UPCOMING SPORTS VENUE IN NEWS 2024

- Men's Cricket Asia Cup: India to host 2025 and Bangladesh 2027 edition
- International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the French Alps will host the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2030.
- Saudi Arabia to host first 'Olympics Esports Games' in 2025
- Uttar Pradesh government agrees to raise ₹80cr for 2025 edition of MotoGP Bharat
- India will host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in December 2025.
- 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.
- Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 Asian Games in Riyadh, its capital city.
- Saudi Arabia is to host the 2034 Men's FIFA World Cup.
- England will host the 2027 World Test Championship (WTC) final in June, marking the fourth consecutive time
- South Africa is hosting the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup 2024.

Q. Which country will host the 10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup?

- A) India and Sri Lanka
- B) India and South Africa
- C) Sri Lanka and Pakistan
- D) New Zealand and USA

Answer : A

- ✓ India will host the 2025 Asia Cup in T-20 format, as the 10th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup is scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka in 2026.

Q. The Government has approved setting up of how many PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield/Brownfield sites with world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4,445 cr for a period of seven years upto 2027-28?

- A) 6
- B) 5
- C) 7
- D) 8

Answer : C

- ✓ The Government has approved setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in Greenfield/Brownfield sites (including a Greenfield project in Virudhanagar Tamil Nadu) with world class infrastructure including plug and play facility with an outlay of Rs. 4,445 cr for a period of seven years upto 2027-28.
- ✓ Each park when completed will generate 1 lakh direct and 2 lakh indirect employments.
- ✓ In order to implement the PM MITRA Scheme in Virudhnagar, a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) i.e. 'PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park, Tamil Nadu Limited' has been incorporated with Government of Tamil Nadu holding 51% stake in the SPV and remaining 49% being held by the Government of India.

Q. Who has been admitted as a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), London, UK?

A) Dr. Sundergopal Sridhar

B) Dr. Anuradha Gupta

C) Dr. Upendra Tiwari

D) Dr. Navin Mishra

Answer : A

- ✓ CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology scientist Dr. S. Sridhar Inducted as a Fellow of Royal Society of Chemistry, London
- ✓ Dr. Sundergopal Sridhar, a Chemical Engineer and Chief Scientist at CSIR Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, Hyderabad, has been admitted as a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC), London, UK.
- ✓ During his 26 years as a research scientist, Dr. Sridhar has developed and transferred several technologies for chemical & allied industries, besides contributing immensely to societal welfare.
- ✓ Dr. Sridhar has published 181 research papers in reputed international journals with an h-index of 53

Q. Who has been re-elected as International Olympic Committee Member from India?

A) Nita Ambani

B) PT Usha

C) Mary Kom

D) Ashwini Nachappa

Answer : A

- ✓ Nita Ambani unanimously re-elected as International Olympic Committee Member
- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that Nita Ambani has been re-elected unanimously as the IOC member from India at the 142nd session.
- ✓ Nita is the founder of Reliance Foundation and won unanimously with 100 per cent of the vote.
- ✓ Nita Ambani was first appointed to join the prestigious body in 2016, at the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games.
- ✓ Since then, as India's first woman to join the IOC, Nita Ambani has made great strides for the association, whilst also championing India's sporting ambitions and Olympic vision.
- ✓ This includes recently hosting the first IOC session in Mumbai for over 40 years, in October 2023, which was hailed as showcasing the new, ambitious India to the world

Q. President Draupadi Murmu has renamed two important halls of Rashtrapati Bhavan Durbar Hall and Ashoka Hall as ___ and ___ respectively.

A) Ashok Mandap; Ganatantra Mandap B) Amrit Mandap; Ashok Mandap

C) Ganatantra Mandap; Gyan Mandap D) Ganatantra Mandap; Ashok Mandap

Answer : D

- ✓ Rashtrapati Bhavan's Durbar Hall & Ashoka Hall renamed and Indianised.
- ✓ In an effort to remove the traces of colonialism and Indianise the symbol of modern India, President Droupadi Murmu has approved the renaming of two halls of the Rashtrapati Bhavan Durbar Hall' and 'Ashok Hall' – as 'Ganatantra Mandap' and 'Ashok Mandap' respectively.
- ✓ On 25 July 2024, President Murmu also completed her two years in office as the 15th President of India.
- ✓ Rashtrapati Bhavan is the official residence and office of the President of India and is the symbol of the modern Indian state and its people.
- ✓ Gantantra Mandap and Ashok Mandap

- ✓ The Durbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan, which has been renamed Ganatantra Mandap, hosts important ceremonies and celebrations, such as the presentation of National Awards.
- ✓ The British gave Durbar Hall the name, as 'Durbar' in Persian refers to courts and assemblies of Kings.
- ✓ With India becoming a Republic and a democratic country after the promulgation of the constitution on 26 January 1950, the word Durbar lost relevance, and hence, Ganatantra Mandap was chosen.
- ✓ Republic in Hindi means Ganatantra. It signifies that there is no rule of a King or Queen, and the Head of the State (President) and Head of the Government (Prime Minister) are elected by the people.
- ✓ 'Ashok Hall' was originally a ballroom, but it has been renamed Ashok Mandap to bring uniformity to the language and remove the trace of English colonialism.
- ✓ About President Droupadi Murmu
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu is the 15th President of India who was sworn in for a five-year term on 25 July 2022.
- ✓ She is the second woman to become president of India after Pratibha Patil Singh (12th President of India from 2002 to 2017).
- ✓ President Murmu, born into a Santhal tribal family in the Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, is the first tribal woman to become the president of India.
- ✓ She is the youngest person to become the President of India at the age of 64 years, breaking the record of 6th President (1977-82) of India Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy,

Q. Who designed the Rashtrapati Bhavan?

A) Robert Smirke	B) Ewan Christian
C) Edward Lutyen	D) Bruce Martin

Answer : C

- ✓ About Rastrapathi Bhawan
- ✓ Rastrapathi Bhawan is the official residence and office of the President of India.
- ✓ During the Delhi Durbar held by the British on 12 December 1911 and attended by the British Monarch King George V, an announcement was made to shift the capital of British India from Kolkata (then Calcutta) to Delhi.
- ✓ British architect Edward Lutyen was given the task of designing the new capital and a house for the Viceroy of India.
- ✓ The Viceroy was the representative of the British Monarch and ruled India on behalf of the British Crown.
- ✓ Construction of the Viceroy House started during Viceroy Lord Hardinge's tenure (1910-1916) and was completed during Viceroy Lord Irwin's tenure in 1929.
- ✓ Lord Irwin was the first Viceroy to live in the Viceroy House.
- ✓ After independence, the Viceroy House was renamed Government House on 15 August 1947.
- ✓ The name of the Government House was changed to Rashtrapati Bhavan during the tenure of the first president of India, Dr Rajendra Prasad.
- ✓ Rastrapathi Bhawan House is an H-shaped building built on 5 acres of land on a 330-acre estate. The four-floor building has 340 rooms, 2.5 kilometres of corridors, and 190 acres of garden area called Mughal garden.

Q. Which Indian city was recently named the 'City of Literature' by UNESCO, making it the first city in India to receive this distinction?

A) Alappuzha

B) Kozhikode

C) Kochi

D) Malappuram

Answer : B

- ✓ Kozhikode becomes India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.
- ✓ Kerala's Kozhikode, known for its rich cultural heritage, was officially declared as India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature'.
- ✓ In October 2023, Kozhikode earned a place in the 'Literature' category of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- ✓ Gwalior and Kozhikode from India are among the 55 new cities which have joined the UCCN.
- ✓ UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)
- ✓ Launch Year : 2004
- ✓ Eligibility : UNESCO's member states and associate members
- ✓ Updation Time : Once every 2 years
- ✓ Total Cities (2023) : 350 in more than 100 countries
- ✓ Objective - It aims to strengthen cultural activities, goods, services and international cooperation for sustainable development.
- ✓ UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) aims for Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- ✓ Kozhikode is the 1st Indian city to get City of Literature tag
- ✓ The selected cities will participate in UCCN annual conference in 2024 in Braga, Portugal, under the theme 'Bringing youth to the table for the next decade
- ✓ Indian Cities in UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN).
- ✓ Crafts and Folk Arts : Jaipur (2015), Srinagar (2021)
- ✓ Film : Mumbai (2019)
- ✓ Gastronomy : Hyderabad (2019)
- ✓ Literature : Kozhikode (2023)
- ✓ Music : Chennai (2017), Varanasi (2015), Gwalior (2023)
- ✓ With the latest additions, the UCCN now counts 350 cities in more than a hundred countries, representing seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts and Music.

INDIA'S FIRST IN NEWS 2024

- India's first coal gasification pilot project launched in Jharkhand.
- Kerala's Kozhikode becomes India's first UNESCO 'City of Literature
- India's first indigenous bomber UAV aircraft, the FWD-200B, developed by Flying Wedge Defence, an Indian defence and aerospace company, was unveiled recently.
- 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 'TRAH' 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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the International Sugar Organization:

1. It is an inter-governmental body devoted to improving conditions in the world sugar market.
2. It is one of the United Nations affiliated body.

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 64th International Sugar Organisation Council meeting commenced on 25th June 2024 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- ✓ Delegates from more than 30 countries and representatives of many international organisations are expected to participate in the meeting to be held from 25-27 June 2024 , to discuss issues related to the sugar industry and biofuels sectors.
- ✓ The largest producer of sugar in the world is Brazil followed by India, European Union , China and the United States of America.
- ✓ India is the largest consumer and second largest producer of sugar in the world, with a share of about 15 per cent in global sugar consumption and about 20 per cent in sugar production.
- ✓ India is also the 3rd largest country producer of ethanol in the world after the USA and Brazil, Ethanol is derived from the molasses of the sugarcane and is increasingly being used as a biofuel to be blended with petrol.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh is the leading sugarcane-producing state in India, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- ✓ About the International Sugar Organisation.
- ✓ It is an inter-governmental body completely devoted to improving conditions in the world sugar market.
- ✓ It was established in 1968 and it is also a UN affiliated body.
- ✓ It has about 85 countries as members covering almost 90% of sugar production in the World
- ✓ Headquarters: London, United Kingdom

Q. Which country is the chairman of the International Sugar Organisation for 2024?

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

Answer : D

Q.

2. The entire amount of electricity generated by the project will be sold to 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 : A

- ✓ The 900 MW Arun III Hydropower Project in eastern Nepal, constructed with Indian assistance, recently achieved a significant milestone with a tunnel breakthrough.
- ✓ About Arun-III Hydro Power Project:
- ✓ It is a 900 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project being constructed on the Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal.
- ✓ Arun is a tributary of the Koshi River in Nepal.
- ✓ The project comprises a 70-meter-tall and 466-meter-long concrete gravity dam and a Head Race Tunnel (HRT) of 11.74 km with underground an power house containing four generating units of 225 MW each on left bank.
- ✓ It is being developed with Indian assistance at a cost of Rs. 144 billion.
- ✓ Once completed, it will be the biggest hydroelectric facility in Nepal.
- ✓ It is being developed on a build-own-operate-and-transfer (BOOT) basis by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Arun-III Power Development Company (SAPDC), a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ Nepal will receive 21.9% of the electricity generated at the power plant as free power during these initial 25 years of commercial operations.
- ✓ The output from the power plant will be transferred to Muzaffarpur in India through a 317 km-long 400 kV double circuit transmission line.

HYDROPOWER IN NEWS 2024

- About Arun-III Hydro Power Project:
- It is a 900 MW run-of-the-river hydropower project being constructed on the Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern NEPAL.
- Arun is a tributary of the Koshi River in Nepal.
- NHPC Limited, which is India's largest hydropower utility, has recently obtained a foreign currency loan worth JPY 20.00 billion from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).
- SJVN Limited launched India's first Green Hydrogen Pilot Project at Nathpa Jhakri Hydro Power Station (NJHPS) in Jhakri, Himachal Pradesh.
- Tata Power To Develop Two 2800 MW Pumped Hydel Project In Maharashtra.
- Rajasthan's first standalone pumped hydro project of 1800 MW got the nod for its initiation in Shahpur/ Shahbad, Baran.
- Agreement on power purchase was signed between Ratle Hydroelectric Project of Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan Urja Vikas and IT Services Limited.
- There are currently hydroelectric power projects being constructed in the country that, when completed, will have a combined capacity of 15 GW. By 2031-32, it is expected that the country's hydro capacity will increase from 42 GW to 67 GW

- Hungary recently unveiled the 'Bridge of National Unity,' a 700-metre pedestrian bridge spanning Budapest's Danube River.
- India's longest sea bridge, the Atal Setu or Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), is all set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The Mumbai Trans Harbour Link is a bridge that spans 21.8 km in length and will connect the cities of Mumbai and Navi Mumbai.
- Following the collapse of the 'Francis Scott' Bridge in Baltimore, Maryland (USA), Maryland Governor Wes Moore declared a state of emergency.
- 1st Glass Skywalk Bridge of UP is ready to open in Chitrakoot.

Q. Where is GAIL (India) planning to set up India's largest ethane cracker project?

- A) Jaipur, Rajasthan B) Nagpur, Maharashtra
C) Sehore, Madhya Pradesh D) Ranchi, Jharkhand

Answer : C

- ✓ GAIL to set up India's largest ethane cracker project at investment of Rs 60,000 cr in MP.
- ✓ GAIL (India) plans to establish a 1500 KTA Ethane Cracker Project in Sehore, Madhya Pradesh, with an estimated capex of Rs 60,000 crore.
- ✓ The project aims to produce a range of ethylene derivatives, bolstering the petrochemical infrastructure in the region.
- ✓ The project will be situated in Ashta, District Sehore, spanning approximately 800 hectares.
- ✓ The estimated investment for the Ethane Cracker Project is Rs 60,000 crore, marking it as the largest of its kind in India.
- ✓ This significant investment underscores GAIL's commitment to enhancing India's petrochemical industry

Q. Energy Transition Index, recently in news, is published by:

- A) New Development Bank B) United Nations Environment Programme
C) World Bank D) World Economic Forum

Answer : D

- ✓ Sweden tops, India at 63rd rank on Global Energy Transition Index: WEF.
- ✓ According to the Global Energy Transition Index released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on 19 June 2024, India has been ranked 63rd out of 120 countries surveyed in the index.
- ✓ Last year, India was ranked 67th, an improvement of three ranks.
- ✓ Sweden has again topped the Index, just like last year.
- ✓ The European nations dominate the 2024 Global Energy Transition Index's top ranks. Sweden has topped the Index, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, and France.
- ✓ India has been ranked 63rd, while China has been ranked at 20th place
- ✓ According to the WEF, India has shown considerable improvement across energy equity, security, and sustainability.
- ✓ The Global Energy Transition Index is published by the WEF in its annual report 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition'.
- ✓ The annual report is published by the WEF in association with Accenture
- ✓ What is the Global Energy Transition Index?
- ✓ In simple words, it tracks government policies and their effectiveness in encouraging the reduction in the production of carbon dioxide gasses due to energy production, encouragement of non-fossil-based power (like solar, wind, small hydel plants, etc.) plants and reduction in overall energy intensity.

- ✓ World Economic Forum
- ✓ German economist Klaus Schwab founded the World Economic Forum in 1971 as a non-profit international organisation to provide a platform to promote collaboration between all stakeholders of global society to find common solutions to global issues.
- ✓ Headquarters of WEF: Cologny, Switzerland
- ✓ Report Released by WEF
- ✓ As a research organisation, it releases a number of reports.
- ✓ 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. What is the rank of India in the 2024 Global Energy Transition Index?

- A) 87
- B) 76
- C) 63
- D) 54

Answer : C

- ✓ India has been ranked 63rd, while China has been ranked at 20th place.

Q. Which country has topped the 2024 Global Energy Transition Index?

- A) Sweden
- B) Denmark
- C) Finland
- D) Switzerland

Answer : A

- ✓ The European nations dominate the 2024 Global Energy Transition Index's top ranks. Sweden has topped the Index, followed by Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, and France

Q. Who was appointed as the first woman helicopter pilot in the Indian Navy during the passing out parade at INS Rajali Naval Air Station?

- A) Anamika B. Rajeev
- B) Smitha P. Tomar
- C) Priya J. Singh
- D) Aarti S. Sharma

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy gets first woman helicopter pilot.
- ✓ The Navy celebrated a historic moment as it welcomed its first woman helicopter pilot, Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev, during the passing out parade at INS Rajali Naval Air Station in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ In another feat, Lieutenant Jamyang Tsewang became the first Commissioned Naval Officer from the Union Territory of Ladakh to graduate as a qualified helicopter pilot at the same ceremony.
- ✓ A passing out parade was held on Friday to mark the graduation of the 102nd Helicopter Conversion Course (HCC) and completion of stage I training of the 4th Basic Helicopter Conversion Course (BHCC) at Naval Air Station – INS Rajali, Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu.

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2024.

- Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair assumed the office of the Director General of Medical Services (Army).

- She is the first woman to hold this prestigious post in the Indian Army's Medical Services.
- Sub Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev became the Indian Navy's first woman helicopter pilot.
- Claudia Sheinbaum Elected As Mexico's First Woman President.
- 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).
- 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 Purna Deosthalee has been appointed as the first woman officer to command a warship in the Indian Navy (INW).

Q. Which country introduced a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly to declare 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology?

- A) Ethiopia B) South Africa
C) Nigeria D) Ghana

Answer : D

- ✓ United Nations General Assembly has declared 2025 the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology. The 193-member United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution to this effect on 7 June 2024. Earlier, the United Nations had declared 2025 as the.
- ✓ International Year of Cooperatives,
- ✓ International Year of Peace and Trust and
- ✓ International Year of Glacier's Preservation.
- ✓ The United Nations can declare one or more themes as the focus of an International Year in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the theme.
- ✓ 2024 is being observed as the International Year of Camelids. (Bactrian camels, Dromedary camels, Llamas, Alpacas, Guanaco, and Vicuana are considered camelid animals.)
- ✓ By designating 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, the United Nations wants to increase public awareness about the importance of quantum science, encourage young people to study it and bolster support for using it to address current challenges.
- ✓ The African country Ghana submitted a resolution, co-sponsored by six other countries in the United Nations General Assembly, to declare 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology.

YEARS IN NEWS 2024

- United Nations Declares 2025 as the Year to Focus on Quantum Advancements
- Indian Navy has declared 2024 as the 'Year of Naval Civilians.'
- United Nations has declared 2024 as the International Year of Camelids.
- Indian Army has declared 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption."
- United Nations, at the behest of the Government of India, declared 2023 the International Year Millets.

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Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM), recently seen in the news:

1. It is a joint project of NASA and ISRO.
2. It aims to detect and study gamma-ray bursts.

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

- ✓ A Long March 2-C rocket carrying the French-Chinese satellite Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM) successfully lifted off from southwestern China recently.
- ✓ About Space Variable Objects Monitor (SVOM):
- ✓ It is a French-Chinese satellite which aims to detect and study gamma-ray bursts.
- ✓ It was launched by a Long March-2C rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province.
- ✓ It is a 930-kilogram satellite carrying four instruments - two French and two Chinese.
- ✓ The satellite has been sent into an orbit over 600 kilometers above Earth and has a designed life of five years, though scientists expect it could be operational for as long as 20 years.

SATELLITE IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ India's first private sector built earth observation satellite TSAT-1A , has been launched by Tata Advanced System Limited.
- ✓ The TSAT-1A was launched on board the SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket launched from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, United States.
- ✓ ISRO successfully launched its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle(PSLV) -C56 rocket carrying 7 satellites of Singapore on 30 July 2023 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) Sriharikota Range (SHAR), Andhra Pradesh. This was the 58th flight of the PSLV.
- ✓ NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) are planning to launch the world's first wooden satellite called the LignoSat probe into space to make space flight more sustainable.
- ✓ ISRO is going to launch meteorological satellite INSAT-3DS on February 17. The INSAT-3DS mission will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Center (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.
- ✓ Proba-3 Mission of ESA to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO.

Q. Who is the director of the documentary film Golden Thread, which won the Best Documentary Film award at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival 2024?

- A) Mira Nair B) Nistha Jain
C) Gauri Shinde D) Nandita Das

Answer : B

- ✓ Golden Thread bags the prestigious Golden Conch award at MIFF 2024.
- ✓ Nistha Jain's 'Golden Thread' film won the prestigious Golden Conch award for the best documentary at the 18th MIFF 2024.
- ✓ Earlier noted wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu was conferred with the 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award at the inauguration of the 18th MIFF 2024.
- ✓ The 18th biennial MIFF 2024 was organised by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and executed by the National Film Development Corporation at Mumbai from 15 to 21 June 2024.

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MOST IMPORTANT FLIMFARE AWARD IN NEWS 2024

- 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.
- Actress Anasuya Sengupta created history at the Cannes Film Festival by winning the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard segment for her film Shameless.
- Payal Kapadia's directed film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the Grand Prix award
- 96th Academy Awards 2024 (Oscar Award)
- Best Feature Film :
 - Oppenheimer
 - Best Male Actor : Cilian Murphy for Oppenheimer
 - Best Actress : Emma Stone for Poor Things
 - Best Director : Christopher Nolan for Oppenheimer
- BAFTA Awards 2024
- Best Film : Oppenheimer
- Best Director : Christopher Nolan for Oppenheimer
- Best Actress : Emma Stone for Poor Things
- Best Actor : Cillian Murphy, for Oppenheimer
- Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2024
- Best Actor : Shah Rukh Khan for Jawan
- Best Actress : Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway
- Best Film : Jawan
- Best Director : Sandeep Reddy Vanga for Animal
- Best Film (Critics) : 12th Fail
- Best International Feature Film : Oppenheimer
- 69th Filmfare Awards 2024
- Best Film (Popular) - 12th Fail
- Best Director - Vidhu Vinod Chopra (12th Fail)
- Best Actor -Ranbir Kapoor (Animal)
- Best Actress - Alia Bhatt (Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani)
- Lifetime Achievement Award - David Dhawan
- 69th National Film Awards 2021
- Best Feature Film: Rocketry - The Nambi Effects
- Best Actor: Allu Arjun (Pushpa The Rise)
- Best Direction: Nikhil Mahajan (Marathi film) Godavari
- Best Actress: Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi) Kriti Sanon (Mimi)

Q. Who has been appointed as the new secretary-general of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)?

- A) Mona Keijzer
- B) Mark Rutte
- C) Sigrid Kaag
- D) Pieter Omtzigt

Answer : B

- ✓ United States-led Western military Alliance North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) has appointed Netherlands Prime Minister Mark Rutte as the next Secretary General.

- ✓ The 32 members of NATO approved Mark Rutte's candidature at a meeting held on 26 June at its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. Mark Rutte will replace the current Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg of Norway.
- ✓ Former Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg was appointed as NATO Secretary General on 1 October 2014.
- ✓ Mark Rutte will assume his office on 1 October 2024 after the retirement of Jens Stoltenberg, who has been the Secretary General of NATO for the past 10 years.

NATO IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ Mark Rutte will appoint as the new secretary-general of NATO. Mark Rutte will succeed Jens Stoltenberg.
- ✓ The United States is hosting the 2024 NATO Summit, July 9-11, 2024, in Washington, D.C., marking the historic 75th Anniversary of the Alliance.
- ✓ NATO is changing its existing policy under a proposal and creating a 100 billion euro fund for five years to support Ukraine in its war with Russia.
- ✓ Sweden has officially become the 32nd member of NATO
- ✓ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) started its largest military exercise in Europe, the Steadfast Defender 2024, recently.
- ✓ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has recently announced the formal suspension of the Cold War-era security treaty.
- ✓ Finland becomes 31st member of Nato.
- ✓ NATO is celebrating 75 years of collective defence across Europe and North America.
- ✓ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 to ensure collective security against the Soviet Union.
- ✓ North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- ✓ Formation : 4 April 1949
- ✓ Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ Secretary General : Mark Rutte (Netherlands)
- ✓ Total Member : 32 (Sweden)
- ✓ Established by the Washington treaty.
- ✓ At present, NATO has 32 members.
- ✓ In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- ✓ The other member countries are: Greece and Türkiye (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017) and North Macedonia (2020), Finland (2023) and Sweden (2024).

Q. Which country will host the 2024 Brics Summit?

A) South Africa	B) China
C) India	D) Russia

Answer : D

- ✓ Thailand hopes for BRICS membership at October summit.
- ✓ Thailand hopes to become a member of the BRICS group of emerging economies at the organisation's next summit in Russia in October.
- ✓ Thailand is also looking to join the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), after being invited by the Paris-based group to open accession discussions

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- ✓ Argentina declined to join the group, while Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates joined the group on 1 January 2024.
- ✓ Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa were already members of the group.
- ✓ Russia took over the chairmanship of BRICS from South Africa on 1 January 2024.
- ✓ Russia will host the 16th annual BRICS summit from 22 to 24 October 2024.
- ✓ Thus, after Russia, Brazil will be the next chairman of BRICS.
- ✓ About BRICS
- ✓ BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation that originally consisted of four countries: Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- ✓ British economist Jim O'Neill, working for Goldman Sachs, coined the acronym BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) in 2001.
- ✓ He believed that these countries would dominate global economic growth by 2050.
- ✓ The first summit meeting of the leaders of the BRIC countries was held in June 1996 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.
- ✓ The group's name was changed to BRICS after South Africa joined the group in 2010.
- ✓ The BRICS countries are economically an important group in the world. Around half of the world's population lives in BRICS countries.
- ✓ Their contribution in world crude oil production and export is around 40 per cent.
- ✓ They contribute to around 25 percent of the global economy and their contribution in global trade in goods is around two-fifth.

Q. Which airport in India has launched the country's first self-service mechanism for check-in luggage?

- A) Mumbai Airport B) Bengaluru Airport
C) Delhi Airport D) Chennai Airport

Answer : C

- ✓ Delhi Airport launches India's first self-service mechanism for check-in luggage .
- ✓ Delhi airport operator DIAL said it has launched a self-service mechanism, enabling passengers to drop in their luggage, collect tags and print boarding passes to complete the check-in process in less time.
- ✓ With this, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has become first such facility in the country to offer such a solution and second globally after Canada's Toronto Airport.
- ✓ The new one-step quick baggage drop solution reduces the check-in process to just 30 seconds from one minute.
- ✓ To make this process more efficient, DIAL has launched a quick drop solution facility.

AIRPORT IN NEWS 2024

- Delhi Airport launches India's first self-service mechanism for check-in luggage
- 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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sangyaan App:

1. It aims to empower Railway Protection Force Personnel by providing comprehensive information about three new Criminal Acts of India.
2. It is developed by the National Informatics 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 : A

- ✓ Recently, the Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched the mobile application- Sangyaan App.
- ✓ It is designed and developed by the Tech Team of RPF.
- ✓ It is a practical tool for anyone seeking to stay informed about the latest legal developments in India.
- ✓ It aims to educate and empower RPF Personnel by providing comprehensive information to understand the provisions of both new and old criminal laws, while highlighting the relevance of these new acts in the context of RPF operations.
- ✓ It will provide in-depth information on three new Criminal Acts: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) 2023, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) 2023.
- ✓ Key Features
- ✓ Comprehensive Legal Access
- ✓ Comparison of Laws
- ✓ Section wise analysis
- ✓ Advanced Search Tools
- ✓ Inclusive Legal Database
- ✓ User-Friendly Design

Q. Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI), recently seen in news, is launched by:

- A) World Bank
B) World Economic Forum
C) G20
D) International Monetary Fund

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) released an Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (AIPI) Dashboard.
- ✓ It assesses the level of AI preparedness across 174 countries.
- ✓ The rating for each country is given based on the assessment of readiness in four key areas - digital infrastructure, human capital and labour market policies, innovation and economic integration, and regulation and Ethics.
- ✓ The Index has categorised each country into Advanced Economy (AE), Emerging Market Economy (EM), and Low-Income Country (LIC).
- ✓ Singapore (0.80), Denmark (0.78), and the United States (0.77) are among the highest-rated AEs,

- ✓ India categorised as an EM with a 0.49 rating. India ranks 72 in a total of 174 countries, with Bangladesh (0.38) on 113, Sri Lanka (0.43) on 92, and China (0.63) on 31.
- ✓ Key facts about International Monetary Fund.
- ✓ It was formed in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference with the goal of reconstructing the international monetary system.
- ✓ Important Reports: World Economic Outlook and Global Financial Stability Report

Q. Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, recently in news, is a:

- A) maritime exercise
- B) military exercise
- C) airforce exercise
- D) rescue operation

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, mission deployed in South China Sea and North Pacific Ocean, has reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise.
- ✓ It is the world's largest international maritime exercise, being held in Hawaii.
- ✓ It is aimed at enhancing interoperability and building trust among the navies of friendly foreign countries.
- ✓ It is being held under the theme of Partners: Integrated and Prepared, which runs until August 1.
- ✓ It is led by the US Navy, approx 29 countries are participating in the current edition of the multi-dimensional exercise.
- ✓ The harbour phase of the exercise from 27 Jun to 07 Jul 2024 will see participation in multiple symposiums, exercise planning discussions, sports competitions and reciprocal deck visits.
- ✓ The sea phase of RIMPAC – 24, divided into three sub-phases will witness ships undertaking basic and advanced level integration exercises during the first two sub-phases.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2024

- India will host the international air exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in two phases, taking place in Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan
- India Army off to Mongolia to take part in 21st EX- KHAAN QUEST 2024 will be held in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent is participating in Exercise Pitch Black 2024 which is scheduled to be conducted from 12 July 24 to 02 August 24 in Austerlia.
- Indian multi-role stealth frigate INS Shivalik, that was deployed on mission in south China Sea and north Pacific Ocean, has reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, world's largest naval exercise.
- Indian Air Force and Egyptian Air Force participated in the Exercise HOPEX 2024.
- The 8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise(JIMEX-24) has started at Yokosuka, Japan
- Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy are taking part in two mega multinational war games named Exercise Red Flag and RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific).
- 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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Kamakhya temple:

1. It is located on Nilachal Hill in the state of Assam.
2. The famous Ambubachi Mela is celebrated every year in this temple.

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

- ✓ Devotees from across the nation are flocking to the Kamakhya temple in Assam's Guwahati for the commencement of the annual Ambubachi Mela.
- ✓ Ambubachi Mela is an annual Hindu fair held at the historic Kamakhya Temple.
- ✓ It is celebrated during the monsoon season that happens to fall during the Assamese month Ahaar, around the middle of June.
- ✓ It is the celebration of the yearly menstruation course of goddess Maa Kamakhya.
- ✓ Key facts about Kamakhya temple
- ✓ It is situated on Nilachal Hill and adjoining the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Guwahati, Assam.
- ✓ It is one of the most revered centres of Tantric practices.

Q. Which Union Territory has recently achieved full functional literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram?

- A) Delhi
B) Lakshadweep
C) Ladakh
D) Jammu and Kashmir

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Territory of Ladakh achieves full functional Literacy ULLAS.
- ✓ According to the Union Ministry of Education, the Union Territory of Ladakh has achieved full functional literacy under the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram. According to the Union Education Ministry, Ladakh has achieved more than 97 percent literacy. This information was given by the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Dr B.D Mishra on 25 June 2024 at a function in Sindhu Sanskritik Kendra (SSK), Leh.

- ✓ Minister responsible : Home affairs

TENURE EXTENSION IN NEWS 2024

- Intelligence Bureau (IB) Chief Tapan Kumar Deka gets 1 year extension.
- NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal Gets One Year Extension in Service.
- Dr Samir V Kamat's tenure as DRDO Chief extended for one year.
- Government Approves 1-Year Extension For RBI Deputy Governor Michael Patra

Q. Bharat Lal has been granted a one-year extension as secretary-general of which organisation?

- A) TRAI
- B) DRDO
- C) CSIR
- D) NHRC

Answer : D

- ✓ NHRC Secretary General Bharat Lal Gets One Year Extension in Service.
- ✓ The ACC has also approved the extension in service of Bharat Lal as Secretary General (SG) of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on contract basis for a period of one year beyond 30th June 2024.
- ✓ He will continue his present position till June 30, 2025.
- ✓ National Human Rights Commission of India
- ✓ Founded : 1993
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Acting Chairperson : Vijaya Bharathi Sayani
- ✓ Secretary General : Bharat Lal

Q. Recently, where was the first 'International Dairy Federation Asia-Pacific Summit' held?

- A) Kochi, Kerala
- B) Patna, Bihar
- C) Karnal, Haryana
- D) Surat, Gujarat

Answer : A

- ✓ The first IDF Regional Dairy Conference Asia Pacific-2024 held at Kochi from June 26-28, 2024, at the Grand Hyatt, Bolgatty.
- ✓ The conference themed "Farmer Centric Innovations in Dairying" is organized by the Indian National Committee of the International Dairy Federation.
- ✓ Key figures include the Secretary of Animal Husbandry & Dairying and the National Dairy Development Board. Leaders and experts will address global dairy sector issues.
- ✓ The event features 22 exhibition pavilions and 17 startups showcasing dairy farms, processing equipment, and related technologies.

Q. When is the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day observed globally?

- A) 27 June
- B) 25 June
- C) 26 June
- D) 24 June

Answer : A

- ✓ United Nations Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day is held on June 27 since 2017 to celebrate the work of MSME in local and global economies and their contribution to sustainable development.

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, the Australian government entered into an \$18 million memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) under the space MAITRI mission.
- ✓ Space MAITRI (Mission for Australia-India's Technology, Research and Innovation), represents a major step forward in the strategic partnership between the two nations in the space domain.
- ✓ It aims to foster closer ties between commercial, institutional, and governmental space organizations from India and Australia.
- ✓ It focuses on debris management and sustainability, aligning with both nations' core values and objectives in promoting responsible space operations and mitigating the growing threat of space debris.
- ✓ Under this agreement, NewSpace India Limited will launch Australia's Space Machines Company's second Optimus spacecraft in 2026.
- ✓ The 450kg Optimus spacecraft, the largest Australian-designed and built spacecraft to date, will be launched on ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).
- ✓ Key facts about NewSpace India Limited
- ✓ It is a commercial arm under Department of Space (DoS), Government of India.
- ✓ It was incorporated in March 2019 and was set up to take high technology space-related activities in India.
- ✓ Under the new space policy reforms announced by the Government of India in June 2020, NSIL is to undertake operational satellite missions on a "demand-driven" model.
- ✓ It is headquartered in Bengaluru.

SPACE MISSION IN NEWS 2024

- Australian government entered into an \$18 million MoU with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the ISRO under the space MAITRI mission.
- ISRO aims to make space missions debris free by 2030.
- The country's first polarimetry mission, XPoSat, was launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota.
- India's first private sector built earth observation satellite TSAT-1A, has been launched by Tata Advanced System Limited, a subsidiary company of Tata Son's
- ISRO's commercial arm, 'New Space India Limited' (NSIL), has announced that India will use SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket to launch its next-generation heavy communications satellite GSAT-20 (or GSAT-N2).
- ISRO reached its destination on 6 January 2024, India's first Sun mission, Aditya-L1. Aditya-L1 is set to orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1) in a coronal orbit.
- Aditya-L1 is the first space-based observatory-class Indian solar mission to study the Sun from a distance of 1.5 million km.
- Proba-3 Mission of European Space Agency (ESA) to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO

Q. Exercise HOPEX, recently in news, was held between India and:

A) Egypt

B) Russia

C) Japan

D) Australia

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, the Indian Air Force and Egyptian Air Force participated in the Exercise HOPEX 2024.

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- ✓ It is the fourth joint exercise of IAF (Indian Air Force) and EAF (Egyptian Air Force) which held in Egypt from 21 to 26 June.
- ✓ The aim of this exercise is to promote bilateral and regional cooperation, which is a symbol of the long-standing relations between the two countries.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force's (IAF) Rafale fighter jets are currently in Egypt for Ex- HOPEX. The C-17 Globemaster and IL-78 tankers are also participating in the weeklong exercise.

Q. The DRDO has developed the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) for which wing of the Indian armed forces?

- A) Indian Navy
B) Indian Air force
C) Indian Army
D) Indian Coast Guard

Answer : A

- ✓ Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) developed by the Jodhpur Laboratory of the Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was formally handed over to the Indian Navy at a function held in New Delhi.
- ✓ Feature of the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR)
- ✓ The Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) developed by the DRDO will enhance the Indian Navy's defensive capability. The MR-MOCR is a niche technology that integrates a particular type of fibres having unique microwave obscuration properties. This helps mask radar signals and creates a microwave shield around platforms and assets..
- ✓ The DRDO-developed MR-MCOR fires medium-range rockets, which form microwave obscurant clouds in a significant area. The cloud, which persists for an adequate time, creates a shield against the enemy's Radio Frequency seeker equipment.
- ✓ This technology will help shield the Indian Navy's weapon system.
- ✓ The DRDO handed over the MR-MCOR to the Indian Navy after extensive trials, which confirmed the Indian Navy's required standards

Q. Which country has become the 100th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member?

- A) Suriname
B) Panama
C) Paraguay
D) Guyana

Answer : C

- ✓ Paraguay has become the 100th country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member.
- ✓ The South American nation officially handed over its Instrument of Ratification to the ISA in New Delhi.
- ✓ The ISA, co-founded by India and France during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris, aims to promote solar energy deployment worldwide.
- ✓ The alliance has gained significant traction since its inception, with 119 countries now signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement. Of these, 100 have completed the ratification process to become full members, with Spain joining as the 99th member in May this year.
- ✓ The ISA's primary goal is to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement through rapid and massive deployment of solar energy technologies.
- ✓ About Paraguay
- ✓ Capital : Asunción
- ✓ Currency : Guarani
- ✓ President : Santiago Peña

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance (TAPAS):

1. It is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) drone.
2. It was developed indigenously 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 : C

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) recently proposed to the central government the purchase of 10 TAPAS drones.
- ✓ About TAPAS UAV:
- ✓ The Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance Beyond Horizon-201, or Tapas BH-201, is a medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) drone.
- ✓ It was previously referred to as Rustom-II.
- ✓ It was developed indigenously by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ✓ Designed to fulfil the Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition, Tracking & Reconnaissance (ISTAR) requirements of the tri-services, the Tapas UAV can effectively operate both day and night.
- ✓ It has an operating altitude of 30000 feet and an endurance of 24 hours.
- ✓ It also projects a range of 250 km, which can carry a variety of payloads up to a maximum of 350 kg with a wing span of 20.6 metres.
- ✓ Maximum speed: 225 kmph.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the ABHYAS- High Speed Expendable Aerial Target:

1. It provides a realistic threat scenario for weapon systems practice.
2. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

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 Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully completed six consecutive developmental trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS' in Chandipur, Odisha.
- ✓ It is a High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)
- ✓ It has been designed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru, and developed through Production Agencies - Hindustan Aeronautics Limited & Larsen & Toubro.
- ✓ It offers a realistic threat scenario for weapon systems practice.

