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Name - Jaiz

Sbi Clerk Mains 2024



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Name - Shaik Lateek
IBPS Clerk : Canara Bank
State : Tamil Nadu



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Name : Rahul. R.
IBPS Clerk : Canara Bank.
State : Tamil Nadu.



India's No-1 Platform



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 - Birlangi Vijaya
Roll no - 1391000343
State - Andhra Pradesh
Bank - Central Bank of India
Post - PO
Roll no- 1233001730
Post - Ibpa rrb clerk
Bank - santalabri gramscena 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- 2521007295
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
ROLL NO - 1801005776
LECTED IN - RRB PO KARNATAKA GRAMMENA BAN
STATE - KARNATAKA

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- ❖ FINALLY WE ARE GOING TO START A NEW BATCH FOR ALL UPCOMING MAINS EXAM IBPS PO / CLERK / LIC / AAO / ADO / RRB PO / CLERK SBI PO / SBI CLERK 2203 (PAID GROUP FOR QUIZES)
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 - ❖ BY - BOT
 - ❖ WE WILL ORGANIZE CA QUIZS BY BOOSTER (CAPSULE)
 - ❖ DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS DISCUSSION WITH AMAZING FACTS
 - ❖ WE WILL COVER TOPIC WISE DISCUSSION BY APARCHIT SUPER GA PAID BOOSTER
 - ❖ WE WILL COVER CURRENT AFFAIRS + BANKING AWARENESS
 - ❖ BY:-BOT
 - ❖ FULL CA COVER BY BOT AND
 - ❖ DISCUSSION WITH FACTS A SINGLE QUESTION DISCUSS WITH ITS RELATED FACTS.
 - ❖ APARCHIT SUPER CURRENT BEST 350 + WEEKLY QUIZ
 - ❖ BY:-BOT
 - ❖ WE ALREADY GIVEN 1100+ SELECTION IN 2020 - 2022.
-
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APARCHIT GA PAID BOOSTER FOR IBPS PO MAINS 2024

By APARCHIT EXAM WARRIORS

BOOKS & AUTHORS OCTOBER 2024

The election that surprised India	Rajdeep Sardesai
The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World	William Dalrymple
Tightrope to the Moon : How Mega Founders Win the Start-Up War	Rahul Chandra
Unleashed	Boris Johnson
LARA : The England Chronicles	Brain Lara
Mountain Mammals of the World	M.K. Ranjitsinh
“War”	Bob Woodward

BOOKS & AUTHORS SEPTEMBER 2024

Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography	Piyush Pandey
Venkaiah Naidu – Life in Service	S Nagesh Kumar
Mahaneta – Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu	Sanjay Kishore
From Oil to Lithium: Navigating the Future of Energy	Kuldeep Gupta
Sri Rama in Tamilagam – An Inseparable Bond	Dr. D.K. Hari and Dr. D.K. Hema Hari
Khaki Mein Sthitapragya-Ek IPS Adhikari ki Smiritiyan avam Anubhav	Anil Raturi

BOOKS & AUTHORS AUGUST 2024

Bharat ke 75 mahan krantikari (75 Great Revolutionaries of India)	Bhim Singh
The Scientist Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women	Kalpna Sankar
Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity	Tarun Chugh
India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse	K V Subramanian
'Gandhian Statesman of Bihar: Nitish Kumar'	Ashok Choudary & Shambhavi Choudhary
Call of the Gir	Parimal Nathwani

BOOKS & AUTHORS JULY 2024

Power Within: The Leadership Legacy of Narendra Modi	Dr. R Balasubramaniam
The Prisoner of Bhopal	Tim Walker
Manoj Bajpayee: The Definitive Biography	Piyush Pandey
Breaking Rocks and Barriers	Sudipta Sengupta
Jamsetji Tata: Powerful Learnings For Corporate Success	R. Gopalakrishnan and Harish Bhat
Venkaiah Naidu – Life in Service	S Nagesh Kumar
Mahaneta – Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu	Sanjay Kishore

BOOKS AND AUTHORS JUNE 2024

A Fly on the RBI Wall	Alpana Killawala
Source Code: My Beginnings	Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates
Ed Finds a Home	Alia Bhatt
The Winner's Mindset	Shane Watson
I Have the Streets: A Kutti Cricket Story	Ravichandran Ashwin & Sidharth Monga

WEB PORTAL & APPS OCTOBER 2024**eShram - One Stop Solution.**

Union Ministry of Labour & Employment and Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports launched eShram One Stop Solution in New Delhi.

About eShram - One Stop Solution:

It will provide seamless access of different Social Security Schemes to the unorganised workers registered on eShram portal.

Purpose: The primary purpose of the eShram One Stop Solution is to simplify the registration process for unorganised workers and facilitate their access to government welfare schemes.

This platform will act as a bridge, connecting the workers to the numerous benefits offered by the government and making the registration process easier and more transparent."

It entails consolidating and integrating data from various Central Ministries/Departments into a single repository.

Key welfare schemes such as One Nation One Ration Card, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Social Assistance Programme, National Career Service, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan etc. have been integrated with eShram.

What is eShram 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.

The registration in the portal is fully Aadhaar verified and Aadhaar seeded. Any unorganised worker can register himself or herself on the portal on a self-declaration basis.

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.

Musaned Platform.

Saudi Arabia platform called Musaned to ensure wage protection, human rights of expat workers.

About Musaned Platform:

It is a digital platform launched by Saudi

Under this platform foreign workers in the domestic (household) work sector can check the existing employment contracts and follow updates in a dedicated Musaned labour app.

Features

This system allows foreign embassies to have "view access" on the system on "all the details related to their citizens working in Saudi (employer name, location, endorsed contract.)."

It allows the foreign missions a "view access" aimed at resolving labour disputes more efficiently.

It will benefit at least 10 African countries like Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Egypt and Kenya as well as nine Asian countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Vietnam, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

The most important feature of this platform is that it provides a "wage protection system" by following the employers' obligations to pay the monthly wages for the workers.

The digital platform can track financial transactions between the employers and the foreign workers, thereby ensuring the employers will fulfill the contractual obligations towards the foreign workers.

e-Migrate Portal.

Union External Affairs Minister and Labour and Employment Minister launched the updated e-Migrate portal and mobile app.

About e-Migrate Portal:

It is an online platform launched by the Government of India to facilitate and manage the migration of Indian workers seeking employment abroad. It aims to provide a safe and transparent framework for migrant workers by offering various services, including information access, documentation, helpline support, integration with services and awareness campaigns.

It promotes safe and legal mobility channels for Indian migrants.

The enhanced e-Migrate portal aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 10, promoting orderly and responsible migration.

Features

The upgraded platform offers 24/7 multilingual helpline support and a feature for feedback, ensuring timely redressal of issues faced by workers abroad, especially in the Gulf region.

The revamped system integrates with Digilocker, enabling secure, paperless document submission.

The platform also supports job-seekers by offering a one-stop marketplace for overseas employment opportunities.

Tele MANAS.

Tele MANAS is now available as a comprehensive mobile platform – Tele MANAS App – developed for the public.

About Tele MANAS:

Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS) was started by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare 2022.

It seeks to function as a comprehensive, integrated, and inclusive 24x7 tele-mental health facility.

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.

Key facts about Tele MANAS App

It is offered under the National Tele Mental Health Programme of India.

The app has a library of information including tips on self-care, recognizing distress signals and managing early signs of stress, anxiety, and emotional struggles.

This mobile app will also help users connect for free and access confidential mental health support through trained mental health professionals across India, 24x7 for immediate counselling.

Meta Launches 'Scam se Bacho' Safety Campaign.

Meta, in collaboration with the Indian government, launched a two-month-long campaign called 'Scam se Bacho' to educate citizens on online safety and protect them from the growing menace of cyber fraud.

Meta's new initiative aims to curb the rising cases of cyber fraud in India by increasing awareness about online scams and providing safety tools to internet users.

The 'Scam se Bacho' campaign is a collaborative effort between Meta and key government bodies like the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB), and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C).

AI Samarth

Central Square Foundation in collaboration with Google launched the 'AI Samarth' initiative to promote AI literacy for over five million students, parents, and teachers across India.

The initiative aims to bridge the digital divide by reaching children from low-income households, ensuring that AI education reaches underserved communities, particularly in government and low-fee private schools.

AI Samarth is set to achieve its target of five million participants in the next four years, addressing the rising need for AI awareness and encouraging its responsible use in education.

BharatGen.

BharatGen, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at revolutionizing public service delivery and enhancing citizen engagement through generative AI, was inaugurated in New Delhi.

BharatGen represents India's commitment to advancing homegrown technologies, positioning the country as a global leader in generative AI, akin to its innovations in UPI and other sectors.

It is the world's first government-funded Multimodal Large Language Model project, focusing on developing AI systems in various Indian languages.

Spearheaded by IIT Bombay under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems

(NM-ICPS), BharatGen will create generative AI systems capable of producing high-quality text and multimodal content.

The project will be executed by the TIH Foundation in collaboration with several academic partners, including IIT Bombay, IIIT Hyderabad, and IIT Kanpur.

BharatGen aims to deliver AI models as a public good, prioritizing India's socio-cultural and linguistic diversity, and addressing national needs such as social equity and cultural preservation.

WEB PORTAL & APPS SEPTEMBER 2024

National Career Service (NCS) Portal

Amazon India Has Signed An MoU With Ministry Of Labour And Employment To Utilize National Career Service (NCS) Portal.

Amazon India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to use the National employment Service (NCS) portal to help job seekers find employment opportunities that match their talents and qualifications.

This collaboration will enable Amazon India and its staffing agencies to publish job openings, source applicants from the NCS portal, and improve access to job opportunities throughout India

Facilitating Job Opportunities

career seekers registered on the NCS portal will now have access to a wide range of career opportunities across Amazon's corporate offices and operational network thanks to the MoU. The agreement enables Amazon and its hiring agencies to successfully source candidates from NCS's huge database, hence enhancing recruitment for opportunities nationwide, including women and people with disabilities.

With over 87 lakh registered job seekers on the NCS site in FY 2024, this collaboration intends to close the gap between supply and demand in the job market, particularly in the rapidly expanding e-commerce sector

eShram Portal

eShram Portal Registers 30 Crore Unorganised Workers.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoLE) recently highlighted the success of the eShram portal, which has registered over 30 crore unorganised workers since it was launched three years ago.

This is a big achievement, as it shows progress in creating a digital system to support unorganised workers in India.

Purpose of the eShram Portal

The eShram portal is meant to be a “One-Stop-Solution” for unorganised workers. This means it helps them access various social security schemes all in one place, making it easier for them to get the benefits they are entitled to.

Integration with Social Security Schemes

The Ministry of Labour & Employment is working to connect important social security schemes to the eShram portal. These schemes include:

Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY): A life insurance scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY): An accident insurance scheme.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY): A health insurance scheme.

Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM-SVANidhi): A scheme providing financial support to street vendors.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA): A scheme that guarantees employment in rural areas.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (PMAY-G): A scheme for providing housing in rural areas.

Ration Card Scheme: A scheme that provides subsidized food grains to eligible families.

Shram Suvidha Portal.

Ministry of Labour and Employment is set to launch a revamped version of the Shram Suvidha Portal by the end of the year.

The new version will use artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to make it easier for businesses to: File registrations, Submit returns, and Report inspections.

The Shram Suvidha Portal is a single point of contact between employers and enforcement agencies.

It was launched on August 26, 2021 as the National Database of Unorganized Workers.

The portal's objectives include.

Ensuring transparency in interactions between employers and enforcement agencies .

Making the evaluation process objective .

Promoting the use of a common Labour Identification Number (LIN).

The portal's features include:

A transparent Labour Inspection Scheme.

The ability to file self-certified and simplified Single Online Common Annual Returns.

The ability to upload inspection reports within 48 hours.

Rangeen Machhli App.

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the “Rangeen Machhli” mobile app.

Features of ‘Rangeen Machhli’ App

Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying at ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar. The launch was supported by the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)..

About Rangeen Machhli App:

It is designed to meet the growing needs of the ornamental fisheries sector, providing crucial knowledge resources for hobbyists, aquarium shop owners, and fish farmers.

It is developed by ICAR-CIFA with support from the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

Features

It provides multilingual information on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages, making it accessible to a wide audience.

The app offers comprehensive details on care, breeding, and maintenance practices to both farmers and hobbyists.

One of its key features is the "Find Aquarium Shops" tool, which allows users to locate nearby aquarium shops through a dynamic directory updated by shop owners, promoting local businesses and connecting users with reliable sources for ornamental fish and aquarium-related products.

The app provides information on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages, ensuring accessibility for a diverse audience, including hobbyists, aquarium shop owners, and fish farmers.

The app offers comprehensive guidance on fish care, breeding, and maintenance practices, catering to both beginners and professionals in the ornamental fish industry.

One of the key features is the “Find Aquarium Shops” tool, which enables users to locate nearby aquarium shops via a dynamic directory that is updated by shop owners.

About Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

PMMSY is a flagship scheme launched by the Government of India on September 10, 2020.

Aim: This scheme aims to bring about a Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India.

Nodal Ministry: Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.

Components: The scheme has two components — Central Sector Scheme(CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme(CSS).

Objectives:

i) Augmenting fish production and productivity at a sustained average annual growth rate of about 9% to achieve a target of 22 million metric tons by 2024-25.

ii) Creation of direct gainful employment opportunities to about 15 lakh fishers, fish farmers, fish workers, fish vendors etc.

iii) Doubling of fishers, fish farmers and fish workers incomes by 2024.

Duration: 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.

Saarthi App

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has launched the Saarthi App.

About the Saarthi App

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has developed Saarthi App in collaboration with the Bhashini to allow firms to develop buyer-side apps with multilingual support.

It currently supports five languages: Hindi, English, Marathi, Bengali, and Tamil.

The future objective is to add support for all 22 languages Bhashini supports to ensure complete linguistic coverage throughout India.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has created the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to promote open e-commerce.

It was established in December 2021 with an initial investment from the Quality Council of India and Protean eGov Technologies Limited.

About Bhashini

The Prime Minister launched Bhashini in July 2022 to offer language technology solutions as digital public goods via the Bhashini platform.

Bhashini is India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered language translation platform.

It aims to bridge language barriers in digital areas by making the internet and digital services available in multiple Indian languages.

It covers all 22 officially recognised Indian languages to meet diverse linguistic needs.

Trade Connect ePlatform

The government launched Trade Connect ePlatform, a portal to provide all kinds of information related to exports and imports.

The Trade Connect ePlatform is developed in collaboration with the Ministries of External Affairs and MSME, EXIM Bank, (<https://www.drishtiias.com/daily-updates/daily-news-analysis/india-africa-at-cii-exim-bank-conclave>) IT major TCS, and the Department of Financial Services (DFS).

It will connect a large number of Import-Export code (IEC) holders, Indian Mission officials, Export Promotion Council Officials, officials from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), and the Department of Commerce.

The platform will provide information on product and country-specific customs duties and regulations, details regarding free trade agreements, and trade-related services offered by various government departments and agencies.

As per the commerce ministry, India will export goods and services worth USD 2 trillion by 2030

Sugamya Bharat app

The Sugamya Bharat app has resolved 75% of over 1,400 accessibility complaints.

About Sugamya Bharat Mobile Application

It was launched in 2021 by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

It aims to empower people with disabilities and the elderly by allowing them to report accessibility issues in public infrastructure, transportation, and buildings.

About Sugamya Bharat

The Accessible India Campaign, also known as Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Its objective is to improve accessibility for people with disabilities by improving public spaces, transport, and digital platforms.

About Sugamya Bharat

The Accessible India Campaign, also known as Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Its objective is to improve accessibility for people with disabilities by improving public spaces, transport, and digital platforms.

The initiative is aligned with Article 9 of the (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), to which India has been a signatory since 2007.

BHASKAR Platform.

The BHASKAR Platform was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) to strengthen the Startup ecosystem in India.

About BHASKAR Platform

The Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) Platform was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

This initiative is part of the Startup India program.

It is designed to centralise and facilitate the Startup ecosystem in India.

It link startups, investors, mentors, and other stakeholders to develop a more cooperative and efficient entrepreneurial environment.

About Startup India

The Prime Minister launched the Startup India scheme in 2016 to encourage entrepreneurship, promote innovation, and build a robust startup ecosystem in India.

Objectives

To turn India into a country of job creators instead of job seekers by encouraging and promoting new entrepreneurs.

WEB PORTAL & APPS AUGUST 2024

SHe-Box Portal

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development Annpurna Devi has launched the SHe-Box portal.

About SHe-Box Portal

The portal serves as a centralized platform for women to register complaints related to sexual harassment in their workplaces.

It consolidates information about Internal Committees (ICs) and Local Committees (LCs) established in both government and private sectors.

The portal aims to streamline the complaint process, ensuring that cases are handled efficiently and effectively.

Key Features of the SHe-Box Portal

Centralised Repository: It provides a single platform where women can lodge complaints, which simplifies the reporting process. This centralization helps avoid confusion and provides easy access to relevant information.

Real-Time Monitoring: It allows for real-time tracking of complaints, ensuring transparency in the handling of each case. A designated nodal officer is responsible for overseeing the complaints, which enhances accountability.

Time-Bound assured Redressal: The platform ensures that complaints are taken seriously and addressed properly, providing a sense of security to women who may have previously felt hesitant to report incidents.

Significance of the SHe-Box Portal

The portal is crucial for developing a safe working environment for women.

It recognizes the barriers women face when reporting harassment and provides a more accessible and supportive framework.

This initiative aligns with various international standards for women's rights and workplace safety, such as the International Labour Organization's conventions on violence and harassment in the world of work.

The centre has launched a web portal named 'Krishi -DSS(Agricultural decision support system) aimed at helping farmers with critical data for crop management and productivity enhancement.

National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal.

The Indian government has launched the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal and disbursed Rs 100 crore in stipends for apprentices, aiming to enhance employability through improved registration, application, and management of apprenticeships.

About NATS 2.0 Portal

The National Apprenticeship Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal is a significant initiative launched by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

The portal aims to streamline and enhance the apprenticeship system in India by providing a centralized platform for managing apprenticeship programs.

The initiative includes the disbursement of Rs 100 crore in stipends to apprentices via the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

Objectives of NATS 2.0

Enhance Employability: By providing structured training opportunities, the portal aims to equip young graduates and diploma holders with the skills needed for employability.

Bridge Skill Gaps: The portal helps bridge the gap between academic education and industry requirements by facilitating practical, hands-on training.

Expand Reach: It aims to democratize access to apprenticeships and widen the scope of opportunities available to candidates across various sectors.

WEB PORTAL & APPS JULY 2024

SAMADHAN Portal.

SAMADHAN Portal was launched for facilitating filing of industrial disputes by the workmen, employers and trade unions under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

It also has facilities for filing of claim cases by workers under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 & the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

The portal has user-friendly interface and has enhanced transparency and efficiency of grievance resolution for all stakeholders in the following manner: -

Online Filing: The workmen / trade unions / management can file their disputes and claims by logging

into the portal through computer, UMANG app round the clock and also by visiting nearest Common Services Centres.

Tracking: The workmen can track the status of its disputes/claims on the portal itself.

Transparency: All the notices and other such documents issued during the grievance redressal process are sent online through SMS and email

Faster Disposal: online mechanism has helped in faster disposal of cases.

Monitoring: The portal also helps in increasing efficiency by providing tools for internal monitoring of grievances.

SATHEE (Self Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) Portal.

Ministry of Education (MoE) recently said they would write to all States to encourage aspirants to utilise the newly launched portal for exam preparation — SATHEE (Self Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams).

About SATHEE (Self Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) Portal

It is a new initiative by the Ministry of Education to provide a free learning and assessment platform for students.

It will help students gain access to training and coaching for competitive examinations for free.

The aim of the platform is to bridge the gap for students in society who are not able to afford the costly entrance exam guidance and coaching.

It will have preparation materials for students in English, Hindi, and other regional languages of India so that students can prepare for exams like JEE and NEET.

It will be useful for candidates who will be preparing for CAT, GATE, UPSC, etc. It will also allow candidates to gain experience in coaching centres.

It makes use of an indigenously developed AI programme called Prutor, which was developed by IIT-Kanpur.

Udyam Portal.

Udyam Registration Portal was launched by Government on 01.07.2020. As on 22.07.2024, the total employment reported by the MSMEs on Udyam Registration Portal and Udyam Assist Platform is 20.51crore.

About Udyam Portal:

It is the only Government Portal for the registration of MSMEs.

It was launched by Union MSME Ministry in 2020.

It provides free-of-cost and paperless MSME registration.

Who is eligible for MSME registration?

All entities classified as Micro, Small, and Medium enterprises as per the MSME classification are eligible to apply for MSME registration.

An individual cannot apply for MSME registration.

A proprietorship, partnership firm, company, trust, or society with an investment below Rs.50 crore and annual turnover below Rs.250 crore is eligible for MSME registration

The portal provides instructions for the registration process. No enterprise shall have more than one Udyam Registration.

This portal is also integrated with the Central Board of Direct Tax (CBDT) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) networks.

What is the new definition of MSMEs?

The Indian Government has modified the definition of MSMEs under the Atmanirbhar Package announced in the year 2020 to increase the number of enterprises eligible for being classified as micro, small and medium enterprises. As per the new definition,

An enterprise is classified as a “micro” enterprise when its investments do not exceed Rs. 1 crore while its annual turnovers remain below Rs. 5 crore.

An enterprise is considered “small” when its investments range between Rs.1 crore to Rs.10 crore while its annual turnover ranges between Rs. 5 crore to Rs 50 crore.

An enterprise is considered a “medium” when its investments range between Rs.10 crore to Rs.50 crore, while its annual turnover ranges between Rs. 50 crores to Rs 250 crores.

eSwasthya Dham portal

The eSwasthya Dham portal, integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), monitors the health parameters of pilgrims undertaking the Char Dham Yatra, which includes Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath.

This initiative ensures a smooth pilgrimage experience, allowing pilgrims to create a 14-digit Ayushman

Bharat Health Account number (ABHA).

Each site holds religious significance: Yamunotri is dedicated to Goddess Yamuna, Gangotri to Goddess Ganga, Kedarnath to Lord Shiva, and Badrinath to Lord Vishnu.

eSankhyiki Portal

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.

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

About National District Mineral Foundation Portal:

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.

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

Bhusanket Web Portal.

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.

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Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Defence

WEB PORTAL & APPS JUNE 2024

Krishi Nivesh Portal

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Krishi Nivesh Portal, an integrated agri investment portal, in New Delhi.

The portal was developed jointly by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) and NABARD.

The Krishi Nivesh Portal automates and expedites the settlement of interest subvention claims under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF).