DRDO successfully tested IN NEWS 2024

- DRDO successfully tested the High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) 'ABHYAS' at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- DRDO has successfully tested the indigenously developed anti-radiation missile RudraM-II .The missile was successfully fired from the Indian Air Force Su-30 MK-I fighter aircraft of the coast of Odisha..
- 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
- DRDO successfully test-fired the long-range 'Nirbhay cruise missile' at the Integrated Test Range Chandipur in Odisha.
- DRDO successfully tested the New Generation AKASH (AKASH-NG) missile. The test took place at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, which is located off the coast of Odisha.
- DRDO and Indian Army successfully field tested indigenously developed Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) weapon system.
- DRDO and India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC) have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called 'Agni-Prime'.
- The test occurred at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha's coast.
- Agni-Prime has a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000 km .

Q. Who has been honoured with the prestigious Pen Pinter Prize 2024 for her “unflinching and unswerving” writings?

A) Amrita Pritam

B) Arundhati Roy

C) Aravind Adiga

D) Shashi Tharoor

Answer : B

- ✓ Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy wins the 2024 PEN Pinter Prize.
- ✓ Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy has been chosen for the 2024 PEN Pinter Literary Prize for her courageous and unswerving writing.
- ✓ The award to Arundhati Roy comes after the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, V.K. Saxena, sanctioned her prosecution under the preventive detention law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 this month.
- ✓ Arundhati Roy will receive her award at a ceremony to be held in October in London, England.
- ✓ Arundhati Roy joins a list of literary giants like Salaman Rushdie, Margret Atwood, Tom Stoppard, Carol Ann Duffy and Malorie Blackman, who have previously won the prize.
- ✓ PEN Pinter Award
- ✓ The PEN(Poet, Playwright, Editors Essayist, Novelist) Pinter Award was instituted in memory of playwright Harold Pinter in 2009. Harold Pinter, who was a citizen of Great Britain, won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005.
- ✓ The annual award is given to a writer who is a resident of the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, or the Commonwealth. The award is given to "outstanding literary merit" writers who cast their “unflinching” gaze on the world.
- ✓ The award is given to writers in the English language who have produced outstanding literary work in plays, poetry, essays, or fiction.
- ✓ About Arundhati Roy
- ✓ Arundhati Roy is the first Indian to win the prestigious Booker Prize in 1997 for her fiction ‘The God of Small Things’.
- ✓ Her second novel, ‘The Ministry of Utmost Happiness’ was published in 2017.
- ✓ She is also the author of Capitalism: A Ghost Story and The Algebra of Infinite Justice.
- ✓ She has written against the abuse of human rights, war and capitalism

Q. Which company will construct Uttar Pradesh’s first bioplastic park?

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A) Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd

B) KM Sugar Mills Ltd

C) Constraarch Enviro

D) SS Machine Tools

Answer : A

- ✓ Bioplastic Park to be set up in Uttar Pradesh Lakhimpur Kheri district.
- ✓ The Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh has decided to set up a bioplastic park in the state to deal with the problem of environmental pollution caused by the petroleum derivative based plastic products in the state.
- ✓ The chief minister has directed that the project shall be completed as soon as possible .
- ✓ The bioplastic park to be developed on 1000 hectares of land will be constructed in Kumbhi village, Gola Gokarnnath tehsil, Lakhimpur Kheri district. The project will be developed with an estimated cost of Rs 2000 crore.
- ✓ The state-based Balrampur Chini Mill will construct the proposed bioplastic park.
- ✓ The state government has made the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) the nodal agency for the development of the bioplastic park.
- ✓ What is a bioplastic and its Use?
- ✓ Bioplastic is a biodegradable material which is made from renewable sources like sunflower, corn, and sugarbeets. It contains natural polymers obtained from agricultural crops, cellulose or potato and corn starch waste.

Q. With reference to Bhuvan Panchayat Portal, consider the following statements:

1. It is an online geospatial data and services dissemination platform.
2. It is useful in visualizing and sharing of web map service (WMS).
3. It is developed by the Geological Survey of India.

How many of the above statements are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology will launch the two Geoportals namely Bhuvan Panchayat (Ver. 4.0) & National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM Ver. 5.0) on 28th June in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is an online geospatial data and services dissemination platform to support integration and utilisation of space-based information into governance and research initiatives involving spatial planning up to Gram Panchayat level.
- ✓ Developed by: This WebGIS platform developed by NRSC, ISRO.
- ✓ It enables visualisation, analysis, sharing of web map service (WMS) services of all the thematic data products generated at 1:10k under the Space based Information Support for Decentralized Planning (SISDP) project.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. Which of the following will build ₹650 Crore 'Museum of Temples' in Ayodhya?

A) BDL

B) HAL

C) Tata Sons

D) L&T

Answer : C

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- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved Tata Sons' proposal to build a 'museum of temples' in Ayodhya, a project worth Rs 650 crore to be funded through Tata's corporate social responsibility fund.
- ✓ The plan then was to showcase the history and architecture of famous temples in the country. Also discussed was setting up a light-and-sound show at the proposed museum.
- ✓ Additionally, the state cabinet has also sanctioned Rs 100 crore for further development works in Ayodhya and endorsed the initiation of helicopter services in Lucknow, Prayagraj, and Kapilvastu.

Q. Anush Agarwalla, who was seen in news in June 2024 for achieving a remarkable achievement, is associated with which of the following sport?

- A) Archery
B) Wushu
C) Badminton
D) Equestrian

Answer : D

- ✓ The Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) has selected Anush Agarwalla to represent the country in the dressage event at the upcoming Paris Olympics.
- ✓ EFI selected him over Shruti Vora based on a thorough assessment of their recent performances, where Anush demonstrated a superior average.
- ✓ It will be India's first ever entry at the dressage event at the Olympics as largely riders in past editions competed in eventing categories only.

Q. Sanjana Thakur won the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story ____.

- A) Cow and Company B) The Great Indian Tee and Snakes
C) Aishwarya Rai D) Nicobar Story

Answer : C

- ✓ Sanjana Thakur, a 26-year-old writer from Mumbai, won the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story Prize for her story “Aishwarya Rai”.
- ✓ She will receive a cash prize of £5,000.
- ✓ Sanjana Thakur, who is currently pursuing an MFA in Fiction at UT Austin’s New Writers Project, described her story as a “Mumbai story”.
- ✓ Thakur is the third Indian to win the prize after Kritika Pandey won it in 2020 for her story “The Great Indian Tee and Snakes” and Parashar Kulkarni in 2016 for “Cow and Company”.

Q. The National Statistics Day is observed by the Government of India on which day?

- A) 28 June
B) 29 June
C) 27 June
D) 30 June

Answer : B

- ✓ Every year since 2007, India has celebrated 29 June as Statistics Day in memory of Prof Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis who was born on this day in 1893 in Kolkata(then Calcutta) , West Bengal.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to honour the contribution of Professor Mahalanobis in the field of Statistics and to create awareness amongst the public about the role and importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation.
- ✓ The first Statistics Day was observed on 29 June 2007.
- ✓ The annual Statistic Day is observed with a theme which has a contemporary relevance. The theme of the 18th Statistics Day 2024 is "Use of data for decision-making".
- ✓ About Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis

- ✓ Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis was born in Kolkata on 29 June 1893. He was a student of Presidency college Kolkata and studied Physics and Mathematics at the University of Cambridge ,London.
- ✓ The second five-year plan (1956-61) of India, which was based on the heavy industrialisation model of economic growth, was based on the mathematical model devised by Professor Mahalanobis.
- ✓ Recognising the immense contribution of Professor Mahalanobis, the government of India bestowed India's second-highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, in 1968.
- ✓ For his contribution to statistics, Professor Mahalanobis is also fondly called the father of Indian Statistics.

Q. National Statistics Day in India is celebrated to commemorate which statistician's birth anniversary?

- A) C.R. Rao
B) Srinivasa, Ramanujan
C) V.S. Huzurbazar
D) PC Mahalanobis

Answer : D

Q. Pench Tiger Reserve lies in which one of the following states?

- A) Odisha
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Madhya Pradesh
D) Jharkhand

Answer : C

- ✓ The Pench Tiger Reserve recently launched an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for the early detection of forest fires.
- ✓ About Pench Tiger Reserve:
- ✓ Location: The reserve is located in the southern reaches of the Satpura hills in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh and continues in Nagpur district in Maharashtra as a separate Sanctuary.
- ✓ It is named after the Pench River, which flows from north to south through the Reserve.
- ✓ It comprises of the Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park, the Pench Mowgli Sanctuary, and a buffer.
- ✓ The area of the Pench Tiger Reserve and the surrounding area is the real-story area of Rudyard Kipling's famous "The Jungle Book".

TIGER RESERVE IN NEWS 2024

- Pench Tiger Reserve recently launched an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for the early detection of forest fires.
- Pench Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra has become India's first and Asia's fifth tiger reserve with 'Dark Sky Park'.
- 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.

- Bihar government has started considering the constitution of the Rhino Task Force to Conserve the Rhino species in Valmiki Tiger Reserve.
- Government of Odisha has recently announced the establishment of the world's first melanistic tiger safari

Q. Which one of the following is the primary purpose of the GSAT 20 satellite, recently seen in the news?

- A) Weather monitoring B) Navigation
C) Communication D) Earth observation

Answer : C

- ✓ In a first, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its latest large satellite, GSAT 20, on SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
- ✓ About GSAT 20 Satellite:
- ✓ It is India's latest communications satellite.
- ✓ It is a hi-tech, heavy-weight satellite weighing 4,700 kg.
- ✓ It will have a high throughput capacity of 48 GBPS.
- ✓ The satellite made by ISRO has 32 spot beams and it has been made to cover all of India, but with a special emphasis on providing connectivity for Northeastern India.
- ✓ The satellite will be owned and operated by ISRO's commercial arm New Space India Ltd. (NSIL).
- ✓ ISRO opted for SpaceX to launch GSAT 20 because India's indigenous heavy rocket, the Launch Vehicle Mark 3, lacks the capability to lift such a heavy satellite.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Krishi Katha platform:

1. It helps in raising awareness, facilitating exchange of knowledge, fostering collaboration and empowering farmers.
2. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.

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 Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development launched web portal for faster bank settlements of interest subvention claims under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund along with Krishi Katha platform.
- ✓ It showcases the voice of the Indian farmers, dedicated to amplifying the experiences, insights and success stories of farmers across the country.
- ✓ It aims to provide a comprehensive and immersive storytelling space where the narratives of India's agricultural community can be shared and celebrated.
- ✓ The objectives behind this initiative will be helpful in raising awareness, facilitating exchange of knowledge, fostering collaboration and empowering farmers.
- ✓ Key facts about Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Scheme
- ✓ It was launched in 2020.
- ✓ Objective: Development of post-harvest management infrastructure for reducing losses, realisation of better value to farmers, innovation in agriculture and attracting investments for creation of Agriculture infrastructure with a total outlay of ₹ 1 lakh crore funding through the banks and financial institutions upto 2025-26.

- ✓ The scheme provides for 3% interest subvention to beneficiaries of the scheme for the loans given by banks upto ₹ 2 crore for a maximum period of 7 years, besides reimbursement of credit guarantee fee paid by banks.

Q. Who has been elected as the President of the European Council of the European Union?

- A) Teofilo Braga
- B) Kaja Kallas
- C) Antonio Costa
- D) Charles Michel

Answer : C

- ✓ Former Prime Minister of Portugal Antonio Costa has been elected as the new President of the European Council of the European Union.
- ✓ Antonio Costa will replace Charles Michel of Belgium and take charge on 1 October 2024.
- ✓ The European Council also selected Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas as the next High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.
- ✓ The European Council of the European Union elects the President of the European Council by a secret ballot.
- ✓ The President of the European Council is elected for a term of 2.5 years and can be re-elected once.
- ✓ Thus, a person can hold the office of the President of the European Council for a maximum of five years.
- ✓ About European Union
- ✓ The European Union is an international organisation that was created by the Maastricht Treaty, which came into force on 1 November 1993.
- ✓ The Parliament sits at Luxembourg, Brussels(Belgium) and Strasbourg (France)
- ✓ Members: 27 countries.
- ✓ Headquarters: Brussels(Belgium).

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Saubhagya Scheme:

1. It aims to provide electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas and all poor households in urban areas in the country.
2. The Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as its nodal agency for the Saubhagya scheme.

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 Meghalaya Lokayukta recently issued notifications to the former chief secretary and other former officials of the Meghalaya Energy Corporation Limited (MeECL) for their alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Saubhagya scheme in the state.
- ✓ About Saubhagya Scheme:
- ✓ The Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (SAUBHAGYA) in October, 2017
- ✓ Objective: Achieving universal household electrification, by providing electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas and all poor households in urban areas in the country.

- ✓ Under the Saubhagaya scheme, LED bulbs, wire, holders, switches, etc are to be provided to BPL families free of cost.
- ✓ Salient features of the scheme were:
- ✓ Providing last-mile connectivity and electricity connections to all un-electrified households in rural areas.
- ✓ In the rural areas, families other than BPL families electricity connection has to be provided for Rs. 500. The consumer has to pay the amount in 10 equal installments of Rs. 50 in each bill, in the urban areas, the BPL families will be provided free power connection.
- ✓ Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been designated as its nodal agency for the Saubhagaya scheme.

Q. Which day of the year is observed as the National Doctors' Day?

- A) 29 June B) 30 June
C) 02 July D) 01 July

Answer : D

- ✓ National Doctors' Day is organized on 01 July annually in India by the Indian Medical Association (IMA).
- ✓ This year 2024, the National Doctors Day theme is "Healing Hands, Caring Hearts"
- ✓ Why is National Doctors' Day celebrated?– to honor the great physicians and help us understand the importance of doctors in our lives and value them, to offer them our respects by commemorating one of their greatest representatives.
- ✓ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy who was born on July 1, 1882, and died on the same date in 1962.

Q. National Doctors' Day is celebrated in India to honour ____.

- A) Dr. Hargovind Khurana B) Dr. Satish Chandra
C) Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy D) Dr. Bhupendranath Datta

Answer : C

- ✓ In India the National Doctors' Day is celebrated on July 1 all across India to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy. He was born on July 1, 1882 and died on the same date in 1962, aged 80 years. Dr Roy was honoured with the country's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna on February 4, 1961

Q. Who has been elected as the Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha?

- A) K Suresh B) Om Birla
C) Jagan Mohan Reddy D) JP Nadda

Answer : B

- ✓ Om Birla elected as the speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha.
- ✓ Om Birla, a member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate, was re-elected speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha on 26 June 2024.
- ✓ He was elected by voice vote after the opposition party did not press for the counting of votes.
- ✓ Om Birla was also the speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha. Om Birla is the 17th person to be elected as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

- ✓ The NDA government, led by Narendra Modi, declined to accept the opposition's demand. The Opposition candidate was K.Suresh of the Congress Party. He is an eight-time Lok Sabha member from Kerala who currently represents the Mavelikara constituency.
- ✓ This is the third time that an election to elect the Speaker of the Lok Sabha has been held in the Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The first time election for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker was held in 1952 to elect the first Lok Sabha Speaker. The ruling Congress party candidate was Ganesh Vasudev Mavlankar.
- ✓ About Om Birla
- ✓ A three-time member of Lok Sabha, Om Birla was elected from the Kota constituency of Rajasthan in the 2014, 2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections.
- ✓ He became the Speaker of the 17th Lok Sabha in 2019 and has been reelected for the second time as the speaker of the Lok Sabha,
- ✓ He is the fifth person to hold the office of Lok Sabha speaker twice.
- ✓ Speakers of the Lok Sabha
- ✓ According to Article 93 of the constitution, members of the Lok Sabha are to elect a Speaker and a Deputy Speaker from among the members of the House. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected by a simple majority.
- ✓ A simple majority means the majority of the members in the house are present at the time of voting.

Q. What is the name of the indigenously designed and manufactured submachine gun which has been recently inducted into the Indian Army?

A) Beretta M9	B) Glock 18
C) M16A4	D) ASMI

Answer : D

- ✓ Indian Army to induct Indigenous ASMI submachine gun.
- ✓ Northern Command of the Indian Army has ordered 550 indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured ASMI submachine guns worth Rs 4.26 crores.
- ✓ This is the first such indigenously designed and manufactured weapon to be inducted into the Indian Army.
- ✓ The ASMI submachine gun has been manufactured by the Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machine Limited
- ✓ The AMSI is short for Asmita, which means pride. It was designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) Pune-based laboratory Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) in collaboration with the Indian Army.
- ✓ The design was handed over to Lokesh Machine Limited, a CNC(computerised Numerical Control) machine maker for manufacturing.
- ✓ Lokesh Machine Limited manufactures the ASMI submachine gun at its Toorpan factory located in the Medak district of Telangana using aerospace-grade aluminium.
- ✓ The use of aerospace-grade aluminium makes the submachine light and durable. ASMI is a single unibody 9x19 mm calibre submachine gun which weighs under 2.4 kg.
- ✓ The submachine has a magazine capacity of 32 rounds and can fire at the rate of 800 rounds per minute.

Q. Which company has manufactured the indigenously designed and developed ASMI submachine gun?

A) Lokesh Machine Limited	B) Ordnance Factory Board
C) Indo-Russia Rifles	D) MKU Limited

Answer : A

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar:

1. It is presented annually to best literary creations by the young writers of age 35 or below.
2. It is the only Akademi award open for nominations by publishers and self-nominations by writers.

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

- ✓ A 26-year-old writer from the tribal thanda of Vivek Nagar in Jakranpally mandal of Nizamabad district, Ramesh Karthik Naik, was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar for Telugu.
- ✓ It was first instituted in 2011.
- ✓ It is presented annually to best literary creations by the young writers of age 35 or below in all the 24 recognized languages.
- ✓ The Yuva Puraskar is conferred on eligible young writers for creative original works.
- ✓ It is the only Akademi award open for nominations by publishers and self-nominations by writers.
- ✓ The Yuva Puraskar comprises a plaque, shawl, citation and a cheque for Rupees Fifty Thousand (₹ 50,000).
- ✓ A posthumous publication is not eligible for Award.
- ✓ Key points about the Sahitya Akademi
- ✓ It was formally inaugurated by the Government of India on 12 March 1954.
- ✓ Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, is the central institution for literary dialogue, publication and promotion in the country and the only institution that undertakes literary activities in 24 Indian languages, including English.
- ✓ Though set up by the Government, the Akademi functions as an autonomous organisation.

Q. In Mercer's 2024 Cost Of Living Survey, which city in India has retained its position as the most expensive for expatriates?

- A) New Delhi B) Bengaluru
C) Mumbai D) Chennai

Answer : C

- ✓ Mumbai retains top spot as India's most expensive city for expats: Survey.
- ✓ According to the Mercer's 2024 Cost Of Living Survey, Mumbai remains the most expensive city in India for expatriates, maintaining this position since 2013.
- ✓ Globally, Mumbai has risen by 11 places to rank 136th out of 226 cities surveyed.
- ✓ Hong Kong tops the global list as the most expensive city for international assignees, with Southeast Asian cities dominating the upper echelons of costliness.

MOST EXPENSIVE CITIES IN INDIA

Cities	2024 Ranking	2023 Ranking
Mumbai	136	147
New Delhi	165	169
Chennai	189	184
Bengaluru	195	189
Hyderabad	202	202
Pune	205	213
Kolkata	207	211

Credit : Mercer 2024 Cost of Living survey

The top 10 most expensive global cities for expats in 2024:

Ranking	City	Country
1	Hong Kong	Hong Kong SAR
2	Singapore	Singapore
3	Zurich	Switzerland
4	Geneva	Switzerland
5	Basel	Switzerland
6	Bern	Switzerland
7	New York	United States
8	London	United Kingdom
9	Nassau	Bahamas
10	Los Angeles	United States

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Q. Which international sports event will be hosted in Noida starting from 2025, as per the agreement between the Uttar Pradesh government and Dorna Sports?

- A) MotoGP Bharat B) FIFA World Cup
C) Tour de France D) Wimbledon

Answer : A

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh government agrees to raise ₹80cr for 2025 edition of MotoGP Bharat.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government officials said the state will sign a contract with Spain headquartered Dorna Sports and its Indian partner, Fairstreet Sports, to organise MotoGP event in Noida next year, and will keep organising the annual event till 2029.
- ✓ In order to organise the event through its Invest UP department, the state government will raise ₹80 crore to cover Dorna Sports' one-year licensing fee.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled “Ed Finds a Home.” ?

- A) Twinkle Khanna
B) Alia Bhatt
C) Huma Qureshi
D) Divya Dutta

Answer : B

- ✓ Alia Bhatt releases debut children's book *The Adventures of Ed Finds a Home*.
- ✓ Actress Alia Bhatt celebrated Father's Day in a unique way by unveiling the first look of her debut children's book, "*Ed Finds a Home*."
- ✓ "*Ed Finds a Home*" is a collaboration between Alia Bhatt, the author, and Tanvi Bhat, the illustrator.
- ✓ Tanvi Bhat, known for her illustrations in children's books, brings the story to life through her vibrant watercolor and gouache paintings.
- ✓ The book "*Ed Finds a Home*" is a heartwarming tale about a dog named Ed meeting a kind little girl named Alia.

Q. According to a report by consultancy firm Kroll, who has reclaimed the top spot as India's most valued celebrity in 2023?

- A) Ranveer Singh
B) Deepika Padukone
C) Virat Kohli
D) Priyanka Chopra

Answer : C

- ✓ Virat Kohli pips Ranveer Singh to reclaim top spot on India's most valued celebrity list.
- ✓ Team India star Virat Kohli has reclaimed his spot as India's most valued celebrity with a brand value of USD 227.9 million in 2023, according to a report by consultancy firm Kroll.
- ✓ Kohli's current valuation is still below his peak of USD 237.7 million in 2020.
- ✓ The rise ensured Kohli surpassed actor Ranveer Singh, who slipped to the second position with a brand value of USD 203.1 million, as per the report.
- ✓ Actor Shah Rukh Khan, buoyed by the success of his films 'Jawaan' and 'Pathaan', rose to the third spot in 2023 with a brand value of USD 120.7 million. Akshay Kumar now holds the fourth position with a brand value of USD 111.7 million in 2023, down from third in 2022.
- ✓ Alia Bhatt slipped to fifth place with a valuation of USD 101.1 million, and Deepika Padukone now occupies the sixth spot with a valuation of USD 96 million, a drop from her fifth position in 2022.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Nalanda University:

1. It was founded by King Harshavardhan in the early 5th century AD.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Answer : B

- Q.** What target has the government of India set for the export of seafood in 2023-24?

- Answer : B

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✓ Headquarters: Kochi, Kerala.

Q. Which country was the largest market for Indian seafood export in 2023-24?

- A) United States
- B) Japan
- C) China
- D) Russia

Answer : A

✓ According to the MPEDA, the United States of America remained the top export destination for Indian shrimp and seafood in 2023-24. The following is the list of the top export markets for Indian seafood during 2023-24

Q. Where is India's largest deep draft port to be constructed?

- A) Ennore Port
- B) Haldia port
- C) Vadhavan Port
- D) Kolkata Port

Answer : C

- ✓ Cabinet green signals a greenfield major port at Vadhavan, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The government of India has approved the construction of a new major port at Vadhavan, situated in the Dahanu taluka of the Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- ✓ The approval for the project was given by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19 June 2024. The development of a new port, Vadhavan, is in alignment with the PM Gatishakti programme.
- ✓ The Union cabinet also approved a proposal to establish road connectivity between the Vadhavan Port and National Highways and rail linkage to the existing rail network and the upcoming Dedicated Rail Freight Corridor.
- ✓ Vadhavan Port, in Vadhavan in the Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- ✓ Sangam Sir (Kumar Kaushal Sir), [07-08-2024 21:51]
- ✓ Developer of the Vadhavan Port
- ✓ The proposed all-weather Greenfield Vadhavan Port is to be India's largest deep draft port. It will be constructed by Vadhavan Port Project Limited (VPPL). The VPPL is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up by the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB).
- ✓ The JNPA has a stake of 74 per cent in the SPV, while the MMB stake in the SPV is 26 percent.
- ✓ Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority operates the Nhava Sheva port located in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ Greenfield projects mean that there are no existing ports in the area and a new port will be built from scratch.
- ✓ Deep Draft port means that the port can handle large cargo ships.
- ✓ Cost of the Vadhavan Port
- ✓ The total cost of the Vadhavan project is Rs.76,220 crore. This includes the cost of land acquisition, development of core infrastructure, Terminals, and other commercial infrastructure. The project will be built in the public-private partnerships (PPP) mode

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the e-Shram Portal:

1. It provides access to various social security schemes being implemented by various Ministries/ Departments to unorganized sector workers.
2. It is launched by the union Ministry of Heavy Industries.

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

- ✓ The Indian delegation to the 112th International Labour Conference (ILC) led by Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment showcased the e-Shram portal and its present integrations and achievements during the sidelines of the ILC at Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ About e-Shram Portal:
- ✓ It was launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 2021 for registration and creation of a comprehensive National Database of Unorganized Workers.
- ✓ It is a “One-Stop-Solution” for Unorganised Workers of the country.
- ✓ The portal is presently integrated with National Career Service (NCS) Portal, Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH), myScheme portal and Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Mandhaan (PMSYM) scheme
- ✓ The Ministry aims to facilitate access to various social security schemes being implemented by various Ministries/ Departments for the benefit of the unorganised workers through the e-Shram portal.

Q. International Day of Yoga is celebrated on which day?

A) 22 June

B) 19 June

C) 20 June

D) 21 June

Answer : D

- ✓ International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on 21 June to raise awareness around the world, regarding the many benefits of practicing Yoga.
- ✓ The International Yoga Day 2024 theme is “Yoga for Self and Society.”
- ✓ 2024 marks the 10th edition of the annual celebrations.
- ✓ The first International Day of Yoga was observed in 2015 at Rajpath in New Delhi
- ✓ About Yoga
- ✓ Yoga originated in India. Maharishi Patanjali is considered to be the father of Yoga. He compiled and refined various aspects of Yoga systematically in his "Yoga Sutras." He proposed the eightfold path of Yoga, popularly known as "Ashtanga Yoga," for human beings' all-around development. They are:- Yama, Niyama, Asana, Pranayama, Pratyahara, Dharana, Dhyana and Samadhi

Q. What is the theme of the 2024 International Yoga Day?

A) Yoga for Peace

B) Yoga for well-being

C) Yoga for Self and Society

D) Yoga for Climate Action

Answer : C

- ✓ The International Yoga Day 2024 theme is “Yoga for Self and Society.”

Q. Which IIT and Simpliforge Creations collaborate to install India’s first pedestrian bridge using indigenous 3D printing technology?

A) IIT Madras

B) IIT Bombay

C) IIT Hyderabad

D) IIT Delhi

Answer : C

- ✓ IIT Hyderabad and Simpliforge Creations collaborate to install India's first pedestrian bridge using indigenous 3D printing technology.
- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) and Hyderabad-based startup Simpliforge Creations, which specialises in providing 3D concrete printing solutions, have collaborated to install India's first pedestrian bridge using indigenous 3D printing technology
- ✓ The 7.50-m bridge was printed and installed on the campus after load testing was done on a smaller prototype.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)?

- A) Ritesh Agarwal B) Bhavish Aggarwal
C) Tilak Mehta D) Manoj Jain

Answer : D

- ✓ Manoj Jain has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) till the date of his superannuation i.e. 31.03.2029.
- ✓ Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- ✓ Founded : 1954
- ✓ Headquarters : Bangalore
- ✓ Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) : Manoj Jain
- ✓ BEL is one of sixteen PSUs under the Ministry of Defence of India. It has been granted Navratna status by the Government of India.

Q. Atul Kumar Chaudhary has recently been appointed as the secretary of which organisation?

- A) AAI B) ICAR
C) TRAI D) NPCI

Answer : C

- ✓ The government has appointed Atul Kumar Chaudhary as a secretary of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) following the superannuation of V Raghunandan.
- ✓ Chaudhary, a 1989-batch Indian Telecommunication Services (ITS) officer, working as a deputy director general at the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), has been deputed for a two-year term.
- ✓ Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)
- ✓ Founded : 1997
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Regulatory agency executives
- ✓ Chairperson : Anil Kumar Lahoti
- ✓ Secretary : Atul Chaudhary.
- ✓ TRAI is a regulatory body set up by the Government of India under section 3 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997. It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India

Q. With reference to Pro-tem Speaker, consider the following statements:

1. The Speaker Pro-tem is appointed by the President of India.
2. As per constitutional provisions, the senior most member of the house shall be appointed as the pro tem speaker.

3. Speaker Pro-tem presides over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha and administers the oath of office to the newly elected Members of Parliament (MPs).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The President has appointed Bhartruhari Mahtab, a seven-term MP from Cuttack, as the pro tem Speaker of the 18th Lok Sabha.
- ✓ About Pro-tem Speaker:
- ✓ Pro-tem is a Latin phrase which translates to 'for the time being' in English, and so the pro-tem speaker is a temporary speaker appointed for a limited period of time to conduct the work in Lok Sabha or in state legislatures.
- ✓ A Pro-tem speaker is chosen for the conduct of the house when the Lok Sabha and legislative assemblies have been elected and the vote for the speaker and deputy speaker has not taken place.
- ✓ The Constitution does not expressly use the term 'Pro-tem Speaker'.
- ✓ The office of the pro tem speaker ceases to exist after the new Speaker of the House is chosen.
- ✓ Who selects the pro-tem speaker?
- ✓ The Speaker Pro-tem is appointed by the President of India/Governor.
- ✓ The President/Governor administers the oath of office to the pro-tem Speaker.
- ✓ As per convention, a senior most member will be appointed as the pro tem speaker with the agreement of assembly members, who then carry on the activities until the permanent speaker is chosen.
- ✓ Duties:
- ✓ Presiding over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha/ State Legislative Assemblies.
- ✓ Administering the oath of office to the newly elected MPs/MLAs.
- ✓ Conducting the floor test to prove the government's majority.
- ✓ Holding the vote to elect the speaker and deputy speaker

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Chenab Rail Bridge:

1. It is located above the Chenab riverbed in Himachal Pradesh.
2. It is the highest single-arch railway bridge in the world.

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

- ✓ The Indian Railway conducted a successful trial run on the newly-constructed world's highest railway bridge, Chenab Rail Bridge, in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ About Chenab Rail Bridge:
- ✓ Location: It is located between Bakkal and Kauri in the Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- ✓ The 1.3-km-long bridge is located 359 metres above the Chenab riverbed.
- ✓ It is the highest single-arch railway bridge in the world.
- ✓ It is part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link project.

- ✓ The construction of the Chenab bridge has been a collaborative effort, involving various international organizations and renowned Indian institutions, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and the Geological Survey of India.
- ✓ It has been designed to withstand high wind speeds of up to 266 Km/h.
- ✓ It is built to be 'blast-proof' and is capable of withstanding the nation's maximum intensity zone-V earthquake forces

Q. What is the penalty provision for service providers convicted of malpractices in competitive exams under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024?

- A) Rs 2 Crore
B) Rs 1 Crore
C) Rs 5 Crore
D) Rs 3 Crore

Answer : B

- ✓ Tough central law to curb irregularities in exam comes into force.
- ✓ The government of India has notified the stringent Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024 and the law has come into effect from 21 June 2024.
- ✓ The law aims to curb the menace of malpractices and irregularities in competitive exams conducted in the country.
- ✓ The notification of the law assumes significance in the wake of question paper leaks of the UGC-NET and the undergraduate NEET(National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) medical exams.

- ✓ Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024
- ✓ The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, 2024, was passed by both houses of the parliament in February. President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent to the bill on 12 February, turning it into a law.
- ✓ The act aims to prevent unfair means in the public examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission, Railway Recruitment Board, Staff Selection Commission, National Testing Agency (NTA), and banking recruitment examination bodies, among others.
- ✓ Penal provision of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024
- ✓ All offences under this Act have been made cognisable, non-bailable and non-compoundable.
- ✓ Any person resorting to unfair means and offences under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term not less than three years but which may extend to five years. It also provides for a monetary penalty of up to ten lakh rupees. In case of default of payment of the fine, an additional punishment of imprisonment shall be imposed, as per the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. The law also provides that until the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, is brought into force, the provisions of the Indian Penal Code shall be applicable in place of the said Act.
- ✓ The service provider shall be punished with the imposition of a fine up to one crore rupees, and proportionate cost of examination shall also be recovered from such service provider. The service provider shall be barred from conducting any public examination for a period of four years.
- ✓ If the Director, Senior Management or the person in-charge of the service provider firm is guilty of malpractice, then they shall be liable for imprisonment for a term not less than three years, which may be extended to ten years and with a fine of one crore rupees.
- ✓ Investigating authority
- ✓ According to the act, alleged malpractice cases will be investigated by an officer not below the rank of the Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police.
- ✓ The Central government has the power to hand over the investigation of such malpractices to any Central Investigating Agency.

- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) approved to observe Olympic Day in January 1948 to commemorate the creation of the International Olympic Committee on 23 June 1894.
- ✓ The first Olympic Day was celebrated in the year 1948.
- ✓ The theme for Olympic Day 2024 is 'Let's Move and Celebrate',

Q. Which city was awarded the World Crafts City tag by the World Crafts Council?

- A) Srinagar
- B) Lucknow
- C) Udaipur
- D) Patna

Answer : A

- ✓ Recently, Srinagar has earned the World Craft City (WCC) tag from the World Crafts Council (WCC).
- ✓ About World Craft City:
- ✓ It is a groundbreaking initiative launched in 2014 by the World Crafts Council AISBL (WCC-International) in recognition of the pivotal role local authorities, craftspeople, and communities play in cultural, economic, and social development worldwide.
- ✓ It establishes a dynamic network of craft cities across the globe, aligning with the principles of the creative economy.
- ✓ Under the World Craft City Programme, Jaipur(Rajasthan), Mammalapuram (Tamil Nadu) and Mysore (Karnataka) have been added as craft cities from India.
- ✓ Key facts about World Crafts Council
- ✓ It was founded by Ms.Aileen O.Webb, Ms.Margaret M.Patch, and Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in 1964, as a non-governmental and non-profit organization.
- ✓ The main objective of the World Crafts Council is to strengthen the status of crafts in cultural and economic life.
- ✓ Aim:The Council aims to promote fellowship among crafts persons by offering them encouragement, help, and advice.
- ✓ It fosters and assists cultural exchange through conferences, international visits, research study, lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and other activities.

Q. Who was the first foreign leader to visit India after the swearing-in of the Narendra Modi-led government for the third time?

- A) Italy
- B) Bangladesh
- C) United States
- D) Russia

Answer : B

- ✓ India and Bangladesh have agreed to strengthen their bilateral relationship by extending their partnership in connectivity, infrastructure, and energy.
- ✓ This was agreed to by both countries after the conclusion of the two-day visit of the Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India on 22 June 2024.
- ✓ Bangladeshi Prime Minister is the first foreign leader to visit India after the Narendra Modi-led government was sworn in for his third term.
- ✓ India and Bangladesh signed 10 new memorandum of understanding (MOU) after the end of Sheikh Hasina's visit to further cooperation in the fields of connectivity, energy, Infrastructure and other areas.
- ✓ A new Inland Container Depot (ICD) will be developed at Sirajganj, Bangladesh, with an Indian grant to facilitate trade between the two countries.
- ✓ A Joint Technical Committee will be set up to renew the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty of 1996. The Ganga water-sharing treaty is valid till 2026.

- ✓ India will undertake the conservation and management of the Teesta River inside Bangladesh with Indian assistance within a mutually agreed time frame.
- ✓ Under the Muktiyoddha Scheme for medical patients, the maximum treatment ceiling has been raised to Rs 8 lakh per patient

Q. India has launched the Muktiyoddha Scheme for medical patients of which country?

- A) Italy
- B) Maldives
- C) Nepal
- D) Bangladesh

Answer : D

- ✓ 100 descendants of Bangladesh who participated in the Liberation War against Pakistan are provided free medical facilities up to Rs 8 lakh per year.

BANGLADESH IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ India and Bangladesh have agreed to strengthen their bilateral relationship by extending their partnership in connectivity, infrastructure, and energy.
- ✓ India to train Bangladeshi's civil servants for the next 5 years.
- ✓ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina won the general elections for the fourth consecutive time
- ✓ Bangladesh approves 4 transit routes for north-eastern India goods transport
- ✓ 3rd Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) meeting of BIMSTEC held In Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ✓ India and Bangladesh opened trade via the Maia (West Bengal)-Sultanganj (Bangladesh) river ports on the Ganga river.
- ✓ India's Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has opened its first overseas office in Dhaka.
- ✓ About Bangladesh
- ✓ Capital: Dhaka
- ✓ Currency: Taka
- ✓ President: Mohammad Shahabuddin Chuppu

Q. Who is the first Indian to win a WTT Contender singles title in table tennis?

- A) Sreeja Akula
- B) Yashaswini Ghorpade
- C) Diya Chitale
- D) Archana Kamath

Answer : A

- ✓ Sreeja Akula of Hyderabad became the first Indian table tennis player to win a WTT (World Table Tennis) Contender single title. Sreeja Akula won both the women's singles and doubles titles at the WTT Contender Lagos 2024 event.
- ✓ The USD 80,000 prize money WTT Contender Lagos 2024 was held at the Sir Molade Okoya Thomas Indoor Sports Hall in Lagos, Nigeria, from 19 June to 23 June 2024.
- ✓ India's number one ranked women's singles table tennis player, Sreeja Akula, defeated the 16-year-old Yijie Ding of China.
- ✓ Sreeja Akula has already qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics and is a part of the Indian team of Archana Kamath, Manika Batra, Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai, and Manav Thakkar. Manika Batra and Sharath Kamal will lead the Indian team at the Olympics.
- ✓ **Winners of the WTT Contender Lagos 2024**

- ✓ The Indian women's compound team of Aditi Swami, Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Parneet Kaur won its third consecutive gold medal of the season at the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, Turkey,
- ✓ The Indian women's team defeated the Estonian women's team of Lisell Jaatma, Meeri-Marita Paas and Maris Tetsman in the final

Q. Who has been appointed the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha?

- A) Rajnath Singh B) Amit Shah
C) Jagat Prakash Nadda D) Jyotiraditya Scindia

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Minister JP Nadda has been appointed the Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ He will replace Piyush Goyal, who is now a Lok Sabha member from North Mumbai in Maharashtra.
- ✓ Nadda was nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat by the BJP in February this year.