PRAVAH Portal

RBI launches PRAVAH Portal and mobile app for G secs trading.

The PRAVAH portal, a mobile app for retail investors to trade in government securities, and a Fintech Repository. These three initiatives were launched by the RBI governor, Shaktikanta Das, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

About the PRAVAH Portal

The PRAVAH (Platform for Regulatory Application, VALidation and AuthOrisation) is a centralised web-

based portal that provides a secure platform for individuals or entities to seek authorisation, license, or regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank.

An individual or entity can submit 60 application forms covering different regulatory and supervisory departments of the RBI online.

Applicants can also track their applications online, monitor their status, and receive a decision from the RBI in a time-bound manner

Sangyaan App:

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.

Bhuvan Panchayat geoportal 4.0.

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.

eSakhsya App

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

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.

e-Samridhi Portal

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

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.

eMigrate Portal

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 SBIEPay 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

LOANS AND GRANTS OCTOBER 2024

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 241.3 million to improve power distribution in West Bengal, India.

The program will undertake the replacement of low-tension overhead lines with aerial bundled cables and separate electricity feeders from agricultural and non-agricultural users

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a USD 162 million loan to Himachal Pradesh to support tourism development in the state.

The loan has been provided to finance the state government's Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism Development Project.

Mauritius, first recipient of Rupee loan under IDEAS of Govt. of India.

India has extended a line of credit (loan) of Rs 487.60 crores to the Government of Mauritius under the Government of India's Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) programme.

It is the first time that India has extended a line of credit in Indian rupees to a foreign government under the IDEAS programme.

The Rs 487.60 crore line of credit to the government of Mauritius for financing a water project in Mauritius will be provided through the State Bank of India (SBI).

What is IDEAS?

The Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) was launched as India Development Initiative by the government of India. It was announced in the 2003-2004 budget speech by the then Finance Minister Jaswant Singh with an allocation of Rs 200 crore.

LOANS AND GRANTS SEPTEMBER 2024

New ADB-IFFEd partnership to unlock USD 500 mn in concessional edu financing in Asia-Pacific.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd) have signed an agreement to provide at least \$500 million in concessional education financing for lower middle-income countries (LMICs) in Asia and the Pacific.

The partnership aims to address the education crisis in LMICs, where more than half of students are unable to read simple text by age 10, and graduates lack the skills to find jobs.

The IFFEd initiative will free up the ADB's balance sheet to support education and skills development for underprivileged children and youth.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$50 million loan to improve water resources management, access to water, and community resilience to the effects of climate change in the state of Meghalaya, India.

State Bank of India (SBI) sanctioned a loan of ₹10,050 crore to the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for a 1,600 MW thermal power project in Koderma, Jharkhand.

The 1,600 MW (800x2 MW) project aligns with the Ministry of Power's initiative to boost energy capacity, as India seeks to meet its growing electricity demands by 2030.

LOANS AND GRANTS AUGUST 2024

ADB to give \$200 mn loan to India for solid waste management in 100 cities.

Asian Development Bank and the Government of India recently signed a \$ 200 million (about Rs 1,700 crore) loan to improve solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across eight states in the country.

The loan is part of the ADB's support for the Government of India's Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission-Urban 2.0, which aims to make all cities garbage free by 2026.

PFC secures JPY 25.5-bln to finance wind energy project.

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has secured a finance of JPY 25.5 billion (around Rs 147 crore) from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for a wind energy project.

Part of JBIC's Global Action for Reconciling Economic Growth and Environmental Preservation (GREEN) initiative, the proceeds will be used to finance 300.3 MW wind energy project of Ostro Kannada Power (OKPPL) in Karnataka.

PFC is a Maharatna company and leading NBFC in the Indian power sector.

ADB commits \$500 million loan for improving healthcare in Maharashtra.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) committed a loan package of USD 500 million to improve access to quality and affordable tertiary health care and medical education in Maharashtra.

Indian Government donates \$85 million to WHO's GTMC Jamnagar.

The Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, has signed an agreement with the World Health Organisation (WHO) of the United Nations to provide \$85 million to the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC) in Jamnagar, Gujarat, over a 10-year period (2022-2032).

The government of India proposes to invest \$250 million in the GCTM project, including the recently signed \$85 million.

The Government of India and the World Bank have entered into an agreement for the construction of the Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP), said the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

The project will be supported by a loan assistance of \$500 million from the World Bank, contributing to the total project cost of \$1288.24 million (equivalent to Rs. 7,662.47 crore).

The agreement covers an aggregate length of 781 kilometers across the states of Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh. The Ministry further added that the scheduled date for completing the final package of the GNHCP project is set for May 2026

LOANS AND GRANTS JULY 2024

World Bank approves \$1.5 billion loan for low carbon energy sector.

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has 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

Government of India and ADB sign \$170 million loan to strengthen pandemic 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.

ADB approves \$240.5 mn loan for rooftop solar systems in India.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$240.5 million loan to finance rooftop solar systems in India, supporting the country's renewable energy expansion.

This funding will back tranches 2 and 3 of the Solar Rooftop Investment Program, focusing on residential installations.

The loan will be distributed through the State Bank of India (SBI) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

India aims to achieve about 50 per cent of cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel energy sources by 2030 in line with its global commitments to reduce carbon emissions.

ADB Allocates \$200 Million for Nagpur Metro Expansion.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has granted a \$200 million loan to support the expansion of metro rail corridors and improve transport connectivity in Nagpur, India.

This significant investment is part of the Nagpur Metro Urban Mobility Project, which aims to enhance the city's public transportation infrastructure.

State Bank of India (SBI) launched the MSME Sahaj initiative, which is a digital business loan solution for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

MSME Sahaj is a web-based service that allows MSMEs to get short-term loans of up to Rs 1 lakh against their GST-registered sales invoices

REC Limited avails 31.96 billion Japanese yen green loan from Deutsche Bank to boost sustainable projects.

REC Limited has secured a green loan amounting to JPY 31.96 billion (equivalent to \$200 million) from Deutsche Bank AG, GIFT City branch, marking a significant move towards financing sustainable development in India.

This initiative is also noted as one of the first JPY-denominated green loans executed by Deutsche Bank AG, GIFT City.

The company plans to increase the share of renewable energy in its loan book to 30 per cent by 2030 from the current 10 per cent.

The government of India has released \$2.5 million of the promised \$5 million for the year 2024-25 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The fund will be used to provide education, health care, and other services to Palestinian refugees

LOANS AND GRANTS JUNE 2024

ADB Approves Support to Strengthen Health Systems in India.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today approved a \$170 million policy-based loan to improve India's health system preparedness and capacity to respond to future pandemics.

The Strengthened and Measurable Actions for Resilient and Transformative Health Systems (Subprogram 1) will support the government's National Health Policy 2017, which aims to provide quality health care services to all.

ADB & AHFL Signed USD 60 Million NCDs Deal to Offer Housing Loans to Low-Income.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) recently signed a \$60 million nonconvertible debentures financing agreement with Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL).

This initiative aims to expand women's access to housing loans in India.

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 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

ADB approves \$2.6 billion in Sovereign lending to India in 2023.

Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned \$2.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in the calendar year 2023.

The loan sanctioned by ADB in 2023 will be used to finance urban development projects, promote the power sector, support industrial corridor development, support horticulture, enhance connectivity and build India's climate resilience.

Sovereign means supreme power, and in India the government of India is sovereign.

Thus, a sovereign loan means a loan given to the government of India.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES OCTOBER 2024

Himanta Biswa Sarma government in Assam has launched the Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) project to revitalise 129 Beels and boost Indigenous fish production.

The state government's SWIFT project is funded and supported by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Beel are floodplain wetlands and cover around one lakh hectares of land in Assam.

About the SWIFT Project of Assam

The total outlay for the project is Rs Rs 798.88 crore.

It aims to revitalise 129 Beels of the state.

The project aims to restore nearly 4,000 hectares of beel areas.

It will help with flood control, groundwater replenishment, and river flow regulation in the state.

The SWIFT project is expected to increase fish production by 1,200 kg per hectare annually in the state.

India has extended a line of credit (loan) of Rs 487.60 crores to the Government of Mauritius under the Government of India's Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) programme.

The Rs 487.60 crore line of credit to the government of Mauritius for financing a water project in Mauritius will be provided through the State Bank of India (SBI).

The Government of India has rationalised the various central sector schemes of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare into two main schemes: Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY).

The PM-RKVVY scheme focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture, while the KY will focus on food security and achieving agricultural self-sufficiency.

Outlay for the PM-RKVVY and KY

The total outlay for the centrally sponsored scheme Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY) is Rs.1,01,321.61 crore.

The central government's share will be Rs 69,088.98 crore, and the state's share will be Rs 32,232.63 crore.

The allocation for the PM-RKVVY is Rs 57,074.72 crore, and the allocation for the KY scheme is Rs 44,246.89 crore.

The Prime Minister also announced that on 15th November 2024, Janjati Gaurav Diwas, India, will celebrate the first anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).

Since 2021, the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas has been celebrated on 15 November to commemorate the birthday of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda.

Various projects worth Rs 1380 crore under the PM-JANMAN were inaugurated, and Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stones for new projects. These include the construction of more than 1380 km of road, 120 Anganwadis, 250 multi-purpose centres, and 10 school hostels.

The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) was launched by the Prime Minister on 15 November 2023 on the occasion of the Janjati Gaurav Diwas in Khunti, Jharkhand.

The duration of the scheme is three years, and the total outlay is 24,104 crore (Central Share: Rs.15,336 crore and State Share: Rs.8,768 crore)

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES SEPTEMBER 2024

Cruise Bharat Mission launched to promote Cruise Tourism.

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarabanand Sonowal, launched the Cruise Bharat Mission on 30 September 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Minister launched the mission onboard the cruise ship Empress.

The initiative aims to achieve India's vision of becoming a global hub for cruise tourism and promote the country as the leading global cruise destination.

The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is the nodal ministry for implementing the Cruise Bharat Mission.

The mission will be implemented with the support of all regulatory agencies, such as Customs, Immigration, CISF, State Tourism Departments, State Maritime Agencies, District Administrations, and local police.

The ministry will establish a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for cruise development under the Indian Ports Association. The Indian Port Association is an association of major ports in India.

Phases of the Cruise Bharat Mission

The Cruise Bharat Mission will be implemented from 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2029 in three phases.

Phase -1 (1 October 2024-30 September 2025)

The main focus will be on planning and forming cruise alliances with neighbouring countries. The existing cruise terminals and marinas will be modernized.

Phase II (1 October 2025-31 March 2027)

Focus will be on developing new cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.

Phase III (1 April 2027- 31 March 2029)

The focus will be on integrating all cruise circuits across the Indian Subcontinent, continuing the development of cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.

Performance Target

Increase in sea cruise passenger traffic from 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs by Phase III.

Increase in river cruise passenger traffic from 5 lakhs to 15 lakhs by Phase III.

Number of international cruise terminals from 2 to 10 by Phase III.

Number of river cruise terminals from 50 to 100. Similarly, marinas will grow from 1 to 5, and employment generation will grow from 1 lakhs to 4 lakhs by the end of Phase III.

Cruise Segments

Under the Cruise Bharat Mission, there are three cruise segments - Ocean and Harbour, River and inland and Islands segments.

The Ocean and Harbour segment will focus on ocean, deep sea and coastal cruises with a focus on yachting and sailing cruises.

River and Inland Cruise will focus on rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, and lakes.

The Island Cruise segment will focus on lighthouse tours, live-aboard experiences, expedition cruises, and boutique cruises to lesser-known destinations.

Union Government approves PM E-DRIVE scheme to promote green mobility.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme to promote the adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country.

The scheme will provide incentives for consumers to buy electric vehicles, which will help reduce pollution and carbon emissions and also boost their manufacturing in the country.

Duration and Outlay of the PM E DRIVE Scheme

The PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme lasts two years and has a total outlay of Rs 10,900 crore.

Break up of the outlay.

Out of the Rs 10,900 crore,

Rs.3,679 crore has been allocated for the demand generation of 2-wheelers (e-2Ws), 3-wheelers (3Ws), e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging electric vehicles(EV).

Rs 500 crore has been allocated for the demand creation of e-ambulance.

Rs 4,391 crore has been allocated for the procurement of 14,028 e-buses by state public transport agencies.

Rs 500 crore has been allocated for e-trucks.

Rs 2000 crore for installing electric vehicle public charging stations along selected highways.

Rs 780 crore has been allocated for the upgradation of the testing agencies.

The Union Ministry of Heavy Industries will implement the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme.

AB PM-JAY benefits extended to senior citizens of 70 years and above.

The central government has extended the benefits of the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY), to all senior citizens 70 years of age or above in the country. This was decided at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) on September 23, 2018, in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

According to the government, as of 9 September 2024, over 35.4 crore Ayushman cards have been issued under the AB-PMJAY across the country.

The scheme is operational in 33 States and Union Territories except Delhi, West Bengal, and Odisha.

Key features of the Decision

The inclusion of 70 years and above senior citizens in the scheme is expected to benefit 6 crore senior citizens.

They will get Rs 5 lakh health insurance annually, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

If a senior citizen aged 70 or above belongs to a family covered under the scheme, then the family health insurance coverage will be increased to Rs 10 lakh. The extra Rs 5 lakh benefit will be exclusively for the senior citizen.

Those already enrolled under various public health insurance schemes can continue with their existing health scheme or opt for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).

Senior citizens 70 years of age or older enrolled under the private health insurance scheme or the Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to receive benefits under AB PM-JAY.

They will be issued separate Ayushman cards.

Benefits Under the AB PM-JAY

AB PM-JAY is a family floater health insurance scheme in which eligible families get Rs 5 lakh per year insurance for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

A family floater plan means that a family member or all the members combined can get health insurance benefits of Rs 5 lakh per year in eligible public or private sector hospitals.

The central government and the state government share the insurance premium.

The AB PMJAY is a cashless health insurance facility. The government reimburses hospitals after the beneficiaries under the scheme are treated.

Eligibility under AB PM-JAY

Initially, the scheme was for the identified poor and vulnerable families (approximately 55 crore beneficiaries), based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of the Socio-Economic Caste Census 2011 (SECC 2011) for rural and urban areas, respectively.

Later, the scheme was extended to include 37 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs), Anganwadi Workers, and Anganwadi Helpers and their families,

No restriction on family size.

The scheme is being implemented by the National Health Authority under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Cabinet Approves Mission Mausam to Strengthen Weather Forecasting.

Implementing Ministry of the Mission Mausam

The Union Ministry of Earth Science will implement the Mission Mausam scheme.

Three institutes under the Ministry—the India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting, Noida—will be the prime institutions to implement Mission Mausam.

The other research and development institutes under the ministry -the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, and the National Institute of Ocean Technology will play a supporting role.

Duration and Outlay of the Mission Mausam

The duration of the Mission Mausam is two years, and the government of India has approved an outlay of Rs 2000 crore.

Aim of the Mission Mausam

To boost research and development in atmospheric science, especially weather surveillance, modelling, forecasting, and management;

Use of Artificial intelligence and machine learning technology to predict weather-related phenomena like monsoon forecasts, alerts for air quality, extreme weather events, cyclones etc, with high accuracy.

Provide real-time data related to weather and climate-related phenomena to end users such as the government, industry, etc

Union Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV.

In a meeting held on 11 September 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Cabinet approved the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

The government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25 December 2000 to connect eligible rural habitation with all-weather roads as part of its poverty reduction strategy.

Implementing Ministry of the PMGSY-IV

The PMGSY-IV will be a centrally sponsored scheme to be implemented by the Union Rural Development Ministry.

Duration and Outlay of the PMGSY-IV

The duration of the PMGSY-IV is five years, from 2024-25 to 2028-29.

The total outlay for the PMGSY-IV for its entire duration is Rs 70,125 crore.

The central government's share is Rs 49,087.50 crore, and the State government's share is Rs 21,037.50 crore

Target of the PMGSY-IV

Under the PMGSY-IV, 62,500 Km of all-weather roads/bridges will be built and upgraded to connect the 25,000 unconnected rural villages

The rural areas to be connected are :

Village having a population of more than 500 in plain areas;

Village having a population of more than 250 in North-East/Hilly States and Union Territories/ Special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert areas);

Village having a population of more than 100 in the left-wing affected districts.

About the Phases of the PMGSY

The PMGSY was launched on 25 December 2000 to connect villages with a population of more than 500 in plain areas and more than 250 in hilly, desert, and special category states.

The PMGSY-II was launched by the central government in March 2013. It proposed upgrading the roads built under Phase I and constructing new roads in identified rural habitations. The target was to construct 50,000 km of roads.

The PMGSY-III was launched in December 2019 to upgrade/construct 1,25,000 km of roads.

During the third phase, the focus was on upgrading existing Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools, and Hospitals.

Union Minister for Rural Development: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

PM Modi virtually launches Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually launched the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative on 6 September 2024.

The Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative was launched in Surat, Gujarat, on 6 September 2024 in the presence of Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti CR Patil and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel.

About the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari Initiative

The Jan Sanchay and Jan Bhagidari Initiative is a joint scheme of the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Gujarat government.

The initiative aims to enhance the state's water conservation efforts by constructing rainwater harvesting structures across the state and recharging the underground aquifers.

The initiative aims to construct around 24,800 rainwater harvesting structures across the state.

These rainwater harvesting structures are being built with community participation.

The initiative seeks to build upon the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti's "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" scheme.

The government recently made changes to the rules of the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, which are planned to come into force from the 1st of October 2024.

About Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY):

SSY is a savings scheme launched in 2015 under the Government of India's "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign, which aimed to promote the education of girl children.

SSY is a small-deposit scheme tailored specifically for the girl child.

This scheme enables guardians to open a savings account for their girl child with an authorised commercial bank or India Post branch

Eligibility:

The girl must be an Indian resident.

The account can be initiated by the parent or legal guardian of the girl child.

The girl child must be below the age of 10 at the time of opening the account.

Only one SSY account is allowed per girl child.

A family is limited to opening a maximum of two SSY scheme accounts.

NRIs are not eligible to open these accounts.

The girl must operate the account once she attains the age of 18 years.

Features:

The minimum and maximum deposits that can be made in an account in a financial year are 250 and Rs.1.5 lakh, respectively. The deposits can be made in multiples of 100.

Deposits towards the scheme should be made for a period of 15 years. However, the scheme matures after 21 years.

No interest will be payable once the account completes twenty-one years from the date of opening.

Partial Withdrawal:

Withdrawal up to a maximum of 50% of the amount in the account at the end of the financial year preceding the year of application for withdrawal shall be allowed for the purpose of education of the account holder.

Such withdrawal shall be allowed only after the account holder has attained the age of 18 years or has passed the 10th standard, whichever is earlier.

Tax benefits: To encourage investments in SSY, the scheme offers the following tax benefits:

Section 80C Deductions: Investments made in the SSY scheme can be deducted under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act up to a maximum cap of Rs. 1.5 lakh.

Tax-Exempt Interest: The interest that accrues on the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account, compounded annually, is exempt from tax under Section 10 of the Income Tax Act.

Tax-Free Proceeds: The proceeds received upon maturity or withdrawal from the SSY account are also

exempt from income tax.

New Rules:

Guardian Changes: In case of accounts opened under the guardianship of grandparents (who are other than legal guardians), the guardianship shall be transferred to a person entitled under the law in force, that is, to the natural guardian (alive parents) or Legal Guardian. If it is not done, the account will be closed and this will be a permanent closure.

Irregular Accounts: Families with more than two SSY accounts will face closures of excess accounts, deemed to be in violation of scheme rules.

Union Ministry of Electronics & IT secretary launched the 2nd Cohort of Startup Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH) scheme.

About SAMRIDH Scheme:

SAMRIDH is the Union Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) 's flagship programme for startup acceleration under the National Policy on Software Products—2019.

It was launched in August 2021 and supports 300 software product startups with an outlay of ₹99 crore over a period of 4 years.

It aims to support existing and upcoming Accelerators to select and accelerate potential IT-based startups to scale.

Among others, the program focuses on accelerating the startups by providing customer connect, investors connect and connect to international markets

Eligibility of Accelerator

Should be a registered Section-8/Society, [Not-for-Profit Company (eligible to hold equity)] having operations in India.

The Accelerator and the team are recommended to have more than 3 years of startup experience and should have supported more than 50 start-ups of which at least 10 startups should have received investment from external Investors.

It is being implemented through potential and established accelerators across India which provide services like making products market fit, business plan, investor connect and international expansion to startups plus matching funding up to ₹40 lakh by MeitY.

Implemented by: The scheme is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH), Digital India Corporation (DIC).

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Minister for Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, launched the AgriSURE fund in New Delhi .

About AgriSure Fund

The AgriSure Fund or Agri Fund for Start-ups & Rural Enterprises is a Category -II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) registered with the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The fund will be managed by NABARD (National Bank For Agriculture and Rural Development)

It will be under the regulation of the capital market regulator SEBI.

Corpus of the AgriSure Fund

The total corpus of the AgriSure Fund will be Rs 750 crore. The government of India, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, will contribute Rs 250 crore, NABARD will contribute Rs 250 crore, and banks, insurance companies, private investors, etc., will invest the rest of the amount.

NABVENTURES Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of NABARD, will be the Fund's Investment Manager.

Duration and Target of the Fund

The Fund is a closed ended scheme and has a duration of 10 years which can be extended by 2 years.

The Fund targets to support about 85 Start-ups by the end of the Fund life with maximum investment of Rs 25 crore under the two schemes of the Fund.

Schemes of the AgriSure Fund

There are two schemes within the AgriSure Fund: FOF scheme or Fund of Fund and Direct Scheme.

In the Fund of Fund scheme it will invest in other Alternative Investment Funds, Debt Alternative Investment Funds that invest in the startup focused on agricultural and rural development.

The corpus of the FoF Scheme is Rs 450 crore.

The Direct Scheme will invest in the equity capital of Agriculture and rural development-focused start-ups in the country.

The corpus of the Direct Scheme is Rs 300 crore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the National PM Vishwakarma Program held in Wardha, Maharashtra, on 20 September 2024 to celebrate the first anniversary of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Central Sector Scheme "PM Vishwakarma" on 17 September

2023 in New Delhi.

The Prime Minister also distributed Vishwakarma certificates and loans to the scheme's beneficiaries. Prime Minister Modi also launched the Maharashtra Government's Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Scheme and the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme on this occasion. Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone of PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park at Amravati, Maharashtra.

PM Vishwakarma Scheme

The PM Vishwakarma scheme is a five-year central sector scheme that aims to support 18 traditional crafts done traditionally by families using hands and tools.