Q. The Javelin Anti-Tank Missile, recently seen in the news, is developed and produced by which one of the following countries?

- A) Russia
B) France
C) United States
D) Israel

Answer : C

- ✓ India and the US recently held discussions on the co-production of American javelin missiles in India to meet the requirements of the Indian military.
- ✓ About Javelin Anti-Tank Missile:
- ✓ It is a man-portable antitank guided missile (ATGM) system.
- ✓ It is developed and produced jointly by American defence majors Raytheon and Lockheed Martin.
- ✓ It was designed to defeat heavily armored vehicles, such as main battle tanks and lighter-skinned military vehicles.
- ✓ The weapon also has capability against other target types, like fortifications, bunkers, and helicopters.
- ✓ The missile carries a single 8.4 kg tandem-charge, High-Explosive Antitank (HEAT) warhead.
- ✓ It has a qualified maximum range of 2,500.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services:

1. It provides scientific assessments about the state of knowledge regarding the planet's biodiversity to policymakers.
2. It was awarded with Blue Planet Prize for the year 2024.

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 Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has been selected for the 2024 Blue Planet Prize.
- ✓ It is the intergovernmental organisation established in 2012.
- ✓ It aims to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Answer : A

- ✓ Cyril Ramaphosa secures second term as South African President.
- ✓ Cyril Ramaphosa has secured a second term as the President of South Africa after he was elected by the South African Parliament in a late night sitting on 14 June 2024. Cyril Ramaphosa was re-elected after a deal was signed between his African National Congress (ANC) Party and the centre-right Democratic Alliance (DA) and other smaller parties to form a coalition government.
- ✓ Cyril Ramaphosa was elected as the President of South Africa for the first time on 15 February 2018.
- ✓ About the Republic of South Africa
- ✓ The apartheid ended in 1994, and black leader Nelson Mandela was elected as the first Black President of South Africa in 1994.
- ✓ Capital of South Africa: It has three capitals. Pretoria (executive), Cape Town (legislative), and Bloemfontein (judicial).
- ✓ Currency: Rand
- ✓ President: Cyril Ramaphosa

Q. “Kavli Prizes”, recently seen in the news, are awarded for?

- A) Literature, peace and economics
- B) Environmental science, public health and engineering
- C) Astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience
- D) Mathematics, computer science and biology

Answer : C

- ✓ The winners of the 2024 Kavli Prize were announced on Wednesday. Eight winners were awarded for their contributions to astrophysics, neuroscience, and nanoscience.
- ✓ About:
- ✓ It is awarded in honour of Norwegian-American businessman and philanthropist Fred Kavli (1927-2013)
- ✓ The Kavli Prizes are awarded in three areas: astrophysics, nanoscience and neuroscience — the largest, the smallest, and the most complex. The inaugural prize was announced in 2008.
- ✓ Winners in 2024:
- ✓ **ASTROPHYSICS:** This year’s prize for astrophysics has been awarded to David Charbonneau, and Sara Seager for discoveries of exoplanets, and the characterisation of their atmosphere.
- ✓ **NANOSCIENCE:** Robert Langer, Armand Paul Alivisatos, and Chad Mirkin were given the prize for nanoscience for biomedical applications breakthroughs.
- ✓ **NEUROSCIENCE:** The prize in neuroscience has been awarded to Nancy Kanwisher, Winrich Freiwald, and Doris Tsao for their collective effort over decades to map the linkage between facial recognition and the brain.

Q. Rajeev Taranath, who recently passed away at the age of 91, was a renowned maestro of which classical musical instrument?

- A) Sitar
- B) Tabla
- C) Sarod
- D) Flute

Answer : C

- ✓ Sarod Maestro Rajeev Taranath Passes Away At 91.

- ✓ Sarod maestro of international repute Rameez Taranath has passed away in Mysuru in Karnataka after a prolonged illness. He was 91.
- ✓ He has composed music for many internationally acclaimed Kannada films including Samskara, Kanchana Sita and Kadavu. He served as the head of the Indian music programme at the World Music department of the California Institute of the Arts.
- ✓ He is the recipient of Padma Shri award in 2019

Q. The term “Nagastra”, recently seen in the news, refers to:

- A) a newly developed anti-tank guided missile
- B) an advanced weather satellite
- C) a next-generation ballistic missile defense system
- D) the first indigenous man-portable suicide drone

Answer : D

- ✓ The army has got its first indigenous man-portable suicide drones that are designed to target enemy training camps, launch pads and infiltrators with precision, without endangering the lives of soldiers.
- ✓ About:
- ✓ The Indian army has integrated the Nagastra 1 loitering munition, designed by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), as its first indigenous man-portable suicide drone.
- ✓ These drones enhance the army's precision strike capabilities against enemy training camps and infiltrators, with a focus on reducing dependence on imports and promoting self-reliance in defence technology.
- ✓ With the potential for exports to friendly nations, Nagastra 1 showcases India's advancement in developing cost-effective solutions for modern warfare.
- ✓ The Nagastra-1 is fully designed and developed in India, with an indigenous content of over 75%.
- ✓ The drone can carry out GPS-enabled precision strikes with an accuracy of 2 meters and has a range of almost 30 km.
- ✓ The drone weighs 6 kg and can stay airborne for up to 60 minutes.

Q. India has been ranked at 129 in Global Gender Gap Index 2024 and is topped by Iceland. The index is published by which organisation?

- A) Transparency International
- B) United Nations Development Programme
- C) World Economic Forum
- D) INSEAD & OECD

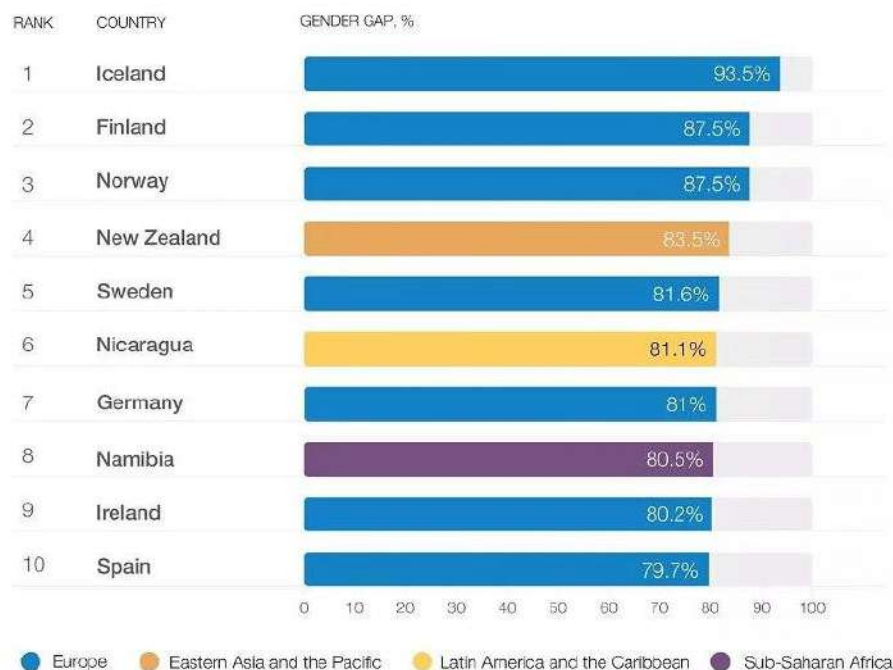
Answer : C

- ✓ India ranks 129 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index.
- ✓ The Global Gender Gap Index is an annual report produced by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that measures gender-based gaps in access to resources and opportunities in countries around the world.
- ✓ It is the longest-standing index, tracking progress towards closing these gaps over time since its inception in 2006.
- ✓ It tracks the gender gap across four key parameters:
 1. Economic participation and opportunity,
 2. Educational attainment,
 3. Health and survival, and
 4. Political empowerment.

- ✓ It ranks countries on a scale from 0 to 1, with a score of 1 indicating that a country has achieved complete gender equality, while a score of 0 indicates a complete lack of equality.

Global Gender Gap Report 2024

The Global Gender Gap Index 2024 Rankings



Source: World Economic Forum, Global Gender Gap Index 2024

- ✓ The top 10 most gender-equal nations are found to be in Europe, with Iceland retaining its top position with a score of 0.935. Sudan was ranked last on the index of 146 countries.
- ✓ Of the four gender gap areas measured, the Health and Survival gender gap has closed by 96%, the Educational Attainment gap by 94.9%, the Economic Participation and Opportunity gap by 60.5%, and the Political Empowerment gap by 22.5%.
- ✓ The most significant shift occurs in Political Empowerment, where parity has jumped a total of 8.3 percentage points.
- ✓ India has closed 64.1% of its gender gap in 2024 and has declined two places from 127th last year to 129th. It ranked the third lowest among the South Asian economies.
- ✓ Bangladesh stands at the 99th position, Nepal at 117th, Sri Lanka at 122nd, Bhutan (0.651) at 124th, and Pakistan (0.570) at the 145th position among the immediate neighbours.
- ✓ India's rank in all the four parameters:
- ✓ Economic Participation and Opportunity – 142
- ✓ Health and Survival – 142
- ✓ Educational Attainment – 112
- ✓ Political empowerment – 65

Southern Asia

Economy	Rank		Score
	Regional	Global	
Bangladesh	1	99	0.689
Nepal	2	117	0.664
Sri Lanka	3	122	0.653
Bhutan	4	124	0.651
India	5	129	0.641
Maldives	6	132	0.633
Pakistan	7	145	0.570

Q. Which AI tool developed by Ingenious Research Solutions Pvt Ltd. integrates face recognition with physiological parameters such as gait and skeleton?

- A) Pratibha B) Divya Drishti
C) Netra D) Shakti

Answer : B

- ✓ DRDO Unveils the Power of AI.
- ✓ Ingenious Research Solutions Pvt Ltd., a start-up established by a woman entrepreneur, Dr. Shivani Verma after winning the prestigious Dare to Dream Innovation contest 2.0, a pan India theme-based contest organised by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has successfully developed an AI tool “Divya Drishti” that integrates face recognition with immutable physiological parameters such as gait and skeleton.
- ✓ The AI tool has been developed under the technical guidance and mentoring by Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics (CAIR), a laboratory of DRDO based at Bangalore.
- ✓ ‘Divya Drishti’ creates a robust and multifaceted authentication system by combining facial recognition with gait analysis.

Q. Which country hosted the 50th Summit meeting of the leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) countries?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The 50th G7 meeting was hosted by Italy in Apulia from 13 to 15 June 2024. .

Q. Which country will host the 2025 Group of Seven (G7) countries summit meeting?

- A) Germany B) United Kingdom
C) Canada D) France

Answer : C

- ✓ The next 51st summit meeting will be held in Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada, in 2025

Q. Which is the only Asian country that is a member of the G7 Group?

- A) Italy
- B) Japan
- C) Germany
- D) France

Answer : B

- ✓ Japan; the other members are the United States of America, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom.

Q. Who was recently appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo?

- A) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf
- B) Samia Suluhu Hassan
- C) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- D) Judith Suminwa Tuluka

Answer : D

- ✓ The Democratic Republic of Congo appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the African nation's first woman Prime Minister.
- ✓ Judith Suminwa Tuluka's appointment as the Prime Minister came after President Tshisekedi was sworn in as the country's president for a second five-year term in January 2024.

Q. Who recently became the first Indian rider to win a three-star Grand Prix event in equestrian sports?

- A) Tatiana Antonenco
- B) Juliane Jerich
- C) Shruti Vora
- D) Fouaad Mirza

Answer : C

- ✓ Shruti Vora logs historic victory, becomes first Indian to win 3-star GP event.
- ✓ In a historic achievement for Indian equestrian sports, Shruti Vora, astride Magnanimous, has become the first Indian rider to win a three-star Grand Prix event.
- ✓ Shruti scored 67.761 points in the CDI-3 event held in Lipica, Slovenia, from June 7 to 9. The Indian finished ahead of Moldova's Tatiana Antonenco (Aachen), who scored 66.522. Austria's Juliane Jerich (Quarter Girl) completed the top three with a score of 66.087.
- ✓ Shruti has represented India in the Dressage World Championship (2022) and the Asian Games (2010, 2014).

Q. Which organization built Yard 81, LSAM 13, the fifth barge of the Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project for the Indian Navy?

- A) Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- B) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- C) SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd
- D) Goa Shipyard Limited

Answer : C

- ✓ 5th LSAM 13 missile cum ammunition barge inducted into Indian Navy.
- ✓ The 'Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 13, Yard 81, the fifth Barge of the Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project has been inducted into the Indian Navy.
- ✓ Yard 81 built by MSME Shipyard, SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPPL), Visakhapatnam for Indian Navy. The launching Ceremony was presided over by Cmde Manish Vig, General Manager (QA), ND(Mbi).

- ✓ The availability of these Barges would provide impetus to operational commitments of IN by facilitating Transportation, Embarkation and Disembarkation of articles/ ammunition to IN Ships both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.

Q. Who is the author of the recently released novel titled 'Manohar Kahani'?

- A) Raghu Srinivasan
- B) Hachette India
- C) Kokum Grove
- D) Manohar Srinivas

Answer : A

- ✓ The novel titled 'Manohar Kahani' written by Raghu Srinivasan has been released recently. The book was published by Hachette India.
- ✓ "Manohar Kahani" is a charming and whimsical story set in an unknown seaside hamlet in the Konkan area.
- ✓ Srinivasan, who is a serving officer in the Indian army, has served up a perfect medley of greed and schemes, topped with a garnish of resilience. He is also the author of two adventure thrillers-The Avatari (2014) and Xianqui (2020).

Q. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi attend the G7 Outreach Summit and hold bilateral meetings with several world leaders?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Italian PM Meloni Invites India to G7 Summit meeting in June 2024.
- ✓ Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Group of Seven (G7) Outreach session to be held in Borgo Egnazia, Apulia, Italy, from 13 to 15 June 2024. The 2024 G7 presidency is with Italy.
- ✓ PM Meloni called PM Modi and personally extended the invitation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his post on the social media platform X(formerly Twitter), thanked PM Meloni and extended his greetings to Italy on the celebrations of its Liberation Day.
- ✓ Italy observes 25 April as Liberation Day to celebrate the liberation of the country from the Nazi occupation and the end of fascist rule.
- ✓ General election is underway in India, and the election result is to be declared on 4 June 2024. The newly elected prime minister will represent India in the G7 outreach session.
- ✓ India's Participation in the G7 Outreach Session
- ✓ The first Indian prime minister to get an invitation to participate in the G7 Outreach session was Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 2003. France was, at the time, the host of the G7.
- ✓ Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has attended five such meetings. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended the G7 outreach session in 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 (four times). The 2020 G7 summit to be hosted by the US was cancelled due to the Covid.
- ✓ What is the G7 Group ?
- ✓ The G7 is an informal group of seven most industrialised democratic countries which has no permanent secretariat of its own. The G7 was created on the initiative of France to discuss the crisis due to the sudden increase in crude petroleum oils by Arab countries in 1973. The sudden increase in crude petroleum oil is also known as the first global oil shock.

- ✓ G7 was to be an informal group to discuss global economic issues and formulate a coordinated response to such economic issues. Later on, it started discussing global challenges, including peace and security, counter-terrorism, development, education, health, the environment and climate change.
- ✓ Members of G7
- ✓ Initially, the group started as G6 with six members- France, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, and Italy.
- ✓ In 1976, it became G7, with Canada becoming its seventh member.
- ✓ In 1997, it became G8 with the inclusion of Russia. However, Russia was later expelled from the group in 2014 after it annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine. After the expulsion of Russia, the group was again renamed G 7.
- ✓ The European Union has participated in the G7 meetings since 1977. The European Union is jointly represented by the President of the European Council and the President of the European Commission.
- ✓ Summit Meeting
- ✓ The first Summit meeting of the Heads of State and Government of G7 was held in 1975 in Rambouillet, France.
- ✓ Every year, a member of the G7 hosts the annual summit.
- ✓ The host country, also known as the G7 presidency, rotates annually among member countries in the following order: France, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, and Canada.
- ✓ Italy currently holds the G7 presidency and will host the 50th G7 Summit in Apulia from June 13 to 15, 2024.
- ✓ About G7
- ✓ It is an intergovernmental political forum.
- ✓ It consists of seven member states: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States.
- ✓ In addition to the seven member states, the European Union is also part of the G7 as a non-enumerated member.
- ✓ Formation - 25 March 1973.
- ✓ 1st - 1975 : France
- ✓ 46th - 2020 : United States
- ✓ 47th - 2021 : United Kingdom
- ✓ 48th - 2022 : Germany
- ✓ 49th - 2023 : Japan
- ✓ 50th - 2024 : Italy
- ✓ 51st - 2025 : Canada
- ✓ Trick to remember G7 Countries
- ✓ Trick - Drink JUICE with GF (girlfriend)
- ✓ JUICE case :-
- ✓ J for Japan
- ✓ U for USA
- ✓ I for Italy
- ✓ C for Canada
- ✓ E for England
- ✓ GF case :-
- ✓ G for Germany
- ✓ F for France

Q. Which prestigious award did wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu receive at the 18th Mumbai International Film Festival?

A) Padma Shri Award

B) V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award

C) National Film Award

D) Golden Globe Award

Answer : B

- ✓ S. Nallamuthu Conferred 18th V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ✓ The prestigious 18th V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred to the Noted wildlife filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu.
- ✓ The award was conferred to Subbiah Nallamuthu by the Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L Murugan at the inaugural ceremony of the 18th Mumbai international Film Festival at Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ Subbiah Nallamuthu received this award for his outstanding contributions to the field of non-feature and wildlife documentary filmmaking.
- ✓ V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award
- ✓ The Prestigious V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement has been instituted in memory of the legendary filmmaker V. Shantaram.
- ✓ The award, instituted in 1990 by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, is given at the Mumbai International Film Festival.
- ✓ The award is given to a filmmaker who has made a significant contribution to documentary films. The first person to receive it was Ezra Mir in 1990
- ✓ The V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award carries a citation, a trophy and Rs 10 lakh as a cash prize.
- ✓ About Subbiah Nallamuthu
- ✓ Subbiah Nallamuthu is an alumnus of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) is best known for his tiger-centric documentaries including "Tiger Dynasty", "Tiger Queen", and "The World's Most Famous Tiger".
- ✓ Nallamuthu became famous with his "Living on the Edge" documentary.

Q. What is the name of the scheme introduced by the Assam government to provide monthly monetary support to girl students in order to combat child marriage?

A) Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM)

B) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

C) Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY)

D) Kanya Sumangala Yojana (KSY)

Answer : A

- ✓ Assam government introduces monthly monetary support for girl students to combat child marriage.
- ✓ The Assam government, led by Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, started the Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) to provide monetary benefits to girl students every month.
- ✓ The Assam government has allocated Rs. 1,500 crore over five years for the MMNM scheme, with an initial budget of Rs. 300 crore for the first year.
- ✓ For students enrolled in Higher secondary education will receive Rs. 1,000 per month, for students enrolled in Graduation will receive Rs. 1,250 per month, for students enrolled in Post Graduation will get Rs. 2,500 per month under Pragyan Bharati scheme with Nijut Moina scheme.

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- Assam government has announced a new scheme Mukhya Mantri Nijut Moina (MMNM) to promote girl education and to end child marriage in the state.
- Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, performed the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for a 50 MW Solar Project in Sonitpur district. The project, being developed by SJVN Green Energy Limited (SGEL).
- Nineteen traditional products and crafts from Assam have been granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma flagged off 200 electric buses from Guwahati.

Answer : C

- Q.** Which global sports organization has signed a five-year contract with Tata Communications for technology broadcast services?
- A) FIFA
B) World Athletics
C) ICC
D) UEFA

- ✓ Tata Communications secures five-year contract with World Athletics .
- ✓ Tata Communications has signed a five-year contract with global sports organization World Athletics as the latter's technology broadcast partner across the globe.
- ✓ Under this partnership, Tata Communications will serve as the host broadcaster for highlighted events such as the World Athletics Indoor Championships in Nanjing, the World Athletics Relays in Guangzhou, and the World Athletics Road Running Championships in San Diego, all scheduled for 2025
- ✓ World Athletics
- ✓ Founded : 1912
- ✓ Headquarters : Monaco
- ✓ President : Sebastian Coe

Q. The JIMEX 2024 bilateral military exercise, is conducted between India and:

- A) Japan
- B) Singapore
- C) Thailand
- D) Malaysia

Answer : A

- ✓ This is the eighth edition of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.
- ✓ The exercise includes both harbour and sea phases.
- ✓ The harbour phase will comprise professional, sports and social interactions.
- ✓ During the exercise, navies of both the countries will jointly hone their war fighting skills at sea and enhance their interoperability.
- ✓ Indian Navy's indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Shivalik is participating in the bilateral maritime exercise. Japan is being represented by the Guided Missile Destroyer JS Yugiri.
- ✓ It provides an opportunity to learn from each other's best practices and facilitates operational interactions between India and Japan.
- ✓ The exercise also reaffirms their shared commitment towards maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region.
- ✓ Other Exercises between India and Japan:
- ✓ Malabar: India and Japan with the United States and Australia participate in the naval war gaming exercise named Malabar.
- ✓ SHINYUU Maitri (Air Force)
- ✓ Dharma Guardian (Military Exercise)

Q. With reference to the Matsyayaan 6000, consider the following statements:

1. It is a three-person submersible that will be able to go 6,000 metres under the sea.
2. It is being developed by Chennai's National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

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

- ✓ India set to be the 6th country to have its own Deep Sea Mission; 1st Stage of harbor trail (40-50m) deep of deep sea mission planned by September 2024; The Mission has the potential to contribute greatly to the overall growth of Indian economy.
- ✓ About:
- ✓ The Matsya 6000 is a three-person submersible that will be able to go 6,000 metres under the sea. The vessel is being developed by Chennai's National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).
- ✓ Structure: Made of 80mm-thick titanium alloy, it will be able to withstand a pressure 600 times greater than that at sea level. The Matsya 6000 will be able to operate from 12 to 16 hours straight and will have an oxygen supply of 96 hours.
- ✓ National Institute of Ocean Technology:
- ✓ It was established in November 1993 as an autonomous society under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ✓ Objectives: To develop reliable indigenous technologies to solve the various engineering problems associated with harvesting of non-living and living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which is about two-thirds of the land area of India.
- ✓ Deep Sea Mission:

- ✓ The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is an ambitious Indian initiative to explore and harness the depths of the ocean.
- ✓ It is a five-year mission, approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021, with a budget of nearly ₹4,077 crore.
- ✓ The mission aims to develop technologies for deep-sea mining, manned submersibles, and underwater robotics, as well as for ocean climate change advisory services, deep-ocean survey and exploration.

Q. “Exercise Red Flag 2024”, recently seen in the news, is hosted by:

- A) U.S. Air Force
- B) Republic of Singapore Air Force
- C) Indian Air Force
- D) Royal Netherlands Air Force

Answer : A

- ✓ An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent participated in the Exercise Red Flag 2024 conducted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska of the United States Air Force, from 04 Jun to 14 Jun 24.
- ✓ About:
- ✓ This was the second edition of Ex Red Flag 2024, which is an advanced aerial combat training exercise, held four times in a year by the US Air Force.
- ✓ Participation of the Indian Air Force along with Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), Royal Air Force (RAF) of the United Kingdom, Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf), German Luftwaffe, and the US Air Force (USAF).

Q. Which Indian has been conferred with the ‘Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award’ for his contribution to films?

- A) Mrinal Sen
- B) Shyam Benegal
- C) Girish Kasaravalli
- D) Vinod Ganatra

Answer : D

- ✓ Eminent children's film-maker Vinod Ganatra has been conferred with South Africa's prestigious ‘Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award’ for his contribution to films.
- ✓ Vinod Ganatra becomes the first Indian to be honoured with the ‘Nelson Mandela Lifetime Achievement Award’.
- ✓ Vinod Gantra was conferred with the award at the 7th Nelson Mandela Children's Film Festival for his outstanding contribution to children's cinema
- ✓ About Vinod Ganatra
- ✓ Globally renowned filmmaker and editor Vinod Ganatra of Gujarat but now based in Mumbai has been active in Film & Television Production from 1982.
- ✓ His first TV programme, BAINGAN RAJA, won the ‘Janakinath Gaur Award’ from Doordarshan.
- ✓ His Gujarati film Harun Arun made on the India Pakistan border received the "Liv Ullmann Peace Prize" at the 26th Chicago International Children's Film Festival. He is the only Indian to have won the prestigious ‘Liv Ullmann Peace Prize’.
- ✓ About Nelson Mandela
- ✓ Nelson Mandela is perhaps the most famous personality in South Africa who has the distinction of being the first black President of South Africa.
- ✓ From 1964 to 1982, he was kept at the Robben Island Prison off Cape Town, and later he was shifted to Pollsmoor Prison.
- ✓ The new South Africa was called a ‘Rainbow Nation’.
- ✓ Nelson Mandela and Frederik Willem de Klerk were honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

- ✓ The Indian government conferred him with the country's highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, in 1990. He is the second non-Indian after Pakistan's Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan (1987) to receive India's highest civilian award
- ✓ His birthday, 18 July, is observed as Nelson Mandela International Day.
- ✓ 'Long Walk to Freedom' is an autobiography of Nelson Mandela

Q. Where was the 2nd meeting of the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) held?

- A) Chennai
B) New Delhi
C) Hyderabad
D) Mumbai

Answer : B

- ✓ NSA of India & US Co-chair 2nd India- US meeting on ICET In New Delhi.
- ✓ The 2nd meeting of the India-US initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) was held between the two countries on 17 June 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The meeting was co-chaired by the National Security Advisor (NSA) of India, Ajit Doval and the United States (U.S) NSA Jake Sullivan.
- ✓ Jake Sullivan is the first high-ranking official of the American government to visit India after the Narendra Modi government was sworn in for the third consecutive time.
- ✓ The iCET focuses on deepening and expanding strategic cooperation in space, semiconductors, advanced telecommunications, artificial intelligence, quantum, biotechnology, and clean energy between the two countries.
- ✓ The first iCET meeting was held in Washington, D.C., USA, in January 2023.
- ✓ Both the Indian and the U.S will provide \$ 90 million fund over the next five years to the U.S.-India Global Challenges Institute.
- ✓ Partnership In Space
- ✓ Indian space agency ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) and the American space agency NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) will jointly develop and launch the Synthetic Aperture Radar satellite. The satellite will map the entire Earth twice every 12 days, which will be helpful in combating climate change and other global challenges;
- ✓ NASA will provide training to the ISRO astronauts in space flights and human space missions.
- ✓ India will participate in the U.S. Space Command's Global Sentinel Exercise at Vandenberg Space Force Base, to be held in February 2025

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH):

1. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
2. It provides resource materials for historians, scientists, and other workers who are interested in studying and documenting the historical aspects of systems of Medicine.

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

- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) has designated the National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage as WHO-Collaborating Centre (CC) for "Fundamental and Literary Research in Traditional Medicine".
- ✓ About National Institute of Indian Medical Heritage (NIIMH):
- ✓ The NIIMH, formerly known as the National Center of Indian Medical Heritage (NCIMH), provides resource materials for historians, scientists and other workers who are interested in studying and documenting the historical aspects of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy, and Sowa Rigpa (AYUSH), along with Modern Medicine.
- ✓ The institute is functioning under the administrative control of the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India.
- ✓ This Institute, which is only of its kind in South East / Asia is located in Dilsuknagar, Hyderabad.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the GREAT Scheme:

1. It supports individual entrepreneurs for functional prototypes of their technologies for Technical Textile.
2. Under this initiative grant-in-aid will be provided to young innovators.

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 Empowered Programme Committee (EPC) of National Technical Textiles Mission (NTTM) has approved 7 startup proposals under the GREAT scheme.
- ✓ Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles (GREAT) encourages young innovators, scientists/technologists, and startup ventures in the field of Technical Textiles to translate their ideas into commercial technologies/products and make India self-reliant.
- ✓ It supports individual entrepreneurs or start-ups for functional prototypes or commercialization of their technologies for Technical Textile.
- ✓ Funding:
- ✓ A grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months will be provided.
- ✓ Key facts about National Technical Textiles Mission
- ✓ It was launched to increase the penetration level of technical textiles in India while leveraging the extraordinary growth rate of the sector.
- ✓ The mission aims to position India as a global leader in Technical Textiles.
- ✓ Components:
- ✓ Research, Innovation and Development
- ✓ Promotion and Market Development
- ✓ Export Promotion
- ✓ Education, Training, Skill Development
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Textiles
- ✓ Time period: It has been approved with an implementation period of four years, starting from FY 2020-21 till FY 2023-24.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Exercise Tarang Shakti:

1. It is a multinational military exercise to be hosted by India.
2. It aims to foster professional interactions and enrich the employment philosophy of the participating forces.

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

- ✓ The Indian Air Force will host air exercise, Tarang Shakti-2024 in August.
- ✓ It is a first multinational air exercise to be hosted by the Indian Air force.
- ✓ Objective: The plan is to invite friendly foreign countries with whom the IAF interacts regularly and has a certain degree of interoperability.
- ✓ The exercise is now scheduled to be held in two phases.
- ✓ The first will be held in southern India in the first two weeks of August and the second will be in the western sector from the end of August to mid-September.
- ✓ Participating countries: Australia, France, Germany, Japan, Spain, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Germany will deploy fighter jets and also an A-400M transport aircraft.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2024:

1. It is an annual report produced by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
2. The 2024 report confirms that the number of people without access to electricity increased for the first time in over a decade.

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

- ✓ SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2024, released recently, finds that the world remains off course to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 for energy by 2030.
- ✓ About SDG 7: Energy Progress Report 2024:
- ✓ Since its inception in 2018, it has become the global reference for information on progress toward the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7 (SDG 7) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ✓ The aim of SDG 7 is to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.”
- ✓ The report is produced annually by the five custodian agencies responsible for tracking progress toward the goal.
- ✓ The custodian agencies are the International Energy Agency (IEA), the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the World Bank, and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ✓ This report summarizes global progress on energy access, energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean cooking, and international cooperation to advance SDG 7.
- ✓ Highlights of 2024 Report:
- ✓ The latest report confirms that the number of people without access to electricity increased for the first time in over a decade, as population grew—mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa—at a higher rate than that of new electricity connections, leaving 685 million people without electricity in 2022, 10 million more than in 2021.

- ✓ The world remains off track to achieve universal access to clean cooking by 2030. 2.1 billion people still live without access to clean cooking fuels and technologies, largely in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.
- ✓ A significant portion of this funding came from Germany and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

Q. Who has been re-appointed as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India in June 2024?

- A) Nripendra Misra
C) Pulok Chatterjee
- B) P.K. Mishra
D) Brajesh Misra

Answer : B

- ✓ Dr PK Mishra re-appointed Principal Secretary under Modi Government.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet, has re-appointed Dr Pramod Kumar Mishra as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister.
- ✓ The retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Dr P.K. Mishra, has been appointed for his second consecutive term.
- ✓ According to the Department of Personnel and Training, the government of India, Dr P.K. Mishra's appointment comes into effect on 10 June 2024. He will continue in office until the term of the incumbent Prime Minister or until further order
- ✓ Dr P.K. Mishra has been given the rank of cabinet minister in the Modi government
- ✓ He was appointed as the Principal Secretary to the prime minister for the first time in 2019 and was re-appointed for the second time in 2024.
- ✓ The post of Cabinet Secretary is the highest civil servant post in the Indian government.

Q. Who has won the men's single title of the 2024 French Open tennis tournament?

- A) Carlos Alcaraz
B) Rafael Nadal
C) Denis Shapovalov
D) Novak Djokovic

Answer : A

- ✓ Carlos Alcaraz of Spain and Iga Swiatek of Poland won the 2024 French Open men's and women's Tennis Single titles, respectively.
- ✓ It was the first French Open singles title for Alcaraz and the fourth singles title for the world no.1 Iga Swiatek.
- ✓ The 123rd edition of the French Open, also known as Roland Garros, was held at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris, France, from 26 May to 9 June 2024. It is the second Grand Slam event of a calendar year after the Australian Open.
- ✓ The Stade Roland Garros is a stadium which has many courts. The finals are always played on the Philippe Chatric Court. The French Open is played on clay court.
- ✓ Third Singles Grand Slam Title for Alcaraz .
- ✓ The 21 year old Sapienza won his career's third Grand Slam title by winning the French Open single title. Carlos Alcaraz had previously won the US Open in 2022 and the Wimbledon in 2023.
- ✓ In the 2024 French Open, Carlos Alcaraz defeated Tokyo Olympic Champion Alexander Zverev of Germany in five sets, 6-3, 2-6, 5-7, 6-1, 6-2.

Q. Who among the following beat Jasmine Paolini of Italy to win the Women's single title in 2024 French Tennis Open?

- A) Magda Linette
B) Victoria Azarenka
C) Sachia Vickery
D) Iga Swiatek

Answer : D

- ✓ Iga Swiatek wins her fourth French Open Singles Title
- ✓ World no.1 Iga Siatek of Poland defended her French Open singles title for the third time in a row. Iga Swiatek defeated Jasmine Paolini of Italy 6-2, 6-1 in the final played on 8 June 2024.
- ✓ Iga Swiatek has now won the French Open singles title four times, in 2020,2022,2023 and 2024.
- ✓ American Tennis great Chris Evert holds the record for maximum women's singles title - seven times.
- ✓ This was the fifth Grand Slam title for 23 year old Iga Swiatek . She has also won the US Open women's singles title in 2022.

Event	Winner	RunnersUp	Trophy Name
Men's Single	Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)	Alexander Zverev (Germany)	Musketeers' cup
Women's Single	Iga Swiatek (Poland)	Jasmine Paolini(Italy)	Suzanne-Lenglen cup
Men's Double	Mate Pavic (Croatia) and Marcelo Alevaro (El Salvador)	Andrea Vavasorri and Somen Balloli (Both Italian)	Jacques-Brugnon cup
Women's Double	Coco Gauff (USA) and Katerina Siniakova (Czech)	Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini (Both Italian)	Simonne-Mathieu cup
Mixed Doubles	Desirae Krawczyk (USA) and Neal Skupski (Britain)	Laura Siegemund (Germany) and Édouard Vasselin (France)	Marcel Bernard cup

Q. Who has been elected as the 79th president of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?

- A) Denis Francis
B) Csaba Kőrösi
C) Philemon Yang
D) Abdulla Shahid

Answer : C

- ✓ The UN General Assembly (UNGA) elected former Cameroonian Prime Minister Philemon Yang as president of the 79th UNGA session.
- ✓ Yang will succeed Denis Francis of Trinidad and Tobago, president of the 78th UNGA session, when the 79th UNGA session opens on Sept. 10 at the UN headquarters in New York.
- ✓ Yang served as Cameroonian prime minister from 2009 to 2019, and since 2020, he has been serving as the Grand Chancellor of National Orders at the Presidency of the Republic.
- ✓ The theme of UNGA 79th Session is “Unity in Diversity, for the advancement of peace, sustainable development, and human dignity for everyone everywhere”.

- ✓ The 79th session of the General Assembly will convene on 10 September, with the body's high-level general debate starting on 24 September 2024.
- ✓ United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)
- ✓ Formation : 1945
- ✓ Headquarters : New York City
- ✓ 79th President : Philemon Yang.
- ✓ The UNGA is responsible for the UN budget, appointing the non-permanent members to the Security Council.

Q. As per the announcement made by Bisleri International, who will be the new brand ambassador for Bisleri Limonata?

- A) Sachin Tendulkar B) MS Dhoni
C) Aditya Roy Kapur D) Virat Kohli

Answer : C

- ✓ Bisleri Limonata announced the appointment of Aditya Roy Kapur as its first brand ambassador. The 'Limey Minty Cooler' by Bisleri International also launched a new campaign, titled #DoubleTheChill.
- ✓ The campaign features Aditya Roy Kapur and Chunky Pandey in a beach setup. Kapur, sporting a bright yellow shirt, is playfully teased by Pandey that a single yellow isn't enough.

Q. Which country recently unveiled a monumental 700-metre pedestrian bridge named the 'Bridge of National Unity'?

- A) Hungary
B) Poland
C) Germany
D) France

Answer : A

- ✓ Hungary recently unveiled the 'Bridge of National Unity,' a 700-metre pedestrian bridge spanning Budapest's Danube River. Symbolizing unity, it marks a milestone in Hungary's architectural landscape.
- ✓ The bridge was built at a cost of four billion HUF [10 million euros], financed from the national budget.
- ✓ The government says that no European Union funds were used. Designed by renowned architect Péter Rácz

Q. Who has won the men's singles title of the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament?

- A) Alexander Ritschard B) Sumit Nagpal
C) Nikoloz Basilashvili D) Javier Barranco Cosano

Answer : B

- ✓ Sumit Nagpal wins his 6th ATP Challenger Tennis Title.
- ✓ Indian men's tennis player Sumit Nagpal won the men's singles title at the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament in Germany.
- ✓ It was the sixth ATP Challenger title for India's top-ranked men's tennis singles player.

- ✓ This win will improve the ATP ranking of Sumit Nagpal making him eligible for the 2024 Summer Paris Olympics.
- ✓ In the final of the Heilbronn Neckarcup 2024 ATP Challenger Tennis tournament played on 9 June 2024 in Germany, Sumit Nagpal defeated Alexander Ritschard of Switzerland in three sets 6-1, 6(5)-7(7), 6-3
- ✓ The Heilbronn Neckarcup title was Sumit Nagpal's sixth career title and fourth on clay court. It was also Nagpal's second title in 2024, following his win in the Chennai Open earlier this year.
- ✓ Sumit Nagpal also won the Challenger Tour titles in Tampere (Finland) and Rome (Italy) last year, in Buenos Aires (Argentina) in 2019 and the Bengaluru Open title in 2017.

Q. Apart from Narendra Modi who has been the Prime Minister of India for three consecutive terms after the promulgation of the constitution?

- A) Indira Gandhi
B) Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru
C) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
D) Lal Bahadur Shastri

Answer : B

- ✓ Narendra Modi sworn in for a historic third time as Prime Minister.
- ✓ Narendra Damodardas Modi was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India for the third consecutive time by President Droupadi Murmu on 9 June 2024. He was administered the oath of office of secrecy by President Droupadi Murmu in a simple ceremony in the Rastrapathi Bhawan in New Delhi. He is the second person after Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to be sworn in as the Prime Minister of India for the third consecutive time.
- ✓ Along with the Prime Minister, 71 ministers - 30 cabinet ministers and 41 ministers of state, five with independent charge, were also administered the oath of office by President Murmu.
- ✓ Narendra Modi equals Pandit Nehru's Record
- ✓ Narendra Modi equalled the record of India's first prime minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru records of being sworn in as the prime minister of India for the third consecutive time after the implementation of the constitution.
- ✓ Pandit Nehru became the prime minister of India on 15 August 1947 as India gained independence.
- ✓ The first Lok Sabha election was held in 1951-52, and Pandit Nehru was sworn in as Prime Minister by President Dr Rajendra Prasad in 1952.
- ✓ He was again sworn in as Prime Minister in 1957 after the Congress party won the majority in the second Lok Sabha(1957-62).
- ✓ He again became the Prime Minister in 1962 after the Congress party secured a majority in the third Lok Sabha (1962-67).
- ✓ Narendra Modi was sworn in as the 15th Prime Minister of India in 2014 after his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) led coalition National Democratic Alliance (NDA) secured a majority in the 16th Lok Sabha (2014-19).
- ✓ Narendra Modi was the chief minister of Gujarat before he was sworn in as the Prime Minister by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- ✓ Narendra Modi was again sworn in as Prime Minister a second time when the ruling coalition NDA secured a majority in the 17th Lok Sabha. He was sworn in by the President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✓ Indira Gandhi's record of being Prime Minister Four Times
- ✓ Indira Gandhi holds the record for being the Prime Minister of India four times.
- ✓ She became the Prime Minister for the first time in 1966 after the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- ✓ Under her leadership the Congress party won a majority in the fourth Lok Sabha (1967- 1971) and she was sworn in as the Prime Minister .
- ✓ Her party won a thumping majority in the fifth Lok Sabha (1971-77), and she was the Prime Minister during this time(1971-1977).

- ✓ She was again sworn in as the Prime Minister in 1980 after her party won the majority in the seventh Lok Sabha (1980-84).
- ✓ World leader's attendance at the swearing-in ceremony
- ✓ Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu,
- ✓ Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe,
- ✓ Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,
- ✓ Bhutan Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay
- ✓ Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth,
- ✓ Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', and
- ✓ Seychelles Vice-President Ahmed Afif.
- ✓ Women Ministers in Modi's Council of Ministers
- ✓ Among the 72 ministers (including the Prime Minister), seven are women ministers. They are as follows with their party and rank :
- ✓ Cabinet Minister Nirmala Sitharaman (BJP) from Tamil Nadu,
- ✓ Cabinet Minister Annapurna Devi (BJP) from Jharkhand,
- ✓ Minister of State Savitri Thakur (BJP) from Madhya Pradesh. She is a tribal leader.
- ✓ Minister of State Nimuben Bambhaniya, (BJP) from Gujarat.
- ✓ Minister of State Raksha Khadse (BJP) from Maharashtra,
- ✓ Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje (BJP) from Karnataka.
- ✓ Minister of State Annapriya Patel (Apna Dal), From Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has the highest representation and the largest number of seats in the Lok Sabha, eighty

Q. What is the title of Bill Gates' upcoming memoir, scheduled to be released on February 4, 2025?

- A) The Windows of Opportunity
- B) Code Red: Inside Microsoft
- C) Source Code: My Beginnings
- D) Gates Unlocked: A Tech Odyssey

Answer : C

- ✓ Bill Gates announces new memoir, 'Source Code'.
- ✓ Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates has revealed plans to release his highly anticipated memoir, titled "Source Code: My Beginnings." Set to hit the shelves on February 4, 2025, this literary endeavor promises to offer an intimate glimpse into the life and experiences that shaped one of the world's most influential tech pioneers.
- ✓ Gates, a renowned author of several books on diverse topics ranging from business and technology to global health and climate change, now turns his focus inward.

Q. Which political leader recently took oath as the Chief Minister of Sikkim for a second consecutive term?

- A) Prem Singh Tamang
- B) Pawan Chamling
- C) Bimal Gurung
- D) Hemant Soren

Answer : A

- ✓ Prem Singh Tamang takes oath as Sikkim CM for second consecutive term
- ✓ Sikkim Krantikari Morcha supremo Prem Singh Tamang (56) took oath as the Chief Minister of the Himalayan state for a second consecutive term.

- ✓ Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya administered the oath of office and secrecy to Prem Singh Tamang and his Council of Ministers during the swearing-in ceremony at Paljor Stadium

Q. Who was appointed as the first woman helicopter pilot in the Indian Navy during the passing out parade at INS Rajali Naval Air Station?

- A) Anamika B. Rajeev
- B) Smitha P. Tomar
- C) Priya J. Singh
- D) Aarti S. Sharma

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy gets first woman helicopter pilot.
- ✓ The Navy celebrated a historic moment as it welcomed its first woman helicopter pilot, Sub-Lieutenant Anamika B. Rajeev, during the passing out parade at INS Rajali Naval Air Station in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ In another feat, Lieutenant Jamyang Tsewang became the first Commissioned Naval Officer from the Union Territory of Ladakh to graduate as a qualified helicopter pilot at the same ceremony.
- ✓ A passing out parade was held on Friday to mark the graduation of the 102nd Helicopter Conversion Course (HCC) and completion of stage I training of the 4th Basic Helicopter Conversion Course (BHCC) at Naval Air Station – INS Rajali, Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu.

Q. Who made history as the first mixed martial arts fighter from India to win a bout at the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in UFC Louisville?

- A) Ritu Phogat
- B) Puja Tomar
- C) Arjan Bhullar
- D) Asha Roka

Answer : B

- ✓ Puja Tomar becomes first Indian to win in UFC.
- ✓ India's Puja Tomar scripted history as she became the first mixed martial arts fighter from the country to win a bout at the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in UFC Louisville.
- ✓ Debutant Tomar eked out a 30-27, 27-30, 29-28 split-decision win over Brazil's Rayanne dos Santos in the straw-weight (52kg) bout.
- ✓ The 30-year-old, known as "cyclone", signed a contract with the UFC last year in October to become the first woman from India to compete in the biggest Mixed Martial Arts promotion.
- ✓ Anshul Jubli and Bharat Kandare have represented India on the world stage in the UFC, as has Canada-based Arjan Singh Bhullar.

Q. The term 'Air LORA', recently seen in the news, refers to:

- A) a cyber defense system for protecting critical infrastructure
- B) a satellite launched for global internet coverage
- C) an air-to-ground ballistic missile
- D) a new energy-efficient jet engine

Answer : C

- ✓ Israel Aerospace Industries unveiled a new air-launched variant of its Lora ballistic missile recently.
- ✓ About Air LORA:
- ✓ It is an air-launched variant of the Long-Range Artillery (LORA) ballistic missile.
- ✓ It is designed and developed by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- ✓ It is a long-range air-to-ground missile (AGM) developed for strike missions against high-value and well-protected targets such as command centres, air force bases, infrastructure, and naval vessels in dense littoral environments.

Q. World Migration Report and Migration Health Annual Report are published by:

- A) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- B) International Labour Organization (ILO)
- C) World Health Organization (WHO)
- D) International Organization of Migration (IOM)

Answer : D

- ✓ At least 49 migrants died and 140 others were missing after their boat capsized off the coast of Yemen, the U.N. migration agency said on June 11.
- ✓ About International Organization of Migration (IOM)
- ✓ The IOM is an intergovernmental organization that provides services and advice concerning migration to governments and migrants, including internally displaced persons, refugees, and migrant workers.
- ✓ Establishment: IOM was established in 1951.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ Member States: IOM has 175 member states and 8 observer states.
- ✓ Mandate: To promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, through providing services and advice to governments and migrants.
- ✓ Publications: World Migration Report, Migration Health Annual Report.

Q. Who has been appointed as the 15th chief minister of Odisha?

- A) Naveen Patnaik
- B) Mohan Charan Majhi
- C) Pravati Parida
- D) K V Singh Deo

Answer : B

- ✓ Mohan Charan Majhi: BJP's first Chief Minister of Odisha.
- ✓ Mohan Charan Majhi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was sworn in as the chief minister of Odisha by the state Governor, Raghubar Das, in a ceremony at the Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar, on 12 June 2024.
- ✓ He is the first BJP leader to become the chief minister of Odisha.
- ✓ He is also the third tribal after Giridhar Gamang and Hemananda Biswal (both from the Congress party) to become the chief minister of Odisha.
- ✓ The Mohan Charan Majhi government has two deputy chief ministers, K V Singh Deo and Pravati Parida.
- ✓ Pravati Parida is Odisha's first female deputy chief minister.
- ✓ Mohan Charan Majhi is the 15th chief minister of Odisha after the promulgation of the constitution.

ODISHA IN NEWS 2024

- Mohan Charan Majhi of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was sworn in as the 15th chief minister of Odisha.

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched Project ODISERV in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- DRDO successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II from Su-30 MK-I platform of the Indian Air Force (IAF) off the coast of Odisha.
- 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.
- The famous silver filigree (Rupa Tarakasi) of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- DRDO successfully tested the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from Chandipur, Odisha

Q. Who has been sworn in as the 18th chief minister of Andhra Pradesh?

- A) Gottipatti Ravi Kumar B) Kandula Durgesh
C) Jagan Mohan Reddy D) Nara Chandrababu Naidu

Answer : D

- ✓ Chandrababu Naidu sworn in as Andhra Pradesh CM for the fourth time.
- ✓ Nara Chandrababu Naidu, leader of the Telugu Desam Party(TDP), was sworn in as the chief minister of Andhra Pradesh for the fourth time by Governor S Abdul Nazeer at a swearing-in ceremony at Kesarpalli IT Park near Gannavaram Airport in Vijayawada.
- ✓ Chandrababu Naidu, who was elected from the Kuppam legislative assembly constituency, became the 18th chief minister of Andhra Pradesh

ANDHRA PRADESH IN NEWS 2024

- Chandrababu Naidu sworn in as Andhra Pradesh CM for the fourth time.
- The city of Hyderabad officially ceases to be the joint capital of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh on 2 June 2024.
- Andhra Pradesh CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy unveiled the 206 feet tall statue of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar at Swaraj Maidan in Vijayawada on 19 January 2024. The world's tallest statue of BR Ambedkar is in Vijayawada.

Q. After whom has the International Astronomical Union named a crater on Mars?

- A) Devendra Lal B) C. V Raman
C) Satyendra Nath Bose D) Vikram Sarabhai

Answer : A

- ✓ International Astronomical Union (IAU) has named three new craters located within the Tharsis volcanic region on Mars after India's science community and Indian places.
- ✓ The largest crater has been named "Lal Crater" in honour of Professor Devendra Lal.
- ✓ The Mursan Crater is named after the Mursan town in Uttar Pradesh, India, while the Hilsa Crater is named after the Hilsa town in Bihar, India.

Q. Pema Khandu of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took the oath as the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the _ consecutive time.

- A) third B) second
C) fifth D) sixth

Answer : A

- ✓ Pema Khandu takes oath as the Arunachal Pradesh CM for third time.
- ✓ Pema Khandu of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took the oath as the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh for the third consecutive time on 13 June 2024.
- ✓ The Arunachal Pradesh Governor, Lt Gen (Retd) K T Parnaik, administered the oath of office and secrecy at Dorjee Khandu Convention Hall in Itanagar.
- ✓ The Governor also administered the oath of office to eleven cabinet ministers, including Chowna Mein as the Deputy Chief Minister of the state.
- ✓ Pema Khandu's led BJP won 36 out of the 50 assembly seats that went to the polls.
- ✓ The Arunachal Pradesh legislative assembly has 60 seats, but elections were held only on 50 seats

ARUNACHAL PRADESH IN NEWS 2024

- Pema Khandu takes oath as the Arunachal Pradesh Chief minister for third time
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sela Tunnel as part of his one-day visit to Arunachal Pradesh. Which is the world's longest twin-lane tunnel.
- Arunachal Pradesh presented its Singchung Bugun Village Community Reserve during the Republic Day parade.
- 9th edition of the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF), a state festival of Arunachal Pradesh, will take place at Seijosa in the Pakke Kessang district from January 18-20, 2024.
- 'Shar Amartala Torgya' Festival is an annual festival celebrated in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Arunachal Pradesh is also known as the 'Land of the Rising Sun or the Land of the Dawn-lit Mountains'.
- Arunachal Pradesh was initially a Union Territory, which was made the 24th state of India in 1987.
- Capital: Itanagar.
- Governor: Lt Gen (Retd) K T Parnaik

Q. According to the BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands report, which Indian information technology company has secured its position among the 100 most valuable brands in the world for the third consecutive year?

- A) Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) B) Wipro Limited
C) Infosys D) HCL Technologies

Answer : C

- ✓ Infosys Ranks Among Top 100 Most Valuable Global Brands.
- ✓ According to the BrandZ Most Valuable Global Brands report, Infosys, a leading information technology company, has secured its position among the 100 most valuable brands in the world for the third consecutive year.
- ✓ Infosys is ranked as the 74th most valuable brand in the world and ranked as 20th most valuable global B2B (business-to-business) technology brand.
- ✓ IT bellwether Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) is the most valuable Indian brand, ranked 46th globally.
- ✓ TCS is ranked 16th in the top 20 business technology and services platforms.
- ✓ A total of four Indian brands made the list in 2024 with a cumulative brand value of over \$130 billion.
- ✓ Notably, non-technology company HDFC Bank came in at 47 with a brand value of around \$43 billion. Airtel came in as the 73rd most valuable brand at a \$25 billion (approx) valuation.
- ✓ Globally, Apple has become the most valuable company in terms of market capitalisation and the first company to cross \$1 trillion in brand value, according to Kantar's BrandZ global ranking. It has surpassed Microsoft to regain its title as the most valuable company, marking a 15 per cent increase from the previous year. Following Apple, Alphabet's Google holds the second spot at \$753 billion, and Microsoft ranks third at \$713 billion.

- ✓ The international day was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations in 2001.
- ✓ The theme of World Milk Day 2024 is focusing on “celebrating the vital role dairy plays in delivering quality nutrition to nourish the world.”
- ✓ National Milk Day is celebrated every year on November 26. This special day honours the birth anniversary of Dr. Verghese Kurien, the "Father of the White Revolution in India,"
- ✓ India is the world's largest milk producer.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh is the highest milk producing state in India.

Q. Which institution has been awarded the Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion for 2024 by the World Health Organization (WHO)?

- A) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)
- B) National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)
- C) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)
- D) Tata Memorial Hospital

Answer : B

- ✓ WHO Nelson Mandela Award for Health Protection 2024 for NIMHANS.
- ✓ National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bengaluru has been conferred with the World Health Organization's (WHO) 2024 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion. Dr. Pratima Murthy, the director of NIMHANS, received the award.
- ✓ Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion.
- ✓ The 2024 award was won jointly by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), India and Professor Bontle Mbongwe of Botswana.
- ✓ About NIMHANS
- ✓ Established : 1974
- ✓ The institute is under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ✓ Main Campus: Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✓ Director: Dr. Pratima Murthy

Q. The mid-year climate conference, also known as the 60th Meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60), brings together countries that are signatories to the:

- A) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- B) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- C) United Nations (UN)
- D) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Answer : A

- ✓ As the world gears up for the 29th Conference of Parties (COP) to UNFCCC later this year, the Delhi-based think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has called on developed countries to fulfill their financial obligations in the fight against climate change.
- ✓ The 60th meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60), will take place in Bonn, Germany from June 3-13, 2024.
- ✓ About 60th meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60)

- ✓ The mid-year climate conference, also known as the 60th meeting of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB60) will bring together countries that are signatories to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ✓ National delegates and civil society representatives will make up a significant part of the around 6,000 participants expected to attend the meetings.
- ✓ The meeting will serve as a crucial midpoint between the 28th CoP in Dubai and CoP29 in Azerbaijan and its outcomes will set the stage for the next phase of global climate negotiations

Q. Which Indian company will operate Container Terminal 2 at the Dar es Salaam Port of Tanzania?

- A) Deendayal Port Authority B) Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority
C) Chennai Port Authority D) Adani International Ports Holdings Private Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ Adani Ports to manage Dar es Salaam Port of Tanzania for 30 years.
- ✓ The Gautam Adani-owned Adani group has entered the port business in the African country of Tanzania by securing a 30-year lease of Container Terminal 2 at the Dar es Salaam Port.
- ✓ An agreement was signed between the Tanzania Ports Authority and Adani International Ports Holdings Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ).
- ✓ Recently, the Indian government-owned Indian Ports Global Ltd secured a 10-year deal to manage and operate the Shahid Beheshti terminal of Chabahar Port of Iran.
- ✓ Adani Operated International Ports .
- ✓ Apart from the Dar es Salaam Port, the company owns the Haifa port in Israel and is developing a transshipment port in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- ✓ About Tanzania
- ✓ Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro (5,895 meters), is in Tanzania.
- ✓ Tanzania also has the second-deepest lake in the world -Lake Tanganyika (1,436 meters deep). The deepest lake in the world -Lake Baikal, is in the Siberian region of Russia..
- ✓ Lake Tanganyika is also the world's longest freshwater lake.
- ✓ Capital: Dodoma
- ✓ Currency: Tanzanian Shilling
- ✓ President : Samia Suluhu Hassan

Q. Who has been elected as the first woman president of Mexico?

- A) Lina Acosta B) Claudia Sheinbaum
C) Gabriela Aguilar D) Rocío Abreu

Answer : B

- ✓ Claudia Shienbaum :First elected Woman President of Mexico.
- ✓ Mexico has elected a woman president for the first time in its 200-year history.
- ✓ She will be sworn in as the President of Mexico on 1 October 2024.
- ✓ Claudia Shienbaum of the ruling Morena party.
- ✓ She is a staunch supporter of Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador.
- ✓ About Mexico
- ✓ Its capital, Mexico City, is one of the most populated cities in the world.
- ✓ Currency: Mexican Peso
- ✓ President : Claudia Shienbaum

Q. Who has been designated as the brand ambassador for Tobacco Control by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India?

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A) PV Sindhu

B) Saina Nehwal

C) Kidambi Srikanth

D) P. Gopichand

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian badminton maestro PV Sindhu designated as the brand ambassador for Tobacco Control.
- ✓ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, organized an event to observe World No Tobacco Day 2024 on May 31, 2024. This year's theme, "Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference," highlights the urgent need to shield youth from the detrimental influences of tobacco consumption.

Q. Which organizations have partnered to manufacture a 3D-printed rocket engine, named PS4, intended to power the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)?

A) NASA and SpaceX

B) ISRO and Infosys

C) ISRO and Wipro 3D

D) ESA and Boeing

Answer : C

- ✓ ISRO and Wipro 3D partner for space exploration with 3D-printed rocket engine.
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Wipro 3D have successfully manufactured a 3D-printed rocket engine, the PS4, set to power the fourth stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).
- ✓ The PSLV, ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle for earth observation and scientific satellites, relies on its fourth stage, the PS4, for precise orbital placement. This stage is crucial for missions related to remote sensing, oceanography, cartography, and disaster warning, among others.
- ✓ The successful integration of the 3D-printed PS4 engine signifies a transformative step in enhancing the PSLV's capabilities. Traditionally crafted through conventional machining and welding, the PS4 engine underwent a radical redesign using Design for Additive Manufacturing (DfAM) and Laser Powder Bed Fusion (LPBF) technology.

Q. OPEC+ recently reached an agreement to extend most of its deep oil output cuts until which year?

A) 2022

B) 2023

C) 2024

D) 2025

Answer : D

- ✓ OPEC+ Extends Oil Output Cuts Into 2025.
- ✓ OPEC+ agreed to extend most of its deep oil output cuts well into 2025 as the group seeks to shore up the market amid tepid demand growth, high interest rates and rising rival U.S. production.
- ✓ Brent crude oil prices have been trading near \$80 per barrel in recent days, below what many OPEC+ members need to balance their budgets. Worries over slow demand growth in top oil importer China have weighed on prices alongside rising oil stocks in developed economies.
- ✓ The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, together known as OPEC+, have made a series of deep output cuts since late 2022.
- ✓ OPEC+ members are currently cutting output by a total of 5.86 million barrels per day (bpd), or about 5.7% of global demand.

Q. Who is India's first woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations, retiring after 35 years of service?

A) Ruchira Kamboj

B) Sushma Swaraj

C) Nirupama Rao

D) Meera Shankar

Answer : A

- ✓ India's first female UN Ambassador, Ruchira Kamboj, retires after 35 years.
- ✓ India's first woman Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ruchira Kamboj retired after 35 years of service, during which she served as Indian envoy in Bhutan, South Africa and the UNESCO.
- ✓ She has held the positions of Permanent Representative of India to UNESCO, Paris; High Commissioner of India to South Africa. She was the First Female Indian Ambassador to Bhutan. She was the top-ranked woman in both the 1987 Foreign Service and Civil Services batches in India.

Q. Which day of the year is celebrated as the World Environment Day (WED)?

A) 6 June

B) 5 June

C) 4 June

D) 3 June

Answer : B

- ✓ World Environment Day is an annual event celebrated on June 5th to raise global awareness about environmental issues and encourage positive actions to protect the planet.
- ✓ World Environment Day 2023 is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the Netherlands.
- ✓ The theme for World Environment Day 2024 is "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience."
- ✓ World Environment Day is observed by individuals, communities, organizations, and governments in over 100 countries.
- ✓ World Environment Day was first celebrated by the United Nations in 1972.
- ✓ Its celebration on a global scale began on 5 June 1974 in Stockholm, the capital of Sweden, where an environmental conference was organised in the presence of 119 countries.

Q. What is the theme of World Environment Day 2024?

A) Time For Nature

B) Ecosystem Restoration

C) Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience

D) Beating Plastic Pollution

Answer : C

- ✓ The theme for World Environment Day 2024 is "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience."

Q. 'State of Ocean Report, 2024' which provides crucial insights into the current state of global oceans, is initiated by which one of the following?

A) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission

B) International Maritime Organization

C) World Meteorological Organization

D) United Nations Environment Programme

Answer : A

- ✓ UNESCO's 'State of Ocean Report, 2024' provides crucial insights into the current state of global oceans, emphasising the challenges posed by climate change and human activities.
- ✓ About UNESCO State of Ocean Report:
- ✓ The UNESCO 'State of the Ocean Report', initiated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) during the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference, serves as an accessible overview of the ocean's current status.
- ✓ It supports the monitoring of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030) and encourages actions towards a sustainable ocean future.
- ✓ The inaugural 2022 edition featured insights from over 100 marine science experts across various fields including ocean acidification, pollution, and tsunami warning.
- ✓ This report, and its subsequent annual editions released on World Oceans Day (June 8), aligns with the seven outcomes of the UN Ocean Decade.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the PraVaHa Software:

1. It is a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. It can simulate external and internal flows on launch vehicles, winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles.

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

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) recently developed Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software named PraVaHa.
- ✓ About PraVaHa Software:
- ✓ Parallel RANS Solver for Aerospace Vehicle Aero-thermo-dynamic Analysis (PraVaHa) is a Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) software developed in ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).
- ✓ It can simulate external and internal flows on launch vehicles, winged and non-winged re-entry vehicles.
- ✓ PraVaHa has been extensively used in the Gaganyaan program for aerodynamic analysis of human-rated launch vehicles, viz, HLVM3, Crew Escape System (CES), and Crew Module (CM).
- ✓ The software is secure and flexible enough to support collaborative development with academic institutions and government labs.
- ✓ Currently, the PraVaHa code is operational to simulate airflow for Perfect Gas and Real Gas conditions.
- ✓ Validations of the code are underway for simulating the effects of chemical reactions that occur during air dissociation upon 'earth re-entry' and 'combustion' as in scramjet vehicles.

Q. Which brand has P V Sindhu invested in and become the brand ambassador for, aiming to combat micronutrient deficiencies in India?

- A) NutriPlus
B) Better Nutrition
C) HealthFirst
D) VitaBoost

Answer : B

- ✓ PV Sindhu invests in, becomes brand ambassador for Greenday's 'Better Nutrition'.
- ✓ Two-time Olympic medallist and world champion shuttler P V Sindhu announced her investment and brand ambassadorship with Greenday's 'Better Nutrition' brand, which aims to combat micronutrient deficiencies in India through biofortified foods. Sindhu has also joined the startup as its brand ambassador.
- ✓ Sindhu's partnership with Greenday targets both consumer health and farmer prosperity by enhancing staple crops' nutritional value

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Tele-MANAS:

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
2. It aims to improve access to maternal and child health services through telemedicine.

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

- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to facilitate collaboration between the two ministries in operating a special cell of Tele MANAS.
- ✓ About Tele-MANAS:
- ✓ The Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS) initiative was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in October 2022.
- ✓ It aims to provide free tele-mental health services all over the country round the clock, particularly to people in remote or underserved areas.
- ✓ Tele-MANAS will be organised in a two-tier system:
- ✓ Tier 1 comprises state Tele-MANAS cells, which include trained counsellors and mental health specialists.
- ✓ Tier 2 will comprise specialists at the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP)/Medical College resources for physical consultation and/or e-Sanjeevani for audio-visual consultation.
- ✓ Currently, there are 51 operational Tele-MANAS cells functioning across all 36 States and UTs, offering services in 20 different languages.
- ✓ A toll-free, 24/7 helpline number (14416) is available as part of the initiative, allowing callers to select the language of choice for availing services. The service is also accessible at 1-800-891-4416.

Q. The World Wealth Report 2024, recently seen in the news, was released by which one of the following organisations?

- A) World Bank
B) World Economic Forum
C) European Union
D) None of the above

Answer : D

- ✓ The number of high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) in India increased by 12.2% in 2023 compared to 2022 as per the Capgemini Research Institute's World Wealth Report 2024
- ✓ About World Wealth Report 2024:
- ✓ It is released by the Capgemini Research Institute.

- ✓ It covers 71 countries, accounting for more than 98% of global gross national income and 99% of world stock market capitalization.
- ✓ Highlights:
- ✓ Global high-net-worth individuals (HNWI) wealth expanded by 4.7% in 2023, reaching \$86.8 trillion. Similarly, the HNWI population increased by 5.1% to 22.8 million globally.
- ✓ HNWIs are individuals with investable assets of \$1 million or more, excluding their primary residence, collectibles, consumables, and consumer durables.
- ✓ HNWIs are segmented into three categories based on wealth bands: Ultra-HNWIs (\$30 million or more), Mid-Tier Millionaires (\$5-30M) and Millionaires Next Door (USD 1-5M).
- ✓ Among the best performers in the APAC region were India and Australia, which recorded HNWI wealth growth of 12.4% and 7.9%, and HNWI population growth of 12.2% and 7.8%, respectively.
- ✓ HNWI in India increased by 12.2% in 2023 vs 2022, bringing the total number of HNWI population to 3.589 million.
- ✓ The financial wealth of India's HNWIs increased by 12.4% in 2023 to \$1,445.7 billion, compared to \$1,286.7 billion in 2022.
- ✓ India's unemployment rate decreased to 3.1% in 2023, down from 7% in 2022
- ✓ India's country's market capitalisation increased by 29.0% in 2023, after an increase of 6% in 2022.
- ✓ The country's national savings as a percentage of GDP also increased to 33.4% in 2023, compared to 29.9% in 2022.

Q. What groundbreaking initiative is Volvo Cars launching for its flagship EX90 SUV, making it the world's first in its category?

- A) Introduction of a new self-driving technology
- B) Implementation of a zero-emission engine
- C) Issuance of the world's first EV battery passport
- D) Launch of a solar-powered charging station network

Answer : C

- ✓ Volvo to issue world's first EV battery passport ahead of EU rules
- ✓ Volvo Cars is launching the world's first EV battery passport recording the origins of raw materials, components, recycled content and carbon footprint for its flagship EX90 SUV, the Swedish automaker
- ✓ Volvo owners can access a simplified version of the passport using a QR code on the inside of the driver's door
- ✓ The EV battery passport is a result of a collaboration between Volvo and UK-based startup Circular, which uses blockchain technology to map supply chains for companies.

Q. What prestigious award did the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) win at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+ 20 Forum High-Level Event in Geneva?

- A) UN's WSIS 2024 "Achiever" Award B) UN's WSIS 2024 "Innovator" Award
- C) UN's WSIS 2024 "Champion" Award D) UN's WSIS 2024 "Leader" Award

Answer : C

- ✓ C-DOT wins UN's WSIS 2024 PRIZE "Champion" Award at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+ 20 Forum High-Level Event held at Geneva.
- ✓ Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D centre of the Government of India, awarded UN's WSIS 2024 "Champion" Award for the project "Mobile-Enabled Disaster

Resilience through Cell Broadcast emergency Alerting”, recognised under AI, C-7, E-environment, in the category of ‘Benefits in all aspects of life – E-environment’.

- ✓ The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)+20 Forum 2024, a High-Level Event, conducted by International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland from 27th May – 31st May, 2024, recognised the project of C-DOT’s Cell Broadcast Emergency Alerting Platform for its outstanding contribution towards strengthening the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and underscores C-DOT’s commitment to leveraging technology for societal impact.
- ✓ The AI for Good Global Summit, which was organised along with WSIS, from 29th May to 31st May, 2024 at Geneva

Q. Who has been selected for the prestigious Gudleppa Hallikeri Award for 2024 by the Gudleppa Hallikeri Memorial Foundation?

- A) Siddhalinga Pattanashetti B) Shivarudraiah Pujar
C) Ganganath Nagendra D) Basavaraj Yankappa

Answer : A

- ✓ Poet Siddhalinga Pattanashetti chosen for Gudleppa Hallikeri Award.
- ✓ Poet and playwright Siddhalinga Pattanashetti has been chosen for the prestigious Gudleppa Hallikeri Award for 2024 by the Gudleppa Hallikeri Memorial Foundation, Hosaritti (Haveri District).
- ✓ This is the 19th award and will be presented in the honour of the birth anniversary of Gudleppa Hallikeri on 6 June.
- ✓ The Gudleppa Hallikeri Award honors those who have made significant achievements to literature, society, or social service. It bears the name of Gudleppa Hallikeri, a well-known liberation warrior who shared Mahatma Gandhi’s beliefs.

Q. Mongla Port is located in which one of the following countries?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ India is looking to operate the Mongla Port in Bangladesh and build a new terminal, aiming to counterbalance China's strategic presence in the region.
- ✓ About Mongla Port
- ✓ The Port of Mongla is located in the Bagerhat District of Bangladesh. It lies 62 km north of the Bay of Bengal coastline.
- ✓ It is situated at the confluence of the Pasur River and the Mongla River.
- ✓ The Port is surrounded and protected by the Sundarban mangrove forest.
- ✓ Mongla is the second largest seaport in Bangladesh after Chittagong.

Q. Who, along with Butch Wilmore, became the first to fly to space aboard the Boeing Starliner’s in the first-ever crewed mission, making her the first woman to fly on the maiden mission of a new human-rated spacecraft?

- A) Kalpana Chawla B) Sunita Williams
C) Peggy Whitson D) Anousheh Ansari

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian-American Astronaut Sunita Williams Becomes First Woman To Pilot New Spacecraft On Maiden Crewed Test Flight.
- ✓ Indian-Origin NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, along with Butch Wilmore, has become the first to fly to space aboard the Boeing Starliner's in the first-ever crewed mission. The 59-year-old Williams created history by becoming the first woman to fly on the maiden mission of a new human-rated spacecraft.
- ✓ The crew was launched to fly aboard the United Launch Alliance's Atlas V rocket from the Space Launch Complex-41 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida. The flight comes after several delays over the years.

Q. Who recently became the first person to spend 1,000 days in space, achieving the milestone on June 4, 2024, after making five journeys to the International Space Station dating back to 2008?

- A) Sergey Krikalev B) Yuri Gagarin
C) Oleg Kononenko D) Valentina Tereshkova

Answer : C

- ✓ Russian cosmonaut becomes first person to spend 1,000 days in space.
- ✓ Russian cosmonaut Oleg Kononenko has become the first person to spend 1,000 days in space. The 59-year-old achieved the milestone on June 4, having made five journeys to the International Space Station dating back to 2008.
- ✓ His current trip to the ISS began on September 15, 2023, alongside NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara and compatriot Nikolai Chub. If Kononenko's mission ends as scheduled September 23, 2024, he will have spent a total of 1,110 days in orbit.
- ✓ Kononenko first took the cumulative space time record in February 2024, when he surpassed the total of 878 days, 11 hours, 29 minutes, and 48 seconds set by fellow Russian Gennady Padalka.

Q. Who has been conferred the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024?

- A) Vellayan Subbiah B) Narayana Murthy
C) Uday Kotak D) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian entrepreneur Vellayan Subbiah was conferred the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2024 at a ceremony held in Monaco's Salle des Etoiles.
- ✓ Vellayan Subbiah became the fourth Indian to win this prestigious award in its 24 years of history.
- ✓ He joined the illustrious list of NR Narayana Murthy of Infosys, Uday Kotak of Kotak Finance, and Kiran Mazumdar Shaw of Biocon Limited.
- ✓ At present, Vellayan Subbiah is the Executive Vice Chairman of Tube Investments of India (TII) and the Chairman of the Non-Banking Finance Company Cholamandalam (Chola) Investment and Finance Limited.
- ✓ EY Awards.
- ✓ The EY Global limited hosts the annual World Entrepreneur of the Year event to celebrate the accomplishments of visionary leaders who are transforming industries, growing the economy and answering the call to address global challenges.
- ✓ Ernst & Young Global Limited is a United Kingdom-based company which has many subsidiary companies across the globe known as EY. The EY is a global consultancy firm which offers services in assurance, consulting, law, strategy, tax and transactions.

- Q.** Where was the first Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum meeting held?
- A) Japan
 - B) Switzerland
 - C) Singapore
 - D) Thailand

Answer : C

- ✓ Singapore hosted the first Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum meeting on 5& 6 June 2024. The meeting was held along with the
- ✓ Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial meeting. The Indian delegation was led by Sunil Barthwal, Secretary of the Department of Commerce.
- ✓ The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Clean Economy Investor Forum was organised to bring together the Asia Pacific region's top investors, clean economy companies, and start-ups to mobilise investments into renewable energy projects, sustainable infrastructure and climate technology.
- ✓ IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund
- ✓ The IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund was launched at the forum meeting. The IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund has been set up by IPEF member countries Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, and the United States, as well as by a private company, Infrastructure Development Group.
- ✓ These countries have committed to providing USD 33 million as a grant for the fund.
- ✓ The IPEF Catalytic Capital Fund will be managed by the Infrastructure Development Group. The fund seeks to attract up to USD 3.3 billion in private-sector investment in the region's energy projects.
- ✓ About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)
- ✓ The Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) is an American-led initiative that was launched after the COVID-19 pandemic, which disrupted the world's supply chain.
- ✓ China, which is the factory of the world, is the crucial link in the global supply chain. Many countries depend on Chinese factories for industrial products, semi-finished products, and raw materials.
- ✓ To diversify from China and build an alternative supply chain, the IPEF was launched.
- ✓ It was formally launched by American President Joe Biden on 23 May 2022 in Tokyo, Japan.
- ✓ The IPEF consists of 14 member countries -The United States of America, India, Australia, Brunei, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- ✓ Four pillars of the IPEF
- ✓ The IPEF is built around four pillars relating to Trade. They are:
- ✓ Pillar -I; Fair and resilient trade (including digital, labour, environmental and other standards);
- ✓ Pillar-2: Supply chain resilience;
- ✓ Pillar-3: Infrastructure, decarbonisation and clean energy; and
- ✓ Pillar-4: Tax and anti-corruption.
- ✓ India has not joined Pillar 1 and has an observer status. However, it has joined Pillars 2, 3, and 4.

- Q.** Which countries have been elected in 2024 as non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council?
- A) Maldives, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece
 - B) Thailand, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece
 - C) Peru , Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece

D) Pakistan, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece

Answer : D

- ✓ United Nations General Assembly has elected Pakistan, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece as the new non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. They have been reelected for a two-year term starting 1 January 2025.
- ✓ The election to elect five new members of the UN Security Council was held on 6 June 2024 in the UN's headquarters in New York, the United States of America.
- ✓ The newly elected members Pakistan, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece will replace Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Ecuador and Switzerland. These countries' terms will end on 31st December 2024.
- ✓ The newly elected members will join Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia as the other non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. The terms of Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia started on 1 January 2024 and will end on 31st December 2026.
- ✓ The terms of the newly elected Pakistan, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece will start on 1 January 2025 and end on 31st December 2027.
- ✓ The UN Security Council is the most important body of the United Nations, and it is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The decision of the Security Council is binding on all the members of the United Nations.
- ✓ It comprises 15 members, 5 of whom are permanent and 10 non-permanent.
- ✓ The five permanent bodies of the UN Security Council are the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, Russia and China. They have veto power, and if they vote against a resolution in the UN Security Council, then the resolution cannot be passed.
- ✓ The 10 non-permanent members of the UN Security Council are elected for two years and do not have veto power.
- ✓ India and the UN Security Council Membership
- ✓ India has been elected eight times as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. It was a member in 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992, 2011-2012, and 2021-2022.
- ✓ United Nations
- ✓ The United Nations is an international organisation that was formed in 1945 after the League of Nations failed to stop the Second World War.
- ✓ Initially, it consisted of 51 member countries, including India, but now, it has 193 member countries.
- ✓ Secretary General of United Nations: Antonio Guterres
- ✓ Headquarters: New York, the United States of America.
- ✓ Founded: 24 October 1945

Q. Which is the 81st wetland of India to be declared as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention?

- A) Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary B) Kolleru Bird Sanctuary
C) Manas Wildlife Sanctuary D) Nagi Bird Sanctuary

Answer : D

- ✓ Bihar's Nagi & Nakti Bird Sanctuaries takes India's Ramsar site to 82
- ✓ Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified Nakti and Nagi bird sanctuaries in Bihar as the newest wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar convention. Both the sites are man-made and situated in the Jhajha forest range of Jamui district of Bihar.