The central government has allocated Rs.13,000 crore for the scheme from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Features of the Scheme

Traditional artisans, called Vishwakarma, are provided loans and training to upskill their crafts and produce better-quality products for the national and international markets. They are also provided marketing support to sell their products in the domestic and international markets.

The trained artisans are given a PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.

They are provided loans at the rate of 5 per cent.

They are eligible for loans up to Rs one lakh in the first installment and up to Rs two lakh in the second installment.

The Union Ministry of Textiles has approved the setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in the states of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra

Central Government approves Bio-RIDE Scheme of the DBT.

The central government has approved the launch of the 'Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio-RIDE)' scheme of the Department of Biotechnology(DBT), Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

The two existing schemes of the DBT have been merged, and a new component, Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry, has been added to the Bio-RIDE scheme.

The newly approved Bio-RIDE will continue from 2021-22 to 2025-26 during the 15th Finance Commission period.

The proposed outlay for the scheme is Rs.9197 crore for 2021-2025-26.

The newly approved Bio-RIDE merges the two previous DBT schemes and includes one new component.

The components of the scheme are;

Biotechnology Research and Development,
Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development,
Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry

The Union Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held on 18 September 2024, has approved a new scheme, Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA), to improve the socio-economic condition of the country's tribal majority villages and aspirational districts.

The scheme seeks to utilise the existing central government scheme to achieve the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA) scheme.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the scheme in her 2024-25 Union Budget speech.

The duration of the PMJUGA scheme is five years.

The total allocation for the scheme is Rs.79,156 crore, of which the central government's share will be Rs.56,333 crore, and the State government's share will be Rs. 22,823 crore.

Coverage of the PMJUGA Scheme

The PMJUGA scheme will be implemented in 549 districts and 2,740 blocks in all tribal majority villages and aspirational districts of 30 States / Union Territories.

According to the government, the scheme is expected to cover 63,000 villages and benefit more than 5 crore tribal people.

According to the 2011 census, the tribal population in the country was 10.45 crore.

The PMJUGA scheme comprises 25 interventions to be implemented by 17 Union Ministries. The task and funds for the concerned ministries will be allocated under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) in the next 5 years to achieve the following four goals

1. Development of Enabling Infrastructure
2. Economic Empowerment
3. Access to Good Education
4. Healthy Living

Nirmala Sitharaman launches NPS Vatsalya for Minors.

Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister, launched the NPS Vatsalya scheme for minors in New Delhi on 17 September 2024.

The event was attended by schoolchildren and was held simultaneously in 75 locations across the country. She also distributed the Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) cards to new minor subscribers.

Nirmala Sitharaman announced the NPS Vatsalya scheme in her 2024-25 union budget speech.

The NPS Vatsalya will be regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

About the NPS Vatsalya

National Pension System (NPS) Vatsalya is for minors under 18 years of age and who are residents of India.

The NPS Vatsalya account is not for non-resident Indians (NRI).

An NPS -Tier II account will be opened in the name of the minor.

A Tier-II account is a voluntary savings pension scheme linked to the subscriber's Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN).

Each National Pension System subscriber is provided with a unique 12-digit alphanumeric PRAN number that remains with the subscriber until the end.

Contribution, Withdrawal, Exit facility

The minimum contribution under the NPS Vatsalya scheme is Rs 1000 per year, with no maximum limit.

The parents can contribute on behalf of the minor.

The lock-in period is three years.

After three years, the subscriber can partially withdraw 25 per cent of the corpus (the invested amount plus the return on the amount) for education, specified illness, and disability.

The partial withdrawal is allowed only three times the duration of the scheme.

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 crore 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

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.

Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Heavy Industries

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.

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 central government has given a year-long extension to the Digital Health Incentive Scheme (DHIS) meant for digitising patients' health records and linking them with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Account (ABHA ID).

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.

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.

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 kutchra 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

DEFENCE NEWS OCTOBER 2024

GRSE's Seventh ASW Ship, 'Abhay', Joins Indian Navy Fleet..

Indian Navy's seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), named 'Abhay', was launched at M/s L&T's Kattupalli facility. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).

The Arnala class of ships will replace the existing Abhay class ASW Corvettes in the Indian Navy.

Speed : Capable of achieving a maximum speed of 25 knots.

Indian Navy and German Navy recently completed their inaugural Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in the Indian Ocean, marking a key milestone in naval collaboration. The exercise, held in the Bay of Bengal, included joint operations involving INS Delhi.

The 31st edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is underway from October 23 to 29, 2024, at the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam.

63rd ITBP Raising Day 2024.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), one of India's five Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), celebrates its Raising Day on October 24 every year.

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was formally raised on October 24, 1962, as a direct response to the Sino-Indian War.

India Strengthens Navy with Fourth Nuclear Submarine.

India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), designated S4*, was officially launched into the water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, according to official sources.

This advanced submarine represents a significant leap in capability and size compared to its predecessor, INS Arihant (S2), which primarily served as a technology demonstrator under the Advanced Technology Vessel program.

The fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), codenamed S4*, was launched on October 16, 2024.

Key Features of S4*

Indigenous Content : Approximately 75% indigenous components.

Missile Capability : Equipped with K-4 nuclear ballistic missiles with a range of 3,500 km, which can be launched through vertical launching systems.

INS Chakra was designated as S1, followed by INS Arihant as S2, and INS Arighaat as S3.

The newly launched INS Aridhaman is named S4, making it the last of its class, with the formal name for S4* still pending.

The Curtain Raiser Press Conference for Swavlamban 2024, the third edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) Seminar, took place in New Delhi.

The event revolves around the theme "Strength and Power through Innovation and Indigenisation,".

The Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Southern Command is currently conducting 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at the Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi.

The India-Oman bilateral naval exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr, held from October 13 to 18, 2024, off the coast of Goa.

The Indian Coast Guard successfully conducted the coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' on October 16-17, covering Gujarat, Daman & Diu, as well as Goa and Maharashtra.

United States has announced it will send the advanced THAAD missile defence system to Israel.

THAAD stands for Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense, a cutting-edge anti-ballistic missile defense system developed by Lockheed Martin Corporation.

Indian Navy Partners with Bajaj Allianz for Naval Civilians' Insurance Coverage.

This initiative is a key highlight of 2024, declared as the "Year of Naval Civilians."

The Second Army Commanders' Conference of 2024 began on October 10 in a hybrid format at a forward location in Gangtok, Sikkim.

Indian Navy Commissions New Deep-Water Survey Vessel.

The Indian Navy has received its latest large Survey Vessel for deep water hydrographic mapping specially designed, Nirdeshak (Yard 3026), second of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships, steered by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata was delivered to the Indian Navy.

The first ship of the class, INS Sandhayak, was commissioned on 03 Feb 24.

MALABAR exercise will kick off from 8th October in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

It will be hosted by India, this year's exercise will see the participation of Australia, Japan, and the United States of America beginning with the Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out three flight-tests of the advanced fourth-generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan.

Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, became the first woman officer to take over as the Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAfMS).

The Military Nursing Service (MNS) marked its 99th Raising Day on Oct 1, 2024 with solemnity and pride.

8th India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND-2024 started at Surya Foreign Training Node, Auli, Uttarakhand

DEFENCE NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024

India -Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND -2024 commenced at the mountainous Surya Foreign Training node in Auli, Uttarakhand, on 30 September 2024.

The 8th edition of KAZIND-2024 will be held in Auli from 30 September to 13 October 2024.

Indian Navy is all set to launch its second Navika Sagar Parikrama expedition on 2 October 2024.

The Indian Navy launched its first Navika Sagar Parikrama in 2017, manned by six female crew members, to circumnavigate the globe on board the Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini, or INSV Tarini.

Lt Commander Vartika Joshi commanded the first Navika Sagar Parikrama.

The Navik Sagar Parikrama is being conducted by the Indian Naval Sailing Association, based at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi, and Ocean Sailing Node, Goa, under the Southern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.

The INSV Tarini will start its eight-month journey from Naval Ocean Sailing Node, INS Mandovi, Goa, on 2 October 2024. It is expected to cover 21,600 nautical miles (around 40,000 km), navigating high seas, extreme weather conditions, and three great capes.

The second edition of the Navika Sagar Parikrama will be helmed by Lt Cdr Roopa A from Puducherry and Lt Cdr Dilna K from Calicut.

The government of India has appointed the current Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh, as the next Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.

Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh will be the 28th Chief of the Indian Air Force.

He will take over as the Chief of the Indian Air Force on 30 September 2024, when the current Chief of the Indian Air Force, Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, retires on the same day.

The first chief of the Indian Air Force after independence was a British Air Marshal Sir Thomas Elmhirst (15 Aug 1947-22 February 1950).

Air Marshal Subroto Mukerjee was the first Indian to be appointed as the Indian Air Force's Chief of the Air Staff (On 01 April 1954- 8 November 1960).

The Indian Navy commissioned its indigenously designed and developed Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility on 13 September 2024 at its premier submarine training base, INS Satavahana, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

The INS Satavahana is under the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.

L&T Defence has constructed the Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility, Vinetra(meaning Trainer).

The Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility will train the submarine crews of the Kalvari class of conventional submarines operated by the Indian Navy.

The Kalvari class submarine is being constructed in India under Project 75 of the Indian Navy, under which six submarines were to be constructed.

In 2005, India and France signed a \$3.75 billion deal to construct six conventional Scorpene-class submarines in India with technology transfer from France.

The French company Naval Group was to provide the technology, while the Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) was to construct it.

Submarine Built under Project 75

The first submarine built under Project 75, INS Kalvari, was launched in 2017. Since then, four more submarines have been inducted into the Indian Navy. The sixth submarine, INS Vaghsheer, is undergoing sea trials.

The Kalvari class submarines are - INS Kalvari,INS Khanderi,INS Karanj,INS Vela, INS Vagir and INS Vaghsheer.

At present, the Indian Navy operates 16 conventional submarines and two nuclear-powered submarines, INS Arihant and INS Arighat.

Indian Navy, in partnership with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has successfully tested the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).

The test was carried out on 12 September 2024 at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur island off the coast of Odisha.

This is the second successful missile test by the DRDO in the past week.

On 6 September 2024, the DRDO successfully conducted the user trial of its nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM Agni-4).

DRDO is developing the VL-SRAM, which will be manufactured by the central government-owned Bharat Dynamic Limited.

The DRDO-developed missile is likely to replace the Israeli Barak-1 missile currently deployed by the Indian Navy.

About the VL-SRSAM

The VL-SRSAM is a short-range surface-to-air ballistic missile that can be launched from an Indian Naval warship.

The missile is an all-weather, next-generation, quick-reaction missile that will provide defence against supersonic sea-skimming targets like aircraft, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), and missiles.

VL-SRSAM is 3,931 mm long, 178 mm in diameter, and 170 kg in weight.

The strike range of the missile is up to 50 km.

The next-generation missile has a smokeless propulsion system and is equipped with electronic counter-countermeasures (ECCM) features.

Mahe Class Anti Submarine Warfare Ship Malpe and Mulki launched.

The Cochin Shipyard launched its Mahe Class anti-submarine Warfare Shallow Water ship Malpe and Mulki on September 9, 2024, in a ceremony in Kochi, Kerala.

The Malpe and Mulki are the fourth and fifth ships in the Mahe Class, Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft vessels to be built by the defence sector Cochin Shipyard Limited.

The ship has been built indigenously, with around 80 per cent of its content being Indian.

The government of India launched a project to manufacture 16 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow watercraft (ASW-SWC) vessels in India under the Make in India initiative.

The new Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow watercraft will replace the Russian Abhay-class corvettes that were inducted into the Indian Navy in 1989.

In April 2019, the Union Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Kochi-based Cochin Shipyard Limited to construct eight ASW-SWC vessels each.

The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited-built ASW -SWC vessels will be known as Arnala Class vessels, and the Cochin Shipyard vessels will be known as Mahe Class vessels.

Vessels Launched under the ASW SWC Project

Under the Mahe class ASW-SWC vessels, the Cochin Shipyard has launched the first vessel Mahe, the second vessel Malvan, the third Mangrol, the fourth Malpe and the fifth Mulki.

Six ships have been launched under the Arnala class ASW-SWC so far. The first ship was the Arnala, the second Androth, the third Anjadip, the fourth Amini, the fifth Agray, and the sixth Akshay. The Akshay and Agray were launched in March 2024.

What is an ASW-SWC Vessel?

The ASW-SWC vessels are submarine hunters that will operate along India's coastal waters. The waters near the coastal areas are shallow hence they are called Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow watercraft.

The ASW-SWC are also capable of laying mines along the sea bed and undertake low-intensity maritime operations.

The 77.6 m long & 105 m wide ASW-SWC vessels are equipped with lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets and mines, 30mm naval surface gun, and two 16.7mm stabilised remote control guns with optronic control systems.

It has stealth technology and highly advanced sonar to detect submarines in shallow waters.

The maximum speed of the vessels is 25 knots per hour.

The Arnala and the Mahe class ASW-SWC vessels can accommodate 57 crew members.

The Agni-4, a surface-to-surface missile developed by the DRDO(Defence Research and Development Organisation), was successfully tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha, on 6 September 2024.

This was the ninth test of the nuclear-capable intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) Agni-4.

Technical Specification of Agni-4 Missile

The Agni-4 is a two-stage, solid-fueled, intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM).

It is a surface-to-surface missile with a range of up to 4000 km.

The missile weighs 17,000 kg and can be launched from a road-mobile launcher.

It is 20 meters long and can carry both conventional and nuclear warheads. Its payload is 1000 kg.

The missile is accurate to less than 100 meters circular error probable (CEP) at a range of 4,000 km.

Types of Missile based on Range

The range of surface-to-surface missiles is classified as short, medium, intermediate, and intercontinental.

Short Range: Upto 1000 Km

Medium range: 1000 km to 3000 Km.

Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile: 3000-5,500 Km

Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM): more than 5,500 Km

The 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.

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

DRDO, along with researchers of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has developed Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets named ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat).

About ABHED Bulletproof Jacket:

ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat) developed by DRDO and IIT Delhi.

These jackets have been created from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic.

With a minimum possible weight of 8 kg and 9.3 kg for different BIS levels, these modular-design jackets, featuring front and rear armour, provide 360-degree protection.

The Tu-22M3 missile carriers of the Russian Aerospace Forces recently struck Snake Island in the Black Sea with Kh-22 cruise missiles.

About KH-22 Cruise Missile:

It is a Soviet-era long-range airborne supersonic cruise missile.

It is also known by the NATO reporting name AS-4 'Kitchen'.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Southern Command of the Indian Army organised a two-day national symposium, 'Exercise AIKYA', on disaster management in Chennai.

About Exercise AIKYA:

Aikya, meaning "Oneness" in Tamil, reflects the exercise's aim to integrate India's Disaster Management community.

The exercise witnessed participation from six southern states/UTs: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Puducherry

Indian Army contingent departed to participate in the 5th edition of Exercise AL NAJAH.

About Exercise AL NAJAH:

It is a joint military exercise between India and Oman.

The exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 13th to 26th September 2024 at Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman

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 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, '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 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 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.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OCTOBER 2024

Europa Clipper Embarks on Journey to Jupiter's Icy Moon.

NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft has embarked on a monumental journey to explore Europa, one of Jupiter's moons that is believed to harbor a vast subsurface ocean beneath its icy shell.

The mission, which launched on October 14, 2024, aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.

The spacecraft will arrive in Jupiter's orbit in April 2030 after completing its 1.8 billion-mile journey.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the establishment of three Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-COE) focused on health, agriculture, and sustainable cities. These centres, located at AIIMS Delhi, IIT Ropar, and IIT Kanpur, will promote research, innovation, and economic development while addressing public welfare.

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, inaugurated India's first Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers at Jejuri in Pune in October 2024.

The initiative highlights the country's commitment to sustainability and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Net Zero' carbon economy by 2070.

Aerospace startup Space Kidz India has launched the ShakthiSAT mission, aiming to train 12,000 girls aged 14-18 from 108 countries in space technology, targeting a satellite launch under ISRO's Chandrayaan-4 mission in 2026.

The ShakthiSAT mission includes 120 hours of online training focused on various aspects of space technology, payload development, and spacecraft systems.

World's Highest Imaging Cherenkov Telescope Unveiled in Ladakh.

Built indigenously by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) with support from Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL).

MACE is situated at around 4,300 meters in Hanle, Ladakh, making it the highest imaging Cherenkov telescope in the world.

India's National Space Commission has approved the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex), a collaboration with Japan's JAXA.

India's National Space Commission has officially approved the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex), marking the country's fifth lunar mission.

This mission follows the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 in August 2023, which made India the fourth nation to land on the Moon. Lupex is a collaborative endeavor between India's ISRO and Japan's JAXA,

aimed at exploring the Moon's resources, particularly water in its polar regions. Lupex will play a critical role in shaping future lunar missions, including potential sample return missions and plans to send astronauts to the Moon by 2040.

Mission Duration: Lupex is designed to operate for up to 100 days on the Moon, significantly longer than previous missions like Chandrayaan-3.

The Lupex rover will weigh approximately 350 kg, making it much larger than the 26 kg Pragyan rover from Chandrayaan-3.

World Space Week, 2024 Observed from 4 to 10 October
Theme 2024 : "Space & Climate Change"

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SEPTEMBER 2024

AI-powered Software as a Service (SaaS) platforms are changing industries by improving efficiency and driving innovation.

About Software-as-a-Service (SaaS):

SaaS is a cloud-based method of delivering software where users subscribe to access applications on the Internet rather than purchasing them outright.

The software is located on external servers rather than on servers located in-house.

SaaS vendors host services and applications for customers to access on-demand.

These services are available to end-users over the internet, so the end-users do not need to install any software on their devices to access these services.

A Soyuz spacecraft carrying two Russians and an American docked at the International Space Station (ISS) recently, a little more than three hours after its launch.

About Soyuz Spacecraft:

The Soyuz (saw-yooz) is a Russian spacecraft.

The Soyuz programme is the longest operational human spacecraft programme in the history of space exploration.

What Can the Soyuz Do?

Russian crew members are called cosmonauts. NASA crew members from the United States are called astronauts. Crew members from Europe, Canada, and Japan are also called astronauts.

The Soyuz takes cosmonauts and astronauts to and from the ISS.

The Soyuz spacecraft weighs 7 tonnes; they measure 7.2 m in length and 2.7 m in diameter. A Soyuz has room for three people to ride in it.

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved 'Mission Mausam' with an outlay of Rs.2,000 crore over two years.

The Union Ministry of Earth Science will implement the Mission Mausam scheme.

Three institutes under the Ministry—the India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting, Noida—will be the prime institutions to implement Mission Mausam.

The duration of the Mission Mausam is two years, and the government of India has approved an outlay of Rs 2000 crore.

Aim of the Mission Mausam

To boost research and development in atmospheric science, especially weather surveillance, modelling, forecasting, and management;

Use of Artificial intelligence and machine learning technology to predict weather-related phenomena like monsoon forecasts, alerts for air quality, extreme weather events, cyclones etc, with high accuracy.

Provide real-time data related to weather and climate-related phenomena to end users such as the government, industry, etc.

Union Home Minister recently addressed the first Foundation Day program of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) in New Delhi and launched key initiatives for prevention of cybercrime.

New Cybersecurity Initiatives:

Cyber Fraud Mitigation Centre (CFMC):

CFMC has been established at the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C) in New Delhi with representatives of major banks, Financial Intermediaries, Payment Aggregators, Telecom Service Providers, IT Intermediaries, and States/UTs Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

They will work together for immediate action and seamless cooperation to tackle online financial crimes.

Chief Minister of Odisha graced the ground-breaking ceremony of India's first silicon carbide

manufacturing facility to be set up in Odisha at an investment of Rs 620 crore.

The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) has launched a unique website which provides technical terms in all 22 official Indian languages.

About Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology:

It was set up in December 1960, to evolve and define scientific and technical terms in Hindi and all Indian languages.

It was established under clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution of India.

It is functioning under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India with its headquarters in New Delhi.

Primary Function: Evolve standard terminology, propagate its use and distribute it widely.

The BepiColombo spacecraft gave scientists their first clear view of Mercury's south pole.

About BepiColombo spacecraft:

It is a joint European Space Agency (ESA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) mission to Mercury.

The mission was named after Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo, an Italian mathematician and engineer who made significant contributions to the understanding of Mercury's orbit.

It was launched on October 20, 2018, and is an ambitious and complex mission designed to study Mercury's surface, composition, magnetic field and its interaction with the solar environment.

The BepiColombo spacecraft consists of two main components:

Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO): The MPO is primarily provided by ESA and is responsible for mapping and studying Mercury's surface, as well as its composition and topography.

Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO): The MMO is provided by JAXA and focuses on studying Mercury's magnetic field and magnetosphere.

India has completed a successful test-fire of Agni-4 Ballistic Missile.

About Agni-4 Missile:

It is an intermediate-range ballistic missile.

The launch of this Agni-4 was carried out from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha's Chandipur.

The launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters. It was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, a part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).

Features:

It can hit as far as 4,000 kilometres.

The 20-metre-long missile can carry a payload of 1,000 kg and can be fired from a road-mobile launcher.

It is a surface-to-surface

It is a mobile, two-stage solid-fuel system.

The Agni missiles are designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched a series of blockchain-based solutions including the Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack.

About Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack:

It is designed to offer Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS) with a geographically distributed setup to support a range of permissioned blockchain applications.

The stack is hosted across NIC Data Centers in Bhubaneswar, Pune and Hyderabad, ensuring robust and scalable service delivery.

The government also introduced the NBFLite-Lightweight Blockchain Platform and Praamaanik, a blockchain-enabled solution for verifying the origin of mobile apps.

The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the proposal for the procurement of 240 aero-engines for Su-30MKI aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

About Su-30MKI Fighter Jet:

It is a multirole combat fighter aircraft jointly developed by the Sukhoi Design Bureau and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Based on the Su-30 fighter aircraft, Su-30MKI is equipped with thrust vectoring control and canards.

It is fitted with a Tarang Radar Warning Receiver (RWR) indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The aircraft has a maximum unrefuelled flight range of 3,000 km. The in-flight refuelling system of Su-30MKI provides a maximum range of 8,000 km with two refuellings.

Manufacturer: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

Russian troops recently hit Kharkiv, Ukraine, with a Grom-E1 hybrid missile.

About Grom-E1 Missile:

It is a sophisticated weapon created from the Soviet-era Kh-38 “air-to-surface” missile.

It was developed by Russia and officially unveiled for the first time in 2018.

It combines the features of both a missile and an aerial bomb.

Features:

Maximum Range: 120 km (75 miles).

It features a high-explosive modular warhead equipped with a contact detonator.