- ✓ Bihar now has three wetland sites under the Ramsar convention, and the total number of Ramsar sites in the country has increased to 82.
- ✓ About 81st and 82nd Ramsar Site of India
- ✓ Nagi Bird Sanctuary was notified as the 81st Ramsar Site of India. The Nagi wetland area, spread over 791 hectares in the Jamuail district of Bihar, is a man-made site created by constructing a dam on the Nagi River.
- ✓ Nakti Bird Sanctuary is the 82nd Ramsar site in India. It is also a man-made site created by Nakti Dam and is spread across 332 hectares. It is near the Nagi Bird Sanctuary and is also located in the Jamuail district of Bihar. The dam's lake is a habitat for over 150 species of birds, mammals, fish, aquatic plants, etc.
- ✓ The Nakti wetland was declared a Bird sanctuary in 1984. The Sanctuary has one of the largest congregations of red-crested pochards (*Netta rufina*) on the Indo-Gangetic plain.
- ✓ Bihar now has three Ramsar sites. The first one was Kanwar Lake in Begusarai district, which was declared a Ramsar site in 2020.
- ✓ India has 3rd largest number of Ramsar Sites in the world
- ✓ India and China jointly hold the third-largest number of Ramsar sites in the world, with 82 sites each.
- ✓ The United Kingdom leads the list with 175 sites, while Mexico is second with 144 sites.
- ✓ What is a Ramsar Site?
- ✓ Ramsar is an Iranian city where an international conference was organised in 1971 to discuss measures and steps to protect wetlands and their fragile ecosystems. An agreement was reached at the conference to protect wetlands around the world.
- ✓ The Conference, which was known as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, provides a framework for conserving and protecting wetlands worldwide which came into force in 1975.
- ✓ The list is maintained by the Ramsar convention's secretariat, which is based at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.
- ✓ India and Ramsar Convention
- ✓ India ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1982.
- ✓ The first Indian wetland sites included in the Convention were Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) in 1981.
- ✓ Amongst the states, Tamil Nadu has 16 sites, followed by Uttar Pradesh, which has 10.
- ✓ Largest Ramsar site in India: Sunderban of West Bengal
- ✓ Smallest Ramsar site in India: Renuka in Himachal Pradesh

Q. Which is the 82nd wetland of India to be declared as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention?

A) Nakti Bird Sanctuary	B) Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary
C) Chilka Lake Bird Sanctuary	D) Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer : A

BIHAR IN NEWS 2024

- Nagi Bird Sanctuary was notified as the 81st Ramsar Site of India. The Nagi wetland area, spread over 791 hectares in the Jamuail district of Bihar.
- Nakti Bird Sanctuary is the 82nd Ramsar site in India. It is also a man-made site created by Nakti Dam and is spread across 332 hectares. It is near the Nagi Bird Sanctuary and is also located in the Jamuail district of Bihar.
- According to the 6th Annual World Air Quality Report, Begusarai has emerged as the most polluted metropolitan area globally in 2023..

- The Central Government has announced that the Former CM of Bihar Karpoori Thakur will be awarded Bharat Ratna, Highest Civilian Award, posthumously.
- Karpoori Thakur served twice as CM of Bihar and once as Deputy CM of Bihar.
- Cabinet Approves 4.56 km Ganga Bridge In Bihar Connecting Digha- Sonpur.

Q. Consider the following:

1. United States of America
2. Australia
3. India
4. Japan
5. Canada

How many of the above countries are members of the Biopharmaceutical Alliance?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Biopharmaceutical Alliance was recently inaugurated in San Diego during the Bio International Convention 2024, the world's largest biopharmaceutical exhibition.
- ✓ About Biopharmaceutical Alliance:
- ✓ It is an alliance of India, South Korea, Japan, the USA and the European Union to put joint efforts into building a resilient supply chain in the biopharmaceutical sector.
- ✓ The participants emphasised the importance of a reliable and sustainable supply chain and agreed to coordinate the respective countries' biopolicies, regulations, and research and development support measures.
- ✓ The alliance was launched in response to the drug supply shortages experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The alliance was inaugurated in San Diego during the Bio International Convention 2024.
- ✓ The Bio International Convention is the premier event for the biotechnology industry, bringing together over 20,000 leaders from around the world.
- ✓ It represents the entire biotech ecosystem, from public pharmaceutical companies and biotech startups to academia, non-profits, and government agencies.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT):

1. It is a subcomponent of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.
2. National Green Tribunal is responsible for executing the scheme.

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

- ✓ Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) has issued Request for Selection (RfS) for Selection of Green Ammonia Producers for the production of Green Ammonia in India through cost based competitive bidding under Mode 2A of Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme.
- ✓ About SIGHT

Q. Which country has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- ✓ About International Solar Alliance
- ✓ India and France conceived the idea of the International Solar Alliance as part of the effort to mobilize the countries to use solar energy to counter global warming and climate change. The Indian prime minister Narendra Modi and the French president Francois Hollande agreed to set up the International Solar Alliance during the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015
- ✓ Spain
- ✓ Capital : Madrid
- ✓ Currency: Euro
- ✓ Prime Minister :Pedro Sanchez

ISA IN NEWS 2024

- Paraguay has become the 100th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Spain has become the 99th member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Panama has become the 97th member country of ISA.
- Malta as the 119th country to join the International Solar Alliance.
- Chile has become the 95th member of the International Solar Alliance.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced a capital infusion of \$35 million for its Global Solar Facility (GSF), aimed at stimulating solar investments in underserved regions, particularly in Africa
- 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. 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.
- ✓ 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.

Q. What is the rank of India in World Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index 2024 of WEF?

A) 28

B) 39

C) 45

D) 34

Answer : B

- ✓ India jumps to 39 rank in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024.
- ✓ India was ranked 39 out of 119 countries in the recently released Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024 by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ✓ The United States of America was ranked no.1, while India was the topmost-ranked country in South Asia.
- ✓ Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024
- ✓ The Travel and Tourism Development Index is a biennial report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The first Index was released in 2022.
- ✓ Earlier, the WEF used to publish the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), biennially since 2007. The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index was replaced by the Travel and Tourism Development Index.
- ✓ The Travel and Tourism Development Index benchmarks and measures the set of factors and policies that enable the sustainable and resilient development of the Travel and tourism sector, which plays a role in a country's development.
- ✓ 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: Cologny, 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.** 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.
- ✓ 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.

- 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 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

Answer : A

- ✓ Selena Gomez (United States) for the film Emilia Perez.

Q. Who won the Best Director award in the feature film category at the 77th Cannes Film Festival 2024?

- A) Steven Spielberg
- B) Miguel Gomes
- C) Martin Scorsese
- D) Christopher Nolan

Answer: B

- ✓ Miguel Gomes (Portugal) for the film Grand Tour.

Q. Which is the first Indian film to win the Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival?

- A) In Retreat
- B) Sister Midnight
- C) The Shameless
- D) All We Imagine as Light

Answer : D

- ✓ Payal Kapadia's directed film All We Imagine as Light made history at the 77th Cannes Film when it won the Grand Prix prize in the feature film segment.
- ✓ Payal Kapadia became the first Indian to win the Grand Prix award at the Cannes Film Festival.
- ✓ Another Indian Cinematographer, Santosh Sivan, became the first Asian to win the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.
- ✓ Payal Kapadia's film and Santosh Sivan Bags the Award
- ✓ For the first time after 30 years, an Indian film, 'All We Imagine as Light' directed by Payal Kapadia, was nominated for the Palme d'Or or Golden Palm. Golden Palm is the highest category of award in the Cannes Film Festival or feature films. 30 years ago, Shaji N Karun's 'Swaham' film was nominated for the Palme d'Or or Golden Palm award.
- ✓ Payal Kapadia film won the Grand Prix award in the feature film section which is the second highest award in the section after Palme d'or or Golden Palm.
- ✓ Renowned Cinematographer Santosh Sivan became the first Asian to be awarded the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. The Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award honours cinematographers for their careers and exceptional quality of work.
- ✓ Four Awards for the Indian's at the 77th Cannes Film Festival 2024
- ✓ This year, India has bagged four awards at the prestigious Cannes Film Festival 2024.
- ✓ Chidanand Naik bagged the first prize for India. His short film "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" won a prize in the La Cinef section.
- ✓ Actress Anasuya Sengupta created history at the Cannes Film Festival by winning the Best Actress award in the Un Certain Regard segment for her film Shameless.
- ✓ Payal Kapadia's directed film 'All We Imagine as Light' won the Grand Prix award.
- ✓ Santosh Sivan won the award the prestigious Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival for Cinematography

Q. Who won the Pierre Angénieux Tribute Award at the 77th Cannes Film Festival 2024?

- A) Santosh Sivan
B) Abhik Mukhopadhyay
C) Abinandhan Ramanujam
D) Arjun Jena

Answer : A

Q. Who is the first Indian to win a gold medal in Gymnastics at the Asian Gymnastic Championships?

- A) Sunita Sharma
B) Kalpana Debnath
C) Dipa Karmakar
D) Krupali Patel

Answer : C

- ✓ Dipa Karmakar of Tripura became the first ever Indian gymnast to win a gold medal in any Asian Championships.
- ✓ Dipa won the gold medal in the women's vault individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 26 May 2024.
- ✓ Dipa Karmakar scored an average of 13.566 points to bag the gold medal.
- ✓ Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (North Korea) Kim Son-hyang won the silver medal with 13.466 points, and Jo Kyong-byol, also of North Korea, won the bronze with 12.966 points.
- ✓ Dipa Karmakar was conferred India's highest sports award, the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award) 2016.
- ✓ She was honoured with India's fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri 2017.

Q. Dipa Karmakar, who was in the news recently, belongs to which sport?

- A) Alpine skiing
B) Gymnastics
C) Biathlon
D) Swimming

Answer : B

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.

Q.

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.
- ✓ India's ancient knowledge system, rooted in a 5000-year-old civilizational legacy, boasts a repository of intellectual texts and manuscripts.
- ✓ Project Udbhav, as per MoD, aims to facilitate a profound understanding of these systems and their enduring relevance in the modern era.

Q.

- A) Sunrisers Hyderabad
B) Kolkata Knight Riders
C) Rajasthan Royals
D) Chennai Super Kings

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) .
- 🏆 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 Challengers 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

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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Agnikul 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. 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
- ✓ 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. 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

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

- ✓ The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Ayush, launced “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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Fritz Luchsinger and Ernest Reiss of Switzerland were the first people to climb the Lhotse Peak on May 18, 1956.

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.

Q. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has partnered with which academic institution to develop India's first quantum diamond microchip imager?

- A) IIT Kanpur
B) IIT Delhi
C) IIT Bombay
D) IIT Madras

Answer : C

- ✓ TCS And IIT Bombay Collaborate To Create India's First Semiconductor Chip Imaging Tool.
- ✓ IT services major Tata Consultancy Services has entered into a partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, to develop what it said is India's first quantum diamond microchip imager.

- ✓ 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 theme for World No Tobacco Day 2024 is "Protecting children from tobacco industry interference."
- ✓ The Day was created by the member states of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1987.

Q. PV Sindhu lost the women's singles final of the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024 to whom?

- A) Wang Zhi Yi
- B) Kie Nakanishi
- C) Rin Iwanaga
- D) Lee Yu Lim

Answer : A

- ✓ Two-time Olympic medallist 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.
- ✓ The BWF Malaysia Masters 2024 was held in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur from 21-26 May 2024.
- ✓ Winners of the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024

Event	Winner	Runners -UP
Singles (Men)	V. Axelsen(Denmark)	Z.J.Lee(Malaysia)
Singles (Women)	Wang Zhi Yi (China)	PV Sindhu (India)
Mens (Doubles)	Kim Astrup and Anders Rasmussen (Denmark)	Jin Yong and Na Sung Sueng (South Korea)
Women's (Doubles)	Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi (Japan)	Lee Yu Lim and Shin Seung Chan (South Korea)
Mixed Doubles	Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie (Malaysia)	Rinov Rivaldy and Pitha Haningtyas Mentari (Indonesia)

- ✓ Badminton World Federation (BWF)

- ✓ The world badminton governing body, the Badminton World Federation (BWF) was set up as the International Badminton Federation (IBF) in 1934 at London, United Kingdom.
- ✓ Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ✓ 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

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).
- ✓ 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.

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. INS Kiltan, recently seen in news, belongs to:

- A) Delhi class B) Kamorta-class
C) Kalavari class D) Arihant class

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Naval Ship Kiltan arrived at Muara, Brunei and was accorded a warm welcome by the Royal Brunei Navy.
- ✓ It is an indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette.
- ✓ This is the third of the four Kamorta-class corvettes being built under Project 28.
- ✓ The ship derives its name from one of the islands in Aminidivi group of the strategically located Lakshadweep and Minicoy group of islands.

- ✓ Designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata
- ✓ It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs.

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. 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. Major Radhika Sen was deployed in which country as part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission for which she got a UN Award?

- A) Congo
B) Ghana
C) Chad
D) Sudan

Answer : A

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Major Radhika Sen becomes the second Indian to be awarded the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award.
- ✓ 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

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. 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.
- ✓ 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

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. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve is located in which one of the following States?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Odisha
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : D

- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department recently commenced a three-day-long elephant census at Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ About Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve:
- ✓ Location:
- ✓ It is located at the junction of the Eastern and Western Ghats in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, in the Erode District of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Its area is contiguous with the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka), and Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary (Karnataka).
- ✓ It was declared a tiger reserve in 2013.

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.

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?

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- A) Saga Dawa
C) Pang Lhabsol

- B) Drupka Tshechi
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.

Q. Which India woman has been conferred the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award?

- A) Arti
C) Sonam
- B) Soni
D) Neha

Answer : A

- ✓ An 18-year-old woman E-rickshaw driver from the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, Arti, has been conferred with the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award by the King of the United Kingdom, Charles III.
- ✓ The award ceremony was held at Buckingham Palace, London, England.
- ✓ Arti arrived at Buckingham Palace in a Pink E-rickshaw, which she received under the Mission Shakti scheme of the Uttar Pradesh government
- ✓ The Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award is named after the famous English Barrister Amal Clooney. The award is sponsored by a British charity, Prince Trust International. The Prince Trust International was set up by King Charles when he was Prince of Wales.
- ✓ Mission Shakti and Pink E-Rickshaw Scheme
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government launched Mission Shakti in 2020 to empower the women of the state through safety, security, and self-reliance. The scheme aims to provide a secure environment for women and provide training and access to livelihood schemes so that they can change their lives and become self-independent.
- ✓ As part of Mission Shakti, the government has launched the Pink E-Rickshaw scheme. The state government has aligned the Pink E-Rickshaw initiative with the Mukhya Mantri Yuva Swarozgar Yojana. Under this initiative, eligible women between 18 and 40 years old and 10th pass are provided six days of training on safety, security, and self-defence related to women's workplaces and another three days of training in entrepreneurship development.
- ✓ The woman gets an E-Rickshaw at a low-interest rate loan with a subsidy of Rs 49,5000.

Q. According to the Wildlife Institute of India, which state has the maximum population of Gangetic river dolphins in India?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ 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. 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.
- ✓ 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
- ✓ 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

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

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

- ✓ WEF founder, executive chairman Klaus Schwab to step back from current role.
- ✓ Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the World Economic Forum (WEF), will step back from his current role and become chairman of the board of trustees by next January, the organization said.
- ✓ The Geneva-based institution said in an emailed statement it was undergoing a planned “governance evolution” from a founder-managed organization to one where the president and the managing board assume full executive responsibility.
- ✓ Schwab’s goal was to create a forum for policymakers and top corporate executives to address major global issues and learn practices for leadership and management.

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.
- ✓ In India, the first AI news anchor named Sana was introduced by the India Today group on its Aaj Tak Hindi news channel in 2023. Sana has a human-like appearance and is fed data from a computer that it can read using text-to-speech technology. She is used to giving news updates several times a day.

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

Q. R21/Matrix-M vaccine, recently seen in the news, is developed for the prevention of which one of the following diseases?

- A) Mumps
B) Measles
C) Diphtheria
D) Malaria

Answer : D

- ✓ Vaccines manufacturer Serum Institute of India (SII) recently said it has started exports of 'R21/Matrix-M' malaria vaccine to Africa as part of the global fight against the disease.
- ✓ About R21/Matrix-M Vaccine:
- ✓ It is a new vaccine approved for the prevention of malaria in children.
- ✓ It is the second malaria vaccine recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), following the RTS,S/AS01 vaccine, which received a WHO recommendation in 2021.
- ✓ The vaccine was developed by the Jenner Institute at Oxford University and the Serum Institute of India with support from the European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership ('EDCTP'), the Wellcome Trust, and the European Investment Bank ('EIB')
- ✓ This low-cost, high-efficacy vaccine is already licensed by several African countries.

Q. Who recently made history as the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space?

- A) Rakesh Sharma B) Kalpana Chawla
C) Gopi Thotakura D) Sunita Williams

Answer : C

- ✓ 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 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 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 world's highest competitive swimming pool has been opened in which country?

- A) China B) Russia
C) Japan D) Bhutan

Answer : D

- ✓ World highest competition swimming pool opens in Bhutan
- ✓ World Aquatics has announced the opening of the first-ever competitive swimming pool at a record altitude of 2,400 meters above sea level in Bhutan.
- ✓ The pool is part of the Pools for All Program to promote aquatic sports in the region.
- ✓ Swimming's global governing body launched the program in 2019 to ensure accessible aquatics facilities to more countries and regions.

Q. When is the United Nations recognised International Tea Day observed?

- A) May 20
B) May 19
C) May 21
D) May 18

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.

Q. Which defence force has launched Operation Sadbhavana' to provide essential aid and healthcare in North Sikkim?

- A) Indian Navy
B) Indian Army
C) Indian Air Force
D) Indian Coast Guard

Answer : B

- ✓ 'Operation Sadbhavana': Army's support for North Sikkim's communities
- ✓ The Indian Army's Trishakti Corps under Operation Sadbhavana provided essential aid and healthcare to North Sikkim's Naga and Rangrang villages post-GLOF.
- ✓ Over 150 villagers received medical attention, and youths participated in educational sessions linked to the Agniveer Scheme for empowerment.
- ✓ These efforts, rooted in compassion, highlight the Army's commitment to fostering community development and strengthening bonds with border populations, ensuring sustained harmony and solidarity in the region.

IMPORTANT OPERATION & CODE NAME IN NEWS 2023-24

- ✓ **OPERATION SADBHAVANA**
- ✓ Indian Army's Trishakti Corps demonstrate unwavering support for North Sikkim's remote communities in Naga, Rangrang villages.
- ✓ **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**

- ✓ 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

Q. Sela Tunnel has been recognized as the highest tunnel of India by the International Book of Honour, England. Where is Sela Tunnel located?

- A) Himachal Pradesh B) Ladakh
C) Arunachal Pradesh D) Uttarakhand

Answer : C

- ✓ Sela Tunnel recognized as India's highest tunnel by International Book of Honour
- ✓ Sela Tunnel, constructed by BRO India, is officially recognized as the highest tunnel in the country by the International Book of Honour, England.
- ✓ The 2.598 Km long tunnel is situated at an altitude of 13000 ft on the Tezpur-Tawang Road.
- ✓ Situated at an altitude of 13,000 feet, the strategically important Sela Tunnel will ensure all-weather connectivity to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh.

TUNNEL IN NEWS 2024

- 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. With reference to PREFIRE Polar Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the NASA.
2. It reveals the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth's polar regions.

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.

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. Nandini Dairy will sponsor which country's cricket team in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024?

- A) Ireland
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Scotland
- D) South Africa

Answer : C

- ✓ Nandini dairy to sponsor for Scotland for T20 World Cup
- ✓ Scotland cricket team has unveiled its new ICC T20 World Cup jersey with Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) Nandini logo.

- ✓ The Nandini logo is featured in the leading arm of the jersey in both English and Kannada. The jersey was launched in Edinburgh by members of the playing squad.
- ✓ The Nandini brand, which is a household name in Karnataka, is sponsoring Scotland and Ireland teams in the forthcoming T20 World Cup.
- ✓ The tournament is set to begin from June 2 in the West Indies and the USA.
- ✓ The sponsorship amount is around Rs 2.5 crore per team. Further, the KMF is also launching Nandini Splash, a whey-based energy drink in the US during the tournament.

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-Nil 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 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 pair 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
- ✓ Supanida Katethong of Thailand defeated Han Yue of China to win the women's single title.
- ✓ Women's Doubles title:
- ✓ Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai pair of Thailand, defeated the Indonesian pair of Fabriana Dwipuj Kusuma and Amallia Cahaya Partiwi.
- ✓ Men's Doubles :
- ✓ Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty defeated the Chinese duo of Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the final.

Q. When is the International Museum Day observed globally?

- A) 15 May
- B) 16 May
- C) 17 May
- D) 18 May

Answer : D

- ✓ The International Museum Day is celebrated on 18 May, since 1977, to raise awareness about the fact that "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples."
- ✓ Theme of International Museum Day 2024 : "Museums for Education and Research"
- ✓ It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

Q. The World Bee Day is observed on which day of the year?

- A) 20 May
- B) 19 May
- C) 18 May
- D) 17 May

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Bee Day is celebrated every year on May 20 to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.
- ✓ The theme for World Bee Day 2024 is "Bee Engaged with Youth."
- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of Anton Jansa in 1734, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia.
- ✓ The day was proposed by Slovenia and proclaimed by UN Member States in December 2017.
- ✓ The first World Bee Day was observed in 2018.

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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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

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.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.

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.

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.
- ✓ 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. 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. 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

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.
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. 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.

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

- A) Pakistan
C) UAE
B) Qatar
D) Iran

Answer : D

- ✓ India and Iran have signed a 10-year bilateral contract aimed at enhancing the operations of Chabahar Port.
- ✓ This decision underlines India's strategic interests in Central Asia and parts of Europe.
- ✓ Chabahar Port is a port in Chabahar, located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman

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. 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 individual within the industry.

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. 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.

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 Sahṛdayāloka-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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Sahṛdayāloka-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 Mazagaon Dock Limited started its journey as a dry dock in 1774, constructed in Mazagaon, 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
- ✓ 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. 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. 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.

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.

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- ✓ 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. Neeraj Chopra won gold medal in Federation Cup 2024, where was it organized?

- A) Guwahati
- B) Shimla
- C) Patna
- D) Bhubaneswar

Answer : D

- ✓ Javelin star and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal at the Federation Cup 2024 held in Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ Neeraj, who won gold at the Tokyo Olympics, won the gold medal by throwing the javelin 82.27 meters in the final event.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra last participated in this event in 2021

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.

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. When is the International Day of Living Together in Peace observed in the world?

- A) 13 May
B) 15 May
C) 16 May
D) 14 May

Answer : C

- ✓ Every year, 16 May is observed as the International Day of Living Together in Peace.
- ✓ The Day is observed to highlight the importance of peace and living together in peace by the people of the world.
- ✓ The day also underscores the fact that though people in the world belong to different cultures and backgrounds, they can live together by accepting their differences and by developing the ability to recognise, listen and appreciate others..
- ✓ The Day aims to promote the desire to live and act together despite differences and diversity to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.
- ✓ The first International Day of Living Together in Peace was observed on 16 May 2018.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Swachhata Pakhwada:

1. It is an initiative launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission in 2016.
2. It is monitored closely using the online monitoring system of Swachhata Samiksha.

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 Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) has taken a significant step towards promoting cleanliness and environmental sustainability with the launch of Swachhata Pakhwada and it will run from 16th May to 31st May 2024.
- ✓ It is an initiative launched in April, 2016 under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ✓ Objective: It was launched with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging the central government ministries/departments.
- ✓ Aim: It aims to include all ministries and departments through a common programme to contribute for Swachh Bharat Mission.

- ✓ The ministries observing Swachhata Pakhwada are monitored closely using the online monitoring system of Swachhata Samiksha where action plans, images, videos related to Swachhata activities are uploaded and shared.
- ✓ For the Pakhwada fortnight, observing ministries are considered as 'Swachhata Ministries' and are expected to bring qualitative swachhata improvements in their jurisdictions.
- ✓ Key facts about Swachh Bharat Mission
- ✓ The Indian government launched the swachh bharat mission on October 2, 2014.
- ✓ The mission covered all rural and urban areas.
- ✓ The urban component of the mission is implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development, and the rural component by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- ✓ The programme includes elimination of open defecation, conversion of unsanitary toilets to pour flush toilets, eradication of manual scavenging, municipal solid waste management and bringing about a behavioural change in people regarding healthy sanitation practices.

Q. With reference to PREFIRE Polar Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the NASA.
2. It reveals the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth's polar regions.
3. It helps in assessing how efficiently far-infrared heat is emitted by snow and sea ice.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ A NASA PREFIRE polar mission is set to be launched from New Zealand on May 22.
- ✓ The Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment (PREFIRE) polar mission consists of twin satellites, each carrying one instrument and measuring the poles about six hours apart.
- ✓ Objective: The objective of the mission is to reveal the full spectrum of heat loss from Earth's polar regions for the first time, making climate models more accurate.
- ✓ Aim :
- ✓ The data from PREFIRE mission is aimed at addressing the gap in knowledge and provide data to improve predictions of climate change and sea level rise.
- ✓ Provide new information on how Earth's atmosphere and how ice influences the amount of heat being radiated out to space from the Arctic and Antarctic.

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

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

- ✓ Japan, US sign agreement to develop hypersonic missile interceptor.
- ✓ Japan and the United States are planning to develop interceptors to shoot down hypersonic missiles by the 2030s under a contract signed by the two countries.
- ✓ The plan, which will reportedly cost more than \$3 billion, was first announced in August when the nations' leaders met at a summit with South Korea in Camp David outside Washington.
- ✓ The Japanese government has already included 75 billion yen (\$480 million) in its 2024 budget for development of the interceptors. The 75 billion yen is part of a record defence budget of 7.95 trillion yen approved last year, as tensions rise with China and North Korea.

Q. Which space agencies plan to continue operating an instrument on an X-ray astronomy satellite despite an issue affecting one of its instruments?

- A) NASA and ESA
- B) NASA and CNSA
- C) NASA and Roscosmos
- D) NASA and JAXA

Answer : D

- ✓ NASA and JAXA to operate XRISM as-is despite instrument issue
- ✓ NASA and the Japanese space agency JAXA plan to operate an instrument on an X-ray astronomy satellite as-is for at least the next year and a half despite an issue affecting one of its instruments.
- ✓ JAXA launched the X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) in September 2023 and the spacecraft, whose instruments were developed in collaboration with NASA, has started its prime science mission. XRISM carries two instruments to conduct X-ray astronomy.
- ✓ That project, called CMB-S4, had planned to establish an observatory at the South Pole to study the cosmic microwave background, a signature of the Big Bang at microwave wavelengths, to better understand the early history of the universe as well as dark matter and dark energy.

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.

Answer : D

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

Answer : C

- ✓ 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. Which company has signed a deal with the Athletics Federation of India to become its official kit sponsor?

- A) PUMA India B) Adidas
C) Reebok D) Red Tape

Answer : A

- ✓ PUMA India has signed a deal with the Athletics Federation of India to become its official kit sponsor.
- ✓ Puma signed a multi-year deal to exclusively supply performance kits, speed suits and travel gear to every athlete under AFI representing India in track & field, jumps, throws, cross country running and marathons at both domestic and international tournaments.
- ✓ With the partnership, several international stars such as Neeraj Chopra (javelin throw), Kishore Kumar Jena (javelin throw), Parul Chaudhary (steeplechase), Subha Venkatesan (4x 400 m relay), Murali Sreeshankar (long jump), Jyothi Yarraji (hurdle), Priyanka Goswami (race walk) and Jeswin Aldrin (long jump) will benefit from PUMA's gear across sporting events.
- ✓ Kitting under this partnership does not include Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games.

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 Sathyan, 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. Which organization received the Geospatial World Forum (GWF) Leadership Award for “Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development” at the 2024 event in Rotterdam, Netherlands?

- A) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)
B) IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre)
C) DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)
D) BARC (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre)

Answer : B

- ✓ IN-SPACE honoured with Geospatial World Forum Leadership Award.
- ✓ The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) has been honoured with the Geospatial World Forum (GWF) Leadership Award for “Public Policy: Enabling Industry Development” at the 2024 event in Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- ✓ The award recognizes their groundbreaking efforts in advancing India’s space sector and supporting non-government entities.
- ✓ GWF Leadership Awards commend innovation and contributions to the global geospatial field since 2007

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. Name the operation launched Uttarakhand police for the smooth conduct of Kedarnath Dham Yatra 2024 in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand?

- A) Operation Sadbhavana
B) Operation Maryada
C) Operation Shraddha
D) Operation Darshan

Answer : B

- ✓ Police launched Operation ‘Maryada’ for the smooth conduct of Kedarnath Dham Yatra 2024 in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand.
- ✓ Under Operation Maryada, the police request pilgrims and tourists who consume drugs to maintain decorum in this area. Along with challan, the police is also registering a case against the rioters and drug users.
- ✓ Guptkashi DSP Harshvardhini Suman said, “Under Operation Maryada, we are taking strict action against those who are using any kind of intoxicants, it is not good for the temple and the Dham.

Q. Homegrown logistics services platform Porter has become ____ unicorn in India of 2024.

- A) second
B) third
C) fourth
D) fifth

Answer : B

- ✓ Porter becomes India’s 3rd Unicorn of 2024
- ✓ Homegrown logistics services platform Porter has become the third unicorn (with a valuation of \$1 billion and above) in India this year.
- ✓ Earlier this year, fintech firm Perfios and Ola’s AI venture Krutrim had turned unicorns.
- ✓ As per Tracxn, there were 113 unicorns in India as of earlier this month.

- Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX):
1. It is a collaborative endeavor between ISRO and NASA.
 2. It aims to explore the moon's southern polar region and investigate the presence of water and other elements.
- 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

- ✓ The India-Japan partnership for their joint moon mission, Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX), is likely to take flight in a few years, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said in an interview recently.
- ✓ About Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX):
- ✓ It is a collaborative endeavor between ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- ✓ The mission is scheduled to launch in 2025.
- ✓ 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).

- Answer : A

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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 CO₂ annually by 2030.

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 President 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.

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 Institute of Technology-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.

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

B) Karambir Singh

D) R Harikumar

- ✓ 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

- B) Adar C Poonawala

D) Farrhad Acidwalla

- ✓ Bharat Biotech co-founder Krishna M Ella was appointed president of the Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) for a two-year term from April 2024 to 2026.
- ✓ Krishna M Ella has taken over from Adar C Poonawala.
- ✓ Krishna M Ella aims to strengthen collaboration between vaccine manufacturers, researchers. Policymakers have been asked to accelerate vaccine development and improve production. The Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) also wants to support developing countries' access to affordable vaccines
- ✓ Adar Poonawalla has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Serum Institute of India (SII) since 2011.
- ✓ SII became the first Indian company to introduce AstraZeneca and Oxford vaccines under the brand name Covishield during Covid-19.
- ✓ Krishna M Ella takes over as chairman from Adar C Poonawalla, who held the post from 2019 to March 2024

- 758

- A) Visakhapatnam
- B) Kochi
- C) Mumbai
- D) Hyderabad

Answer : B

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

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

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. 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

- ✓ 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.

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.

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

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.

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

Q. Who won the 2024 Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize for designing the cover of “The Book Beautiful” written by Pradeep Sebastian and published by Hachette India?

- A) Bhavi Mehta
B) Pradeep Sebastian
C) Hachette India
D) Oxford Bookstores

Answer : A

- ✓ Bhavi Mehta wins 2024 Oxford Book Cover Prize for designing Pradeep Sebastian's 'The Book Beautiful'.
- ✓ Oxford Bookstores announced Bhavi Mehta as the winner of the 2024 Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize. She won the prize for designing The Book Beautiful written by Pradeep Sebastian and published by Hachette India.
- ✓ The winner, announced at India Habitat Centre (IHC) here, was felicitated with a trophy, certificate and one lakh rupees cash prize by art historian and the chair of the jury Alka Pande, author-politician Shashi Tharoor, Ambassador of Norway to India May-Elin Stener and CEO of Apeejay Oxford Bookstores Swagat Sengupta.

Q. Which company will be the lead arm sponsor for USA's cricket team in ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

- A) Amul
B) Mother Dairy
C) Tata
D) Dream 11

Answer : A

- ✓ 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

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.
- ✓ This is the second time that Dr Barman has been honoured with the Whitley Gold Award. She was also awarded the prize in 2017.

- ✓ Ms Barman received the trophy from charity patron Princess Anne – the Princess Royal, the sister of King Charles III, in recognition of her conservation of the stork known locally as “Hargila” in Assamese.
- ✓ The Whitley Awards also celebrated six other grassroots conservationists – from Guyana, Papua New Guinea, Bhutan, Cameroon, Nepal and Brazil – for their locally-led solutions to the global biodiversity and climate crises.
- ✓ Winner of the 2024 Whitley Gold Awards
- ✓ The first Indians to get the Whitley Gold Award were Archana Godbole and Brad Norman in 2007.

Q. High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems (HIMARS), recently seen in the news, is developed by which one of the following countries?

Answer : A

Q. Koothandavar festival, recently in news, is celebrated in:

A) Gujarat

B) Manipur

C) Maharashtra

D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : D

- ✓ Koothandavar festival at Koovagam in Tamil Nadu plays out a tale of marriage and widowhood, all in a day.
- ✓ In the Tamil month of Chithirai (mid-April to mid-May), the 18-day Koothandavar festival takes place in Koovagam of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It is the annual event, steeped in tradition, garners global attention for its unique celebration of the transgender identity.

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.

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.

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.
- ✓ The MQ-9B drone has two variants: SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian. The latter has been in operation by the Indian Navy since 2020.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It can carry up to 5,670 kg and has a fuel capacity of 2,721 kg.
- ✓ It can operate at altitudes exceeding 40,000 feet.

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 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.

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.

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.
- ✓ Andrey Rublev of Russia won the singles title of the ATP Madrid Open Masters 1000, beating Felix Auger-Aliassime of Canada 4-6, 7-5, 7-5, to win his second ATP Masters title.

Q. Who has won the 2024 Thomas Cup badminton title?

- A) China
- B) Indonesia
- C) India
- D) Malaysia

Answer : A

- ✓ China wins both Thomas and Uber Cup Badminton titles
- ✓ The Chinese badminton team confirmed its domination of the sport by winning both the men's Thomas Cup and the women's Uber Cup. The final of the 2024 BWF Thomas and Uber Cup was played in the Chinese city of Chengdu on May 5, 2024.
- ✓ Thomas and Uber Cup is held every two years and is organised by the world badminton governing body, the Badminton World Federation (BWF).
- ✓ In both the Thomas and Uber Cup, three singles and two doubles matches are played. However, if a team wins the first two singles and the first doubles, then no other matches are played.
- ✓ The 2024 edition of the Thomas and Uber Cup was held in Chengdu, China, from 27 April to 5 May 2024.
- ✓ 2024 BWF Thomas and Uber Cup

- ✓ For the first time since 2012, Chinese badminton has won both the men's and women's titles at the world team championships.
- ✓ Thomas Cup
- ✓ China defeated Indonesia 4-1 to win the Thomas Cup for the 11th time.
- ✓ 16 teams participated in the Thomas Cup, including India. However, the Indian team lost to China in the quarterfinals 3-1 to crash out of the championship. India was the defending champion.
- ✓ The Indian team won the Thomas Cup held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2022.
- ✓ Uber Cup
- ✓ The Chinese women's team defeated Indonesia 3-0 to win the Uber Cup for the 16th time. The Chinese women's team dominated the event by winning 24 straight games throughout the tournament.
- ✓ The Indian women's team lost in the quarter-finals to Japan 3-0.
- ✓ About Thomas Cup
- ✓ The Thomas Cup is also known as the World Men's Badminton Team Championship.
- ✓ The first Thomas Cup was held in 1948-49, and Malaysia won it by defeating Denmark in the final.
- ✓ To date, only six countries have won the Thomas Cup
- ✓ Indonesia has been the most successful team in the event, winning it 15 times. China has won the title 11 times. Malaysia has won it 5 times, Japan has won it once, and India has won it once in 2022.
- ✓ The only non-Asian country to win the Thomas Cup was Denmark in 2016.
- ✓ The 2024 Thomas Cup champion team is China
- ✓ About Uber Cup
- ✓ The Women's Badminton Team Championship is also popularly known as Uber Cup. The trophy has been named after England's great badminton player Betty Uber who designed and donated the trophy.
- ✓ Since 1984, Uber has been held along with the Thomas Cup at the same venue. It is also held every two years.
- ✓ The first Uber Cup was held in 1956-57 and it was won by the USA team.
- ✓ China is the most successful team, having won it 16 times, and Japan has won it 6 times. The Indian women's team has never won the Uber Cup.
- ✓ The 2024 champion team is China

Q. Who has won the 2024 Uber Cup badminton title?

- A) Japan
- B) India
- C) Indonesia
- D) China

Answer : D

Q. Which team has won the 2023-24 Indian Super League title?

- A) Mohun Bagan Super Giant
- B) Mumbai City FC
- C) FC Goa
- D) Odisha FC

Answer : B

- ✓ Mumbai City FC defeat Mohun Bagan Super Giant to win the ISL 2023-24
- ✓ Mumbai City FC football club defeated Mohun Bagan Bagan Super Giant by 3-1 goals to win the 2023-24 Indian Super League (ISL) final, which was played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan Stadium in Kolkata (West Bengal). This was Mumbai City FC's second title.
- ✓ Incidentally, Mumbai City FC won its first ISL title in 2020-21 by defeating the Mohun Bagan team
- ✓ The winner of the ISL 2023-24 Mumbai City FC took Rs 6 crore as the prize money, and the runners-up, Mohun Bagan Super Giant, got Rs 3 crore as prize money.

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

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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

- ✓ 36th La Liga Title for Real Madrid football club
- ✓ The Spanish football club Real Madrid has been crowned the La Liga 2023-24 season title after beating Cadiz 3-0. In the other match, which had a bearing on the title, the Girona football club defeated Barcelona 4-2 to ensure that Real Madrid won its 36th La Liga title.
- ✓ Real Madrid, also known as Los Blancos by its supporters, leads the 2023-24 La Liga season with 87 points, with four games still to play.
- ✓ Real Madrid has taken an unassailable lead of 13 points over its nearest rival, Girona.
- ✓ Brahim Diaz, Jude Bellingham and Joselu scored the goals for Real Madrid in the match against Cadiz. La Liga is the top domestic men's professional football tournament in Spain.

Q. India's premier biennial motor show "Auto Expo" will be held in which city in 2025?

A) Hyderabad

B) Mumbai

C) Chennai

D) New Delhi

Answer : D

- ✓ Auto Expo set to move back to New Delhi in 2025

- ✓ 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 Frontières (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 topped the World Press Freedom Index 2024?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Norway retained its position as the country with the most free press in the world.
- ✓ World Press Freedom Index 2024, Top 10 Free Countries
 1. Norway
 1. Denmark
 2. Sweden
 3. Netherlands
 4. Finland
 5. Estonia
 6. Portugal
 7. Ireland
 8. Switzerland
 9. Germany

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. 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. 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 HNWI (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

Rank	City/Area	Country	Millionaires
1	New York City	USA	349,500
2	The Bay Area	USA	305,700
3	Tokyo City	Japan	298,300
4	Singapore	Singapore	244,800
5	London	United Kingdom	227,000
6.	Los Angeles	USA	212,100
7.	Paris	France	165,000
8	Sydney	Australia	147,000
9	Hong Kong	China	143,400
10.	Beijing	China	125,600

Q. Which Indian city/cities have been included in the top 50 wealthiest cities of the world by the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024?

- A) Mumbai & Delhi B) Chennai & Hyderabad
C) Bengaluru & Kolkata D) Pune & Bengaluru

Answer : A

Q. With reference to World Migration Report 2024, consider the following statements:

1. It is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. China is the origin of the largest number of international migrants.
3. India is the top remittance recipient country in the world.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ India received over USD 111 billion in remittances in 2022, becoming the first country to reach and even surpass the USD 100 billion mark, according to the World Migration Report 2024.

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- ✓ About World Migration Report:
- ✓ It is a bi-annual report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- ✓ It presents key data and information on migration, as well as thematic chapters on highly topical migration issues.
- ✓ Highlights of the 2024 Report:
- ✓ Overall, the estimated number of international migrants has increased over the past five decades.
- ✓ The current global estimate is that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 percent of the global population.
- ✓ India is the origin of the largest number of international migrants-nearly 18 million-with a large diaspora in UAE, US and Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ There were 3.47 million Indians in UAE, followed by 2.7 million in US and 2.5 million in Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ 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. 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.
- ✓ Putin, in power as president or prime minister since 1999. In 1999, after President Boris Yeltsin's resignation, Putin was appointed interim president of Russia
- ✓ About Russia
- ✓ Capital : Moscow
- ✓ Currency : Rubel
- ✓ President : Vladimir Putin
- ✓ Prime Minister : Mikhail Mishustin

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA):

1. It is a multi-stakeholder alliance of Governments, International Organizations and Industries.
2. It is an initiative by the United Nations to position biofuels as a key to the energy transition.

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 Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) has adopted a work plan focused on assessing country landscapes, drafting policy frameworks, and conducting biofuel workshops, petroleum and natural gas ministry officials said recently.
- ✓ About Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA):
- ✓ GBA is a multi-stakeholder alliance of Governments, International Organizations, and Industries.
- ✓ 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

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

- A) Mumbai
B) Kochi
C) Chennai
D) Ahmedabad

Answer : B

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

- ✓ 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 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).

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.

BEST MCQ WITH FACTS

APRIL 2024

Q. Which Indian has been selected for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize?

- A) Medha Patkar
B) Jadav Payeng
C) Alok Shukla
D) Mike Pandey

Answer : C

- ✓ Alok Shukla get's 2024 Goldman Prize for his Hasdeo Arand movement.
- ✓ Chhattisgarh's environmental activist and convenor of Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan Alok Shukla has been selected for the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize.
- ✓ The Goldman Environmental Prize, also popularly known as the Green Nobel Prize, is awarded annually to grassroots environmental champions worldwide.
- ✓ Alok Shukla and his work to protect Hasdeo Arand Forest
- ✓ Hasdeo Arand forest area of Chhattisgarh is considered to be the lungs of Chhattisgarh. The area is rich in coal, and in 2010, the government auctioned two coal blocks to private companies for mining. To save the forest area and its ecosystem, Alok Shukla founded Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti.
- ✓ Winners of the 2024 Goldman Environmental Prize
- ✓ This year, seven people from six inhabited regions of the globe have been selected for the annual Goldman Environmental Prize. They are

Serial no.	Winner	Country
1	Marcel Gomes	Brazil
2	Murrawah Maroochy Johnson	Australia
3	Alok Shukla	India
4	Teresa Vicente	Spain
5	Andrea Vidaurre	United States of America
6	Nonhle Mbuthuma and Sinegugu Zukulu	South Africa

Q. Which will be the World's Largest Airport?

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- A) China Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport
- B) Al Maktoum International Airport
- C) Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- D) Tokyo Haneda International Airport

Answer : B

- ✓ Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport will be World's Largest
- ✓ Dubai, known for its futuristic and innovative approach, has recently launched a groundbreaking airport project to create the world's largest capacity airport upon completion.
- ✓ This was announced by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the ruler of Dubai. The government has approved the designs for the new passenger terminals at the upcoming Al Maktoum International Airport.
- ✓ Sheikh Mohammed has a bold vision of establishing a complete city around the airport in Dubai South. It will not only serve as an airport, but also as the world's airport, its port, its urban hub, and a new global center.
- ✓ With an estimated cost of AED 128 billion (approximately \$34.85 billion or nearly Rs 2.9 lakh crore) the Al Maktoum International Airport project is a strategic initiative of the Dubai Aviation Corporation.

Q. Which media company's AI news anchor Sana has won the International News Media Association (INMA)'s 2024 Global Media Award for AI-led newsroom transformation?

- A) India Today
- B) The Hindu
- C) Indian Express
- D) DD news

Answer : A

- ✓ India Today Group's AI news anchor, Sana has won the International News Media Association (INMA)'s 2024 Global Media Award for AI-led newsroom transformation.
- ✓ India Today Group has been selected as the best in South Asia for 'AI-led newsroom transformation'.
- ✓ The company's human-collaborative AI anchor, Sana, won first place among national brands for the 'best use of AI in customer-facing products'.
- ✓ The India Today Group introduced India's First AI Anchor, Sana, in March 2023.
- ✓ Sana boasts a diverse set of capabilities, excelling in multilingual communication with virtually no learning curve.
- ✓ Notably, it seamlessly transitions across a spectrum of topics and formats without succumbing to fatigue, thus addressing the dynamic demands of our newsroom.
- ✓ The awards ceremony was held at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London
- ✓ About Artificial Intelligence (AI):
- ✓ Artificial Intelligence (AI) was developed in the 1950s. It is the technology that enables computer systems or robots to use logic similar to the human brain.
- ✓ In simpler terms, AI is the science of creating intelligent machines that can make decisions and think like humans. John McCarthy, the father of AI, defined it as the intelligence displayed by machines.
- ✓ AI is used to create computer-controlled robots or software that can think like humans. The study of AI involves exploring how the human brain thinks, learns, and works when solving problems.

Q.

- A) Justice Dinesh Kumar

B) Justice Harnath Prasad Asthana

C) Justice Dwijendra Nath Roy

D) Justice Gopalji Mehrotra

Answer : A

- ✓ Justice (retired) Dinesh Kumar took charge as the Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT) on 29 April 2024.
- ✓ The government of India appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar for a four-year term.
- ✓ Before taking over as the presiding officer of SAT, Justice Dinesh Kumar was the chief justice of the Karnataka High Court. He retired from the post in February 2024.
- ✓ The SAT has been functioning without a presiding officer for the last four months, as the last presiding officer, Justice Tarun Aggarwal, retired in December 2023.
- ✓ Dheeraj Bhatnagar also took charge as the technical member of the tribunal. He has been appointed for a term of four years or till he reaches the age of 67, whichever is earlier. Dheeraj Bhatnagar retired as principal chief commissioner of Income Tax Delhi.
- ✓ The other member of the three-member SAT is Meera Swarup.
- ✓ About Securities Appellate Tribunal
- ✓ The Securities Appellate Tribunal is a statutory body established in 1992 under the provisions of the Securities Exchange Board of India Act 1992.
- ✓ Functions of SAT
- ✓ The Securities Appellate Tribunal was set up to replace the High Court. It hears appeals against the following financial regulators.
- ✓ Orders and rulings of the capital market regulator, Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ Orders and rulings of the pension sector regulator Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ✓ Orders and rulings of the Insurance sector regulator Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI)
- ✓ Composition of SAT
- ✓ The SAT consist of a Presiding Officer and other judicial and technical members
- ✓ Appointment of the SAT member
- ✓ The Presiding Officer and Judicial Members are appointed by the government of India in consultation with the Chief Justice of India or its nominee.
- ✓ Tenure
- ✓ The tenure for the Presiding Officer and other members will be five years from the date of appointment, and they shall be eligible for re-appointment for a maximum of five more years.
- ✓ The maximum age of the Presiding officer or the member shall not be more than 70 years.
- ✓ However, the government has the power to specify the tenure while appointing the Presiding Officer and other members
- ✓ The rulings of the SAT can be challenged only in the Supreme Court
- ✓ Jurisdiction
- ✓ The SAT has jurisdiction all over India. Its bench is in Mumbai.

Q.

- A) Uma Sharma

B) Rama Vaidyanathan

C) Hema Malini

D) Saira Banu

Answer : C

- ✓ Hema Malini, Saira Banu & 8 others to get Pt. Lacchu Maharaj Award

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- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The award will be given on 31 August 2024 at a ceremony in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The decision was taken at a meeting held at Bhatkhande Sanskriti University, Lucknow, presided over by the university vice-chancellor, Prof. Mandavi Singh. The meeting was also attended by the secretary of Pt. Lachhu Maharaj Bellet Foundation and senior disciple of Pandit Lachhu Maharaj, Kumkum Adarsh.
- ✓ 10 eminent personalities to be awarded the Lacchu Maharaj award
- ✓ The Lacchu Maharaj Award, Instituted in memory of the famous kathak exponent Lacchu Maharaj, was not given after 2014. Thus, the Pandit Lacchu Maharaj Ballet Foundation has decided to honour 10 personalities this year. No award has been announced for the year 2020 due to COVID-19. The awardees are:

Serial Number	Awardee	Award for Year	Belongs to Place	Exponent of Dance form
1	Uma Sharma	2015	New Delhi	Kathak
2	Rama Vaidyanathan	2016	New Delhi	Kathak
3	Uma Dogra	2017	Jaipur	Kathak
4	Hema Malini	2018	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
5	Saira Banu	2019	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
6	Sandhya Puricha, Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi	2018	Mumbai	Bharatanatyam Exponent
7	Dr. Malabika Mitra	2021	Kolkata	Kathak
8	Prachi Shah	2022	Mumbai	Kathak, Film actress
9	Ashim Bandhu Bhattacharya	2023	Mumbai	Kathak
10	Pandit Rajendra Gangani	2024	Jaipur	Kathak

- ✓ About Lacchu Maharaj
- ✓ In the field of art and culture, there are two famous artists who go by the name of Lacchu Maharaj. One was a famous Kathak dancer, and another was a famous tabla player. The Lacchu Maharaj Award has been instituted in honour of the famous Kathak exponent.
- ✓ Lacchu Maharaj, who was born Baij Nath Prasad in Lucknow in 1907, was a noted classical Kathak dancer and choreographer. He died in 1978
- ✓ Lacchu Maharaj was the founder and director of the Uttar Pradesh government's Kathak Kendra in Lucknow.
- ✓ He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1957.
- ✓ About Kathak Dance
- ✓ The government of India recognises Kathak as one of eight classical dance forms. The other classical dance forms are Bharatnatyam(Tamil Nadu), Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh), Odissi (Odisha), Manipuri (Manipur), Sattriya (Assam), Kuchipudi, and Mohiniyattam from Kerala.
- ✓ Kathak originated in North India and was later enriched by the Mughals. It is the only classical dance form which has been enriched by Muslim culture. Wajid Ali Shah, the last Nawab of Oudh (Awadh), founded the Lucknow gharana of Kathak. The other gharanas of Kathak are Jaipur and Benaras.
- ✓ The most famous exponent of Katha is Birju Maharaj.

Q. How many medals were won by the Indian archers at the 2024 World Cup Stage -1 Shanghai event?

- A) 8
- B) 9
- C) 6
- D) 4

Answer : A

- ✓ Historic gold for the Indian Archery team at the Archery World Cup Stage-1.
- ✓ The Indian men's recurve team won a historic gold medal at the Archery World Cup Stage-1 by defeating the world-champion South Korean team for the first time ever. The gold medal ended a 14-year gold medal drought at the men's recurve team event at the Archery World Cup.
- ✓ India finished the Archery World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai with eight medals - five gold, two silvers and one bronze. This is India's highest medal tally at any single edition of an archery World Cup.
- ✓ India sent a 16-member archery team for the Shanghai event. It consisted of eight men and eight women players.
- ✓ Indian men's recurve team historic gold .
- ✓ The Indian men's recurve team of Dhiraj Bommadevara, Tarundeep Rai and Pravin Jadhav defeated the World no.1 ranked South Korean team in the final.The Indian team defeated South Korea's team consisting of World and Asian Games champions Lee Wooseok and Olympic champions Kim Je Deok and Kim Woojin 5-1 (57-57, 57-55, 55-53) to win a gold medal after 14 years.
- ✓ Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins hat trick of Gold Medal
- ✓ Asian Games champion and World number 3 Jyothi Surekha Vennam of Andhra Pradesh won a hat-trick of gold medals in the compound event. She won gold in the individual, women's team and mixed team events.
- ✓ At the Shanghai event, the Indian team won a total of eight medals: five gold medals, two silver medals, and one bronze medal

Answer : C

- ✓ **Saudi company Aramco to sponsor FIFA World Cup**
- ✓ The world football governing body FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) announced a major sponsorship deal with the Saudi Arabian oil giant Aramco on 25 April 2024. Under the deal, Aramco company would sponsor major FIFA tournaments until 2027.
- ✓ Saudi Sponsorship of International Events
- ✓ Under the FIFA deal, the Aramco company would sponsor multiple FIFA events, including the 2026 Men's World Cup and the 2027 Women's World Cup. The 2026 Men's World Cup will be co-hosted by Canada, the United States and Mexico. The host country for the Women's World Cup 2027 is yet to be decided.
- ✓ **Saudi Aramco Company**
- ✓ The Saudi Arabian oil Company is also known as Saudi Aramco.
- ✓ The Saudi Aramco company is owned by the government of Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ It is in the field of exploration and transportation of oil and gas. It is also in the business of refining petroleum oil and other petrochemical business.
- ✓ It is the world's largest oil-producing company.
- ✓ It is the most profitable company in the world.
- ✓ Headquarters: Dhahran, Saudi Arabia
- ✓ **FIFA Men's World Cup**
- ✓ The FIFA Men's Football World Cup is a senior men's football championship organised every four years.
- ✓ Uruguay hosted the first World Cup in 1930. Due to the World Wars, no World Cup was held in 1942 and 1946.
- ✓ The 21st World Cup was hosted by Qatar in 2022 and won by Argentina.
- ✓ The 22nd World Cup would be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada in 2026.
- ✓ The 23rd World Cup would be co-hosted by Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay in 2030. It would be hosted by six countries in three continents.
- ✓ The 24th World Cup 2034 would be hosted by Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ Brazil is the most successful team in the world, having won it five times, while Italy and Germany have won it four times each.
- ✓ FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association)
- ✓ It is the world governing body of men's and women's football.
- ✓ Headquarters of FIFA: Zurich, Switzerland.
- ✓ President: Gianni Infantino

Q. Which country will host the FIFA Men's World Cup 2034?

- A) UAE
- B) India
- C) Qatar
- D) Saudi Arabia

Answer : D

- ✓ Saudi Arabia to host forthcoming international events
- ✓ Football events
- ✓ Saudi Arabia is to host the 2034 Men's FIFA World Cup. It was the only country to bid for the event. FIFA will formally announce Saudi Arabia as the host of the 2034 Men's FIFA World Cup after its approval by the FIFA member federations.
- ✓ Asian Games
- ✓ Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 Asian Games in Riyadh, its capital city. The Games will feature more sports events than the Summer Olympics

Q. Which Indian company has been awarded the management of the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, Hambantota, by the Sri Lanka government?

- A) Zen Technologies
B) Shaurya Aeronautics (Pvt) Ltd
C) Paras Defence And Space
D) Hindustan Aeronautics

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian & Russian companies to manage China built airport in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ 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. This information was given by the Sri Lankan government on 26 April 2024 after a cabinet meeting
- ✓ The Sri Lankan government will lease the management of the Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport or Hambantota Airport to Shaurya Aeronautics (Pvt) Ltd. of India and Airports of Regions Management Company of Russia. The companies will manage the airport for 30 years. The price of the contract has not been disclosed.
- ✓ The Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport (MRIA) was built in Hambantota as the second international airport in Sri Lanka

Q. Which city's airport has won the prestigious 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award by Skytrax?

- A) Hyderabad
B) New Delhi
C) Bengaluru
D) Chandigarh

Answer : A

- ✓ 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, on April 17.
- ✓ This highlights the staff's exceptional service quality across various fronts, recognized for attitude, friendliness, and efficiency.
- ✓ The accolade underscores their dedication in enhancing the overall passenger experience, covering roles from customer help to security and food services

Q. Election Commission of India launched which app to facilitate easier voting for persons above 85 years of age and PWDs with 40%?

- A) Madad App
B) Sankalp App
C) Saksham App
D) Kavach App

Answer : C

- ✓ Saksham App For Elders, Differently abled voters flooded with requests.
- ✓ During the second phase of Lok Sabha Elections in Bengaluru, the Saksham app received 558 requests for assistance. Out of these, 328 were for wheelchairs, 206 for free pick-up and drop, and 24 for volunteers.
- ✓ About Saksham App
- ✓ The Saksham App offers various features to assist Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in registering to vote, locating their polling station, and casting their vote.
- ✓ Other Application of ECI

- ✓ Yuvraj Singh becomes ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Ambassador
- ✓ The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced India's famous former cricketer Yuvraj Singh as the ambassador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 with 36 days to go for the commencement of the grand event.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh hit six sixes in an over during India's successful Men's T20 World Cup 2007 campaign.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh joins Chris Gayle and Usain Bolt as previously announced ambassadors. Usain Bolt is a Jamaican international sprinter and eight-time Olympic gold medalist. All this will add to the excitement of the biggest T20 World Cup ever.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh was one of the key players in India's 2007 T20 World Cup win. This first T20 World Cup was organized in South Africa. In this, India won the first T20 World Cup title by defeating Pakistan.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh also became the first player to hit six sixes in an over against England in a match of the first T20 World Cup. He did this against Stuart Broad of England.
- ✓ Yuvraj Singh has played all the T20 World Cups till 2016. India has yet to win a World Cup since 2007
- ✓ ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024:
- ✓ The ICC Men's T20 World Cup will be played from June 1-29, 2024. The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will be jointly hosted by the United States and West Indies from June 1, 2024.
- ✓ In which co-host USA will face Canada in the opening match at Grand Prairie Stadium in Texas. A total of 55 matches will be played by 20 teams at 9 venues. It will culminate in the final in Barbados on 29 June.
- ✓ First match at Nassau County International Cricket Stadium on June 3: Sri Lanka vs. South Africa. In which 10 teams will participate in eight matches in New York.

Q. Which will become India's first transshipment port?

- A) Deendayal
- B) Kamarajar
- C) Tuticorin
- D) Vizhinjam

Answer : D

- ✓ Vizhinjam Port of Adani Group will run India's 1st transshipments
- ✓ Adani Group's Vizhinjam Port in Kerala has received approval from the shipping ministry to operate as India's first transshipment port. This will be India's first full-fledged deepwater transshipment port.
- ✓ About Transshipment ports
- ✓ Transshipment ports are transit hubs where cargo from one ship is transferred to another on the way to its final destination.
- ✓ World's biggest Transshipment ports are Singapore, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Busan and Hong Kong
- ✓ Importance of Adani's Vizhinjam port
- ✓ Strategic location: The new strategically located port in India will attract large container and cargo vessels, boosting traffic and helping to modernize infrastructure.
- ✓ Part of Maritime India Vision 2030: This development is part of the government's Maritime India Vision 2030, which aims to make India a top destination for manufacturing. Lower shipping costs and increased capacity will benefit domestic manufacturers.
- ✓ Handling Megamax containerships: The port will be one of the world's largest, with the ability to handle Megamax containerships and provide large-scale automation for quick vessel turnaround.
- ✓ Attracting largest container ships: The port is expected to attract the world's largest container ships, which have avoided India until now because its harbors were not deep enough to handle such vessels.
- ✓ Biggest share in international market: The ₹20,000 crore investment in the port will allow India to grab a bigger share of the international maritime trade currently dominated by China.

- ✓ Indian milk brand 'Nandini' has been announced as the sponsor of the national cricket teams of Scotland and Ireland in the upcoming T20 Cricket World Cup.
- ✓ Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is famous for its Nandini brand of dairy products.
- ✓ The T20 Cricket World Cup 2024 will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States from June 1-29

Q. Longevity India Initiative, recently in news, was launched by which one of the following?

- A) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) Ministry of Finance
- D) Indian Institute of Science

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) launched the Longevity India Initiative.
- ✓ It is a project focused on efforts to extend human 'healthspan' and tackle ageing-related challenges.
- ✓ The initiative has also started a large-scale clinical study that will involve researchers from multiple IISc departments, clinicians, industry, philanthropists and civil society.
- ✓ This initiative seeks to enhance the understanding of ageing through both fundamental and applied research, and to develop solutions that can improve quality of life.
- ✓ Funding: The initiative has received initial grant funding support from Prashanth Prakash, Founding Partner, Accel India.
- ✓ Significance
- ✓ India's elderly population projected to surge to 347 million by 2050, it is imperative that there is a need to leverage technology to provide accessible geriatric healthcare, nurture the silver economy and invest in digital systems that support ageing populations

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Indelible ink.

1. It is prepared by using silver nitrate.
2. It is used in elections in India and is mentioned in the Representation of People Act, 1951.

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

- ✓ As the Lok Sabha elections is round the corner, the classic symbol of Indian polls is visible everywhere – a left hand with only its index finger extended, marked by a purple-black indelible ink.
- ✓ It contains silver nitrate. It is a colourless compound which becomes visible when exposed to ultraviolet light, including sunlight.
- ✓ The higher silver nitrate's concentration, the higher will be the ink's quality.
- ✓ For up to 72 hours after application it can remain resistant to soap, liquids, home-cleansing, detergents, etc.
- ✓ This water-based ink also contains a solvent like alcohol to allow its faster drying. The precise protocol for making this ink including its chemical composition and the quantity of each constituent is, however, not known to many people."

- ✓ The indelible ink was first manufactured at the Election Commission of India's request by the Government's Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ✓ Mysore Paints & Varnish Ltd. has been licensed to manufacture the ink and has been in the business since 1962.
- ✓ It is exported to more than 25 countries that include Canada, Ghana, Nigeria, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, South Africa and the Maldives
- ✓ The Representation of the People Act (RoPA) of 1951 mentions the ink.

Q. Who has been honoured with an International Fellowship by the prestigious Engineering Academy of Japan in April 2024?

- A) Kaushik Rajashekara B) Raghuram Rajan
C) Shashi Tharoor D) Chetan bhagat

Answer : A

- ✓ Kaushik Rajashekara has been elected as an International Fellow of the prestigious Engineering Academy of Japan.
- ✓ He is a distinguished professor at the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering.
- ✓ This honour recognizes his outstanding contributions to the field of power conversion and the electrification of transportation.
- ✓ Indian-Origin US Professor Honoured For Outstanding Contribution To Energy
- ✓ In 2022, Mr Rajashekara received the most coveted prize in the field of international energy.

Q. Which day of the year is marked as the International Mother Earth Day?

- A) April 22 B) April 21
C) April 20 D) April 19

Answer : A

- ✓ International Mother Earth Day (also referred as World Earth Day) is celebrated every year on 22 April to raise awareness about the need to safeguard the environment
- ✓ The theme of 2024 International Mother Earth Day is "Planet vs Plastics".
- ✓ The day teaches us that the Earth and its ecosystems are our home and that it is necessary to promote harmony with nature and the Earth.
- ✓ The day was established in 2009 by the United Nations General Assembly.

Q. The 2024 theme for the International Mother Earth Day is ____

- A) Climate Action B) Restore our Earth
C) Invest in Our Planet D) Planet vs Plastics

Answer : D

Q. India has made a declaration to achieve debris-free space missions by which year?

- A) 2030 B) 2032
C) 2036 D) 2040

Answer : A

- ✓ India has made a declaration to achieve debris-free space missions by 2030.

- ✓ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath made the declaration at the 42nd Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) annual meet.
- ✓ This initiative aims to achieve debris-free space missions by all Indian space actors, governmental and non-governmental, by 2030.
- ✓ With 54 spacecraft in orbit and numerous non-functional objects, ISRO has been actively taking measures to dispose of or remove space debris. Efforts include deorbiting spacecraft once their mission is complete and designing systems to minimize debris creation.
- ✓ With India planning to set up its own space station 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' by 2035, ISRO would like to look at the agreements of all the space stations and space actors, including private ones.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Candidates Chess Tournament:

1. The winner of the tournament is declared the World Chess Champion.
2. It is organised by the International Chess Federation (FIDE).

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

- ✓ India's 17-year-old Grandmaster D Gukesh recently made history by winning the Candidates Chess Tournament in Toronto to become the youngest ever challenger to the world title.
- ✓ About Candidates Chess Tournament:
- ✓ It is the final event in the World Championship cycle before the World Championship match itself.
- ✓ The International Chess Federation (FIDE) has organized the World Championship cycle since 1948 and the Candidates Tournament since 1950.
- ✓ Since 2013, the Candidates Tournament has occurred every two years.
- ✓ The number of players in the tournament varied over the years, between eight and fifteen players. Currently, it is an eight-player, double round-robin event (that is all-play-all with both colours).

Q. Mount Erebus is an active volcano located in which one of the following continents?

- A) Europe
B) Asia
C) South America
D) Antarctica

Answer : D

- ✓ Mount Erebus, an active volcano in Antarctica, has been in the news for spewing gold dust worth \$6000 every single day.
- ✓ About Mount Erebus:
- ✓ It is the most southerly active volcano on Earth. It is situated on Ross Island, Antarctica.
- ✓ It's a stratovolcano, characterized by a conical shape and layers of hardened lava, tephra, and volcanic ash.
- ✓ Mount Erebus is known for its persistent lava lake.
- ✓ The lake has been active since at least 1972 and is one of only a few long-lived lava lakes on Earth.

Q. India has signed MoU with which country to enhance collaboration and the exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two nations?

- A) Kenya
B) Nigeria
C) Bulgaria
D) Ethiopia

Answer : C

- ✓ India signs MoU with Bulgaria to enhance collaboration, exchange auditing expertise
- ✓ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with SAI (Supreme Audit Institutions) Bulgaria, the Bulgarian National Audit Office, in Sofia.
- ✓ The agreement, inked by the two Supreme audit institutions, aims to enhance collaboration and the exchange of expertise in the field of auditing between the two nations.
- ✓ Through this MoU, a platform will be established for the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst auditing professionals and technical teams through collaboration in training programs, and mutual assistance in conducting audits

Q. French carmaker Citroen has appointed whom as its brand ambassador in India?

- A) Suryakumar Yadav B) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
C) Rohit Sharma D) Virat Kohli

Answer : B

- ✓ French carmaker Citroen has engaged cricketing legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador in India.
- ✓ Dhoni is likely to endorse the brand for two years, charging Rs 7 crore for a year.
- ✓ While Dhoni has endorsed other automobile brands in the past, including Ashok Leyland and TVS Motor, it's the first time that he will be associating with a car brand.

Q. 29-year-old former world champion Kento Momota has announced retirement from badminton, citing mental and physical issues amid a lean patch at the highest level. He is from which country?

- A) China B) Indonesia
C) Thailand D) Japan

Answer : D

- ✓ 29-year-old former world champion Kento Momota from Japan has announced retirement from badminton, citing mental and physical issues amid a lean patch at the highest level.
- ✓ The former World No. 1 confirmed that he will not represent his country again after the Thomas and Uber Cup, scheduled to be held in Chengdu in China from April 27.
- ✓ Momota won the World Championships title in 2018 and 2019, a glorious year in which he won as many as 11 titles on the tour. However, ever since his return to action in the following year after recovering from injuries, Momota managed to win only 3 titles.

Q. The World Book and Copyright Day is marked every year on April 23. What is the theme of the day in 2024?

- A) To share a story B) Read, so you never feel low
C) Indigenous Languages! D) Read Your Way

Answer : D

- ✓ The World Book and Copyright Day is an annual event organized on April 23 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to promote reading, publishing, and copyright.
- ✓ It is also known as 'International Day of the Book' and 'World Book Day'.
- ✓ Theme for 2024 – Read Your Way
- ✓ The first World Book Day was celebrated on 23 April 1995.

- ✓ April 23 is chosen because it marks the birth and death of several prominent authors. For instance, William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes, and Josep Pla died on April 23 and Manuel Mejia Vallejo and Maurice Druon were born on April 23.

Q. Who has won the prestigious 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award?

- A) Mohammed Salem
- B) Christiane Amanpour
- C) Fredricka Whitfield
- D) Lester Holt

Answer : A

- ✓ Mohammed Salem wins 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award
- ✓ Reuters photographer Mohammed Salem has won the prestigious 2024 World Press Photo of the Year award for his image of a Palestinian woman cradling the body of her five-year-old niece in the Gaza Strip.
- ✓ The picture was taken on October 17, 2023, at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in southern Gaza, where families were searching for relatives killed during Israeli bombing of the Palestinian enclave.
- ✓ Mr. Salem's winning image portrays Inas Abu Maamar, 36, sobbing while holding Saly's sheet-clad body in the hospital morgue.
- ✓ 99 journalists and media employees had been killed covering the war between Israel and Hamas since the Palestinian militant group attacked southern Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel responded by launching a military offensive in Gaza.

Q. Seng Khihlang Festival is celebrated in which of the following state?

- A) Manipur
- B) Nagaland
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Tripura

Answer : C

- ✓ The 34th Seng Khihlang festival concluded in Wahiajer, Meghalaya.
- ✓ The Seng Khihlang festival holds immense significance for believers who follow the Khasi Indigenous Faith. It is a time of unity and celebration, and is under the stewardship of the Seng Khasi Sein Raij.
- ✓ The Khasi people are an indigenous ethnic group residing in the eastern part of Meghalaya, in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills of north-eastern India.
- ✓ They also have a significant population in the bordering state of Assam and in certain parts of Bangladesh.

Q. State of the Climate in Asia Report, recently seen in news, is published by:

- A) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- B) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- D) World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) published the State of the Climate in Asia, 2023, report.
- ✓ It was launched by the World Meteorological Organisation.
- ✓ Highlights of the report:

- ✓ More than nine million people across Asia were affected by 79 extreme climate disasters reported on the continent in 2023.
- ✓ Asia and the Pacific was the most disaster-impacted region last year.
- ✓ Atmospheric concentration of the three major greenhouse gases – carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide – reached record highs in 2022, the latest year for which global data is available.
- ✓ Oceans have absorbed around 25% of annual man-made carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere between 1960 and 2021. The trend continues, and ocean heat content in 2023 was the highest on record.
- ✓ The tropical cyclone activity over the North Indian Ocean was slightly above average.
- ✓ Asia recorded its second-highest mean temperature on record in 2023. Japan and Kazakhstan observed record warm years.
- ✓ Key facts about the WMO
- ✓ It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- ✓ It is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behavior of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans and the resulting distribution of water resources.
- ✓ It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873.
- ✓ Established in 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the UN for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ Member countries: Currently it has a membership of 187 countries.

Q. Which among the following best describes 'Crystal Maze 2', recently seen in the news?

- A) A crystal-based energy storage technology.
- B) An earth observation satellite.
- C) An Artificial intelligence (AI)-powered chatbot
- D) An air-launched ballistic missile.

Answer : D

- ✓ The Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully carried out a test firing of the Crystal Maze 2 missile.
- ✓ About Crystal Maze 2:
- ✓ Crystal Maze 2, also referred to as ROCKS, is an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile.
- ✓ It is of Israeli origin.
- ✓ It is designed to target high-value stationary and relocatable assets, such as long-range radars and air defense systems, of potential adversaries.
- ✓ Distinguished from its predecessor, Crystal Maze 1, which has been inducted into the IAF from Israel previously, the Crystal Maze 2 boasts extended stand-off range capabilities as an air-to-surface missile.
- ✓ It is capable of hitting targets over 250 kilometers away.
- ✓ With options for either a penetration or blast fragmentation warhead, the missile is capable of destroying above-ground or well-protected underground targets.
- ✓ It is specifically effective in GPS-denied environments.

Q. Who has been honoured with the prestigious KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) Humanitarian Award 2021?

- A) Mukesh Ambani
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Gautam Adani
- D) Ratan Tata

Answer : D

- ✓ Industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata, chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, was honoured with the prestigious KISS (Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences) Humanitarian Award 2021.
- ✓ The award ceremony was held at his residence in Mumbai, marking a significant recognition of his commitment to social development and exemplary corporate leadership.
- ✓ The award was presented by the Founder of KIIT and KISS Achyuta Samanta.

Q. Which day is marked as the National Panchayati Raj Day in India?

- A) April 21 B) April 22
C) April 23 D) April 24

Answer : D

- ✓ In India, the National Panchayati Raj Day (National Local Self-Government day) is observed annually on 24 April by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj to celebrate the Panchayati Raj System in the country.
- ✓ The first National Panchayati Raj Day was declared by the then Prime Minister of India Shri Manmohan Singh, on 24 April 2010.
- ✓ The day marks the passing of Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Khanij Bidesh India Limited:

1. It is a Joint Venture Company formed by National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd.
2. It carries out identification, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas.

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

- ✓ Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Geophysical Research Institute to foster a long-term collaboration in the field of geophysical investigations to bolster its ongoing projects and activities in critical and strategic minerals.
- ✓ It is a Joint Venture Company formed with the participation of National Aluminium Company Ltd.(NALCO), Hindustan Copper Ltd.(HCL) and Mineral Exploration Company Ltd. (MECL) in 2019.
- ✓ Mandate: Target of this company is to identify, acquire, develop, process and make commercial use of strategic minerals in overseas locations for supply in India.
- ✓ It is focusing on identifying and sourcing battery minerals like Lithium and Cobalt.
- ✓ The equity participation between NALCO, HCL and MECL is in the ratio of 40:30:30.
- ✓ Functions
- ✓ It helps in building partnerships with other mineral rich countries like Australia and those in Africa and South America, where Indian expertise in exploration and mineral processing will be mutually beneficial bringing about new economic opportunities.

- ✓ The KABIL would carry out identification, acquisition, exploration, development, mining and processing of strategic minerals overseas for commercial use and meeting country's requirement of these minerals.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Mines

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Spices Board of India:

1. It is responsible for the improvement in production and quality of cardamom.
2. It works under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

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

- ✓ With certain spices of Indian brands facing ban in Singapore and Hong Kong due to quality concerns, the Spices Board said it will start mandatory testing of such consignments destined to these two countries.
- ✓ It is the statutory organization constituted in 1987 under the Spices Board Act 1986.
- ✓ It was formed with the merger of the erstwhile Cardamom Board and Spices Export Promotion Council.
- ✓ The Board functions an international link between the Indian exporters and the importers abroad and it has been involved in various activities which touch upon every segment of the spices sector.
- ✓ Main functions
- ✓ The Spices Board is responsible for the overall development of cardamom (small and large) in terms of improving production, productivity and quality.
- ✓ The Board is also implementing post-harvest improvement programmes for improving quality of the 52 scheduled spices for export.
- ✓ Promotion of organic production, processing and certification of spices
- ✓ Development of spices in the North East
- ✓ Provision of quality evaluation services
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Q. Consider the following:

1. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
2. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
3. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
4. TRAFFIC

How many of the above are part of Tiger Conservation Coalition?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, at the Sustainable Finance for Tiger Landscapes Conference, Bhutan and the Tiger Conservation Coalition Commit to Catalysing US\$1 billion for tigers.
- ✓ It is a group of NGOs that has worked for many years with partners to conserve tigers.

Answer : D

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The project will also generate electricity using green hydrogen and a 25 kW fuel cell

Q. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?