Union Cabinet recently gave the green light to Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd to establish a new semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat, which is the fifth semiconductor unit to be approved under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

About India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

ISM is a specialized and independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation.

It aims to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design.

ISM has all the administrative and financial powers and is tasked with the responsibility of catalysing the India Semiconductor ecosystem in manufacturing, packaging, and design.

The ISM was launched in 2021 with a total financial outlay of Rs. 76,000 crores under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), Government of India.

Union Cabinet, in a meeting held in New Delhi on 2 September 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the proposal of the Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd to establish a semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat.

Since the announcement of India's Semiconductor Mission in 2022, this is the fifth proposal by a company to set up a semiconductor plant in India.

The Indian company Kaynes Semicon Pvt Limited will invest around Rs 3,300 crore in the Sanand plant, which will have the capacity to produce 60 lakh chips per day.

then Union Information and Technology Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, launched the India Semiconductor Mission with a total outlay of Rs 76,000 crore.

Union Cabinet has approved the merger of the Department of Science and Technology's three central schemes into a new scheme, 'Vigyan Dhara'.

According to the government, the scheme has been merged to avoid overlapping funding, encourage utilisation efficiency, and establish synchronisation among the sub-schemes.

The Department of Science and Technology is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Science and Technology.

Merged Scheme in 'Vigyan Dhara'

The three schemes merged into Vigyan Dhara will continue as components of the new scheme.

The merged scheme as the components of the 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme are:

Science and Technology (S&T) Institutional and Human Capacity Building,
Research and Development and Innovation, Technology Development and Deployment.

Duration and Outlay of 'Vigyan Dhara' Scheme

The 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme is from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The proposed outlay for the five-year Vigyan Dhara scheme is Rs.10,579.84 crore.

This funding will be co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission period of 2021-22 to 2025-26.

Aim of the Vigyan Dhara Scheme

Vigyan Dhara Scheme will formulate five-year plans to realise the government's goal of Vikshit Bharat 2024.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch its Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08) on 16 August 2024, its 55th foundation day. ISRO was formed on 15 August 1969 as the premier space agency of the government of India. The satellite was successfully launched by ISRO on 16 August 2024. The EOS-08 satellite will be launched by ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3. Here, D stands for Developmental. The satellite will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

About the Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08)

The EOS-08 is a remote-sensing microsatellite with a mass of around 175.5 kg. It will be placed in a Circular Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) at an altitude of 475 km.

The life of the satellite is around 1 year.

The satellite has the capability to capture images both during the day and night in the Mid-Wave and Long-

Wave infrared bands for applications such as satellite-based disaster monitoring, environmental monitoring, fire detection, surveillance, industrial and power plant disaster monitoring and volcanic activity observation,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated three PARAM Rudra supercomputers and two high-performance computing systems to the nation.

The PARAM Rudra Supercomputer, named after Lord Shiva, has been designed by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC). It is based on the indigenous Rudra server developed by C-DAC and has a computing speed of one petaflops (1015 operations per second).

C=DAC, under the Union Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeiTY), started developing a High-Performance computing system in the country in 1988 and has developed a series of supercomputers called the PARAM series.

The recently dedicated PARAM Rudra Supercomputers have been built at an estimated cost of Rs 130 crores.

One PARAM Rudra Supercomputer has been installed at the Giant Metre Radio Telescope (GMRT) of the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) in Pune to conduct real-time searches for FRBs (Fast Radio Bursts) and pulsars.

Another, installed at the Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) in Delhi, is expected to boost research and development in fields like material science and atomic physics.

The PARAM Rudra supercomputer deployed at the S.N. Bose Centre in Kolkata will aid research and development in physics, cosmology, and earth sciences.

C-DAC has developed the recently inaugurated High-Performance Computing (HPC) by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for meteorological applications and to further research and development in weather and climate science.

The High-Performance Computers named Arka and Arunika have been installed at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune and the National Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF) in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, are implementing the Mission.

Meta has announced its new free and open-source large language model (LLM), Llama 3.2, during Meta Connect 2024.

About Llama 3.2:

It is an open-source large language model developed by Meta.

Features

It has both image and text processing abilities.

It includes voice interaction features, allowing users to engage in conversations with the AI using voice commands.

NASA Hubble Space Telescope recently shared a stunning video of a spiral galaxy known as Caldwell 45, or NGC 5248.

Bengaluru-based space startup Bellatrix Aerospace recently unveiled Project 200 on the inaugural day of the Bengaluru Space Expo 2024.

About Project 200:

It is an innovative satellite designed to operate at an Ultra-Low Earth Orbit (180 km-250 km).

It was developed by Bellatrix Aerospace, a Bengaluru-based space startup.

Traditionally, satellites have been deployed in orbits at altitudes well above 450 km.

This altitude choice has been influenced by various considerations, such as the desire to minimise the impact of atmospheric interference on satellite operations.

Though it is known that a satellite's capabilities improve significantly at 200 km, limitations on propulsion technology have prevented satellites from operating at this orbit.

Project 200 is a technology demonstration mission to qualify a new unconventional satellite powered by an innovative propulsion system (developed in-house) at around 200 km.

Tata Steel Ltd had commissioned 'India's largest blast furnace' at Kalinganagar, Odisha.

NASA is set to launch the Europa Clipper mission, aiming to explore Jupiter's icy moon, Europa

About Europa Clipper Mission:

It is a NASA mission to study Jupiter's icy moon Europa.

The mission will place a spacecraft in orbit around Jupiter in order to perform a detailed investigation of Europa.

The first NASA spacecraft dedicated to studying an ocean world beyond Earth, Europa Clipper aims to

find out if the ice-encased moon Europa could be habitable.

Europa shows strong evidence for an ocean of liquid water beneath its icy crust.

The spacecraft extends 100 feet (30.5 meters) from one end to the other and about 58 feet (17.6 meters) across.

It is the largest spacecraft NASA has ever developed for a planetary mission.

President of the French Space Agency, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (CNES), in an event spoke on a wide range of topics from celebrating 60 years of French-India space cooperation to the Gaganyaan and the TRISHNA missions.

About TRISHNA Mission:

The Thermal Infrared Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural Resource Assessment (TRISHNA) mission a collaborative endeavor between the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) the French Space Agency CNES.

The satellite will operate in a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 761 km, with a local time of 12:30 PM at the equator.

This orbit will provide a spatial resolution of 57 meters for land and coastal areas and 1 km for oceanic and polar regions. The mission is designed for a 5-year operational life.

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved the development of Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM). Recently, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved the development of Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM).

About Venus Orbiter Mission:

It is envisaged to orbit a scientific spacecraft in the orbit of planet Venus.

Objectives

It is for better understanding of the Venusian surface and subsurface, atmospheric processes and influence of Sun on Venusian atmosphere.

The study of the underlying causes of transformation of Venus, which is whispered to be once habitable and quite similar to Earth would be an invaluable aid in understanding the evolution of the sister planets, both Venus and Earth.

The mission is expected to be accomplished on the opportunity available during March 2028. The realization of the spacecraft and launch vehicle is through various industries.

Funding: The total fund approved for the VOM is Rs.1236 Cr out of which Rs 824.00 Crore will be spent on the spacecraft.

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved the development of Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).

About Next Generation Launch Vehicle:

It will have 3 times the present payload capability with 1.5 times the cost compared to LVM3, and will also have reusability resulting in low-cost access to space and modular green propulsion systems.

The development of the NGLV is taken up which is designed to have a maximum payload capability of 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit, which also has a reusable first stage.

NGLV will be demonstrated with three development flights (D1, D2 & D3) with a target of 96 months (8 years) for the completion of the development phase.

The total fund approved is Rs. 8240.00 Crore and includes the development costs, three developmental flights, essential facility establishment, Programme Management and Launch Campaign.

Iran has successfully launched its research satellite, Chamran-1, into space recently.

About Chamran-1 Research Satellite:

It is an Iranian research satellite designed and manufactured by Iranian engineers at Iran Electronics Industries (SAIran), a defense ministry subsidiary, in collaboration with the Aerospace Research Institute and several private firms.

It was put into orbit at an altitude of 550 kilometers (341 miles) above the Earth's surface onboard a homegrown Ghaem-100 Space Launch Vehicle (SLV).

The Ghaem-100 rocket, which carried the latest satellite, is manufactured by the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

It is Iran's first three-stage solid-fuel satellite launcher.

Earth is set to welcome a temporary "mini-moon" in the form of a small asteroid named 2024 PT5, which will orbit our planet from September 29 to November 25, 2024.

Discovered by NASA's Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System (Atlas) on August 7, 2024, this asteroid measures approximately 33 feet wide and originates from the Arjuna asteroid belt, a region filled with various space rocks.

NASA astronaut and Indian Origin Sunita Williams has officially taken command of the International Space Station (ISS) as part of her extended mission aboard the orbiting laboratory. She is set to take command for the second time for ISS. Williams, along with fellow astronaut Butch Wilmore, has been on the station since June 5, 2024, after launching aboard Boeing's Starliner spacecraft for its first crewed flight. Sunita Williams and Vic Willmore had originally planned to stay on the ISS for eight days. They are now expected to return to Earth in February 2025.

Department of Science and technology (DST) in India with the collaboration with the British Council launches the initiative of "A Women in Space Leadership" (WiSLP) as a part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). Dr. Vandana Singh, Head of the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)-KIRAN division at DST. This initiative is supported and delivered by Coventry University, England.

Tech Mahindra and University of Auckland Partner for AI and Quantum Research.

Tech Mahindra has signed an MoU with the University of Auckland (UoA) to promote innovation in AI, machine learning (ML), and quantum computing. The collaboration will target sectors like healthcare, banking, financial services, insurance, and government, enhancing industry-academic partnerships to boost graduate employability.

Indian Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Poised to Make History as Pilot of Axiom-4 Mission to the ISS.

In a monumental step for India's space program, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will pilot the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2025.

The Ax-4 mission is the result of a bilateral agreement between India and the US. Over a year ago, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the US.

It was announced that an Indian astronaut would travel to the ISS.

Following this, ISRO signed a space flight agreement with Axiom Space, an American provider of human spaceflight services.

Shukla and his backup, fellow Indian astronaut Group Captain Prashanth Nair, both IAF test pilots, will join an international crew for the mission.

Alongside Shukla, specialists Slawosz Uznanski from Poland and Tibor Kapu from Hungary will join the Ax-4 mission, marking their nations' first ISS missions.

The Ax-4 crew will undergo intense training at facilities like NASA, SpaceX, ESA, and JAXA, mastering ISS systems, safety protocols, and technology demonstrations.

The mission will utilize SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket .

The Ax-4 crew will spend up to 14 days aboard the ISS, representing historic returns to space for India, Poland, and Hungary.

About Axiom-4 Mission

Axiom Mission 4 (or Ax-4) is a private spaceflight to the International Space Station.

It is operated by Axiom Space and uses a SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft.

The flight is in collaboration with NASA and will be the fourth flight of Axiom Space after Axiom Mission 1, Axiom Mission 2 and Axiom Mission 3.

Scheduled to launch in 2024, Axiom-4 will continue the company's pioneering efforts to establish a sustainable human presence in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

ISRO, IN-SPaCe, and NSIL Achieve Milestone.

ISRO, IN-SPaCe, and NSIL have reached a significant milestone by signing 75 Technology Transfer Agreements (TTAs) with non-governmental entities (NGEs). On September 20, 2024, five TTAs were signed at IN-SPaCe, Bengaluru, with Anabond Ltd., Salvo Industries Pvt. Ltd., Micropack Pvt. Ltd., and Astra Microwave Products Ltd.

India's third home-built 700 MWe nuclear reactor achieves criticality

The nuclear power reactor that achieved criticality is the first of a new series of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) to be built at Rajasthan Atomic Power Project in Rawatbhata.

SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission, concluded on September 15, 2024, with a splashdown in the Gulf of Mexico, is a significant breakthrough in commercial space exploration. Led by billionaire Jared Isaacman, this mission achieved several firsts, including the first private spacewalk and the highest orbital altitude reached since NASA's Apollo era.

Union Cabinet has approved the Chandrayaan-4 mission, which aims to develop technologies for returning to Earth after landing on the moon and collecting lunar samples for analysis. The total cost of the mission is Rs 2104.06 crore, covering spacecraft development, two LVM3 launches, deep space network support, and special tests for validation. The mission will be completed within 36 months, involving significant

participation from industry and academia.

Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM)

The Cabinet also approved the Venus Orbiter Mission, with a budget of Rs 1,236 crore, of which Rs 824 crore will be spent on the spacecraft. VOM, scheduled for launch in March 2028, aims to explore Venus' surface, subsurface, and atmosphere to understand the planet's evolution. ISRO will develop and launch the spacecraft, and the mission will provide valuable insights into the evolution of Venus and Earth.

The missions are part of India's larger vision for space exploration, which includes an Indian Space Station by 2035 and a human moon landing by 2040.

India's Own Space Station for Scientific research to be established with the launch of its first module in 2028

The union cabinet chaired by the Honorable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the building of the first unit of the Bharatiya Anatriksh Station (BAS) by extending the scope of Gaganyaan program.

ISRO is working to set up Bharatiya Antariksh Station, India's own space station. The station will be assembled in a phased manner and ISRO aims to establish it by 2035

ISRO will undertake four missions under ongoing Gaganyaan Programme by 2026.

The Union Cabinet also approved the continuation of the Gaganyaan mission and the setting up of the Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) at the cost of Rs 20,193 crore.

The space agency has set a deadline of December 2029 for the completion of all launches and operations of the first module of BAS.

United States of America, Russia and China has independent space stations

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a new moon mission 'Chandrayaan-4', to develop and demonstrate the technologies to come back to Earth after successfully landing on the Moon and also collect moon samples and analyze them on Earth.

About Mission

Chandrayaan-4 mission will achieve the foundational technologies capabilities eventually for an Indian landing on the moon (planned by year 2040) and return safely back to Earth.

The Government of India has outlined an expanded vision for the Indian space programme during the Amrit Kaal that envisages an Indian Space Station (Bharatiya Anatriksh Station) by 2035 and Indian Landing on the Moon by 2040.

The total fund requirement for the technology demonstration mission "Chandrayaan-4" is Rs. 2104.06 Crore.

The cost includes spacecraft development and realization, two launch vehicle missions of LVM3.

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, 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.

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-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.

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE OCTOBER 2024

16th BRICS Summit and first BRICS Outreach Dialogue in Kazan, Russia.

Russia hosted the 16th BRICS summit meeting and the first BRICS Outreach/BRICS plus summit meeting at Kazan from 22 to 24 October 2024. Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted the meeting, which was attended by the bloc's leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Brazil will host the next 17th BRICS summit meeting in 2025.

The theme of the 16th BRICS summit meeting was Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security,"

First G-7 Defence Ministers meeting hosted by Italy in Naples.

For the first time in Group of Seven (G-7) history, the defence ministers of the G7 countries met in Naples, Italy, on 19 October 2024. Italian defence minister Guido Crosetto hosted the meeting. Italy holds the rotating presidency of the G-7 for 2024.

The G-7 is a group of advanced industrialised western countries: Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and the United States.

CJI DY Chandrachud inaugurated the AROHA 2024 in New Delhi.

The Chief Justice of India, Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, inaugurated the first International Conference on Advancements of Research & Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda - AROHA-2024 at New Delhi.

AROHA 2024 has been organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Ayush.

The theme of the AROHA 2024 is Advancements in Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda.

Om Birla addresses the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and emphasised the need for multilateralism in the world.

The 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held at the IPU's headquarters in Geneva,

Switzerland.

The theme of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future.

Jamaica rejoins the IPU as 181st Member.

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar represented India at the 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations (SCO) Council of Heads of Government, held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 16 October 2024.

The 24th SCO Heads of State Council meeting was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 4 July 2024, and the 25th SCO Heads of State Council meeting will be held in China in 2025.

Permanent Members of SCO (10 Countries): Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.

Observer Members: Mongolia (Afghanistan observer status has been suspended since 2021).

The Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, represented India at the 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in Manila, Philippines.

The 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction is being organised by the Philippines government in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Conference is being held in Manila, Philippines, from 14-18 October 2024.

The 2024 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction theme is “ Surge to 2030: Enhancing ambition in Asia-Pacific to accelerate disaster risk reduction”.

The Indian government has allocated \$30 billion for the National Disaster Risk Management Fund and State Disaster Risk Management Fund for the financial years 2021-22 to 2025-26.

India host the 19th ICDRA meeting for the first time in New Delhi.

India is hosting the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) meeting in New Delhi from 14 to 18 October 2024.

India was to host the event in 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed and is now being held in 2024. India is hosting the ICDRA meeting for the first time.

The 18th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland in 2018.

The 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities is hosted by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The CDSCO comes under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfares.

Smart Regulation: Delivering Quality Assured Medical Products for All is the theme of the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting.

PM Modi inaugurates WTSA 2024 and 8th India Mobile Congress 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 at New Delhi on 15 October 2024.

The Prime Minister also inaugurated the 8th edition of the India Mobile Congress 2024, which is being held along with the WTSA 2024 in New Delhi.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) - World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) 2024 and the Global Standards Symposium (GSS 2024) is being held in New Delhi from 14-24 October 2024.

The 8th Indian Mobile Congress has been organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the Union Ministry of Communication and the Cellular Operator Association of India (COAI).

It is being held in New Delhi from 15-18 October 2024.

‘Future is Now’ is the theme of the 8th India Mobile Congress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his two-day official visit to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (PDR) on 11 October 2024. Prime Minister Modi was in Lao PDR on 10 and 11 October 2024 to participate in the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia Summit meeting.

Lao PDR, being the chairman of the 10-member ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), hosted the 44&45th ASEAN Summit meeting, the 27th ASEAN Plus Three Summit (ASEAN-China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea), and the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia Summit meeting.

All these meetings were held in the Lao PDR capital city of Vientiane.

The 21st ASEAN-India Summit meeting was held in Vientiane on October 10, 2024.

The theme of the meeting was ‘Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience.’

The 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) Meeting was held in Vientiane on 11 October 2024. It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leaders of the 18 members of the East Asian Summit group. The United States was represented by the Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.

EAS members are the 10 member countries of ASEAN and the partner countries of Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States of America.

Odisha is set to host the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas from January 8th to 10th next year in its capital city, Bhubaneswar.

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting is proud to announce Australia as the “Country of Focus” for the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), scheduled to take place in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2024.

SUMMIT & CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 2024

Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New & Renewable Energy, inaugurated the 2nd India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference on 26 September 2024 in New Delhi.

The Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA), in collaboration with the Indian Government and the International Sugar Organisation, organised the 2nd India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference. The two-day Conference was held in New Delhi on September 26 and 27, 2024.

The 2nd India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference theme was ‘Harmonising Sweet Sustainability: Navigating India’s Path to a Green Economy.’

India is the world’s third-largest producer and consumer of Ethanol. The United States is the largest producer of ethanol in the world, and Brazil is the second-largest producer.

In the last 10 years, the area under sugarcane cultivation has increased by about 18%, while sugarcane production has increased by 40% in the country.

After Brazil, India is the second largest producer of sugarcane in the world.

Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme: The government of India has launched the Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme to blend 20 per cent ethanol with petrol. The government aims to achieve this target by 2025-26 nationwide.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 21st Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Zone III Conference at Aizawl, Mizoram.

The conference, which was held at the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Complex in Aizawl on September 27 and 28, 2024, was intended to deepen the democratic process in the country's Northeastern region.

The CPA Zone --III Conference theme was “Democratic Sanctity, Transparency, Accountability, and Results from Democracy.”

Union Minister for Finance and Minister for Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman represented India at the 9th Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

The 9th AIIB Board of Governors meeting was held in Samarkand on 25-26 September 2024.

The theme of the 9th AIIB Board of Governors meeting was: Building Resilient Infrastructure for All.

Republic of Nauru becomes 110 member of AIIB

At the meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the Board of Governors approved the tiny Pacific Ocean island nation of Nauru's application to join the AIIB, bringing the total number of members to 110.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on an official tour of the United States of America (USA) from September 21 to 23, 2024. During his visit, he attended the sixth Quad Summit meeting and addressed the ‘Summit of the Future’ conference at the United Nations General Assembly.

India will host the next Quad meeting in 2025.

Thus, it was decided that the USA will host the 2024 Quad Summit as it will be convenient for all the leaders, while India will host the 2025 Quad Summit.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda (JP Nadda), inaugurated the second edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 in New Delhi. The 2nd Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 is organised alongside the 3rd World Food India 2024 on 20-21 September 2024.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which is an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the 2nd Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 on 20-21 September 2024 in New Delhi.

New Delhi hosts the 3rd World Food India 2024.

The 3rd edition of World Food India 2024 is being held in New Delhi from 19-22 September 2024. The event is organised by the government of India to promote domestic and foreign investment in the country's food processing sector and to highlight the country's rich food culture to the world.

Along with the 3rd World Food India 2024 the 2nd edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit

hosted is also being held.

The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) is organising the Global Food Regulators Summit on 20-21 September 2024 in New Delhi.

New Delhi hosted the first World Food India in 2017 and the 2nd edition in 2023.

The World Food India is organised by the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat are the partner states in the 3rd edition of World Food.

Japan is the partner country for World Food India 2024, and Vietnam and Iran are the focus countries.

Participants from 90 countries, 18 Union Ministries, 26 States and Union Territories, and other statutory bodies related to the country's food sector are participating in World Food India 2024.

The theme of the 3rd World Food India 2024 is Processing for prosperity.

The 2nd edition of the NADA (National Anti-Doping Agency) India Inclusion Conclave was held in New Delhi on 18 September 2024.

The first NADA Inclusion Conclave was held in New Delhi in December 2022.

President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the 8th India Water Week on 17 September 2024. The biannual four-day event is being held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from 17 to 20 September 2024. The Union Jal Shakti minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, was also present on the occasion.

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Government of India organise India Water Week every two years. This year, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the Partner Ministry for the 8th India Water Week and Exhibition.

The 8th India Water Week theme is "Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management".

4th edition of the Global Bio-India 2024 concludes in New Delhi.

The 4th Global Bio-India 2024 event successfully concluded on 14 September 2024. The three-day event was held in New Delhi from 12 to 14 September 2024.

The 4th Global Bio-India 2024 was organised by the Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

South Korea was the partner country at the 4th Global Bio-India 2024.

The theme of the 4th Global Bio-India 2024 was 'Biotech Innovation' and 'Bio-manufacturing'.

According to the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), the Indian bioeconomy has grown from \$10 billion in 2014 to \$130 billion in 2024.

The government of India has set a target to achieve a \$150 billion bioeconomy by 2025.

Currently, 60 per cent of the global production of vaccines is done in India.