- A) MS Dhoni
- B) Lionel Messi
- C) Usain Bolt
- D) Sachin Tendulkar

Answer : C

- ✓ Usain Bolt to be the brand ambassador of the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup.
- ✓ Legendary Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt has been named by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as the ambassador for the 9th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup, which will be hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America jointly from 1 to 29 June 2024.
- ✓ As a brand ambassador, Usain Bolt will promote the World Cup event, attend T20 World Cup matches in the West Indies, and participate in fan engagement events to promote the cricket sport within the United States.
- ✓ World Record Holder Legendary Sprinter Usain Bolt
- ✓ Usain Bolt, a keen cricket fan, is a legend in track and field athletics. In 2017, he set the world record in the 100-metre race. He also holds the record for winning three gold medals in three consecutive summer Olympics.
- ✓ In the 2008 Beijing Olympics, Bolt won gold in the men's 100-metre, 200 metres and 4x100 metres. He created a new world record in all three events.
- ✓ At the 2012 London Olympics, he again won gold medals in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres.
- ✓ Finally, in the 2016 Rio Olympics, he won gold in 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres.
- ✓ Bolt currently holds world records in the 100 metres, 200 metres and 4x100 metres with times of 9.58 seconds, 19.19 seconds and 36.84 seconds, respectively.
- ✓ 'Faster than Lightning - My Story' is the autobiography of Usain Bolt
- ✓ 9th ICC Men's T- 20 World Cup 2024 Teams and Fixtures
- ✓ The 9th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup will be the biggest men's T-20 World Cup in terms of participation.
- ✓ For the first time, 20 teams will participate in the T-20 World Cup. The West Indies and the United States of America will co-host the World Cup from 1 to 29 June 2024.
- ✓ Of the 20 teams participating in the World Cup, the West Indies and the United States qualified as the host countries.
- ✓ Canada, Uganda and the United States team are playing for the first time in the ICC Men's T-20 World Cup.
- ✓ ICC Men's T-20 World Cup
- ✓ First T-20 men's World Cup was organised in South Africa, which was won by India
- ✓ West Indies and England have twice won the ICC Men's T-20 trophy, while India, Australia, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan have only won it once.

Q. Prabowo Subianto has been appointed as the new President of which country?

- A) Japan
- B) China
- C) Indonesia
- D) Vietnam

Answer : C

- ✓ Prabowo Subianto has been appointed as the new President of Indonesia. Before this he was the Defense Minister of the country.
- ✓ Subianto will replace Joko Widodo in October.
- ✓ In Indonesia, the term of the President is five years and the President can be re-elected.
- ✓ Republic of Indonesia
- ✓ Indonesia, earlier called the Dutch East Indies, is located off the coast of mainland Southeast Asia.
- ✓ It is an archipelago that lies in the Indian and the Pacific Oceans.
- ✓ It is the world's most populous Muslim country and the fourth-largest country after India, China, and the United States of America.
- ✓ Capital: Jakarta
- ✓ Currency: Rupiah

Q. According to the SIPRI report, what was India's rank in the world in terms of military spending in 2023?

- A) Fourth
B) Third
C) Second
D) First

Answer : A

- ✓ India fourth largest arms spender in world in 2023: SIPRI.
- ✓ According to a Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report published on 22 April 2024 ,India was the fourth largest military spender in the world in 2023 after the United States ,China and Russia.
- ✓ The Indian expenditure on military 2023 was \$83.6 billion .
- ✓ In 2022 also India was the fourth largest military spender in the world.
- ✓ Increase in Indian military expenditure .
- ✓ The Indian government has increased its military spend in recent years . In the interim Union Budget of 2024-25 the government of India allocated Rs 6.21 lakh crore for defence spending. The allocation was marginally lower (0.37%) than last year's revised estimates.
- ✓ The 2024-25 allocation for defence accounts for 1.89% of India's GDP.
- ✓ Deterioration in global peace and security fuels military expenditure .
- ✓ According to SIPRI, the total global military expenditure increased by 6.8% to \$2443 billion in 2023. This was the highest annual percentage growth in global military expenditure since 2009
- ✓ According to SIPRI, in 2023, the following were the top military spenders in the world:
 1. United States of America - It retained its status as the world's largest military spender in 2023. The US spent \$916 billion on military in 2023
 2. China's military budget was estimated at \$296 billion in 2023, an increase of 6.0 per cent from 2022.
 3. Russia's military spending increased by 24 per cent to an estimated \$109 billion in 2023.
 4. India-India was the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023. India spent \$83.6 billion on its military in 2023 an increase of 4.2 per cent as compared to 2022.
 5. Saudi Arabia - estimated expenditure of \$75.8 billion
 6. United Kingdom -\$ 74.9 billion
 7. Germany -\$66.8 billion
 8. Ukraine -\$64.8 billion
 9. France -\$61.3 billion
 10. Japan- \$50.32 billion

Q. Which organization has developed the Bullet Proof Jacket of the country for protection against the highest threat Level 6?

- A) DRDO
B) BEL
C) HAL
D) BDL

Answer : A

- ✓ DRDO develops lightest Bullet Proof Jacket of country for protection against highest threat Level
- ✓ A unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully developed the lightest bulletproof jacket in the country for protection against the highest threat level 6.
- ✓ This jacket is based on a new design approach where novel material along with new processes has been used.
- ✓ DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has successfully developed the lightest bulletproof jacket in the country for protection against 7.62 x 54 R API (level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition.
- ✓ Recently, this bulletproof jacket was successfully tested at TBRL, Chandigarh as per BIS 17051-2018.
- ✓ The front hard armour panel (HAP) of this jacket "defeats multiple hits (six shots) of 7.62×54 R API (sniper rounds) in both ICW (in-conjunction with) and standalone design.

Q. Which company has signed an MoU with Indus Towers Limited (ITL) to support green energy goals and India's carbon-neutral aspirations?

- A) SJVN Limited
B) ReNew Power
C) JSW Energy
D) NTPC Green Energy Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) and Indus Towers Limited (ITL) have signed an MoU to support green energy goals and India's carbon-neutral aspirations.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to jointly develop grid-connected renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and energy storage solutions.
- ✓ NGEL operates as a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, formerly known as the National Thermal Power Corporation.

Q. Which Indian actress has been included among the 100 most influential people in the world by Time magazine in April 2024?

- A) Aishwarya Rai
B) Priyanka Chopra
C) Alia Bhatt
D) Katrina Kaif

Answer : C

- ✓ 8 individuals of Indian descent, including Alia Bhatt, Ajay Banga, and Sakshi Malik, have been honoured in Time magazine's prestigious list of the 100 most influential people of 2024.
- ✓ The list features a diverse array of leaders from various sectors, including finance, entertainment, technology, activism, and academia.
- ✓ The list includes politicians, business leaders, artists, icons, movie stars, athletes, and scientists who have made significant impact in their fields. The overall list contains four categories: Leaders, heroes, artists, and thinkers.
- ✓ Ajay Banga- President of the World Bank
- ✓ Alia Bhatt- Actor
- ✓ Sakshi Malik- Wrestler

- ✓ Dev Patel- Actor
- ✓ Priyamvada Natarajan- Professor in Astrophysics
- ✓ Asma Khan-Indian-born British restaurateur and cookbook author
- ✓ Jigar Shah-Director of the US Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office
- ✓ Satya Nadella- Executive chairman and CEO of Microsoft

Q. Who has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshia Award 2023?

- A) Vikas Kumar
B) Utsa Patnaik
C) Sushma Sinha
D) Prabhat Patnaik

Answer : B

- ✓ Renowned economist Utsa Patnaik receives the 2023 Malcolm Adiseshiah Award, an honor granted annually by the Malcolm & Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- ✓ Selected by a national-level jury, the award acknowledges exceptional contributions to Development Studies.
- ✓ It includes a citation and Rs. 2 lakh cash prize.
- ✓ Malcolm Adiseshiah, the award's namesake, was an Indian development economist and educator, recognized with the Padma Bhushan in 1976 for his impactful work.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the QS World University Rankings 2024:

1. India is the most represented country in Asia in terms of the number of ranked universities.
2. In terms of volume, India is now the world's largest producer of research and academic papers.

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

- ✓ Sixty-nine Indian universities made it to the rankings with 424 entries in the 2024 QS World University Rankings by Subject.
- ✓ About QS World University Rankings:
- ✓ Published annually by global higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds, the QS list ranks the world's top 1,000 universities.
- ✓ For 2024, universities were evaluated in 55 specific subjects and five broader subject areas.
- ✓ Highlights of the 2024 Rankings:
- ✓ Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been ranked as the No. 1 university in the world by QS World University Rankings for 12 straight years.
- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) is the top ranked Indian institution, being ranked at 149.
- ✓ A total of 69 Indian universities with 424 entries have made it to the QS World University Rankings by subject, marking a 19.4% rise from the previous year's 355 entries achieved by 66 universities.
- ✓ India is the second most represented country in Asia for the number of ranked universities (69), after mainland China with 101.
- ✓ India holds the fourth position in the total number of ranked entries (454), after China (1,041), Japan (510) and South Korea (499).

- ✓ Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital wins 'Best Scientific Poster Award' 2024
- ✓ Dr Agarwal's Eye Hospital's research team have been honoured with the prestigious 'Best Scientific Poster Award' at the 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Cataract and Refractive Surgery (ASCRS).
- ✓ This recognition comes in light of their groundbreaking study on 'The efficacy of RevitalVision vision-training software in improving best-corrected vision in stable keratoconus patients post Crosslinking surgery.'
- ✓ In the study by Dr. Agarwal's Eye Hospital, stable keratoconus patients undergoing RevitalVision vision-training software post Crosslinking surgery experienced a significant improvement in their vision.
- ✓ Statistical analysis revealed an average improvement of 2.5 lines on the visual acuity test chart, providing tangible evidence of the software's efficacy in enhancing patient outcomes.

Q. Who has been honoured with the "Medal of Honour" by the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique-India (HCCD-India) during the annual Consular Day event held at the ITC Grand Chola in Chennai?

- A) Vivek Srivastava B) Neeraj Sharma
C) Manish Prasad D) Rajendra Prasad Goyal

Answer : B

- ✓ Neeraj Sharma receives prestigious "Medal of Honour" at Consular Day 2024
- ✓ Neeraj A Sharma, the Honorary Consul General of The Republic of Palau in India, was honored with the esteemed "Medal of Honour" by the Honorary Consular Corps Diplomatique-India (HCCD-India) during the annual Consular Day event held at the ITC Grand Chola in Chennai.
- ✓ The Consular Day 2024 event, organized by HCCD-India, was a gathering of distinguished guests, representing elite individuals and the international fraternity.
- ✓ The award was presented by Tamil Nadu Governor R. N. Ravi during the ceremony

Q. According to Atomic Energy Commission (AEC), India aims to increase its nuclear power production to 1 lakh MW by which year?

- A) 2030 B) 2040
C) 2042 D) 2047

Answer : D

- ✓ India aims to increase its nuclear power production to 1 lakh MW by 2047, a significant jump from the current 8,000 MW.
- ✓ This goal was highlighted by Atomic Energy Commission Chairman A K Mohanty at the release of a report on energy transitions.
- ✓ He said the breeder reactors would contribute 3 GW of nuclear power, while 17.6 GW would come from light water reactors built with international cooperation and another 40-45 GW would come from the pressurized heavy water reactors.

Q. Which organization has been conferred with the 2024 John L "Jack" Swigert, Jr Award for Space Exploration Award?

- A) ISRO B) DRDO
C) SpaceX D) NASA

Answer : A

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ This award is given by the US-based non-profit organisation Space Foundation to honour a space agency, company, or consortium of organisations in the realm of space exploration and discovery.
- ✓ The Indian Consul General of India in Houston, D C Manjunath, received the 2024 John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award on behalf of the ISRO’s Chandrayaan -3 team.
- ✓ About John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr Award
- ✓ The John L “Jack” Swigert, Jr, Award for Space Exploration Award was instituted by the Space Foundation in 2004 in memory of John L “Jack” Swigert, Junior.
- ✓ John L “Jack” Swigert, Junior, was part of NASA’s (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Apollo 13 Mission to the moon which had been aborted due to a leakage in its Oxygen tank.
- ✓ The Jack Swigert Award is presented annually at the Space Symposium organised by the Space Foundation.
- ✓ In 2023 NASA’s James Webb Space Telescope Team was honoured with the Jack Swigert award.

Q. AS per the Hurun Global Unicorn Index 2024, what is the rank of India in the number of startup unicorns?

- A) third B) sixth
C) fourth D) fifth

Answer : A

- ✓ India ranked third on the global list of unicorns but was far behind the US and China who had 703 and 340 high growth start-ups respectively.
- ✓ UK and EU ranked No 4 and No 5 in the list, respectively.
- ✓ India has a total of 67 unicorns in the list, as per a report by The Hurun Research Institute, according to which drop-outs from the chart in 2023 were Byju's and PharmEasy.
- ✓ In total, there are a total of 1,453 unicorns in the world as one unicorn is made every two days over the last year.
- ✓ TikTok owner ByteDance was the world's most valuable unicorn worth \$220 billion. The total value of the world's unicorns reached \$5 trillion which is equivalent to the GDP of Japan.
- ✓ The fastest valuation rise of a unicorn was credited to OpenAI which saw an addition of \$80 billion in value, followed by SpaceX that added \$43 billion.
- ✓ The most active city for unicorns outside of the US and China was London, followed by Bengaluru, Paris and Berlin.

Q. With reference to the World Cybercrime Index, consider the following statements:

1. It identifies the world's major cybercrime hotspots by ranking the most significant sources of cybercrime at a national level.
2. It is released on an annual basis by the World Economic Forum (WEF).
3. India features among the top ten countries in the index.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Following three years of intensive research, an international team of researchers has compiled the first ever 'World Cybercrime Index'.
- ✓ About World Cybercrime Index:
- ✓ It identifies the globe's major cybercrime hotspots by ranking the most significant sources of cybercrime at a national level.
- ✓ It has been developed as a joint partnership between the University of Oxford and UNSW Canberra.
- ✓ The data that underpins the index was gathered through a survey of 92 leading cybercrime experts from around the world who are involved in cybercrime intelligence gathering and investigations.
- ✓ It ranks roughly 100 countries and identifies key hotspots according to various categories of cybercrime, including ransomware, credit card theft, and scams.
- ✓ Key Findings:
- ✓ It shows that the threat of cybercrime is not evenly distributed worldwide.
- ✓ A relatively small number of countries house the greatest cybercriminal threat.
- ✓ Russia tops the list, followed by Ukraine, China, the USA, Nigeria, and Romania.
- ✓ 97 countries were named by at least one expert as being a hub for a particular category.
- ✓ India captured the number 10 spot in the rankings.
- ✓ The researchers also found that certain kinds of cybercrime were associated with particular countries. For example, the United States was associated with data and identity theft, while those related to technical products or services seemed to often originate from China.
- ✓ It is estimated that cybercrime costs the world around \$9.22 trillion in 2024, and this is expected to grow to \$13.82 trillion in 2028.

Q. Peter Higgs, who recently passed away, received a Nobel Prize for which research?

- A) Quantum mechanics
- B) Discovery of radioactivity
- C) Discovery of the elements radium and polonium
- D) Discovery of God Particle

Answer : D

- ✓ British physicist Peter Higgs, renowned for discovering the 'Higgs-Boson Particle' or 'God Particle', passed away at 94.
- ✓ Awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2013, his work elucidated the universe's post-Big Bang creation.
- ✓ Higgs, a long-time professor at Edinburgh University, contributed significantly to understanding bosons' role in universal cohesion.
- ✓ His death on April 8, 2024, marked the end of an era in physics.
- ✓ The confirmation of the God particle came in 2012, revolutionizing scientific understanding.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled 'I Can Coach'?

- A) Rahul Dravid
- B) Vikram Seth
- C) Siddharth Rajsekar
- D) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Answer : C

- ✓ Bestselling author and digital coaching leader Siddharth Rajsekar has released of volumes 2 and 3 of his transformative book series, 'I Can Coach'.
- ✓ The books were launched at the Freedom Business Retreat 2024, a two-day event at the Leela Palace, Chennai, attended by over 800 trainers, coaches, and leaders from across India.

- ✓ Building on the success of the first volume, “I Can Coach, Stories of Transformation,” volumes 2 and 3 showcase inspiring stories of commitment and aspiration within the digital coaching revolution.
- ✓ “Stories of Commitment” highlights the journeys of coaches who achieved millionaire status and those who transformed their lives, starting from scratch.
- ✓ “Stories of Aspiration” features digital coaches beginning their paths to success as Freedom Finishers through Hackathons

Q. The International Day of Human Space Flight is marked annually by the United Nations on which day?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The International Day of Human Space Flight is celebrated annually on April 12 to mark the anniversary of the first human space flight by Yuri Gagarin on April 12, 1961.
- ✓ The day was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on April 7, 2011, a few days before the 50th anniversary of the flight.
- ✓ In Soviet Union, the day is observed as International Day of Aviation and Cosmonautics.

Q. Carmaker Citroën became the first multinational car manufacturer in India to export domestically made electric vehicles to the international market. Citroën is the company of which country?

- A) South Korea B) Israel
C) France D) Russia

Answer : C

- ✓ Citroën becomes the first multinational carmaker to export EVs from India
- ✓ French carmaker Citroën became the first multinational car manufacturer in India to export domestically made electric vehicles to the international market.
- ✓ Initial shipment of 500 units of the Made-in-India Citroën ë-C3 to Indonesia was ceremonially flagged from Kamarajar Port.
- ✓ The move aligned with Citroën's global ambitions of democratising electric mobility to increase the adoption of sustainable and clean modes of transportation.
- ✓ The ë-C3, crafted with modern design and innovation, offers a 320 km range certified by ARAI MIDC, along with 100 per cent DC Fast Charge and 15 AMP Home Charging options for convenience. It is available in 13 exterior colour combinations and 47 customisation options.
- ✓ Citroën's export of the ë-C3 from India not only showcases the company's manufacturing and engineering prowess but also contributes significantly to India's goal of a sustainable and globally competitive EV manufacturing ecosystem

Q. Who has won the 51st National Women's Carrom Championship 2024 Title?

- A) Rashmi Kumari
B) Sheyphali Sharan
C) Anshika Singh
D) Maushami Chakraborty

Answer : A

- ✓ Three-time World Champion Rashmi Kumari beat K Nagajothi 25-8, 14-20, 25-20 in the women's final of the 51st National carrom championship organised by the Madhya Pradesh Carrom Association.

- ✓ It was a record 12th national women's singles title for Rashmi, employed as the Chief Manager at the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
- ✓ The men's title was bagged by K Srinivas as he beat S Aditya 25-0, 19-6 in the final. It was the fourth national men's singles title for Srinivas who was brilliant in the tournament, executing seven white slams.
- ✓ The championship, sponsored by the Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB) and SYNCO carrom company, had 237 men and 174 women participants from 12 institutions and 27 States.

Q. Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report, recently released by which organization?

- A) World Trade Organization B) World Health Organization
C) World Bank D) International Monetary Fund

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Trade Organization's Global Trade Outlook and Statistics Report indicates early signs of trade fragmentation. In 2023, intermediate goods trade decreased by 6%, contrasting with stagnant non-intermediate trade.
- ✓ China's share of Asian trading partners for parts and accessories slightly dropped.
- ✓ Disruptions in key shipping routes, such as the Panama and Suez Canals, are challenging global trade resilience.
- ✓ Traffic diversion via the Cape of Good Hope adds approximately 10 days to Asia-Europe journeys.

Q. 'Dustlik' joint military exercise, recently seen in news, conducted between which two countries?

- A) India and Uzbekistan B) India and Russia
C) India and Tajikistan D) Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan

Answer : A

- ✓ The 5th edition of the 'Dustlik' joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan begins in Uzbekistan.
- ✓ The 14-day exercise will be conducted in Termez District of Uzbekistan from 15 to 28 April 2024.
- ✓ During the 14-day exercise, soldiers from the Indian Armed Forces and the Armed Forces of Uzbekistan will undergo comprehensive joint training sessions.
- ✓ The fourth edition of the joint military exercise between the two countries was held on February 20 last year at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. The training exercise focused on sharing best practices in subconventional operations under UN mandates.
- ✓ The inaugural edition of this exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019

Q. An entrepreneur and a pilot, Gopi Thotakura is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Blue Origin's NS-25 mission. Who is the founder of Blue Origin?

- A) Richard Branson B) Jeff Bezos
C) Steve Jobs D) Elon Musk

Answer : B

- ✓ Pilot Gopi Thotakura becomes first Indian space tourist to fly with Blue Origin
- ✓ Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and a pilot, is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.

- ✓ Thotakura was selected as one of the six crew members for the mission, making him the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space after the Indian Army's Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma in 1984
- ✓ Gopi Thotakura, an entrepreneur and a pilot, is set to become the first Indian to venture into space as a tourist on Amazon founder Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin's NS-25 mission.
- ✓ Mr. Thotakura was selected as one of the six crew members for the mission, making him the first Indian space tourist and the second Indian to venture into space after the Indian Army's Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma in 1984.
- ✓ This mission will be the seventh human flight for the New Shepard programme and the 25th in its history.
- ✓ To date, the programme has flown 31 humans above the Karman line, the proposed conventional boundary between Earth's atmosphere and outer space.
- ✓ New Shepard is a fully reusable sub-orbital launch vehicle developed for space tourism by Blue Origin.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh-born Thotakura is a graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Q. With reference to PACE satellite, consider the following statements:

1. It is placed in Sun-synchronous orbit by the European Space Agency.
2. It observes the ocean, land and atmosphere across different spectrum of light.
3. Its data helps in assessing harmful algal blooms.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ NASA is now publicly distributing science-quality data from its newest Earth-observing PACE satellite.
- ✓ The Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, ocean Ecosystem (PACE) satellite is placed in Sun-synchronous orbit.
- ✓ It was launched by NASA.
- ✓ The primary science instrument for PACE is the Ocean Colour Instrument (OCI) which is designed to measure the ocean's colour across a spectrum from ultraviolet to shortwave infrared.
- ✓ It features two polarimeters – the Spectro-polarimeter for Planetary Exploration (SPExone) and the Hyper Angular Research Polarimeter (HARP2).
- ✓ These two working together will offer complementary spectral and angular sampling, polarimetric accuracy, and spatial coverage.
- ✓ This combination aims to provide improved atmospheric correction and a comprehensive range of aerosol and cloud science data beyond what the OCI alone could achieve.
- ✓ The synergistic payload of OCI, SPExone and HARP2 is poised to make significant breakthroughs in aerosol-cloud-ocean research.
- ✓ With PACE, scientists also can investigate how the ocean and atmosphere interact with each other and are affected by a changing climate.
- ✓ Hence only statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Q. Khavda Renewable Energy Park, recently seen in the news, is located in which of the following States?

A) Rajasthan	B) Odisha
C) Gujarat	D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

- ✓ Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) recently established the world's largest renewable energy park in Gujarat's Khavda region.
- ✓ About Khavda Renewable Energy Park:
- ✓ It is the world's largest renewable energy park.
- ✓ It is located at Khavda in Gujarat's Kutch region, boasting an impressive 45 GW capacity predominantly fueled by solar energy.
- ✓ The region has the second-best solar radiation in the country after Ladakh and wind speeds five times that of the plains.
- ✓ Situated just one kilometer from the international border with Pakistan, the energy park maintains a buffer zone manned by the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ✓ It is being built by Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL), India's largest renewable energy company.
- ✓ Investment: AGEL will invest about Rs 1.5 lakh crore to generate 30 megawatts of clean electricity. It would comprise 26 GW of solar and 4GW of wind capacity.
- ✓ The Khavda Park, at its peak, is projected to generate 81 billion units of electricity, a quantity capable of powering entire nations such as Belgium, Chile, and Switzerland.

Q. Which Indian has been re-elected to the International Narcotics Control Board for a third time?

A) Jagjit Pavadia	B) Arindam Bagchi
C) Smita Sarangi	D) Jagadesh Kumar

Answer : A

- ✓ A former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Jagjit Pavadia has been re-elected to the Vienna-based International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).
- ✓ India scored the highest number of votes among all the elected members of the anti-narcotics body.
- ✓ Pavadia (70), who has already served as President of the Board from 2021 to 2022, has been re-elected for the term 2025-2030.
- ✓ Pavadia held several senior positions in the Indian Revenue Service for 35 years
- ✓ She has been a member of the INCB since 2015, and also held the posts of Second Vice-President and Chair (2015, 2017 and 2020), Vice-Chair (2018) and member (2019 and 2023) of the Standing Committee on Estimates.
- ✓ In 2016, she served as the First Vice-President of the Board, and then President from 2021-2022.
- ✓ About International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)
- ✓ INCB was set up in 1968 by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961.
- ✓ Headquarters – Vienna, Austria
- ✓ INCB has 13 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of five years.
- ✓ 10 members are elected from a list of government nominees.
- ✓ The other 3 members are experts in medical, pharmacological, or pharmaceutical experience from a list nominated by WHO.
- ✓ INCB basically cooperates with the world governments to ensure that adequate supplies of drugs are available for medical and scientific uses.

Q. Who has been selected for the prestigious John Dirks Prize in global health?

A) Dr. SK Bose	B) Dr. Gagandeep Kang
C) Dr. Randeep Singh	D) Dr. Sushovan Banerjee

Answer : B

- ✓ Dr. Gagandeep Kang, an Indian researcher, earns the 2024 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award for her pioneering work in enteric diseases.

- ✓ Her cohort-based research has influenced vaccine development and health policy globally.
- ✓ The Gairdner Foundation celebrates her significant contributions to biomedical and global health research, highlighting her impact on understanding childhood diseases' effects on life course.

Q. What is the rank of Delhi airport in the list of world's busiest airports?

- A) 9th
- B) 10th
- C) 11th
- D) 12th

Answer : B

- ✓ Airports Council International (ACI) World has recently released the list of the world's busiest airports.
- ✓ Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI Airport Delhi) is ranked 10th.
- ✓ Atlanta International Airport holds the top spot and is followed for the first time by Dubai International Airport, which overtook Dallas Fort Worth International Airport to take second place.
- ✓ In this ranking, London's Heathrow Airport is at fourth place and Tokyo's Haneda Airport is at fifth place.

Q. Who has been ranked at the top position in the list of world's busiest airports released by ACI in April 2024?

- A) Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- B) London Heathrow Airport
- C) Dubai International Airport
- D) Denver International Airport

Answer : A

Q. Iran has launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel under which operation?

- A) Operation True Promise
- B) Operation False Friend
- C) Operation Fake Promise
- D) Operation Tit for Tat

Answer : A

- ✓ Iran launches operation 'True Promise' against Israel
- ✓ Iran has launched hundreds of drones and missiles against Israel.
- ✓ Iran's Revolutionary Guards have stated that Operation 'True Promise' is a response to Israeli actions and is part of their strategy to punish Israel for its perceived crimes.
- ✓ The attack was in response to the April 1 Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus that killed seven IRGC members, including two generals in charge of leading operations in Syria and Lebanon, along with six other people.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled "The Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond"?

- A) Aravind Adiga
- B) Raman Mittal
- C) Amitav Ghosh
- D) Vikram Seth

Answer : B

- ✓ Vice President, Jagdeep Dhankhar has released the book titled “The Law and Spirituality: Reconnecting the Bond”.
- ✓ The book was written by Prof. Raman Mittal and Dr. Seema Singh.
- ✓ Attorney General R. Venkataramani and Vice Chancellor of Delhi University Prof. Yogesh Singh have also launched this book.

Q. Which is the first stadium in India to use hybrid pitch technology?

- A) Narendra Modi Stadium
- B) Wankhede
- C) Dharamshala
- D) Sawai Mansingh

Answer : C

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) has always been at the forefront in using technology in cricket.
- ✓ In this connection, HPCA has started using hybrid pitch technology in its practice facilities.
- ✓ The first ever hybrid pitch installation in Dharamshala will take Indian cricket to new heights.

Q. Which country tested the Angara-A5 space rocket in April 2024?

- A) Russia
- B) Japan
- C) Israel
- D) United States

Answer : A

- ✓ Russia has successfully launched the Angara-A5 rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome.
- ✓ The Angara family of rockets, developed to replace the Soviet-designed Proton rockets, is central to Russia's strategy to secure its independence in accessing outer space and to reduce reliance on the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- ✓ According to mission control that launched the rocket, it reached an altitude of more than 25,000 kilometers (15,500 mi) per hour within minutes as it blasted off into space.
- ✓ The Angara rocket is a 54.5 meter (178.81 ft) three-stage rocket. Its weight is about 773 tons, about 24.5 tons of which can be carried into space.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII):

1. It is an advisory body to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
2. It is the only international body that is mandated to deal specifically with Indigenous Peoples' issues.

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 23rd session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues recently commenced in New York, United States.
- ✓ About UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII):

Answer : A

- ✓ 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
- ✓ The Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System was indigenously designed and developed by DRDO.
- ✓ It consists of MPATGM, the Man Portable Launcher, the Target Acquisition System (TAS), and the Fire Control Unit (FCU).
- ✓ An adequate number of missile firing trials have been successfully conducted towards achieving compliance with the complete operational envelope as stipulated in the GSQR (Infantry, Indian Army).
- ✓ Penetration trials of the Tandem Warhead System of MPATGM have been completed and the Tandem Warhead is found capable of defeating modern armour-protected Main Battle Tank (MBT).
- ✓ The ATGM system is well equipped with day/night and top attack capability. Dual mode seeker functionality is a great value addition to the missile capability for Tank Warfare.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador of SPACE India?

- A) Ayushmann Khurrana
- B) Vicky Kaushal
- C) Aamir Khan
- D) Sanjana Sanghi

Answer : D

- ✓ Sanjana Sanghi has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of SPACE India.
- ✓ Sanjana Sanghi is a rising young Bollywood star and UNDP Youth Champion. Her commitment to social activism and advocacy for education make her the ideal fit for this role at SPACE India and SPACE Arcade.
- ✓ SPACE India is the registered Space Tutor of ISRO, creating impact through its education and outreach programs for schools that involve students' participation in national and international competitions for citizen science projects with ISRO and NASA.
- ✓ Founded in 2001, SPACE India has inspired over 1.5 Million students and facilitated the integration of Astronomy and Space Science into the curriculum of 1,000 schools pan India, nurturing a new generation of space enthusiasts and scholars.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled "Knife"?

- A) Aravind Adiga
- B) Salman Rushdie
- C) Vikram Seth
- D) Amitav Ghosh

Answer : B

- ✓ British-American author Salman Rushdie releases his memoir "Knife", recounting the harrowing experience of being stabbed at a public event in 2022 and how he overcame the near-fatal ordeal.
- ✓ The book serves as a powerful testament to Rushdie's unwavering commitment to free speech, a core value that has defined his life and literary career.
- ✓ Rushdie lost sight in one eye after the attack by a knife-wielding assailant, who jumped on stage at an arts gathering in New York state.
- ✓ The Indian-born author, a naturalized American based in New York, has faced death threats since his 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses" was declared blasphemous by Iran's supreme leader.

Q. Where was the 23rd session of the 'United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues' held?

- A) New Delhi
- B) New York

C) Paris

D) The Hague

Answer : B

- ✓ The 23rd session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was held in New York, United States.
- ✓ It was formed in the year 2000 as an advisory body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

Q. With whom has the Greenfield Noida International Airport signed an agreement for a fuel pipeline?

- A) IOCL
- B) BPCL
- C) Reliance Industries
- D) HPCL

Answer : B

- ✓ The greenfield Noida International Airport has signed an agreement with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to meet its fuel demands.
- ✓ Under this, the work of laying aviation turbine fuel (ATF) pipeline will be done.
- ✓ The ATF pipeline stretches for 34 km, and is up to 1.2 km within the airport premises.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Cruise missile:

1. It is a guided missile used against terrestrial or naval targets.
2. It has a low trajectory and is difficult to detect it.

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, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ The missile is equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and reliable performance.
- ✓ The missile is developed by Bengaluru-based DRDO laboratory Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) along with contribution from other laboratories and Indian industries.
- ✓ It was monitored by several range sensors like radar, Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS) and telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path.
- ✓ What is a Cruise missile?
- ✓ It is a guided missile used against terrestrial or naval targets, that remains in the atmosphere (unlike ballistic missiles) and flies the major portion of its flight path at an approximately constant speed, before hitting the target.
- ✓ Precision: High, up to a few metres — fit for small, moving targets.
- ✓ Trajectory: Low altitude, level trajectory — hard to detect
- ✓ Subsonic Cruise missiles: These cruise missiles travel at less than Mach 1.
- ✓ Supersonic Cruise missiles: Cruise missiles travelling at supersonic speeds are called supersonic cruise missiles.

- Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Directionally Unrestricted Ray Gun Array (DURGA) system:

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

- Answer : C

- Q.** Recently, a state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterization and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated in which state?

- Answer : A

- Q.** Which IIT has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels?

- Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has launched India's first medical devices calibration facility on wheels.
- ✓ The facility can calibrate up to 45 different life-saving medical devices including defibrillator analyser, electrical safety analyser, gas flow analyser, and dialysis reference meter.
- ✓ The calibration of medical devices on a regular basis is must to ensure accurate diagnosis and treatment of patients.
- ✓ This vehicle will go to the doorsteps of labs and calibrate life-saving medical equipment. The equipment will be tested in just a few hours.

Q. Where is the World Future Energy Summit 2024 being organized?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Dhaka
- C) Dubai
- D) Abu Dhabi

Answer : D

- ✓ The World Future Energy Summit 2024 is being organized in the Gulf city of Abu Dhabi.
- ✓ It is being organised to discuss measures to facilitate global energy transition and promote investment in clean and renewable energy

Q. Who won the Best Airport Award at the Skytrax Awards 2024?

- A) Changi Airport (Singapore)
- B) Tokyo Haneda Airport
- C) Hamad International Airport (Doha)
- D) Dubai Airport

Answer : C

- ✓ Doha's Hamad International Airport (HIA) won the Best Airport Award at the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2024.
- ✓ Hamad Airport beat 12-time champion, Singapore Changi Airport, to win the award.
- ✓ It also won the Best Airport Award for Shopping for the second consecutive time.
- ✓ India's Delhi Airport stood at 36th position in the best airport list.

Q. Recently India is supplying BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to which country?

- A) Nepal
- B) Philippines
- C) Thailand
- D) Bangladesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, India supplied the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the South East Asian country Philippines under a \$375 million deal.
- ✓ The Philippines had made this deal with India in January 2022.
- ✓ BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles fire at speeds of 2.8 Mach or about three times the speed of sound

Q. Recently 'Tirangi Barfi' has been given GI tag, it is related to which city?

- A) Lucknow
- B) Kanpur
- C) Varanasi
- D) Patna

Answer : C

- ✓ Recently, Tirangi Barfi of Varanasi has been given GI tag.
- ✓ Along with this, another product of Varanasi, Dhalua Murti Metal Casting Craft has also been given GI tag.
- ✓ Till now, a total of 34 products from Banaras region and 75 products from Uttar Pradesh have been granted GI tag.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranks second with 58 GI products.

Q. State of World Population 2024 report, recently released by which organization?

- A) World Bank
- B) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- C) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- D) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Answer : B

- ✓ The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) released the 2024 State of the World's Population report in April 2024.
- ✓ India leads with a population of 144.17 crore, expected to double in 77 years. 68% aged 15-64, with a Total Fertility Rate of 2.0. Life expectancy at birth is 71 and 74 years for men and women respectively.
- ✓ Child marriage rates were 23%, and women with disabilities face up to 10 times more gender-based violence.
- ✓ Marginalized communities are largely ignored despite 30 years of SRH progress

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA):

1. It is an alliance of European Union (EU) countries which envisions a just, zero-waste world.
2. It aims to power a transition away from the current linear economy towards a circular system.

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

- ✓ Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific, in collaboration with other environmental organisations, has called on the ASEAN to take decisive action in response to plastic pollution.
- ✓ About Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA):
- ✓ GAIA is a worldwide alliance of more than 1,000 grassroots groups, non-governmental organizations and individuals in over 90 countries.
- ✓ GAIA aims to power a transition away from our current linear and extractive economy and towards a circular system that supports people's right to a safe and healthy environment.
- ✓ GAIA envisions a just, zero-waste world built on respect for ecological limits and community rights, where people are free from the burden of toxic pollution and resources are sustainably conserved, not burned or dumped.
- ✓ This entails fighting pollution and building regenerative solutions in cities through local campaigns, shifts in policy and finance, research and communication initiatives, and movement building.
- ✓ They work on four primary points of intervention: incineration, zero waste, plastic, and climate

Q. Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Dragonfly rotorcraft mission?

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- A) To study the critical earth minerals
- B) To observe the surface temperature of the Moon
- C) To monitor the near-Earth objects in space for any potential risks
- D) To look for the prebiotic chemical processes common on both Saturn's moon Titan and Earth

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, NASA confirmed Dragonfly rotorcraft mission to Saturn's organic compound-rich moon Titan with a budget of \$3.35 billion and a launch date set for July 2028.
- ✓ It is a "dual quadcopter" designed to fly across the surface of Titan, Saturn's largest moon.
- ✓ It will explore a variety of locations on Saturn's moon Titan.
- ✓ It will spend most of its time on the moon's surface making science measurements.
- ✓ It will use a radioisotope power system like the Curiosity rover on Mars.
- ✓ Its flights, data transmission and most science operations will happen during the day, and it will have a lot of time to recharge during night on Titan.
- ✓ It is a rotorcraft, targeted to arrive at Titan in 2034, will fly to dozens of promising locations on the moon, looking for prebiotic chemical processes common on both Titan and the early Earth before life developed.
- ✓ It marks the first time NASA will fly a vehicle for science on another planetary body. The rotorcraft has eight rotors and flies like a large drone.
- ✓ Key facts about Titan
- ✓ Titan is Saturn's largest moon, Titan has an earthlike cycle of liquids flowing across its surface. It is the only moon with a thick atmosphere.

Q. "Keep your liver healthy and disease-free" is the theme for the World Liver Day in 2024. When is this day marked every year on which day?

- A) 20 April
- B) 19 April
- C) 18 April
- D) 17 April

Answer : B

- ✓ The World Liver Day is observed on 19 April annually to spread awareness about the importance of the liver as a vital organ and liver-related diseases, and provide tips for its prevention so as to take holistic care of liver.
- ✓ The World Liver Day theme for 2024 is "Keep your liver healthy and disease-free"
- ✓ The liver is the second largest and the second most complex organ in the body, after the brain.

Q. When is the International Day for Monuments and Sites observed?

- A) April 20
- B) April 18
- C) April 19
- D) April 17

Answer : B

- ✓ The International Day for Monuments and Sites is observed on 18th of April each year. The day is also known as the World Heritage Day.
- ✓ The basic objective of this day is to promote awareness about the diversity of cultural heritage of humanity, their vulnerability and the efforts required for their protection and conservation.