India has the 2nd highest number of USFDA-approved manufacturing plants outside the USA.

Ajit Doval meets Putin during the BRICS NSA meeting in Russia.

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval met Russian President Vladimir Putin on 12 September 2024 at the sidelines of the meeting of the national security advisors of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) nations.

Russia currently chairs the BRICS group and will host all BRICS-related meetings in 2024.

President Putin will host the 16th BRICS summit meeting in the Russian city of Kazan from 22 to 24 October 2024.

Conclave of the National Security Advisors of BRICS 2024

The conclave of the BRICS national security advisors was held in St Petersburg, Russia, from September 11 to 13, 2024.

The meeting was attended by the National Security Advisors of the 10 BRICS member countries: India, Brazil, Russia, South Africa, China, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Ethiopia, and Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was hosted by the Russian National Security Advisor Sergei Shoigu.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen on 11 September 2024.

Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy, Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India Prof. Ajay K. Sood and other distinguished dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The three day 2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen is being held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from 11-13 September 2024.

The 2nd International Conference on Green Hydrogen was organised by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.

The Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, the Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research are the associate partners.

The Gujarat government is the state partner of the conference.

The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) is the implementation partner, EY is the knowledge partner and FICCI is the industry partner.

The Government of India has launched the National Green Hydrogen Mission on 4 January 2023 to encourage the production of Green Hydrogen production in the country.

The Mission aims to develop 5 Million Metric Tonne per year of Green Hydrogen production capacity by 2030.

The duration of the Mission is from 2023-24 to 2029-2030 and the total outlay on the mission is Rs 19,744 crores.

SEMICON India 2024, inaugurated by PM Modi in Greater Noida.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the SEMICON India 2024 at the India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on 11 September 2024.

SEMI, in collaboration with München India and with the support of the Union Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY), has organised the SEMICON India 2024 exhibition and conference.

SEMI is a global association of the semiconductor industry and professionals representing the global electronics manufacturing and design supply chain.

It is based in Milpitas, California, the United States of America .

The theme of SEMICON India 2024 is Shaping the Semiconductor Future.

According to Prime Minister Modi, India's electronics sector is valued at over \$150 billion, and the government aims to achieve a valuation of \$500 billion by the end of 2030.

The first India -GCC(Gulf Cooperation Council) Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue was on 9 September 2024 in Riyadh, the Saudi Arabian capital.

This was the first Foreign Minister level meeting between India and the six-member GCC.

The first India-GCC Joint Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue was co-chaired by Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar and Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Qatar.

Qatar holds the Presidency of the GCC.

The Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional group that includes Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Headquarters: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Presidency: Qatar

The 6th meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 4 September 2024.

The Indian side was led by Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad, which included officials from the Ministry of Defence. Major General Salman Bin Awadh Al-Harbi led the Saudi Arabian delegation.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over the first Joint Commander's Conference of the Armed Forces at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, on 5 September. The two day first Joint Commander's Conference was held in Lucknow on 4- 5 September 2024 to discuss the various issues of the armed forces and integration of the three armed forces and the integrated theatre command.

The defence minister also launched e-Museum and e-Granthalaya applications and one book titled 'Colonial Practices and the Armed Forces - A Review'.

The theme of the Joint Commander's Conference was "Sashakt aur Surakshit Bharat: Transforming Armed Forces,"

The Indian Coast Guard attended the 20th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) in Incheon, South Korea.

The 20th HACGAM was hosted by the South Korean Coast Guard at Incheon, South Korea, from 2 - 6 September 2024.

On this occasion, the Indian Coast Guard also held its 12th annual bilateral meeting with the South Korean Coast Guard on 4 September 2024.

About the HACGAM

The Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting(HACGAM) is an initiative of Japan which organised the first Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) in 2004 in Japan.

It was convened to discuss the increasing incidents of piracy in Southeast Asian waters, such as the Straits of Malacca.

Twenty-three member countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China,

India, Indonesia, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam.

Headquarters of the HACGAM: Japan

Union Minister for Road Transports and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Union Minister for Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri jointly inaugurated the India Bio-Energy & Tech Expo 2024 on 2 September 2024 in New Delhi.

The Indian Federation of Green Energy organised the India Bio-Energy & Tech Expo 2024 in association with MMACTIV Sci-Tech Communications Ltd in New Delhi.

The Government of India has set a target of 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol by 2025.

Two second-generation (2G) refineries in India have been established in Panipat, Haryana and Numaligarh, Assam, to convert agricultural residues like Parali and bamboo into ethanol

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.

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"

AWARDS AND HONOURS OCTOBER 2024

2024 Ballon d'Or Award Winners

Men's Ballon d'Or: Rodri (Manchester City, Spain)

Women's Ballon d'Or: Aitana Bonmatí (Barcelona, Spain)

Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal (Barcelona, Spain)

Yashin Trophy: Emiliano Martínez (Aston Villa, Argentina)

Men's Coach of the Year: Carlo Ancelotti (Real Madrid, Italy)

Women's Coach of the Year: Emma Hayes (Chelsea/USA)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been awarded an A+ grade in the Central Bank Report Cards 2024, marking his second consecutive year of recognition.

Assam-based conservation scientist Bibhab Kumar Talukdar has been awarded the prestigious Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Abu Dhabi.

The European Parliament has announced that María Corina Machado and President-elect Edmundo González Urrutia will be the recipients of the 2024 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

The European Parliament has awarded its prestigious Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to Venezuelan opposition leaders María Corina Machado and Edmundo González.

Urmila Chaudhary, a prominent social campaigner from Nepal, has been honored with the prestigious Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024.

Actor Darasing Khurana Wins Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award in UK.

Indian actor and philanthropist Darasing Khurana, 32, has been honored with the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award for his impactful work in raising awareness about mental health issues, particularly in his role as the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion.

SAIL Receives Top Recognition at SHRM HR Excellence Awards.

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been recognized with the prestigious SHRM HR Excellence Awards at the SHRM India Annual Conference 2024 in New Delhi.

The company received accolades in two significant categories: 'Excellence in Inclusion, Equity & Diversity' and 'Excellence in Managing the Distributed Workforce.'

Chiratae Ventures, a prominent Indian venture capital fund, has recognized three influential leaders with the 2024 Patrick J. McGovern Awards.

Narayana Murthy, the Founder of Infosys, received the India Lifetime Achievement Award for his groundbreaking contributions to the tech industry.

Shantanu Narayen, Chair and CEO of Adobe, was awarded the Global Lifetime Achievement Award, while Abhinav Asthana, CEO and Founder of Postman, received the Exceptional Entrepreneurial Achievement Award.

Mohanji Receives Prestigious 2024 Humanitarian Award.

Johannesburg, South Africa, Mohanji, a global humanitarian leader, received a special recognition for his

worldwide contributions at the 9th Conscious Companies Awards event.

Rajkumar Hirani Honoured with National Kishore Kumar Award 2023.

Aditi Anand's 'Marigolds' Wins Prestigious UK Award, On Display at V&A.

Aditi Anand, a 25-year-old graduate from Anglia Ruskin University (ARU), has been named the winner of the prestigious Emerging Illustrator category at the V&A Illustration Awards.

Her artwork, Marigolds, is set in India and highlights the theme of child labor and lost childhoods.

Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh has emerged as the winner of the Femina Miss India 2024 title.

The Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, proudly announces the winners of the 5th National Water Awards (NWA), 2023.

In the Best State category, Odisha has claimed the top prize for its exceptional work in water resource management and sustainability. Uttar Pradesh secured second place, while Gujarat and Puducherry were honored as joint third-place winners.

Dr. S. Somanath, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been honored with the prestigious International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award.

This accolade was awarded in recognition of the remarkable success of Chandrayaan-3, India's lunar mission that made history with its soft landing on the Moon's South Pole.

MIDORI Prize 2024 Recognizes Conservation Leaders from Kazakhstan and Peru.

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2024 has been awarded to Vera Voronova from Kazakhstan and Ysabel Agustina Calderón Carlos from Peru for their exemplary contributions to biodiversity conservation and sustainability.

AWARDS AND HONOURS SEPTEMBER 2024

Hindi comedy film 'Laapataa Ladies', produced by Amir Khan and Kiran Rao and directed by Kiran Rao, has been chosen to be India's official entry for the International Feature Film Category at the 97th Academy Awards 2025 (popularly known as the Oscars).

The international Feature film category is for the country-selected feature film.

The 97th Academy Awards ceremony will be held on 2nd March 2025 in Los Angeles, United States of America.

Last year, the superhit Malayalam film "2018: Everyone's a Hero" was India's official entry for the 96th Oscar Award 2024.

To date, 10 Indians have won Oscar awards, with Bhanu Athaiya being the first to win the award in 1982 for best costume design category for the film Gandhi. A.R.Rahman has won the Oscar awards twice.

Veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty, known for his versatile contributions to Indian cinema, will be honoured with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award at the 70th National Film Awards ceremony on October 8, 2024.

In January 2024, Chakraborty was awarded Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian honour by the Government of India.

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

It is India's highest award in the field of cinema.

It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The recipient is honoured for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema".

The award prize consists of a golden lotus.

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award's prize money has been raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh.

The award was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema, who is popularly known as and often regarded as "the father of Indian cinema".

It was first presented in 1969. The first recipient of the award was actress Devika Rani, "the first lady of Indian cinema".

Alexander Dunn (Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S) has been awarded the prestigious 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.

About SASTRA Ramanujan Prize:

It was instituted in the year 2005.

It is awarded every year by the SASTRA University on its campus near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu, on

Ramanujan's birth anniversary, December 22.

Eligibility:

The prize is conferred annually to mathematicians from across the world who is less than 32 years of age, working in an area influenced by the Srinivasa Ramanujan.

The age limit is 32 years to commemorate the fact that Ramanujan accomplished a phenomenal body of work in this short span.

Cash prize: It carries a citation and an award of \$10,000.

Dunn is being recognized for his outstanding contributions to analytic number theory, particularly his joint work with Maksym Radziwill in solving the Kummer-Patterson Conjecture on bias related to cubic Gauss sums

The second day of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) 2024 Awards unfolded in Abu Dhabi, transforming the city into a dazzling hub of Bollywood glamour.

IIFA Awards 2024

Best Film: "Animal" (Directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga)

Best Actor: Shah Rukh Khan for "Jawan"

Best Actress: Rani Mukerji for "Mrs Chatterjee vs Norway"

Best Director: Vidhu Vinod Chopra for "12th Fail"

Best Singer Male: Bhupinder Babbal for "Arjan Valley" from "Animal"

Best Singer Female: Shilpa Rao for "Chaleya"

Deepak C Mehta, Honored with ICC Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023.

Visionary industrialist and leader Shri Deepak C Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director of Deepak Nitrite Limited, has been conferred the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) at the 59th ICC Annual Awards Function in Mumbai.

Renowned Bollywood producer Vinod Bachchan received the prestigious Global Prestige Award at the House of Lords, UK Parliament, recognizing his significant contributions to the Indian film industry.

Rhea Singha, a 19-year-old model from Gujarat, was crowned Miss Universe India 2024 in Jaipur.

She will represent India at the global Miss Universe competition in Mexico.

Emerging swimmer Pratyasa Ray has been selected for the 32nd Ekalabya Puraskar for 2024 for her achievements in swimming.

She will receive a cash prize of Rs 7 lakh, an increase from the previous Rs 5 lakh along with a citation at a ceremony.

Megastar Chiranjeevi has been officially recognized by Guinness World Records as the most prolific actor/dancer in the Indian film industry.

Over 45 years, he has performed an astonishing 24,000 dance moves in 537 songs across 156 films.

Dhruvi Patel wins Miss India Worldwide 2024.

Dhruvi Patel, a Computer Information System student from the USA, has been declared the winner of Miss India Worldwide 2024, the longest running Indian pageant outside of India.

Magnus Carlsen and Judit Polgar were felicitated with the best male and female player awards, respectively at the FIDE 100 Awards ceremony in Hungary.

About Judit Polgar (Hungary)

Judit Polgar is widely regarded as the strongest female chess player of all time.

She became a Grandmaster at 15, breaking Bobby Fischer's record, and was the youngest player to enter the FIDE top 100 at age 12.

About Magnus Carlsen (Norway)

Magnus Carlsen is a Norwegian chess grandmaster and a five-time World Chess Champion.

He is also the reigning five-time World Rapid Chess Champion, seven-time World Blitz Chess Champion, and the winner of the FIDE World Cup.

Carlsen has held the No. 1 position in the FIDE world chess rankings since July 1, 2011.

At the South Indian International Movie Awards (SIIMA) 2024, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan stood out as she received the Best Actress (critics) Award for her role in Maniratnam's epic "Ponniyin Selvan 2".

RINL Wins CII-GBC National Energy Leader Award for Sixth Consecutive Year.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, has once again achieved excellence in energy efficiency and conservation by winning the prestigious National Energy Leader Award from the Confederation of Indian Industry – Green Business Centre (CII-GBC).

This marks the sixth consecutive year that RINL has received this accolade, demonstrating its steadfast commitment to sustainable energy practices.

Indian Origin lecturer Prasanthi Ram win the prize for literature in Singapore.

Prasanthi Ram (32), who was an Indian origin lecturer from the University of Nanyang technological University won the Singapore literature prize for English fiction for her short story -'Nine Yard Sarees' and it was her debut work which was published at the end of year 2023.

Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan award 2024 on the occasion of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.**About Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Award:**

It is an initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to rank cities on the basis of implementation of activities approved under the city action plan and air quality in 130 NCAP cities.

In September 2022, the MoEF&CC released guidelines on 'Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan- Ranking of Cities' under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The aim of launching Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan is to give a ranking to 130 cities in the country for implementing City Action Plans prepared as part of NCAP for reducing air pollution up to 40% by 2025-26.

Objectives

To create awareness among all sections of the society

Inform citizens about the health impacts related due to exposure

Comparing air quality conditions at different locations/cities

To achieve the goal of NCAP "Clean air for all".

All 130 cities covered under NCAP are assessed based on information submitted under ranking framework by cities/ULBs on PRANA portal (dashboard to capture progress under NCAP programme).

Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2024 were presented to the best performing NCAP cities under

Category-1 (population over 10 Lakhs) to Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra;

Category-2 (population between 3 and 10 Lakhs) to Firozabad, Amravati, and Jhansi; and

Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs) to Raebareli, Nalgonda, and Nalagarh.

India celebrated Teachers' Day with a prestigious ceremony in New Delhi, where President Droupadi Murmu conferred the National Teachers' Award 2024 to 82 exceptional educators from across the country.

The National Teachers' Award is a prestigious recognition that celebrates the unique contributions of educators across India. Each awardee receives:

A certificate of merit

A cash award of Rs. 50,000

A silver medal.

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, selected 50 teachers through a rigorous, transparent, and online three-stage selection process at the district, state, and national levels. The awardees represent:

28 States

3 Union Territories

6 Organizations

Among the 50 selected teachers:

34 are male

16 are female

2 are differently-abled

1 works with Children with Special Needs (CWSN).

President Emmanuel Macron Awarded Olympic Order in Gold for Paris 2024 Success.

Japanese anime director Hayao Miyazaki was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2024, popularly known as Asia's Nobel Prize.

About Ramon Magsaysay Award:

It is Asia's premier prize and highest honor, celebrates greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia.

The Awardees, annually selected by the RMAF board of trustees, are presented with a certificate and a medallion with an embossed image of Ramon Magsaysay facing right in profile.

About Ramon Magsaysay Award:

Established : 1957

First award : 1958

Vinoba Bhave was the 1st Magsaysay Award winner in 1958 (first Indian).

This award was created to commemorate Ramon Magsaysay, the late president of Philippines. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's premier prize and highest honour. It is considered as Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize

This award is given in 6 categories

These categories are:

1. Government services (GS)
2. Public services (PS)
3. Community leadership (CL)
4. Journalism, literature & creative communication arts (JLCCA)
5. Peace and International Understanding (PIU)
6. Emergent leadership (EL)

Indian winners on the list

Prominent Indians who have won the award include Vinoba Bhave in 1958, Mother Teresa in 1962, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in 1966, Satyajit Ray in 1967, and Mahasweta Devi in 1997.

In recent years, Arvind Kejriwal (2006), Anshu Gupta of Goonj (2015), human rights activist Bezwada Wilson (2016), and journalist Ravish Kumar (2019) have won the award.

The Ministry of Women and Child Development has been honored with the National Award for e-Governance 2024 (Gold) for its digital initiative, Poshan Tracker.

This tool, part of Mission Poshan 2.0, enables real-time monitoring of children's growth, focusing on those aged 0-6 years.

President of India presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards for the year 2024.

About National Florence Nightingale Award:

It was instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India in the year 1973.

The award is given to outstanding nursing personnel employed in Central, State/UTs and Voluntary Organizations.

It was awarded as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services rendered by the nurses and nursing professionals to the society.

The nurse in her/his regular job in the hospital or community settings, educational or administrative setting is eligible for the national award.

Each award consists of a Certificate of Merit, Cash Award of Rs.1,00,000/- and a medal.

Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer, statistician and the founder of modern nursing.

A total of 15 awards are given in the category of Registered Auxiliary Nurses & Midwife, Registered Nurses and Midwife and Registered Lady Visitor.

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.

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.

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 'Risk Manager 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**SPORTS NEWS OCTOBER 2024**

Kochi city of Kerala has won the City with the Most Sustainable Transport System award at the 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2024.

The award winners in the various categories were felicitated at the 17th Urban Mobility Conference and Exhibition held at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Indian para-badminton players delivered an impressive performance at the Japan Para-Badminton Internationals 2024 by winning 24 medals-six gold, nine silver and nine bronze.

The Japan Para-Badminton Internationals 2024 was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 22-27 October 2024.

Sivarajan Solaimalai won two gold medals in the Tokyo event. He won the gold in the men's singles SH6 class and then won gold in the doubles in partnership with Sudarsan Saravanakumar Muthusamy.

The Afghanistan A men's cricket team defeated the Sri Lankan A side by seven wickets to win the ACC Men's T20 Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2024.

The 6th ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2024 final was played at Al Almerat, Oman.

The 30-year-old former Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, also known as the queen of Indian hockey, announced her retirement from the game.

In 2020, Rani Rampal was awarded India's highest sporting award, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award.

In 2020, Rani was conferred India's fourth highest civilian award, Padma Shri.

Rani Rampal played 254 international matches and scored 120 goals for India.

Deepika Kumari wins a Silver at the Archery World Cup Final 2024.

Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari won a silver medal on 20 October 2024 in the women's recurve event at the 2024 Archery World Cup Final held in Tlaxcala, Mexico. She lost to the Chinese archer Li Jiaman 6-0 in the final.

The 18th Archery World Cup Final was organised by World Archery and hosted by Mexico on 19 and 20 October 2024 at Tlaxcala, Mexico.

New Zealand wins Maiden ICC Women's T20 World Cup.

The New Zealand women's cricket team won their first ICC Women's T20 World Cup by defeating South Africa in the final, played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 20 October 2024.

This was the first major title for the New Zealand Women's team, nicknamed 'White Ferns' since their triumph in the ICC Women's One Day International Cricket World Cup on home soil in 2000.

Aryna Sabalenka wins the WTA Wuhan 1000 singles title.

World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus defeated World No.7 Zheng Qinwen of China to win her third consecutive WTA Wuhan 1000 singles title.

World Number One male tennis player Jannik Sinner of Italy defeated 24 Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the final to win the ATP Shanghai Masters 1000 singles title.

The ATP Shanghai Master 1000 was held in the Chinese city of Shanghai from 2 to 13 October 2024.

Chirag Chikkara Leads India to Gold at U23 World Wrestling Championships.

Chirag Chikkara made history by becoming only the third Indian wrestler to win the Under-23 World Championship, contributing to India's impressive total of nine medals at the tournament. Competing in the men's freestyle 57kg category.

The Indian men's football team has made a modest advancement in the FIFA rankings, moving up one spot to 125th.

At the top of the FIFA rankings, world champions Argentina continue to lead with 1883.5 points, followed by France, Spain, England, and Brazil in the top five positions.

Maria Sharapova and twins Bob and Mike Bryan were named to the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2025.

Ngangom Bala Devi has etched her name in Indian football history by becoming the first Indian woman to score 50 international goals.

China's Liu Yukun, the reigning Olympic champion in the Paris 2024 Olympics, was honored as the athlete of the year by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).

Also, Korea's Yang Ji-in, was named the female athlete of the year, recognizing her remarkable achievements in the sport.

Indian Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi showcased brilliant form to secure the WR Chess Masters title after defeating France's Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in an Armageddon game,

Cricket, one of the most popular sports globally, is set to make a comeback at the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games (LA28), pending approval by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Virat Kohli crossed the prestigious 9000 Test runs milestone during India's first Test against New Zealand at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

Indian cricketer Neetu David, along with England's Alastair Cook and South Africa's AB de Villiers, has been inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame for 2024.

Sourav Ganguly, the former Indian cricket captain and ex-BCCI President, has been named the Director of Cricket for JSW Sports.

India's star drag-flicker and captain, Harmanpreet Singh, emerged as the most expensive player in the Hockey India League auction on Day 1. Soorma Hockey Club secured the services of the Indian captain for a whopping Rs 78 lakh.

Abhishek became the second-most expensive buy of the day, as he was snapped up by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for Rs 72 lakh. Close behind him was Hardik Singh, who was acquired by UP Rudras for Rs 70 lakh.

Dipa Karmakar, India's trailblazing gymnast, who narrowly missed out on a podium finish at the Rio 2016 Olympics, has announced her retirement from the sport.

Famous for performing the risky "Produnova" vault, often called the "vault of death," Karmakar leaves behind a legacy of courage and determination that redefined Indian gymnastics.

Karmakar, 30, became a national icon after finishing 4th at the Rio Olympics in 2016, attempting the highly dangerous Produnova vault.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled the logo and mascot for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024.

The mascot, named 'Gudiya,' is inspired by Bihar's state bird, the Sparrow.

SPORTS NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024**9th World Junior Wushu Championships 2024: India wins 7 medals.**

The Young Indian Wushu players ended their campaign at the 9th World Junior Wushu Championships 2024 by winning seven medals, including two golds, one silver, and four bronze medals. The Championships were held at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, from 22 to 30 September 2024.

Aryan became the first Indian player to win a gold medal in the World Junior Wushu Championships. In the final of the 48 kg boys junior category, he defeated Gong Huanran from China

Shaurya won the second gold medal, defeating Alireza Zaman of Iran in the boy's 48 kg weight category of

the children's section of the championships.

Dhanush Loganathan was the sole Indian to win a medal at the IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships 2024.

Two-time Asian Games silver medallist Fouaad Mirza beat Tokyo Olympic gold medallist Julia Krajewski to win the gold medal in eventing at the Strzegom Standard Show 2024 in Poland, which was held on 25 September 2024.

The Indian pair of Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth won their first ATP title by winning the 2024 Hangzhou Open Tennis Championships doubles event. Former US Open champion Marin Cilic of Croatia won the men's singles titles.

The Hangzhou Open Tennis Championship was held in Hangzhou, China, from 18 to 24 September 2024.

The \$1,000,630 prize Hangzhou Open is an ATP 250 event played on hardcourt.

India A are the Duleep Trophy season 2024-25 Champion.

Indian A team, led by Mayank Agarwal, claimed the 2024-25 Season Duleep Trophy by beating India C in their last round-robin match.

The India A team finished the tournament with 12 points from their three matches to top the points table and was declared the winner of the 61st edition of the prestigious Duleep Trophy.

The Duleep Trophy is a four-day premier domestic first-class match organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The Duleep Trophy was traditionally played in a Zonal format, with teams divided into five or six geographical regions.

This year, there were four teams: India A, India B, India C, and India D. Mayank Agarwal captained the India A team. Ruturaj Gaikwad led the India C side, Abhimanyu Easwaran led the India B side, and Shreyas Iyer led the India D side.

Indian men's & women's teams win gold in the 45th FIDE Chess Olympiad.

Indian Men's and Women's chess teams won gold medals in their respective events at the 45th edition of the FIDE Chess Olympiad, held in the Hungarian capital of Budapest from 10-23 September 2024. The next 46th FIDE Chess Olympiad will be held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan 2026.

The last time a country won gold both in the Open(men's) and women's section of the chess Olympiad was China in 2018. Batumi, Georgia,

The Indian team retained the Gaprindashvili Cup, which is awarded to the best combined result in the Open and Women's sections. In the last 43rd edition of the Chess Olympiad, which was held in Chennai, Tami Nadu, in 2022, the Indian team won the Gaprindashvili Cup.

India became the second country after Russia which successfully retained the Gaprindashvili Cup.

Indian Men's Team Win Hamilton-Russell Cup

The Indian team consisting of Arjun Erigasi, Rameshbabu Pragannandha, Dommaraju Gukesh, Vidit Gujrathi and Pentala Harikrishna won the gold medal in the Open section. The Indian men's team was awarded the gold medal and the Hamilton Russell Cup.

The Indian team topped the points table with 21 points, followed by the United States in second place and Uzbekistan in third place

Indian Women Wins Vera Menchik Cup

The Indian women's team of Vantika Agarwal, Divya Deshmukh, Harika Dranavali, Vaishali Rameshbabu and Tania Sachdev won the gold medal and the Vera Menchik Cup.

The Kazakhstan team was awarded the silver medal, while the USA team settled for the bronze medal.

Board Prizes for Best Individual Performance

Open – Board 1:

Gold: Gukesh D, India

Silver: Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Uzbekistan

Bronze: Magnus Carlsen, Norway

Open – Board 3:

Gold: Arjun Erigaisi, India

Silver: Yu Yangyi, China

Bronze: Le Tuan Minh, Vietnam

Women – Board 3:

Gold: Divya Deshmukh, India

Silver: Sabrina Vega Gutierrez, Spain

Bronze: Elina Danielian, Armenia

Women – Board 4:

Gold: Vantika Agrawal, India

Silver: Alice Lee, USA

Bronze: Anna M. Sargsyan, Armenia.

Indian fast bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah became the sixth Indian fast bowler and 10th overall to claim 400 wickets in international cricket matches (Test matches, One Day Internationals and T-20 Internationals combined). Jasprit Bumrah achieved this milestone in the first test match against Bangladesh at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

Bangladesh's batsman Hasan Mahmud was Jasprit Bumrah's 400th victim at the international level.

India defeated Bangladesh by 280 runs in the match to go 1-0 up in the 2-Test match series

Punjab wins the 14th Hockey India Junior Men National C'ship 2024.

Hockey Punjab won the 14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2024 by defeating Uttar Pradesh Hockey in a penalty shootout 4-3. The final was played at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar, Punjab, on 19 September 2024.

Glasgow to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after Victoria backs off.

Glasgow, Scotland's capital, has agreed to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after the original host, Victoria of Australia, declined due to the rising cost. Glasgow has previously successfully hosted the 2012 Commonwealth Games.

The first Commonwealth Games was held in 1930, and countries or territories that are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation, now known as Commonwealth Sport, participate in the Games.

The last of six of the seventh edition of the Commonwealth Games has been held in Great Britain or Australia.

Scotland, England and Wales constitute Great Britain.

India wins Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy for record 5th time.

The Indian men's hockey team, led by Harmanpreet Singh, defeated host China 1-0 in the final to win the Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy for a record fifth time. The final match of the 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was played at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir City, China, on 17 September 2024.

Defending champion India had earlier won the trophy in 2011, 2016, 2018 and 2023.

In the final, Jugraj Singh scored the only winning goal of the match in the 51 minutes.

The 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was held at Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, People's Republic of China, from 8-17 September 2024

ICC introduces equal prize money for men's and women's cricket World Cups.

Prize money for the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup has notably increased. The winning team will now earn \$2.34 million, a sharp 134% rise from the \$1 million Australia received in 2023.

Runners-up will walk away with \$1.17 million, more than double the \$500,000 awarded last year.

As compared to the Men's T20 World Cup, in which India won recently, India received \$2.45 million in cash prize.

This move is in line with the ICC's strategy to prioritize the women's game and accelerate its growth by 2032.

The decision ensures that the ICC reached its prize money equity target seven years ahead of its schedule for 2030.

India's 17-year-old Anmol Kharb clinched her first international title in women's singles as she beat Denmark's Amalie Schulz in a hard-fought final in the Belgian International badminton tournament.

Saleema Imtiaz has made history by becoming the first Pakistani woman to be nominated to the ICC International Panel of Development Umpires,

Manipur's TG English School wins 63rd Subroto Cup U-17 Boys title.

Manipur's TG English School won the under -17 boys title of the 63rd Subroto Cup International Football Tournament, defeating Meghalaya's Myngken Christian Higher Secondary School in the final on 11 September 2024.

The 63rd Subroto Cup International Football Tournament for under-17 boys was held in New Delhi from 2 -11 September at New Delhi.

Subroto Cup is a premier inter-school football tournament in the country in which foreign teams also participate.

Randhir Singh: 1st Indian elected as Olympic Council of Asia President.

Former shooter and able administrator Raja Randhir Singh became the first Indian to be elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia.

He and other office bearers of the Olympic Committee of Asia were elected at the 44th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, held in New Delhi on 8 September 2024.

Raja Randhir Singh has been elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia for a four-year term from 2024 to 2028.

About the Olympic Council of Asia

The Olympic Council of Asia was established as the Asian Games Federation in 1949 in New Delhi.

In 1981, its name was changed to the Olympic Council of Asia, and its headquarters moved from New Delhi to Kuwait.

The Olympic Council of Asia is a non-governmental body that governs sports in Asia.

Member: 45 Asian National Olympic Committee

Headquarters: Kuwait

President: Raja Randhir Singh.

Syria wins the 4th Intercontinental Cup Men's Football Tournament.

Syria defeated India 3-0 in the last round-robin match to win the 4th Intercontinental Cup men's football championship. India, the defending champions, could not score a single goal in the match.

The Intercontinental Cup men's football tournament is organised by the All India Football Federation(AIFF) and replaced the Nehru Cup

Jannik Sinner ,Aryna Sabalenka wins 2024 US Open Singles title.

Jannik Sinner of Italy and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the men's and women's singles titles of the 2024 US Open Grand Slam Tennis tournament, respectively. It was the first US Open title for Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka.

It was the second Grand Slam title for Jannik Sinner and the third Grand Slam title for Aryna Sabalenka.

The four grand slam events in tennis are the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open.

The 2024 US Open championship was held in Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York City, the United States of America, from 19 August to -8 September 2024.

Jannik Sinner -First Italian man to win the US Open

World No.1 Jannik Sinner became the first Italian in the open era to win the men's singles title at the US Open.

In the final played at the Arthur Ash stadium on 8 September 2024, Jannik Sinner defeated Taylor Fritz of the USA 6-3, 6-4, 7-5.

This was the second Grand Slam title for Jannik Sinner. He won the 2024 Australian Open singles title.

The 23-year-old Sinner reached the semi-finals of the 2024 French Open and the quarter-finals of the 2024 Wimbledon this season.

First US Open singles title for Sabalenka

World no.2 ranked Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus defeated the American Jessica Pegula in the final of the US Open 7-5, 7-5. The final was played at the Arthur Ashe Stadium on 7 September 2024.

This was Sabalenka's first US Open singles title and her third Grand Slam title. Aryna Sabalenka won the Australian Open women's singles title in 2023 and 2024.

Winners of the 2024 US Open

Event	Winner (Nationalities)	Runners-UP (Nationalities)
Men's Single	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Taylor Fritz (USA)
Women's Single	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Jessica Pegula (USA)
Men's Double	Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson (Both Australian)	Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz (Both from Germany)
Women's Double	Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine)and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)	Kristina Mladenovic (France) and Zhang Shuai (China)
Mixed Doubles	Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori (Both from Italy)	Donald Young and Taylor Townsend (Both American)

Harvinder Singh became the first Indian para-athlete to win a gold medal in the para-archery event at the Paralympics Games.

He won a gold medal in the men's individual recurve open event at the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

Indian deaf shooter Dhanush Srikanth won three gold medals at the 2024 World Deaf Shooting Championship in Hanover, Germany.

The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf is organising the 2024 World Deaf Shooting Championship in Hanover, Germany, from 29 August to -8 September 2024.

Dhanush Srikanth set a new world record in the men's 10m air rifle event with a score of 632.7.

All three medals in the event were won by Indians: Dhanush bagged the gold, Shourya Saini won the silver, and Mohammed Vania won the bronze.

Srikanth won his second gold medal in the 10m mixed team event with Mahit Sandhu.

The Indian team of Mohammed Vania and Natasha Joshi won the silver medal.

His third gold medal came in the 10m air rifle men's team event, where he partnered Shourya Saini and Mohammed Vania.

India has sent a 13-member team to the World Deaf Shooting Championship.

At the end of day three, India had won 12 medals (three gold, six silver, and three bronze).

Himanshi Tokas wins Silver in the Asian Cadet and Junior Judo Championships.

13-year-old Table Tennis Player Divyanshi Bhowmick won a bronze medal in the Under-19 Girls singles event at the WTT Youth Contender Varazdin 2024.

Abhay Singh wins the single title at the 2024 Tuanku Muhriz Trophy.

The Indian men's national squash champion, Abhay Singh, won the men's singles title of the 2024 Tuanku Muhriz Trophy. In the final played on 1 September 2024, he defeated the top seed Lau Tsz Kwan of Hong Kong, China. This was the 10 PSA(Professional Squash Association) title for Abhay Singh.

The \$15,000 prize money Tuanku Muhriz Trophy is a Professional Squash Association (PSA) Challenger tournament. It was held in Seremban, Malaysia, from 28 August to -01 September 2024

Aira Azman wins the women's singles title

Aira Azaman of Malaysia won the women's singles title of the 2024 Tuanku Muhriz Trophy. She defeated Hong Kong China's Chan Sin Yuk 11-9,11-9,11-9 in the final.

Nitesh Kumar won the second gold medal for India at the 2024 Paris Paralympics by winning the final of the men's singles Badminton SL3 class event on 2 September 2024.

Earlier, Avni Lekhara won India's first gold medal at the Paris Paralympics in the Women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.

The 17th Summer Paralympics for the physically challenged is being held in Paris, France, from 28 August to 8 September 2024.

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.

NorthEast United FC wins its maiden Durand Cup beating MBSG.
 Guwahati-based NorthEast United Football Club won its first Durand Cup title, defeating the defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) 4-3 in a penalty shootout in the final.
 The final of the 133rd edition of Asia's oldest football tournament was played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata (West Bengal), on 31 August 2024.
 The 133rd edition of the Durand Cup was held in Kolkata, Kokrajhar (Assam), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), and Shillong (Meghalaya) from 27 July to 31 August 2024.
 Jamshedpur was hosting the matches of the Durand Cup for the first time.
 The NorthEast United Football Club, owned by Bollywood actor John Abraham, received three trophies: the Durand Cup, the Shimla Trophy, and the President's Cup

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.
 Samiaya 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 Choppa (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.

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 Barbosa Krejcikova.

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 Krejcikova

Barbora Krejcikova 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 Krejcikova 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.

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 Antalaya 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 is from 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 Sapniard 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 Alevares (El Salvador)	Andrea Vavasori 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.

APPOINTMENTS IN NEWS OCTOBER 2024

Bharti Airtel has appointed Shashwat Sharma as the new MD and CEO effective January 1, 2026.

This decision is part of a structured succession plan, allowing the incumbent MD and CEO, Gopal Vittal, to transition into the role of Executive Vice Chairman.

Vipin Kumar has officially taken charge as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)

Deepak Agarwal Appointed as Managing Director of National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED).

Axis Bank has officially announced the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a new three-year term, effective from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

The Government of India has appointed Dr. Neena Malhotra as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI).

The Governing Board of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) has announced the appointment of Dr. Himanshu Pathak as the Director General-designate of the esteemed institute

Pranav Chawda has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of JP Morgan Chase India for a term of three years.

Prabhakar Raghavan, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras), has been appointed as Google's Chief Technologist.

Vikram Dev Dutt has taken over as Coal Secretary.

Previously serving as the Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Dutt takes over from VL Kantha Rao.

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW).

Abhyuday Jindal Named New President of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC).

Acko has appointed Sandip Goenka as the CEO of its newly launched life insurance division, ACKO Life

Amit Kumar has been selected as the Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of AI Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL)

S. Paramesh officially took charge as the Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard.

Bollywood actress and environmental activist Dia Mirza has been appointed as a jury member for the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF) 2024.

Manoj Kumar Dubey was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC).

Manish Tiwary has been appointed as the Managing Director of Nestlé India Limited.

Air Marshal SP Dharkar took over as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff.

BCCI has made a significant move in its fight against corruption by appointing retired IPS officer Sharad Kumar as the new chief of its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU).

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced a significant diplomatic appointment with Sanjeev Kumar Singla being named as India's next Ambassador to France.

Ajit Vinayak Gupte as India's next Ambassador to Germany.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Aviral Jain as Executive Director (ED) with effect from October 01, 2024.

APPOINTMENTS IN NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024

As a Chief Justice of Delhi High-court Justice Manmohan took the Oath of Office in the Capital of India.

High Court judges enjoy the security of tenure till the age of retirement, which is 62 years.

The Central Government, through the Ministry of Law and Justice, notified the appointment of Chief Justices to eight High Courts.

Justice Manmohan(presently Acting CJ of Delhi High Court) – Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.

Justice Rajiv Shukhdher (presently Judge of Delhi HC) – Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.

Justice Suresh Kumar Kait (Judge of Delhi HC) – Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.

4. Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji (Judge of Calcutta HC) – Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.

Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar (Judge of Bombay HC) – Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.

Justice Tashi Rabstan (Judge of J&K&L HC) – Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh High Court.

Justice KR Shriram (Judge of Bombay HC) – Chief Justice of Madras High Court.

Justice MS Ramachandra Rao (presently CJ of HP HC) – Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.

Stability AI announced that James Cameron, the visionary director behind blockbuster films such as "Titanic" and "The Terminator," has joined the company's board of directors.

Jitendra J Jadhav, a Distinguished Scientist with nearly four decades of experience in aircraft design and development, has been appointed as the new Director General of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).

Senior IPS officers Alok Ranjan and Amit Garg have been appointed as the heads of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), respectively.

National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has ushered in a new era of leadership with the election of Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo as its president.

Renowned Indian boxer Nikhat Zareen has reported for duty as Deputy Superintendent of Police after handing over her joining report to the Director General of Police Jitender.

Anurag Garg, a 1993-batch IPS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

Atishi Marlena from Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) will be the new Chief Minister of state Delhi. She will replace the AAP supremo and party chief Arvind Kejriwal.

She will be the third women chief minister of Delhi after Sheila Dikshit and Sushma Swaraj.

She will also be the second current women chief minister in the country, following West Bengal's CM Mamata Banerjee.

Amrit Mohan was appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

Ministry of external affairs (MEA) has appointed Mr. R. Ravindran as the next ambassador to Iceland.

He served at India's Permanent Mission at New York USA from 2010-13.

RS Sharma has been named Non-Executive Chairperson of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).

Sharma, who has previously served as the Director General and Mission Director of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Chairman of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), and CEO of the National Health Authority.

Rajesh Verma has been appointed as a chairperson of the commission for air quality management in National capital region and adjoining areas (CAQM).
Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language. The Parliamentary Committee on Official Language was established under Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, in 1976, comprising 30 members from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
Arun Goel has been appointed as India's next Ambassador to Croatia, succeeding Raj Kumar Srivastava
Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as India's new Finance Secretary. He succeeds T.V. Somanathan, who has moved to the role of Cabinet Secretary. Pandey previously served as the Secretary of DIPAM.
Randhir Singh Elected as First Indian President of Olympic Council of Asia.
Ajay Ratra Joins Indian Cricket Selection Committee. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) made a significant announcement on Tuesday, reshaping the landscape of Indian cricket's selection process. Former India wicketkeeper Ajay Ratra has been appointed as a selector for the men's cricket team, marking a new era in the national team's selection committee. Ratra's appointment sees him replacing Salil Ankola in the five-man selection panel.
Sharath Kamal, India's ace paddler, was named the first Indian ambassador of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Foundation.
French cosmetics giant L'Oreal Paris Announces Alia Bhatt as New Global Brand Ambassador.
Dutch multinational conglomerate Philips has appointed Bharath Sesha as the Managing Director for India,

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

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.
Sudhakararao 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

AGREEMENT, SIGN & MOU OCTOBER 2024

Election Commission of India signed an agreement for electoral cooperation with Uzbekistan's central poll body.
India and Germany are set to sign a pact next week to facilitate the movement of workers and recognize skills between the two countries.
India and Mauritania have taken a significant step towards enhancing their bilateral relations by signing

four Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) during Indian President Droupadi Murmu's visit to the North African country.

Department of Posts and Amazon Unite to Enhance Delivery Services.

The Department of Posts (DoP), with its deep reach, and Amazon, one of the world's largest e-commerce companies, together seek to empower India's growing e-commerce sector by enhancing logistical capabilities, supporting job creation, and contributing to economic growth, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

United Kingdom and Mauritius reached an historical agreement to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands, a strategically significant archipelago in the Indian Ocean to hand over to Mauritius.

India Spain to Observe 2026 as Year of Culture, Tourism and AI.

The Singapore foreign minister was in India to attend the 6th India-Singapore Defence Ministerial Dialogue held on 22 October in New Delhi.

India and Singapore have agreed to strengthen their long-standing defence relationships and explore new areas of cooperation. This was agreed upon during the meeting between the Indian Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh, and the visiting Singaporean Defence Minister, Dr Ng Eng Hen.

India Pakistan extends Kartarpur Corridor agreement till 2029.

The governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to extend the validity of the Agreement on Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for five years until 24 October 2029. The initial agreement was to lapse on 24 October 2024.

The latest agreement between the countries was announced by the Ministry of External Affairs on 22 October 2024.

The agreement between the two countries comes in the background of the Minister for External Affairs, Dr S Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan for the 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations (SCO) Council of Heads of Government, held in Islamabad on 15 & 16 October 2024.

India and Columbia have signed an Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement to boost the partnership between the film industry in both countries. Colombia is the 17th country with which India has signed such an agreement.

India and Jamaica signed four Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen and boost their bilateral relationships

AGREEMENT, SIGN & MOU SEPTEMBER 2024

India has officially joined the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, which seeks to protect marine biodiversity on the high seas.

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, on behalf of the Government of India, signed the BBNJ agreement on 25 September 2024 at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the United States of America.

The Union Cabinet approved the BBNJ agreement in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2 July 2024.

The nodal ministry to implement the provisions of the BBNJ agreement will be the Union Ministry of Earth Science.

The member countries have until September 2025 to sign the agreement, which will come into force after at least 60 countries ratify it.

The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, also popularly known as the 'High Seas Treaty', is an international agreement sponsored by the United Nations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS).

Rubber Research Institute signs MoU with IndianOil.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to enhance the research on using Rubber Process Oils marketed by IOCL in different tyre and non-tyre rubber products.

India to get first national security semiconductor fabrication plant as part of collaboration with US.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA) of Brazil. This collaboration aims to strengthen food safety measures and promote bilateral cooperation in the sector.

US-India Clean Energy Manufacturing Partnership: A Milestone in Bilateral Cooperation

ADNOC and ExxonMobil Join Forces to Develop World's Largest Low-Carbon Hydrogen Facility.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and ExxonMobil have announced a landmark partnership

to develop the world's largest low-carbon hydrogen facility.

This ambitious project, set to be located in Baytown, Texas, marks a significant milestone in the race to lead sustainable energy production and combat climate change.

India and UAE Strengthen Ties with Five Landmark Agreements.

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) took a significant step forward in their strategic partnership by signing five groundbreaking agreements.

These deals, covering crucial areas such as nuclear energy, fossil fuels, and food security, were formalized during a high-level meeting between Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.

India and UAE Strengthen Audit Cooperation.

Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UAE Accountability Authority.

5 pact signed between India and Abu Dhabi in Energy and Food Park.

India and Abu Dhabi Emirate signed five memorandums of understanding (Mou)/agreements to strengthen cooperation in fossil fuels, the nuclear sector, and food parks. These agreements were signed during the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's official visit to India.

The Crown Prince was on his first official visit to India on September 9 and 10, 2024. He visited New Delhi on September 9 to meet Indian political leaders and Mumbai on September 10 to boost economic and business ties.

India and Singapore signed four Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to deepen bilateral relationship during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Singapore.

The Prime Minister was on a two nations tour of Brunei and Singapore from 3 -5 September 2024.

In the first leg of his tour he visited Brunei and became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Brunei.

After Brunei visit he visited Singapore on 4th and 5th September 2024.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was accompanied by External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar.

Indian Navy has signed an agreement with the South African Navy to rescue its Submarine personnel who have met an accident or are in distress in the deep sea.

India Sign MoU with UAE to Strengthen Public Sector Audit Cooperation.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Accountability Authority to foster collaboration between the two institutions in public sector audits.

The agreement was signed by Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, and Humaid Obaid Khalifa Obaid Abushibs, the President of the UAE Accountability Authority in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates(UAE).

Colombo Security Conclave members sign MoU to establish a Secretariat.