- ✓ The International Day for Monuments and Sites was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – “Discover and Experience Diversity”

Q. Where is the world's largest single-location copper manufacturing plant owned by Adani located?

- A) Tamil Nadu
B) Telangana
C) Gujarat
D) Karnataka

Answer : C

- ✓ The Adani-led conglomerate has announced the launch of the first phase of the world's largest copper manufacturing plant in Mundra, Gujarat.
- ✓ The plant will help to reduce India's dependence on copper imports and support the transition to clean energy.
- ✓ Kutch Copper, a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises Limited, has commissioned the first phase of its greenfield copper refinery.
- ✓ At present, India's per capita copper consumption is only 0.6 kg, which is less than the global average of 3.2 kg.
- ✓ However, as India aims to adopt clean energy systems and increase electric vehicle use, demand for copper is expected to double by 2030. The copper industry will play a key role in India's goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2070.
- ✓ Hindalco Industries Limited currently operates the country's largest copper smelter with a capacity of 0.5 million tonnes.
- ✓ Copper production is more concentrated globally than oil. Chile and Peru are the top two producers, accounting for 38% of worldwide production.

Q. With reference to C-Vigil app, consider the following statements:

1. It is developed by the Election Commission of India.
2. It allows citizens to report cases of violations of the Model Code of Conduct anonymously.
3. It allows users to capture the live incidents only.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Since the announcement of General Elections 2024, over 79,000 complaints have been received on C-Vigil app.
- ✓ It is a mobile application developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to enable citizens to report violations of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) during elections.
- ✓ Features of the app
- ✓ It is user-friendly and easy to operate application, which connects vigilant citizens with the District Control Room, Returning Officer and Flying Squads Teams.
- ✓ By using this app, the citizens can immediately report on incidents of political misconduct within minutes and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer.
- ✓ As soon as the complaint is sent on the cVigil app, the complainant will receive a unique ID through which the person will be able to track the complaint on their mobile.

- ✓ Users capture audios, photos or videos in real-time, and a “100-minute” countdown for time-bound response to complaints is ensured.
- ✓ It uses GPS to track the location of the violation.
- ✓ It allows users to capture the live incidents only.
- ✓ It has a feature to report the case of MCC violation anonymously.
- ✓ One can track the progress of the complaint in this app.
- ✓ Hence all statements are correct

Q. Which players hold the world record for being the oldest player to win an ATP 1000 Master Tennis title?

- A) Rohan Bopanna
B) Danielle Collins
C) Jannik Sinner
D) Matthew Ebden

Answer : A

- ✓ Rohan Bopanna wins Miami Open 2024 Doubles Title.
- ✓ 44 years old star Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna along with his Australian partner Matthew Ebden won the 2024 Miami Open Tennis men's doubles title at the Hard Rock Stadium in Florida ,United States of America on 31 March 2024.
- ✓ In the women's singles American Danielle Collins won her first major title while in the men's singles Italian tennis player Jannik Sinner was crowned the champion.
- ✓ Rohan Bopanna reclaims World No.1 Rank
- ✓ The duo of Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden defeated the pair of Croatia's Ivan Dodig and American Austin Krajicek despite losing the first set. With this victory, the duo of Bopanna and Eden reclaimed their world No.1 rank in the ATP men's double ranking.
- ✓ At the age of 44 , Bopanna also broke his own record to become the oldest player to win an ATP 1000 Masters Championship. Rohan Bopanna along with Ebden had won the Indian Wells tournament last year and at the age of 43 years,Bopanna set the world record of being the oldest player to win an ATP 1000 Master title.
- ✓ After Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupati and Sania Mirza, Bopanna became the fourth Indian to win the Miami Open title.
- ✓ American Danielle Collins wins Miami Open Women's Single Title.
- ✓ American tennis player Danielle Collins defeated Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan in the final to win one of her biggest titles in her career as a professional tennis player.

Q. Where is India's largest agri waste-based bio CNG plant being set up ?

- A) Aligarh
B) Prayagraj
C) Agra
D) Mathura

Answer : D

- ✓ Adani Total Energies Biomass Limited (ATBL), has commissioned the first phase of its Barsana BioGas plant in Shre Mataji Gaushala, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ ATBL is a wholly owned subsidiary of Adani Total Gas Limited (ATGL).
- ✓ Adani Total Gas Limited is a joint venture between Adani Group and Total Energies of France.
- ✓ Barsana Biogas Project.
- ✓ The Barsana Biogas Project, which is being developed in three phases, will have a total capacity of 600 tonnes per day of feedstock after its completion, The project is expected to generate 42 tonnes per day of Compressed Biogas (CBG) and 217 tonnes per day of organic fertiliser
- ✓ Adani Total Energies Biomass Limited Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q.

- A) Sonalika

B) Force Motors

C) Swaraj

D) Tafe Motors

Answer : B

- ✓ India's Force Motors has informed on March 29, 2024 that it has decided to close its agricultural tractor business and related activities from March 31.
- ✓ According to Force Motors, sales of agricultural tractors accounted for 3.66% of the company's total revenue in fiscal year 2023.
- ✓ Force Motors company, known for its multi-seater passenger vehicles. Force Motors also manufactures engines for BMW and Mercedes cars in India. It earns about 48% of its revenue from vehicle sales, while about 36% of the revenue comes from contract engine manufacturing.
- ✓ About Force Motors:
- ✓ Force Motors is an Indian automobile company. It was founded in 1958 by NK Firodia.
- ✓ Known for making agricultural tractors.
- ✓ Force Motors was known as Bajaj Tempo before May 2005.
- ✓ The Chennai-based manufacturing unit of Force Motors was established in the year 2015. Engines for SUVs and BMW cars are manufactured at the Force Motors Chennai plant.

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Q.

- A) India

B) Italy

C) France

D) Germany

Answer : A

- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) held the closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 on March 29th, 2024, at the FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy.
- ✓ In March 2021, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets after a proposal by India, which was supported by over 70 countries.
- ✓ International Year of Millets (IYM 2023)
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets at its 75th session in March 2021.
- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will lead the celebration of this Year in collaboration with other stakeholders.
- ✓ Millets are a type of grain that can grow in arid lands with minimal inputs and are resilient to changes in climate..
- ✓ About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):
- ✓ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that focuses on global food and agricultural matters.
- ✓ Its primary mission is to lead international efforts to prevent hunger.
- ✓ World Food Day is celebrated annually on 16th October to commemorate the establishment of FAO in 1945.
- ✓ FAO has its headquarters in Rome, Italy, and is currently headed by Director-General Qu Dongyu.
- ✓ India is one of the founding members of FAO

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Q.

1. It is the longest high-altitude tunnel in the world.

2. It is located in the Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas in Himachal Pradesh.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- Answer : B

- Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Clean Energy Transitions Programme:

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

- Answer : A

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Q. Who has been appointed as the first woman Prime Minister of Congo?

- A) Bintou Keita
- B) Judith Suminwa Tuluka
- C) Sama Lukonde
- D) Laura Spagnolo

Answer : B

- ✓ The African country Congo has appointed Judith Suminwa Tuluka as the country's first woman Prime Minister.
- ✓ Tuluka's appointment has come at a time when there is an atmosphere of tension in the area bordering Rwanda.
- ✓ Congo is a Central African country, its capital is Kinshasa.

Q. With reference to the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT), consider the following statements:

1. It is an independent system attached to the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) that allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
2. VVPAT can be accessed by the polling officials, but not by the voters.

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 Supreme Court recently sought responses from the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Centre on a plea seeking a comprehensive count of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips in elections.
- ✓ About Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT):
- ✓ It was first introduced in India in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.
- ✓ It is an independent system that consists of two parts, namely, a VVPAT Printer and VVPAT Status Display Unit (VSDU) attached to the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), that allow the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
- ✓ When a vote is cast, a slip is printed containing the serial number, name, and symbol of the candidate and remains exposed through a transparent window for 7 seconds.
- ✓ Thereafter, this printed slip automatically gets cut and falls into the sealed drop box of the VVPAT.
- ✓ How is VVPAT used for verification?
- ✓ The results of EVMs can be verified using the slips kept in the drop boxes of VVPAT machines.
- ✓ VVPAT can be accessed by the polling officials, but not by the voters.
- ✓ The paper slips are deemed to be more authoritative than EVM tallies in cases where VVPAT slips are utilised to verify votes.
- ✓ Voter verification, however, is only done in extreme circumstances, such as when there are accusations of fraud or miscalculation.
- ✓ The ECI has the authority to request that votes be verified using VVPAT slips in response to such complaints.

- ✓ The ECI has clarified that EVMs and VVPATs are separate entities and are not connected to any network.
- ✓ These machines are developed by the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) and Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL).

Q. Which port in India emerged as the highest cargo handling port in 2023-24?

- A) Deendayal Port
B) Mormugao Port
C) Paradip Port
D) Kamarajar Port

Answer : C

- ✓ Paradip Port , the top cargo-handling port in India in 2023-24.
- ✓ Paradip Port Authority, Odisha, has displaced the Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, as the top cargo-handling major port of India in 2023-24.
- ✓ In 2023-24, the Paradip Port handled 145.38 Million Metric Tons (MMT) of cargo.
- ✓ Paradip Port handled 10.02 million metric tons more cargo than last year, registering a growth of 7.4%.
- ✓ The Paradip port has the capacity to handle 289 million metric tonnes.
- ✓ The Paradip Port achieved the highest productivity among all major ports in India. Its berth productivity has improved from 31050 MT to 33014 MT.
- ✓ Paradip Port is the cheapest in terms of tariff among all the ports in the country.
- ✓ About Paradip Port
- ✓ Paradip Port was initially set up by the government of Odisha in 1962. However, in 1965, the government of India took over the ownership and management of the port from the Odisha government.
- ✓ There were initially 13 major ports in India. The Chennai Port acquired the Kamarajar Port(earlier known as Ennore Port) in 2020, and now there are only 12 major ports in India

Q. Who has taken over as the new President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India in April 2024?

- A) S.S Mallikarjuna Rao B) Rajneesh Karnataka
C) M. V. Rao D) Sanjay Nayar

Answer : D

- ✓ Sanjay Nayar, chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, has taken over as president of industry body ASSOCHAM for 2024-25.
- ✓ Sanjay Nair replaces Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD of SpiceJet.
- ✓ Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
- ✓ Founded : 1920
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ President : Sanjay Nayar

Q. Who celebrated serving food to four billion people at the UN Headquarters in April 2024?

- A) Annamrita Foundation
B) Akshay Patra Foundation
C) Cuddles Foundation
D) Rise Against Hunger

Answer : B

- ✓ Celebration of serving food to four billion people at UN Headquarters.
- ✓ Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF) achieved the historic feat of serving four billion thalis.

- ✓ This achievement of Akshaya Patra Foundation was also celebrated in the United Nations.
- ✓ India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj organized a special event at the UN Headquarters on 2 April 2024. The theme of this event organized at the United Nations was 'Achievements in Food Security: India's Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals'.
- ✓ The event showcased India's innovative strategies, policies and achievements towards achieving food security and nutrition.
- ✓ About Akshaya Patra Foundation (APF):
- ✓ Akshaya Patra Foundation was established in the year 2000. It started with feeding 1,500 children from five schools in Bengaluru.
- ✓ Akshaya Patra Foundation is an India-based NGO.
- ✓ The headquarters of this foundation is in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The Foundation implements the Midday Meal Scheme under the PM Poshan Abhiyaan.
- ✓ Akshaya Patra is currently the world's largest non-profit operation. The Midday Meal Program provides nutritious meals to government school children in more than 22,367 schools spread across 14 states and 2 union territories across India.

Q. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has handed over two Dornier 228 aircraft to which country?

A) Kenya	B) Egypt
C) Sri Lanka	D) Guyana

Answer : D

- ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has recently delivered two Dornier 228 aircraft to the Guyana Defence Force.
- ✓ Guyana President Mohamed Irfan Ali has given this information, he had earlier visited the HAL facility in India.
- ✓ Guyana is a country located on the North Atlantic coast of South America.

Q. 'Operation Sankalp', which was in news recently, is related to which of the following?

A) Maritime security	B) child education
C) Cyber security	D) Tribal development

Answer : A

- ✓ The 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 Sankalp of the Indian Navy, launched in response to the increasing tension in the maritime domain, is a successful effort.

Q. Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi has been sworn in as the President of which country?

A) Qatar	B) Egypt
C) Bahrain	D) Malaysia

Answer : B

- ✓ Abdel Fattah El-Sisi was sworn in for his third term as President of Egypt.
- ✓ President Sisi won the presidential election held in December 2023 with 88.6% of the votes.

- ✓ With this, Al-Sisi will remain the President of the third most populous country in the Arab region till the year 2030.
- ✓ In 2019, the Egyptian constitution was amended, extending the term of the president from four to six years. It also raised the limit for a person to be the president of Egypt from two to three.
- ✓ In the 2014 presidential election, Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi was elected president of Egypt for the first time. He was reelected in 2018
- ✓ Islamic Republic of Egypt
- ✓ Egypt is an Arab country which lies in Africa. It is an ancient civilisation that prospered around the Nile River. Ancient Greek historian Herodotus called Egypt the gift of the Nile.
- ✓ The famous Suez Canal lies in Egypt, joining the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea.
- ✓ Currency: Egyptian pound
- ✓ President: Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi

Q. Sanihi Craft, recently got a GI tag, belongs to which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Maharashtra
C) Karnataka D) Kerala

Answer : A

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh leads India with the most Geographical Indication (GI) certified products, now totaling 69 after the addition of 15 new items, surpassing Tamil Nadu's 58.
- ✓ Sanjhi art, originating in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh in the 16th century, is renowned for intricate designs and spiritual significance.
- ✓ Associated with the mother goddess Sanjhi, the craft involves mud images crafted into cosmic forms.
- ✓ It originated around Krishna temples and is now practiced nationwide

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to PRATUSH telescope:

1. It is a radio telescope developed by the Raman Research Institute and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. It aims to study the impact of radio waves on the outer environment of the 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

- ✓ Astronomers are looking forward to opening a new window on the universe by posting high-resolution telescopes on the moon, and in orbit around it including one from India called PRATUSH.
- ✓ Probing ReionizATIOn of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen (PRATUSH) is a radio telescope to be sited on the moon's far side.
- ✓ It is being built by the Raman Research Institute (RRI) in Bengaluru with active collaboration from the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ Initially, ISRO will place PRATUSH into orbit around the earth. After some fine-tuning, the space agency will launch it moonwards.
- ✓ Main roles: It will be to detect signals from the first stars and galaxies, reveal the cosmic dawn of the universe, answering the question when the first stars formed, the nature of the first stars and what was the light from the first stars.

- ✓ It will carry a wideband frequency-independent antenna, a self-calibrating analog receiver and a digital correlator to catch radio noise in the all-important signal from the Dark Ages.
- ✓ The target instrument sensitivity is at the level of few millikelvin without being limited by any systematic features.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to myCGHS App:

1. It has a 2-factor authentication and mPIN features.
2. It is developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).

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 secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the myCGHS app for iOS ecosystem of devices.
- ✓ It is designed to enhance access to Electronic Health Records, information, and resources for Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) beneficiaries.
- ✓ It is developed by the technical teams of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) Himachal Pradesh and NIC Health Team.
- ✓ It is a convenient mobile application offering features aimed at enhancing information and accessibility for CGHS beneficiaries.

Q. Where was India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer launched?

- A) IIT Bombay B) IIT Delhi
C) IIT Kharagpur D) IIT Varanasi

Answer : A

- ✓ President of India Draupadi Murmu launched India's first domestic gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- ✓ India's first CAR-T cell therapy has been developed in collaboration with IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital.
- ✓ Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the launch of India's first gene therapy is a major breakthrough in our fight against cancer

Q. Kathia wheat, which has recently been given GI tag, belongs to which state?

- A) Haryana B) Punjab
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Rajasthan

Answer : C

- ✓ 'Kathiya Gehu', an agricultural produce of Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh, has recently been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ The application for GI tag for this crop was made in the year 2022. The GI tag was granted after a two-year long process.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Agni-Prime missile:

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1. It is a nuclear-capable new-generation missile.
2. It has a maximum range of 1,000 to 2,000 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 : C

- ✓ The new generation ballistic missile Agni-Prime was successfully flight-tested by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) along with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- ✓ It is a nuclear-capable new-generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles.
- ✓ It is a two-stage canisterised missile with a maximum range of 1,000 to 2,000 km.
- ✓ It is lighter than all the earlier Agni series of missiles. It weighs at least 50 per cent less than the Agni 3 missile and has new guidance and propulsion systems.
- ✓ The first test of the 'Agni Prime' was conducted in 2021, while the second test was conducted six months later in December. Last year in June, the DRDO carried out the first night launch of the 'Agni Prime' missile.

Q. With reference to Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health (S.A.R.A.H.), consider the following statements:

1. It is a digital health promoter prototype powered by generative artificial intelligence.
2. It is an initiative of the World Health Organisation (WHO).
3. It can provide information about diseases in all major languages of the world.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO) announced the launch of S.A.R.A.H., a digital health promoter prototype.
- ✓ Smart AI Resource Assistant for Health (S.A.R.A.H.) is a digital health promoter prototype with enhanced empathetic response powered by generative artificial intelligence (AI).
- ✓ It is launched by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ✓ It aims to provide an additional tool for people to realize their rights to health, wherever they are.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is trained to provide information across major health topics, including healthy habits and mental health, to help people optimize their health and well-being journey.
- ✓ It can engage users 24 hours a day in 8 languages on multiple health topics, on any device.
- ✓ It is now powered by generative AI rather than a pre-set algorithm or script helping her to provide more accurate responses in real-time.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. India will build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by which year?

- A) 2027-28 B) 2029-30

C) 2030-31

D) 2031-32

Answer : B

- ✓ India plans to build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30, granting the operator the freedom to trade all of the stored oil.
- ✓ Allowing a fully commercial SPR mirrors the model adopted by countries such as Japan and South Korea, which allow private lessees, mostly oil majors, to trade the crude.
- ✓ So far, India has allowed only partial commercialization for its three existing SPRs in southern India, which have a combined capacity of 36.7 million barrels.
- ✓ India plans to build two new SPRs – the first a 18.3 million barrels cavern at Padur in southern Karnataka state, and then a 29.3 million barrels SPR in eastern Odisha state – with private partners allowed to trade all of the oil locally.
- ✓ PRL estimates the Padur SPR and linked pipeline and oil import facility would cost about 55 billion rupees (\$659 million), with the federal government providing up to 60 per cent of the total.

Q. Who was honoured with the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Award 2024?

A) Reliance Industries

B) SJVN Limited

C) Adani Green

D) Tata Telecom

Answer : B

- ✓ SJVN Limited has won two prestigious awards at the 15th CIDC Vishwakarma Awards 2024 instituted by the Construction Industry Development Council.
- ✓ SJVN was awarded the 'Achievement Award for Creating Social Development and Impact' and the 'CIDC Partners in Progress Trophy'.

Q. Who won the title of CCI Snooker Classic?

A) Pankaj Advani

B) Kamal Chawla

C) Abhay Kapoor

D) Shreyansh Sinha

Answer : A

- ✓ World champion Pankaj Advani continued his dominance during the CCI Snooker Classic in Mumbai to win the title.
- ✓ In the final, Pankaj defeated Kamal Chawla 8-3.
- ✓ Pankaj Advani has won the CCI Snooker Classic title in the last two years and has now retained the billiards title

Q. President of India launched India's first home-grown gene therapy for cancer at which place?

A) IIT Madras

B) IIT Bombay

C) IIT Hyderabad

D) IIT Delhi

Answer : B

- ✓ India's President, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched the nation's inaugural home-grown gene therapy for cancer at IIT Bombay.
- ✓ The groundbreaking "CAR-T cell therapy" offers affordable hope in the cancer fight.
- ✓ This medical milestone, a part of 'Make in India,' embodies 'Atmanirbhar Bharat.'
- ✓ Developed collaboratively by IIT Bombay, Tata Memorial Hospital, and ImmunoACT, it marks a significant achievement in research and development.

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- ✓ Gene therapy holds promise in treating various diseases, heralding a new era in healthcare.

Q. Where was the 19th annual meeting of the secretaries of the security councils of the SCO held?

- A) Dushanbe, Tajikistan
- B) Astana, Kazakhstan
- C) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- D) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian NSA Ajit Doval led the delegation at the SCO Secretaries of Security Councils meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- ✓ He met Kazakhstan's President Tokayev, advocating for a Cooperation Programme against terrorism, separatism, and extremism for 2025-2027.
- ✓ President Tokayev emphasized the need for a unified approach to counter "three evil forces" and transnational crimes like drug trafficking and cyber threats.
- ✓ The meeting aimed to enhance security cooperation among SCO member states

Q. Which one of the following statements best describes 'Project Akashteer'?

- A) An initiative of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to address the issues of malnutrition in rural India.
- B) An initiative by the Indian Army to automate air defense control.
- C) An initiative of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to detect celestial objects.
- D) An initiative of the Ministry of Finance to facilitate low-cost funding to space start-ups

Answer : B

- ✓ The Indian Army has initiated the induction of control and reporting systems under 'Project Akashteer' to bolster its air defense capabilities.
- ✓ It is a cutting-edge initiative designed to automate air defense control and reporting processes by digitizing them.
- ✓ It aims to deliver an unprecedented level of situational awareness and control for the force to ensure the safety of friendly aircraft and engage hostile aircraft in contested airspace.
- ✓ It will enable monitoring of low-level airspace over the battle areas of the Indian Army and effectively control the Ground Based Air Defence Weapon Systems.
- ✓ Key facts about Akashteer Command and Control Systems
- ✓ It is developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.
- ✓ The system's control centers, designed to be vehicle-based and mobile, can maintain operational capabilities even in challenging communication environments.

Q. Who is the first Indian woman to be appointed as a Jury in the Paris Olympics?

- A) Bilquis Mir
- B) Karnam Malleswari
- C) Mary Kom
- D) Saina Nehwal

Answer : A

- ✓ Bilquis Mir of Jammu Kashmir has become the first Indian to be appointed a jury member at the 33rd Summer Olympics to be held in Paris, France, from 26 July -11 August 2024.
- ✓ She is also the first woman from India to be made a jury member in the Olympics games.
- ✓ Bilquis Mir, who is a qualified jury member, was a jury member at the 19th Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China, last year.
- ✓ According to the Indian Olympic Association, former canoeist Bilquis Mir was nominated by the Indian Kayaking and Canoeing Association to officiate at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ Bilquis Mir to be a Jury member at three International events
- ✓ Apart from performing jury duty at the Paris Olympics, Bilquis Mir will also be a part of the jury at two other international events.
- ✓ She will serve as a jury member for the Olympic qualifying rounds of Kayaking & Canoeing (Asia) to be held in Tokyo (Japan) from April 18 to 20,2024.
- ✓ She will also be a jury member at the 2024 ICF Canoe Sprint World Championships to be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from August 23 to 25, 2024.
- ✓ Both Kayaking and Canoeing are water sports. Canoeing/Kayaking was introduced as a demonstration sport in the 1924 Paris Olympics

Q. Which country developed the world's most powerful laser?

- A) USA
- B) France
- C) Romania
- D) Russia

Answer : C

- ✓ Romania unveils World's most Powerful Laser
- ✓ A research centre in Romania has recently unveiled "the world's most powerful laser", which is based on the inventions of 2018 Nobel Physics Prize winners Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland.
- ✓ The laser, as per the Romanian research centre, is expected to revolutionise everything from the health sector to space exploration.
- ✓ The laser at the research centre, situated near the Romanian capital Bucharest, is operated by the French company Thales, using Nobel prize-winning inventions.
- ✓ France's Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland of Canada won the 2018 Nobel Physics Prize for harnessing the power of lasers for advanced precision instruments in corrective eye surgery and industry.

Q. Which country has officially launched its e-Visa program for several countries, including India?

- A) Australia
- B) Japan
- C) South Korea
- D) Russia

Answer : B

- ✓ Japan has officially launched its e-Visa program for several countries, including India.
- ✓ This single-entry visa grants a validity of up to 90 days and is specifically designed for travellers planning to enter Japan by air and holding an ordinary passport.
- ✓ For individuals seeking short-term tourism in Japan, the process of obtaining a visa has been streamlined through the introduction of electronic visas (e-Visas) via the Japan e-Visa system.
- ✓ Who is Eligible ?
- ✓ The following countries and regions are eligible: Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA.
- ✓ The eligibility also extends to Indian citizens and foreign nationals residing in India.

- ✓ Residents of these countries or regions, excluding those exempt from short-term visas, can apply for an e-Visa via the Japan e-Visa website.

Q. The Suvidha Portal developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) is primarily aimed at:

- A) facilitating voter registrations
- B) providing real-time election results
- C) enabling voter education programs
- D) streamlining the process of permission requests from political parties

Answer : C

- ✓ The Election Commission recently said its Suvidha portal has received over 73,000 applications since the Lok Sabha polls were announced, seeking permission for various campaigning activities.
- ✓ About Suvidha Portal:
- ✓ It is a technological solution developed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure a level playing field upholding the democratic principles of free, fair, and transparent elections.
- ✓ It streamlined the process of obtaining and acting upon requests for permissions and facilities from political parties and candidates during the election period.
- ✓ Recognizing the importance of the election campaign period, where parties and candidates engage in activities to reach out to voters, the Suvidha Portal caters to a diverse range of permission requests transparently on the First in First Out principle.
- ✓ Political parties and candidates can seamlessly submit permission requests online from anywhere, at any time

Q. The city of Miraj, which has been granted GI tag for its art of making musical instruments, is located in which state?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Miraj, a small town in Sangli district of Maharashtra, is known for its craftsmanship in making musical instruments, especially sitar and tanpura.
- ✓ The city of Miraj has recently been granted the GI tag.
- ✓ The GI tag indicates a product coming from a particular geographical region and which enhances its commercial value.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding AUKUS:

1. It is a trilateral security partnership between the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Australia.
2. It is designed to equip Australia with nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs).

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 U.S., Britain and Australia are set to begin talks on bringing new members into their AUKUS security pact.
- ✓ About AUKUS:
- ✓ It is a trilateral security partnership between the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Australia agreed in 2021.
- ✓ AUKUS is intended to strengthen the ability of each government to support security and defense interests, building on longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties.
- ✓ It consists of two key pillars.
- ✓ Pillar 1 focuses on supporting Australia to acquire its first conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarine fleet. (It does not involve the transfer of nuclear weapons to Australia.)
- ✓ Pillar 2 focuses on cooperation in eight advanced military capability areas: artificial intelligence (AI), quantum technologies, innovation, information sharing, and cyber, undersea, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic and electronic warfare domains.
- ✓ AUKUS will make Australia the seventh country in the world to be armed with nuclear-powered submarines and the second, after the United Kingdom, with whom the United States has shared this technology.

Q. Agnilet engine, recently seen in news, is the:

- A) world's first nuclear-powered rocket engine
- B) air propulsion engine operating on the principle of supersonic combustion
- C) world's first single-piece 3D semi-cryogenic rocket engine
- D) first engine to use liquid methane as fuel

Answer : C

- ✓ For the second time, the launch of AgniKul 'Agnibaan SOrTeD' has been postponed.
- ✓ About Agnibaan SOrTeD:
- ✓ Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOrTeD) is a single-stage launch vehicle powered by AgniKul's patented Agnilet engine.
- ✓ It is an entirely 3D-printed, single-piece, 6 kilonewton (kN) semi-cryogenic engine.
- ✓ It is the world's first single piece 3D printed semi-cryogenic rocket engine.
- ✓ It will be launched from India's first private launchpad, ALP-01, located inside the Indian space agency ISRO's Sriharikota spaceport.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It is India's first ever vehicle equipped with a semicryogenic engine, the Agnilet, a subcooled liquidoxygen-based propulsion system developed indigenously.
- ✓ The rocket engine will burn kerosene in liquid oxygen and can be directly used in the rocket.
- ✓ It stands 18 meters tall and is 1.3 meters in diameter.
- ✓ It has the capability to carry a 100-kg payload up to a height of 700 km with a lift of mass of 14,000 Kgs.
- ✓ To ensure its compatibility with multiple launch ports, AgniKul has built a launch pedestal named 'Dhanush' that will support the rocket's mobility across all its configurations.

- ✓ The year 2024 marks the 76th anniversary of WHO and as a part of celebration WHO has chosen 'My Health, My Right' as the theme of World Health Day 2024 which focuses on the fundamental human right: access to quality health care, education and information

Q. Who launched India's first private sub-meter resolution surveillance satellite?

- A) Agnikul Cosmos
- B) Dhruv space
- C) Tata Advanced Systems Limited
- D) Skyroot Aerospace

Answer : C

- ✓ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) launched India's first privately built sub-meter resolution surveillance satellite TSAT-1A.
- ✓ TASL, in collaboration with Satellogic, launched the spacecraft on April 7 using SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida

Q. Consider the following statements regarding TSAT-1A, recently seen in the news:

1. It is an Earth observation satellite of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
2. It has the ability to capture military grade imagery of Earth's surface with sub-meter resolution.

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

- ✓ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) recently announced the successful deployment in space of its sub-metre resolution optical satellite, TSAT-1A, by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket.
- ✓ About TSAT-1A:
- ✓ It is an optical sub-metre-resolution Earth observation satellite.
- ✓ It was built by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) in collaboration with Latin American company Satellogic Inc, following a collaboration agreement between the two companies in late November 2023.
- ✓ TSAT-1A was assembled in TASL's Assembly, Integration, and Testing (AIT) plant at its Vemagal facility in Karnataka.
- ✓ It was launched by SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from the Kennedy Space Center, Florida, in the US.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ TSAT-1A's core strength lies in its ability to capture military grade imagery of Earth's surface with sub-meter resolution.
- ✓ It is equipped with both multispectral and hyperspectral imaging capabilities.
- ✓ TSAT-1A boasts greater collection capacity, a wider dynamic range (the ability to capture detail in both very bright and very dark areas), and low-latency delivery of data.
- ✓ While India has a few military spy satellites built by ISRO, this is the first such initiative in the private sector.

Q. Which Indian shipyard company has signed the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the United States Navy to facilitate the repair of US Naval vessels under Military Sealift Command?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), a government enterprise, has signed the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the United States Navy.
- ✓ This will facilitate repair of US Naval vessels under Military Sealift Command in Cochin Shipyard.
- ✓ CSL (Cochin Shipyard) has been qualified for entering into the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA) after a detailed evaluation process and capability assessment by the US Navy – Military Sealift Command.

Q. India has acquired the right to operate the overseas Sittwe port, in which country?

- A) Iran
- B) Qatar
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Myanmar

Answer : D

- ✓ Sittwe Port located in Myanmar will now be operated by India. After Iran's Chabahar Port, this is the second foreign port which will be operated by India.
- ✓ A proposal of India Ports Global (IPGL) to take over the operations of this port located on the Kaladan river has been approved.

Q. Sumit Nagal becomes the first Indian to win main draw match in Monte Carlo Masters. He is related to which sport?

- A) Badminton
- B) Tennis
- C) Wushu
- D) Archery

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian tennis player Sumit Nagal stuns 35th ranked Matteo Arnaldi and becomes first ever Indian to win main draw match at Monte Carlo Masters.
- ✓ He defeated Arnaldi. The unseeded 95th-ranked Nagal, is only the third Indian to feature in the main draw in Monte Carlo after Vijay Amritraj in 1977 and Ramesh Krishnan in 1982.
- ✓ He became the first-ever male Indian singles player to win a Masters 1000 match on clay.

Q. Who is the author of the book titled 'The Idea of Democracy'?

- A) Chetan Bhagat
- B) Salman Rushdie
- C) Sam Pitroda
- D) Amitav Ghosh

Answer : C

- ✓ Sam Pitroda has launched 'The Idea of Democracy', expressed concern over democracy's state in the US and India, highlighting 2024's global elections.
- ✓ He discussed political challenges worldwide, including authoritarian regimes and social media's role in misinformation.
- ✓ Highlighted cycle of elite regimes falling to public dissent, suggesting the current political-business elite facing rejection.

Q. Who has been sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Ireland?

- A) Michael Martin
- B) Simon Harris
- C) Michael McGrath
- D) Leo Varadkar

Answer : B

- ✓ The Irish Parliament has elected Simon Harris as the country's new and youngest Prime Minister.
- ✓ Earlier, Indian-origin Leo Varadkar had resigned from the post of Prime Minister. He was appointed Minister of Health in 2016 at the age of 29 and Minister of Higher Education in 2020.
- ✓ Simon Harris has become the youngest PM of the country

Q. C-Dome, an air defence system, is developed by which one of the following countries?

- A) USA
- B) Israel
- C) Russia
- D) Iran

Answer : B

- ✓ Israel for the first time deployed its ship-mounted defence system, called the C-Dome.
- ✓ About C-Dome:
- ✓ It is a naval version of Israel's Iron Dome air defence system, used to shield against rocket and missile attacks.
- ✓ The Iron Dome, which was activated in 2011 and has an effectiveness of about 90%, works by using radars to detect short-range rockets before destroying them with its own missiles.
- ✓ The C-Dome, which was first unveiled in 2014, declared operational in November 2022, works similarly to the Iron Dome, using some of the same technology, except that it's mounted on ships.
- ✓ Key Facts about Iron Dome:
- ✓ It is Israel's air missile defense system that can defend against short-range rockets, intercepting them in the air above the state.
- ✓ It is capable of successfully handling multiple rockets at a time.
- ✓ Developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries, the system became operational in March 2011.

Q. Who has been appointed as the full-time member of the Sixteenth Finance Commission?

- A) Rajeev Kumar
- B) Amitabh Kant
- C) Manoj Panda
- D) Rajmohan Sinha

Answer : C

- ✓ The Central Government has appointed Manoj Panda, former Director of the Institute of Economic Growth, as a full-time member of the Sixteenth Finance Commission.
- ✓ Till now there were only three full-time members in the Commission.
- ✓ The Center constituted the 16th Finance Commission on December 31, 2023.
- ✓ The Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission is Arvind Panagariya.

Q. How many US dollars will World Athletics award to the gold medal winners in athletics at the Paris Olympics?

- A) US \$ 10,000
- B) US\$30,000

C) US\$ 40,000

D) US \$ 50,000

Answer : D

- ✓ World Athletics will award US\$50,000 to gold medal winners in athletics at the Paris Olympics.
- ✓ This is the first time that World Athletics has announced prize money for an Olympic sports event.
- ✓ It will be extended to all three medal winners in Los Angeles 2028.

Q. Which day is observed every year on April 10?

A) World Malaria Day

B) World Liver Day

C) World Hemophilia Day

D) World Homeopathy Day

Answer : D

- ✓ The World Homeopathy Day is celebrated every year on April 10 to spread awareness about homoeopathy and its contribution to the world of medicine.
- ✓ The theme for 2024 World Homoeopathy Day is "Homeoparivar: One Health, One Family"
- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of German physician Dr Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, who is considered as the founder of system of alternative medicine called Homeopathy.

Q. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is celebrated every year on April 09. In 2024 which edition of CRPF Valour Day was celebrated?

A) 55th

B) 61st

C) 59th

D) 68th

Answer : C

- ✓ The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Valour Day (Shaurya Diwas) is observed on 9th April every year, as a tribute to the brave men of the Force.
- ✓ 2024 marks 59th CRPF Valour Day.
- ✓ It was on this day in 1965, a small contingent of CRPF created history by defeating an invading Pakistani army, several time larger, at the Sardar Post located in the Rann of Kutch, Gujarat.
- ✓ The CRPF men eliminated 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive.
- ✓ In the conflict, CRPF lost six personnel who had attained martyrdom.



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STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD 🙌

NAME - PRIYADARSHINI
KALIYAMCORTHY
ROLL NO - 2120036944
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK
STATE - TAMILNADU



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NAME - GARVITA VARSHNEY
ROLL NO - 2603003298
SELECTED IN - ARYAVART
GRAMIN BANK CLERK
STATE - UTTAR PRADESH



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - ISHITA GARG
ROLL NO - 2283004123
STATE - PUNJAB
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK



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NAME - NIPUN
ROLL NO - 1533002831
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - HARYANA



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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

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NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA
ROLL NO - 2543024278
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - TELANGANA



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NAME - NISHU SHARMA
ROLL NO - 1523008901
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - HARYANA



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NAME - GURIYA KUMARI
ROLL NO - 1373005773
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMEEN
BANK



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - GURPREET KAUR
ROLL NO - 2283002821
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK
STATE - FROM PUNJAB



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JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - MANU VARGHESE
ROLL NO - 2110710970
BANK - KERALA GRAMEEN
BANK CLERK

Top 10 students those obtained highest marks in GA .Those became PO in 2022



Name- PRIYA
Roll No- 3161002146
Bank- PO IN CBI
Roll no- 2811001773
Bank - CLERK IN PNB



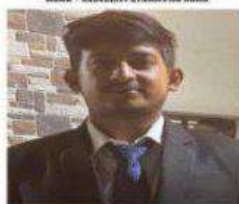
Name - Bhikang Vijaya
Roll no - 3161002146
State - Andhra Pradesh
Bank - Central Bank of India
Post - PO
Roll no- 2811001773
Post - Hpa yth clerk
Bank - Karnataka cooperative bank



Name-- Shakshi
Roll No -- 2611000443
Bank po in cbi



NAME - PRIYANSHINI KALYANMOORTHY
ROLL NO - 412003084
LECTED IN - RRB PO SAPTGA GIRI GRAMEEN BAN
STATE - TAMILNADU



Name: Nigmi
lected in - RRB PO CLERK, SBI CLERK, SBI EXECUTIVE
Roll No 3161002146



Name- Prabh Dayal Sa
Roll no - 4351001578
Bank- SBI PO
Banka, Bihar



Name- Rashmi Ranjan Behera
Roll no- 3521007295
State- Odisha
Bank- Union Bank of India
Post- PO



Name :Sonu
Roll no.- 3671013546
lected in - UCO po, pob clerk & sb



Name - E. Srikrishna
lected - SBI JA & DFB PO (Central Bank Of Ind
Roll No - 3161002146



NAME - PRAVEEN
ROLL NO - 3161002146
LECTED IN - RRB PO SAPTGA GIRI GRAMEEN BAN
STATE - TAMILNADU