The Member countries of the Colombo Security Conclave have agreed to institutionalise and give permanent status to the regional security platform of the Indian Ocean countries. The Colombo Security Conclave was set up in 2011 as an India-Sri Lanka-Maldives maritime security dialogue and renamed the Colombo Security Conclave in 2020.

During the meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 30 August 2024, the member countries of the Colombo Security Conclave signed the charter, which outlines the Conclave's objectives, and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for establishing the Secretariat of the Colombo Security Conclave.

The Colombo Security Conclave meeting is conducted at the national security advisor level of the member countries.

The permanent members of the Colombo Security Conclave are India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Mauritius.

Bangladesh was admitted as a member during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), which was hosted by Mauritius virtually on 10 July 2024.

Seychelles has an observer status in the Colombo Security Conclave.

All members were present and signed the Charter and MoU of the Colombo Security Conclave, except Bangladesh.

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. Jaishnagar. 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

C-DOT Signs Agreement With IIT, Roorkee And Mandi.

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) and Indian Institute of Technology, Mandi (IIT Mandi).

Goal for the development of 'Cell-Free' 6G Access Points. Both the IITs are collaborating to develop this technology.

'Cell-Free' Massive MIMO (multiple-input and multiple-output) eliminates the idea of cells and cell boundaries by deploying several access points (APs) across a vast region to serve many user devices at the same time.

BIS Tie-Up With IISc, Bengaluru To Promote Standardisation.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, for the establishment of the 'BIS Standardization Chair Professor' at the latter.

India Prepares to Sign Headquarters Agreement with Global Biofuels Alliance.

The Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA), launched in September 2023 by key G20 members including India, the United States, and Brazil, is poised to take a significant step forward in its institutional development. The Indian government is preparing to sign a headquarters agreement with the alliance, marking a crucial milestone in the organization's evolution and India's role in global sustainable energy initiatives.

AGREEMENT, SIGN & MOU JUNE 2024

Jammu & Kashmir Elevates Agricultural Partnership with New Zealand.

In a major advancement in the agricultural sector, Jammu & Kashmir on Wednesday broadened its existing Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with New Zealand into a full-fledged strategic agreement.

Peru and Slovakia sign the Artemis Accords for Peaceful Moon Exploration.

Peru and Slovakia on May 30, signed NASA's Artemis Accords, making them the latest in a rapid number of countries to join the U.S.-led agreement on the safe exploration of space.

Both countries signed the accords at NASA's Washington headquarters, but in separate ceremonies with Peru the first to add its name to the accords on May 30 followed by Slovakia.

Peru became 41st and Slovakia 42nd countries to do so.

About Artemis accord

Artemis accord is launched by NASA and seven other nations in 2020, the Artemis Accords are a nonbinding political commitment to a set of principles guiding the conduct of civil space exploration. The namesake of the accords is the Artemis Program, which NASA is leading along with industry and international partners to create a sustainable human presence on the Moon and eventually on Mars.

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.

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES OCTOBER 2024

Global Nature Conservation Index, 2024

TOP : Luxembourg

2nd : Estonia

3rd : Denmark

4th : Finland

5th : United Kingdom

INDIA : 176.

Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and the non-profit website BioDB.com have jointly prepared and released the first Global Nature Conservation Nature Index.

The first Global Nature Conservation Nature Index was released in October 2024.

The countries were ranked on four key pillars;

Land Management,

Threats to Biodiversity

Capacity and Governance, and

Future Trends.

India was ranked 176th among 180 countries in terms of their commitment to nature conservation. The tiny European country of Luxembourg was ranked as the top-ranked country. In contrast, the Pacific island country of Kiribati was ranked at the bottom of the Global Nature Conservation Index.

Economic Freedom of the World 2024

1st : Hong Kong

2nd : Singapore

3rd : Switzerland

4th : New Zealand

5th : United States

INDIA : 84th

World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2024 reveals that India ranks 79th out of 142 countries. Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden, and Germany top the list, while Venezuela, Cambodia, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Myanmar rank the lowest.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report, 2024.

It is jointly published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).

The report overlays violent conflict data with multidimensional poverty data to better understand their interlinkages across countries and over time with the theme "Poverty Amid Conflict".

Key finding of the report

Countries at war have higher deprivations compared with non-conflict settings across all ten indicators of multidimensional poverty.

Across 112 countries, 1.1 billion people (~18%) live in acute multidimensional poverty.

With 234 million, India was the country with the largest number of people in extreme poverty.

The five countries with the largest number of people living in poverty are India (234 million), which is medium Human development Index (HDI), and Pakistan (93 million), Ethiopia (86 million), Nigeria (74 million) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (66 million), all low HDI.

About MPI

It is a poverty measure that reflects the multiple deprivations that poor people face in the areas of education, health, and living standards (refer image).

If a person is deprived of 1/3rd or more of (weighted) indicators, they are identified as 'MPI poor'.

Genesis: Launched in 2010.

MPI advances Sustainable Development Goal 1, i.e., ending poverty in all its forms everywhere

Global Hunger Index 2024

Index has been released by Irish humanitarian organization Concern Worldwide and German aid agency Welthungerhilfe.

Key findings of report About India:

India ranks 105th out of 127th countries, falling under "serious" category with 41 other nations, including Pakistan and Afghanistan.

India's GHI score has fallen since 2000, however, child wasting and stunting remain very high.

Maternal malnutrition perpetuates child under nutrition in India, creating an intergenerational cycle of poor nutritional status.

Each country's GHI score is calculated based on a formula (See image) that combines four indicators:

Undernourishment (Insufficient caloric intake); Child stunting (Children with low height under age 5); Child wasting: (Children with low weight for their height under age 5); Child mortality: (Children who die before their fifth birthday).

India's Performance in GHI 2024

India ranks 105th out of 127 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2024, placing it in the "serious" hunger category.

India's GHI score is 27.3, indicating a severe level of hunger.

Top 5 Performers in 2024

1. Belarus
2. Bosnia and Herzegovina
3. Chile
4. China
5. Costa Rica

Worst Performers in the List

- 125 . Chad
126. Yemen
127. Somalia.

India's Neighboring Countries

4. China
52. Thailand
56. Sri-Lanka
68. Nepal
74. Myanmar
77. Indonesia
84. Bangladesh

105. India
109. Pakistan
116. Afghanistan

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES SEPTEMBER 2024

India improves its rank to 39th in the 2024 Global Innovation Index.

India's ranking in the 2024 Global Innovation Index (GII) has improved to 39, up from 40 in the last edition. India's ranking has improved by 42 in the last nine years, from 81st in 2015 to 39 in 2024.

Switzerland maintained its position as the top-ranked country, while Angola, an African country, was at the bottom.

The Global Innovation Index has been published by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) every year since 2007. In the 17th edition, 133 countries and the world's top 100 science and technology clusters were ranked based on innovation performance.

The countries are evaluated using around 80 indicators grouped into four parameters: science and innovation investment, technological progress, technology adoption and the socioeconomic impact of innovation.

This year also, Switzerland has been ranked number 1 on the Global Innovation index. This is the 14th consecutive year that Switzerland has been ranked no.1 on the Index.

Performance of India in the 2024 Global Innovation Index

India has been ranked 39th in the 2024 Global Innovation Index.

India is the top-ranked country amongst the 38 lower-middle-income group economies.

Amongst the 10 economies of Central and Southern Asia, India has been ranked 1st.

Regarding the Innovations Input criteria, India has improved its ranks to 44th.

Similarly, India ranks 33rd in innovation outputs, which is higher than last year.

Like last year, four Indian clusters have been included in the top 100 Science and Technology Clusters of the Global Innovation Index.

Bengaluru is the highest-ranked Indian cluster at 56th place in the world, followed by Delhi(63), Chennai (82), and Mumbai (84th place).

Top 10 Country in the 2024 Global Innovation Index.

- 1.Switzerland
- 2.Sweden
- 3.United States
- 4.United Kingdom
5. Singapore
6. Finland
7. Netherland
8. Germany
9. Denmark
10. South Korea

The IMD's recent World Talent Ranking 2024 shows that Switzerland ranks first, followed by Singapore; India finds itself ranked 58th globally, with a talent score of 40.47.

The IMD World Talent Ranking 2024 shows the overall ranking for 67 economies.

India 3rd most powerful country in Asia: Asia Power Index 2024.

According to the Asian Power Index Report 2024, released recently by the Australian think tank Lowy Institute, India is ranked third most powerful country in Asia after the United States of America and China.

Last year, India was ranked the fourth most powerful country in Asia in the 2023 report, but this year, India overtook Japan to be ranked third.

About the Asia Power Index Report 2024

The Lowy Institute released the first annual Asia Power Index in 2018 to rank the countries in Asia based on their resources and influences.

The 2024 Asia Power Index Report ranks 27 countries and territories. For the first time, the Southeast Asian country of Timor Leste has been included in the Report.

The report evaluates the power of the countries on 131 indicators across eight thematic measures: Military Capability and Defence Networks, Economic Capability and Relationships, Diplomatic and Cultural Influence, as well as Resilience and Future Resources.

Kerala has once again secured first position in the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2024, marking the second consecutive year that the southern state has claimed the spot. The report was released in the inaugural session of

FSSAI Global Food Regulators Summit 2024.

About State Food Safety Index (SFSI)

The Index is an annual assessment released by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Parameters of SFSI

This index is based on the performance of the State/ UT on five significant parameters.

Human Resources and Institutional Data,

Compliance,

Food Testing – Infrastructure and Surveillance,

Training & Capacity Building

Consumer Empowerment

In the 2023 index, a new parameter called 'Improvement in SFSI Rank' was added.

Top Performing States

1. Kerala

2. Tamil Nadu

3. Jammu Kashmir

4. Gujarat

5. Nagaland

TIME's World's Best Companies 2024, Indian Firms in the Spotlight.

TIME magazine's World's Best Companies of 2024 list has brought significant recognition to Indian businesses, highlighting their growing influence on the global stage.

This prestigious ranking, which includes 1000 companies worldwide, features 22 Indian-born enterprises this year, showcasing the country's expanding corporate footprint and economic prowess.

TIME World's TOP 5 Best Companies of 2024

Rank	Company Name	Headquarters
1	Apple	United States
2	Accenture	Ireland
3	Microsoft	United States
4	BMW Group	Germany
5	Amazon	United States

Indian Companies in the Top Rankings

HCLTech leads the pack among Indian companies, securing the 112th position globally. Infosys and Wipro follow closely, ranking 119th and 134th respectively. The Adani Group, despite recent controversies, maintains a strong presence at 736th place. Reliance Industries, led by Mukesh Ambani, stands at a commendable 646th position.

Banking Sector Performance.

Axis Bank leads the banking sector at 504th place. The State Bank of India, India's largest public sector bank, follows at 518th. Private sector banks like ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank also feature prominently.

Switzerland crowned as best country in the world.

Top 10 countries in Survey

1. Switzerland
2. Japan
3. United states of America
4. Canada
5. Australia
6. Sweden
7. Germany
8. United Kingdom
9. New Zealand
10. Denmark

Sundar Pichai, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Anil Kapoor among Indians on TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024 List.

TIME, the New York (the United States of America-USA)based Magazine, released "TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024".

Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google and Alphabet, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Anil Kapoor, Renowned Actor are among leaders from India or of Indian descent featured on the list.

About TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024:

This is the 2nd edition of TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI, recognizing the 100 most influential people shaping the rapidly evolving field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The list has categorized the influential people into 4 different categories namely, Leaders, Innovators, Shapers and Thinkers.

INDIA'S RANK IN VARIOUS INDEXES AUGUST 2024

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

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.

The top five institutions in the 2024 NIRF overall category are:

IIT Madras: Ranked first in the overall category .

2nd : IISc Bengaluru

3rd : IIT Bombay

4th : IIT Delhi

5th : IIT Kanpur

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

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.

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

- 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.

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.

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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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4	Clinic Plus
5	Tata Consumer Products

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)

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 Global Institutes:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT): Retained its position as the best institute globally for the 13th consecutive year.

Imperial College London: Improved from sixth to second.

Harvard University and University of Oxford: Jointly held the third rank.

India's Position:

In this edition of the rankings, with 46 universities, the Indian Higher Education system is the seventh most represented globally and the third in Asia, trailing only Japan (49 universities) and China (71 universities). 61% of Indian universities' ranking has improved, with IIT Bombay gaining the top spot in India.

Top Indian Institutes:

IIT Bombay: Leading in India, IIT Bombay climbed from 149th in 2024 to 118th in 2025.

IIT Delhi: Achieved the second position in India, moving up 47 ranks from 197th to 150th.

IIT Indore: The only Indian institute that declined in ranking, dropping from 454th to 477th.

Top Performers

IIT Bombay (1)

IIT Delhi (2)

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (3)

IIT Kharagpur (IIT-KGP) (4)

IIT Madras (5)

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2024

Israel Joins Asian Development Bank (ADB) as 69th Member Country.

Israel has become the newest non-regional member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Israel officially joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its 69th member and 20th nonregional member.

Egypt has reached a significant public health milestone by being officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Egypt is the third country in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region to receive malaria-free certification, joining the United Arab Emirates (2007) and Morocco (2010).

Vietnam's parliament elected army general Luong Cuong as the new state president.

Justice Yahya Afridi Selected as Pakistan's Next Chief Justice.

According to a report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the world's total public debt is poised to surpass \$100 trillion this year for the first time.

Hurricane Oscar made landfall in the Bahamas before crossing Cuba's eastern coast.

India has increased its grant for upgrading schools in Sri Lanka's plantation areas, raising its total commitment to Rs. 600 million (INR 172.25 million).

India and Colombia Sign Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement.

The Indo-Turkiye Friendship Association (ITFA) was launched in Hyderabad on October 16, 2024.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recently addressed the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held from October 13 to 17, 2024, at the IPU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland

President Droupadi Murmu, on her three-nation tour, received an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science from Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers

The World Health Organization secured \$1 billion in pledges during a fundraising event in Berlin.

Abu Dhabi Crowned World's Richest City in Sovereign Wealth Funds.

Abu Dhabi has been declared the world's richest city in terms of sovereign wealth funds, with an estimated capital of \$1.7 trillion.

India has surged to become the second-biggest supplier of restricted critical technologies to Russia, US. India has become the second-largest supplier of restricted technologies, such as microchips, circuits, and machine tools, to Russia, following China.

President Droupadi Murmu is set to embark on a significant state visit to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi from October 13 to 19, 2024.

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) has elected 18 new members to the 47-member Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term.

India participated in the 44th session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) held in Dresden, Germany from October 2 to October 6, 2024.

An 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer, Nima Rinji Sherpa, made history by becoming the youngest person to summit all 14 of the world's 8,000-meter (26,246-foot) peaks.

President Kais Saied has secured a second five-year term as Tunisia's.

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has informed that the Indian and UAE governments are working on interlinking the UPI of India and the AANI of UAE.

India and the UAE are working on interlinking their national payment platforms—UPI (India) and AANI (UAE).

This integration aims to facilitate seamless cross-border transactions, allowing real-time remittances between the two countries.

Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel appointed Prakash Man Singh Raut as the new Chief Justice of the country.

Bharat Electronics and Israel Aerospace Industries Form Joint Venture.

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have formed a joint venture, BEL IAI AeroSystems Private Ltd, to provide long-term product support for the Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) systems used by India's defense forces.

Claudia Sheinbaum made history by being sworn in as Mexico's first female president

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SEPTEMBER 2024

9th ICC T20 Women World Cup shifted to UAE from Bangladesh.

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.

NATO to Establish Northern Land Command in Eastern Finland.

NATO will establish a new land command in Finland near the Russian border in 2025 to oversee northern European land operations during potential conflicts.

The command will work with Finland's army and NATO's U.S.-based Norfolk Joint Force Command, with an initial budget of €8.5 million.

India and Uzbekistan Sign Bilateral Investment Treaty in Tashkent.

India and Uzbekistan have signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) aimed at boosting investor confidence and enhancing economic cooperation between the two nations.

Shigeru Ishiba Set to Become Japan's Next Prime Minister.

Shigeru Ishiba, former defence minister, is set to become Japan's next prime minister after winning the Liberal Democratic Party's leadership vote.

IDB and UNDP Collaborate to Boost Climate Data in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The IDB and UNDP have partnered to enhance climate data sharing in Latin America and the Caribbean, utilizing the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF).

India has been elected to the GlobE Steering Committee, enhancing its role in the global fight against corruption.

The decision, made during a plenary session in Beijing, positions India to influence anti-corruption strategies, building on its prior support for the G-20 initiative.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has taken a significant step to support Pakistan's struggling economy by approving a new \$7 billion loan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a significant address at the 79th U.N. General Assembly session, themed "Summit of the Future," held in New York on September 22, 2024.

Marhowra Plant to Export Evolution Series Locomotives to Africa by 2025.

Wabtec Locomotive Private Limited, a joint venture between Indian Railways and Wabtec, will start exporting Evolution Series ES43ACmi locomotives to Africa in 2025.

Iran unveils all new and powerful suicide drone 'Shahed-136B'

Russia and China started naval exercises in the Sea of Japan. The exercises will include anti-aircraft and anti-submarine weapons.

This exercise aims to deepen the strategic cooperation level between the Chinese and Russian militaries and enhance their ability to jointly deal with security threats.

Harini Amarasuriya was officially sworn in as Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister.

She became the first woman to hold the office since Sirimavo Bandaranaike in 2000.

New Global Climate 'Loss and Damage' Fund Names First Director..

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, created to support countries affected by climate disasters, has appointed Senegalese finance expert Ibrahima Cheikh Diong as its first director. With \$800 million pledged and the Philippines as its headquarters.

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, aimed at assisting countries ravaged by climate-driven disasters, has appointed Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, a Senegalese finance specialist and dual U.S. citizen, as its first director.

Russian Cosmonauts Break Record for Longest ISS Flight.

Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub set a new record for the longest single mission aboard the ISS, spending 374 days in space. They surpassed the previous record of 370 days held by Sergei Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin, and NASA astronaut Francisco Rubio

Kononenko and Chub arrived at the ISS on September 15, 2023, via the Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft and are scheduled to return to Earth on the Soyuz MS-25 on September 23, 2024, totaling 374 days in space.

India and Bhutan Deepen Cooperation on Food Safety and Regulatory Standards.

Jordan Becomes First Country to Receive WHO Verification for Eliminating Leprosy.

India and the US have pledged to deepen their collaboration across the energy value chain, focusing on a just and orderly energy transition.

Angkor Wat Named Most Photogenic UNESCO World Heritage Site in Asia.

Cambodia's Angkor Wat has been recognized as the most photogenic UNESCO World Heritage site in Asia by Times Travel, as announced by Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet on September 15. This accolade was revealed through a post on his official Telegram channel, featuring Times of India's list of Asia's top ten most photogenic UNESCO sites.

Algeria Joins 9th Member of BRICS New Development Bank.

Algeria has been authorised to become the 9th member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), a Multilateral Development Bank (MDB) established by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) countries.

It was announced by Dilma Rousseff, President of the NDB, during the 9th Annual Meeting of the NDB, held in Cape Town, South Africa, from August 29 to 31, 2024.

With this membership, Algeria became the 3rd Arab country to be integrated with the NDB, after Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Third Edition of INDUS-X Summit Concludes in California.

The third edition of the INDUS-X Summit, held on 9-10 September 2024 in California, marked significant progress in advancing a joint defence innovation ecosystem between India and the USA.

Co-organised by the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) and Stanford University, the event focused on deepening defence collaboration through innovation, joint research, and investment.

India Remains Top Source for Sri Lanka Tourism in 2024.

As Indians roam all around the world, recent data came out as Sri Lanka is also one of the top travel destinations for Indians in 2024.

India maintained the top spot for Sri Lanka in the first 8 months of this year.

India Surpasses China in MSCI Emerging Markets Index.

India has overtaken China in the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) Emerging Markets Investable Market Index (EM IMI) with a weightage of 22.27%, surpassing China's 21.58%.

Nepal has become the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) as a full member.

The ISA is a global intergovernmental organization dedicated to advancing solar power adoption for a carbon-neutral future.

India and the UAE have signed a historic MoU for civil nuclear cooperation, marking a significant milestone in their bilateral relations.

The agreement, involving NPCIL and ENEC, aims to enhance collaboration in nuclear energy, operations, and maintenance.

Indian-Americans featured in TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024.

TIME Magazine's 'TIME100 Most Influential People in AI 2024' list celebrates 15 Indian or Indian-origin individuals, showcasing their contributions to the AI landscape.

Key figures include Sundar Pichai (CEO, Google), Satya Nadella (CEO, Microsoft), Ashwini Vaishnav (Indian Information Technology Minister), Nandan Nilekani (Infosys co-founder), and Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor.

Kapoor's inclusion follows his legal victory in 2023, protecting his image from unauthorized AI use.

Israel's Tower Semiconductor and Adani's \$10 Billion Chip Project in India.

Israel's Tower Semiconductor and Adani Group will invest \$10 billion in a semiconductor plant in Maharashtra, India, aimed at boosting the country's chip production capabilities.

India anticipates its semiconductor market will reach \$63 billion by 2026, signaling significant growth and opportunities in the sector.

Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune has been re-elected for a second term.

Michel Barnier Named by Macron to be France's New PM.

French President Emmanuel Macron has made a significant political decision by appointing Michel Barnier, the former EU Brexit negotiator, as France's new Prime Minister.

The British government has announced plans to erect a national memorial for Queen Elizabeth II in St James's Park, London.

The memorial will be located in St James's Park, adjacent to The Mall and Buckingham Palace.

Super Typhoon Yagi, the most powerful storm to hit Asia in over a decade, has caused significant disruption across Southeast Asia.

Yagi is the second-most powerful tropical cyclone of 2024 globally, following Hurricane Beryl

The 5th Defence Cooperation Dialogue between India and the Maldives was held in New Delhi on September 6, 2024.

The Indian delegation was led by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane, while the Maldivian delegation was headed by General Ibrahim Hilmy, Chief of Defence Force, Maldives National Defence Force.

The meeting provided a platform to advance bilateral defence cooperation, focusing on the implementation of ongoing projects and fostering stability in the Indian Ocean region.

India and Singapore Sign Agreement on Semiconductor Partnership.

India and UNESCO to Co-Organize 2024 Chief Science Advisers Roundtable in Paris.

The 2024 Chief Science Advisers' Roundtable, co-organized by India and UNESCO, will be held on

September 6 in Paris.

The roundtable will bring together delegations from 28 countries, led by their Chief Science Advisers (CSA) or equivalent representatives, and six international organizations.

The central theme for this year is "Fostering open science, bridging knowledge asymmetry, and building science advice capacity globally."

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/PTF. 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

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 : Roebrrt 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

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, 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.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS OCTOBER 2024

India's first 'Writer's Village' was inaugurated in Dehradun by former President Ram Nath Kovind.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Pedro Sanchez, jointly inaugurated the Tata Aircraft Complex for manufacturing C-295 military transport aircraft at the Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) campus in Vadodara, Gujarat.

The Central government is set to commence the long-awaited census exercise in 2025, aiming for completion by 2026.

Sohrai Paintings: A Gift to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented unique, handcrafted artifacts representing different regions of India to leaders of various countries during the recently held BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. These gifts, each selected for their cultural significance and historical roots, showcased the country's diverse traditional art forms, including Jharkhand's Sohrai painting and Maharashtra's Mother of Pearl Sea Shell Vase and Warli Painting.

Prime Minister Modi presented Russian President Vladimir Putin with a Sohrai painting from Hazaribagh district in Jharkhand. This painting style, recognized under India's One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, symbolizes the unique cultural identity of Jharkhand's indigenous communities. Traditionally created during the Sohrai harvest festival.

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Prime Minister Modi presented Russian President Vladimir Putin with a Sohrai painting from Hazaribagh district in Jharkhand. This painting style, recognized under India's One District One Product (ODOP) initiative, symbolizes the unique cultural identity of Jharkhand's indigenous communities. Traditionally created during the Sohrai harvest festival.

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the 21st Livestock Census on Friday, which will be conducted until February next year at a cost of ₹200 crore.

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the 21st Livestock Census on October 25, which will run until February 2025.

India celebrated the first anniversary of Namoo Bharat train operations, marking a major milestone in regional connectivity.

The event highlighted the success of India's first Regional Rapid Transit System which spans 42 kilometers serving over 4 million passengers since its launch in October 2023.

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey inaugurated the first-ever coal gallery at the National Science Centre in New Delhi.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated three new airports developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.

The newly inaugurated airports are located in Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), and Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 'Karmayogi Saptah' National Learning Week (NLW) aimed at enhancing the individual and organizational capacity of civil servants.

This initiative, part of the broader 'Mission Karmayogi' launched in September 2020, seeks to foster a future-ready civil service that embodies Indian values while maintaining a global outlook.

Indian Railways has announced a reduction in the Advance Reservation Period (ARP) for long-distance train bookings from 120 days to 60 days, effective November 1, 2024.

The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a 3% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners, raising the DA from 50% to 53% of Basic Pay/Pension, effective July 1, 2024.

On October 16, 2024, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari celebrated the 40th Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG), commending its personnel for their bravery and dedication in ensuring national safety.

The traditional Lady of Justice, often depicted blindfolded with scales and a sword, has undergone a symbolic transformation in the Supreme Court of India. Under the guidance of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, the newly commissioned statue sheds the blindfold and replaces the sword with the Constitution.

Thought of Change

This change represents a modern understanding of justice in India, one that is neither blind nor punitive, but instead rooted in constitutional values and equality.

The new statue now stands prominently at the judges' library in the Supreme Court, marking a departure from colonial-era symbolism

BEML Secures Contract for India's First Indigenous Bullet Trains.

State-owned BEML has been awarded a contract worth ₹866.87 crore by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) to design, manufacture, and commission India's first indigenously built bullet trains.

Indian Navy marked a significant milestone with the launch of the first ship, 'Samarthak,' under the Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) project at L&T Shipyard in Kattupalli, Chennai.

India's Textiles Sector Targets \$350 Billion by 2030

The government, led by Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, has announced the establishment of 10 new ESIC medical colleges and the extension of the unemployment allowance scheme under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna until June 2026.

These decisions align with the Prime Minister's Independence Day (2024) promise to add 75,000 medical seats in the next five years.

The Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna, launched in 2018.

Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been upgraded to the status of Maharatna, making it the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).

Maharatna Companies in India as of 2024

1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
2. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
3. GAIL India Limited (GAIL)
4. Coal India Limited (CIL)
5. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)
6. Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
7. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
8. Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC)
9. Power Finance Corporation (PFC)
10. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID)
11. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)
12. Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)
13. Oil India Limited (OIL)
14. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

NATIONAL AFFAIRS SEPTEMBER 2024

India to Host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) in Delhi.

As India gears for hosting World Telecom Standardisation Assembly (WTSA2024), Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has set the ball rolling by launching the WTSA2024 Outreach Sessions, Scheduled in Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru.

Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia visited Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) Bengaluru Campus and inaugurated the 5G O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) Testing lab.

He encouraged the young engineers to continue their zeal and passion to innovate for realizing the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister towards "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and progressing to "Viksit Bharat 2047".

The Minister lauded C-DOT's collaborative research initiatives including BharatRAN-1 and BharatRAN-2 for the development of O-RAN compliant disaggregated 5G RAN solution capable of operation in the FR1 (Frequency Range) and FR2 bands for public & private 5G networks.

Girish Chandra Murmu, the CAG of India, assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for the term 2024-2027.

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the 16th Assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) on September 24, 2024, in New Delhi.

India's First Fashion Forecasting Initiative 'VisioNxt'

VisioNxt is India's first fashion forecasting initiative by NIFT, combining Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emotional Intelligence (EI) to provide trend insights tailored to India's cultural diversity. Launched with support from the Ministry of Textiles, it aims to boost global competition.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has accepted the recommendations of the High-Level Committee on Simultaneous Elections (One Nation One Election – ONOE) under the chairmanship of former President Shri Ram Nath Kovind.

The concept of "One Nation, One Election" envisions a system in which all state and Lok Sabha elections must be held simultaneously.

Doordarshan, India's esteemed public service broadcaster, marks its 65th anniversary on September 15, 2024. Established on this date in 1959, Doordarshan has been a pillar of Indian media, fostering unity, culture, and education. From its modest start with experimental broadcasts in Delhi, it has grown into one of the world's largest broadcasting organizations, adapting to technological advancements while upholding its public service mandate.

India took part in the BRICS Literature Forum 2024, which began in Kazan, Russia on 11th September 2024.

The event, inaugurated by Kazan Mayor Ilсур Metshin, focused on the theme "World Literature in the New Reality: Dialogue of Traditions, National Values, and Cultures."

Home Minister of India Shri. Amit Shah has announced the decision on renaming the Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to Sri Vijaya Puram.

The Quality Council of India (QCI) has provisionally approved National Test House (NTH), Ghaziabad, as a certification body for type certification of drones under the Drone Rules 2021.

NTH will assess agricultural drones, including Vimaana Aerospace Technologies' Krishiraj 1.0, and provide low-cost certification services to support the growing drone sector in India.

India Emerges as World's Second-Largest 5G Smartphone Market

Counterpoint Research has reported that India has surpassed the United States to become the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones.

The research highlights a reshuffling of the global 5G device market:

China maintains its leadership with a dominant 32% market share

India has ascended to second place, capturing a substantial 13% share

The United States has been relegated to third position, holding 10% of the market.

Indian Army and Indian Air Force signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in Vadodara.

This collaboration aims to enhance the logistics capabilities of personnel and align with national development plans such as the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and the National Logistics Policy 2022.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, presided over a significant event in Mumbai, Maharashtra, marking the release of the '200 Not Out' documentary chronicling the illustrious journey of Mumbai Samachar, Asia's oldest newspaper.

India is setting ambitious goals to significantly increase its presence in the global alcoholic beverage market, targeting exports worth US\$ 952.9 million (Rs. 8,000 crore) in the coming years.

As part of the 'Make in India' initiative, the government, supported by the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), seeks to elevate India from its current 40th position in global alcoholic beverage exports.

The aim is to achieve US\$ 1 billion in export revenue.

Uttar Pradesh government has announced the construction of a Vedic-3D museum at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Varanasi.

President Droupadi Murmu has approved the formation of the 23rd Law Commission of India for a three-year term, effective from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2027.

Under the National One Health Mission (NOHM), a comprehensive mock drill named "Vishanu Yuddh Abhyas" (Virus War Exercise) was held in Ajmer district, Rajasthan, from August 27 to August 31, 2024.

Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal of Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd to establish a semiconductor manufacturing unit in Sanand, Gujarat.

President of India recently unveiled the new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court at the two-day

National Conference of District Judiciary in New Delhi.

About New Flag and Insignia of the Supreme Court of India:

The newly unveiled flag features symbols central to India's legal and cultural heritage: the Ashoka Chakra, the Supreme Court building, and the Constitution of India.

The new Supreme Court flag is blue in colour.

The insignia has 'Supreme Court of India' and 'Yato Dharmastato Jayah' (in Devanagari script) inscribed on it.

The phrase "Yato Dharmastato Jayah" is a Sanskrit expression that translates to "Where there is Dharma, there is victory" or "Victory lies where Dharma (righteousness) prevails."

This phrase encapsulates the essence of justice and righteousness that the Supreme Court strives to uphold.

The new flag and insignia were conceptualized and designed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi.

The flag will be available in various designs, including cross table flat, single table flag, pole flag, and wooden frame, ensuring its presence in diverse settings.

The 9th Ladakh Zaskar Festival 2024 began with remarkable grandeur in the picturesque village of Sani, signifying a landmark event for the region. This year's Zaskar Festival is especially significant as it marks the first celebration since Zaskar was officially declared a district.

Zaskar is one of the known Buddhist kingdoms of the western Himalayas

Zaskar is a sub district of Kargil located in the Ladakh region with Padum as its administrative center.

Maharashtra to establish Tribal University in Nashik.

World's First Asian King Vulture Conservation Center Inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in Bharivaisi, Campianganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division.

The center is a result of collaboration between the Uttar Pradesh Forest Department and the renowned Bombay Natural History Society

Conservation Status: Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List).

Telangana has taken a significant step towards establishing itself as a global AI hub by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the World Trade Centres' Association for the creation of a World Trade Centre (WTC) within the proposed AI City near Hyderabad.

The Rajasthan State Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, has approved a significant policy shift by mandating a 33% reservation for women in the police force.

Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan have reported the highest growth in real Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for FY24 among the ten largest states based on their GSDP, according to recent data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The services sector, which contributes significantly to the Gross Value Added (GVA) of large states, has played a crucial role in this economic expansion.

The Madhya Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, has approved a groundbreaking scheme named 'Brindavan Gram'.

This initiative, formally announced on Janmashtami (August 26), aims to transform selected gram panchayats into model villages, focusing on cow protection and rural development.

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.

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.

OBITUARIES OCTOBER 2024

Padma Vibhushan Business Tycoon Ratan Naval Tata Passes Away.

One of the icons of Indian business in the modern era, Ratan Naval Tata, passed away on 9 October 2024 at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Ratan Naval Tata was 86 years old, suffering from age-related medical complications and was in a critical condition.

The Maharashtra government has declared a day of mourning.

Ratan Tata's last rites will be performed in Mumbai on 10 October 2024, according to the Parsi tradition, with full state protocol.

During his tenure, the Tata Group acquired London-based Tetley Tea (2000), the Anglo-Dutch steel manufacturer Corus Group (2007), and elite British car brands Jaguar and Land Rover from the American Ford Motor Company in 2008.

The Tata Nano car was launched during his tenure, priced at Rs one lakh.
 In 2012, Ratan Tata stepped down as Chairman of Tata Sons and was made Chairman Emeritus.
 In 1991, Ratan Tata was appointed the chairman of the Tata Sons after Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata (JRD Tata) death.
 Padma Vibhushan (India's 2nd highest civilian award)- in 2008
 Padma Bhushan (India's 3rd highest civilian award)- 2000
 Udyog Ratna of Maharashtra - 2023
 Assam Baibhav of Assam Government- 2021

Professor Rohini Godbole, an esteemed physicist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away.
 Padma Shri (2019) : Recognized by the Indian government for her contributions to science.

Ron Ely, best known for his portrayal of Tarzan in the 1960s NBC series, has died at the age of 86.
 Beyond Tarzan, Ely appeared in the 1975 film "Doc Savage: The Man of Bronze" and had smaller roles in various TV shows and films, including "South Pacific."

Vasant Anant Gadgil, a revered Sanskrit scholar and founder of Sharda Gyan Peetham, passed away.
 His contributions to the promotion of Sanskrit were vast, spanning from teaching at Tilak Maharashtra University to conducting international efforts in places like the US and Africa. He was deeply involved in researching ancient Sanskrit texts, such as the Vedas and Upanishads, and was a significant figure at the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute.

Dr. P. Venugopal, former AIIMS Director and a pioneer in cardiac surgery, passed away.
 Venugopal was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1998 for his significant contributions to medicine

OBITUARIES SEPTEMBER 2024

Tennis Legend Luis Ayala Passes Away.

The tennis world mourns the loss of a true legend as Luis Ayala, one of Chile's most celebrated athletes, passed away.

One of the pinnacles of Ayala's career came in 1958 when he reached the final of the French Open, also known as Roland Garros.

Demonstrating his consistency and skill, Ayala again reached the French Open final in 1960

Dame Maggie Smith, the celebrated British actress renowned for her roles in Harry Potter and Downton Abbey, has passed away.

Maggie Smith's acting prowess earned her two Academy Awards:

Best Actress in 1969 for "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie"

Best Supporting Actress in 1978 for "California Suite".

OBITUARIES AUGUST 2024

Iconic Classical Dancer Yamini Krishnamurthy Passes Away.

Known for her mastery over Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Odissi, Krishnamurthy was a luminary who helped elevate Indian classical dance to the global stage.

Born in Madanapalli, Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, Yamini Krishnamurthy was the daughter of Sanskrit scholar M. Krishnamurti.

she trained under the legendary Bharatanatyam dancer Rukmini Devi Arundale.

Beyond dance, she also received training in Carnatic vocals and the veena, showcasing her multifaceted artistic abilities.

Padma Shri in 1968, at the age of 28

Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977

Padma Bhushan in 2001

Padma Vibhushan in 2016.

Bharatanatyam dancer Sonal Mansingh described Krishnamurthy as blazing "like a meteor across the sky."

Kuchipudi couple Raja and Radha Reddy stated that Krishnamurthy had "attained the moksham at the feet of Nataraja."

Bharatanatyam exponent Jayalakshmi Eshwar praised Krishnamurthy's role in globalizing the dance form and her affectionate nature.

Olympic Cyclist Daniela Chirinos Passes Away.

The cycling world mourns the loss of Daniela Larreal Chirinos, a celebrated Venezuelan Olympic cyclist

who passed away.

Her participation spanned an impressive five Olympic Games, showcasing not only her exceptional skill but also her longevity and dedication to the sport. Her Olympic appearances included:

1992 Barcelona Olympics

1996 Atlanta Olympics

2000 Sydney Olympics

2004 Athens Olympics

2012 London Olympics.

Former Swedish tennis player Peter Lundgren, who also coached Roger Federer early in the Swiss player's career, has passed away.

Lundgren won three ATP titles and was ranked 25th in the world at the peak of his career.

Swiss superstar won 10 ATP titles and his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003.

Dr. Girish Sahni, the former director-general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), passed away.

Former Chief of Army Staff General Sundararajan Padmanabhan, who passed away.

The Indian Army deeply mourns the passing of General Sundararajan Padmanabhan (Retired), who served as the 20th Chief of The Army Staff.

Known affectionately as "Paddy" among his peers, General Padmanabhan's legacy is marked by his commitment to the welfare of soldiers, modernisation of the Indian Army and strategic vision. He was also an Honorary ADC to the President of India. General Padmanabhan led the Indian Army during the crucial period of 'Operation PARAKRAM'.

The world's oldest person, Spain's Maria Branyas Morera, who was born in the US in 1907 and lived through two world wars, has died at the age of 117.

Guinness World Records had officially acknowledged Branyas's status as the world's oldest person in January 2023 after the death, aged 118, of the French nun Lucile Randon.

Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal, died of a severe cardiac arrest.

Rakesh Pal, was a flag officer of the Indian Coast Guard. He served as the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard. Pal hailed from Uttar Pradesh.

He was honoured with the Vishist Seva medal for his tremendous contribution to the modernisation and development of the Indian Coast Guard.

Father of Agni Missiles, Dr. Ram Narain Agarwal Passes Away.

Dr. Ram Narain Agarwal, a renowned Indian scientist and the driving force behind India's missile program, passed away.

Known affectionately as the 'Father of Agni Missiles', Dr. Agarwal's contributions to India's defence capabilities have been nothing short of revolutionary.

Awards and Honors.

Padma Shri in 1990

Padma Bhushan in 2000

Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions to aerospace and Agni in 2004.

Former External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh passed away.

Singh was India's External Affairs Minister for the period 2004-05.

He also served as the ambassador to Pakistan and worked closely with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's office from 1966 to 1971.

Singh also authored several books including, 'The Legacy of Nehru: A Memorial Tribute' and 'My China Diary 1956-88'. His autobiography is titled 'One Life is Not Enough'.

Former YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki Passes Away.

Susan Wojcicki, a pioneering figure in the tech industry and former CEO of YouTube, has passed away at the age of 56 following a two-year battle with cancer.

Susan Diane Wojcicki was an American business executive who was the chief executive officer of YouTube from 2014 to 2023. Her net worth was estimated at \$765 million in 2022.

Before her role at YouTube, Wojcicki served as a senior vice-president for ad products at Google.

Indian-American Neal Mohan was appointed as the new CEO of YouTube in February 2023, succeeding Wojcicki after her remarkable 25-year career with the Google-owned company.

Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist Tsung-Dao Lee Passed Away.

In 1957, at the age of 30, Lee won the Nobel Prize in Physics with Chen Ning Yang for their work on the violation of the parity law in weak interactions.

Former chief minister of West Bengal and veteran CPIM leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee passed away.

Gandhian Shobhana Ranade Passes Away.

In 2011, Ranade was awarded the Padma Bhushan, one of India's highest civilian honors, recognizing her lifelong dedication to social causes.

The passing of Shobhana Ranade at the age of 99 in Pune marks the end of an era in India's social reform movement. A renowned Gandhian and Padma Bhushan recipient, Ranade dedicated her life to uplifting the underprivileged, especially women and children, leaving an indelible mark on India's social landscape.

Former Indian Cricketer and Coach Anshuman Gaekwad Passes Away.

Served as coach of the Indian men's cricket team in two stints between 1997 and 2000.

Oversaw Anil Kumble's historic 10-wicket haul in a single innings against Pakistan at Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi on February 7, 1999.

Awarded the prestigious C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award by the BCCI in 2018, the highest honor bestowed upon former Indian cricketers

Published his autobiography "Guts Amid Bloodbath" in 2023, providing insights into his cricketing journey and experiences.

OBITUARIES JULY 2024

Veteran Marathi Writer Father Francis D'Britto Dies.

He was unanimously elected as the president of the 93rd Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan, held at Dharadhiv in 2020.

His literary prowess was further recognised when he received Maharashtra Government's literary award for best translation in 2013, followed by the Sahitya Akademi award in April 2014.

Former Indonesia Vice President Hamzah Haz Dies .

Hamzah Haz, the vice-president of Indonesia from 2001 to 2004.

Subhash Dandekar, the Visionary Behind Camlin's Success Passes Away.

The stationery industry in India lost a pioneer with the passing of Subhash Dandekar, the founder of the iconic brand Camlin.

Dal Khalsa founder and patron Gajinder Singh Khalsa reportedly died of a heart attack at a hospital in Pakistan.

Jon Landau, the Oscar-winning producer known for his collaborations with director James Cameron on blockbuster films like Titanic and the Avatar series.

Three Oscar nominations

Best Picture win for Titanic (1997)

Produced some of the biggest blockbusters in movie history:

Titanic

Avatar

Avatar: The Way of Water

OBITUARIES JUNE 2024

Frank Duckworth, the English statistician who co-invented the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method for determining cricket match results under rain-affected conditions, died.

The DLS method, introduced in 1997, is widely used in international cricket and was formally adopted by the ICC in 2001.

What is DLS Method?

The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method (DLS) is a mathematical formulation designed to calculate the target score (number of runs needed to win) for the team batting second in a limited overs cricket match interrupted by weather or other circumstances.

The Canadian actor Donald Sutherland, star of films including The Hunger Games and Don't Look Now, has died.

Former Odisha Governor Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare Passes Away.

Renowned Sports Journalist Harpal Singh Bedi Passed Away.

Bedi served as the national Olympic contingent's press attache during the 2012 Olympics.

He worked as the sports editor of the United News of India (UNI) and later as a consulting editor for the

Statesman newspaper.

Legendary Sarod Maestro Pandit Rajeew Taranath Passes Away .

A distinguished exponent of the Senia Maihar Gharana, Pandit Taranath's contributions to Indian classical music were recognized with numerous prestigious awards.

He was honored with the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2019 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2000.

BANKING, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS OCTOBER 2024

State Bank of India (SBI) has been awarded the title of Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine during its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards, held in Washington, coinciding with the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank.

SBI, with an extensive network of over 22,500 branches and 62,000 ATMs, continues to enhance its services through the YONO digital platform. In the first quarter of FY25, 63% of new savings accounts were opened digitally, along with pre-approved personal loan disbursements totaling ₹1,399 crore through YONO.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Receives RBI Approval for Foreign Exchange Services.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for foreign exchange services, marking a significant milestone in its operational capabilities.

The bank has been granted the 'Authorised Dealer Category 1 licence,' allowing it to offer a comprehensive range of foreign exchange products and services.

SBI Raises ₹5,000 Crore via AT-I Bonds at 7.98%.

State Bank of India (SBI) successfully raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of Additional Tier-I (AT-I) bonds, marking its first issuance for the current financial year. The bonds, which carry a coupon rate of 7.98%, are aimed at strengthening the bank's capital base and comply with Basel-III norms.

This issuance comes after SBI's last AT-I bond issuance in January, where it raised ₹5,000 crore at a higher coupon rate of 8.34%.

The market response has been robust, with bids exceeding 3.5 times the base size of ₹2,000 crore, indicating strong investor confidence in the bank.

SBI has also raised ₹15,000 crore through Tier-II bonds this financial year to support its deposit base amidst credit growth. Meanwhile, Indian Bank is preparing to raise up to ₹5,000 crore through infrastructure bonds, indicating a broader trend of capital-raising efforts in the banking sector.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded its 'Alert List' of unauthorized forex trading platforms by adding 13 new entities, bringing the total to 88. This list includes names of entities not authorized to deal in forex under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) or to operate electronic trading platforms (ETPs) for forex transactions.

Paytm Receives NPCI Nod to Onboard New UPI Users After RBI Restrictions.

Paytm has received approval from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to onboard new UPI users, ending a nine-month embargo imposed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

This decision is expected to increase Paytm's UPI transaction volumes and boost its market position.

In January 2024, the RBI restricted Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) from adding new UPI users due to supervisory concerns. The company's UPI market share dropped from 13% to 7%. In March, Paytm was permitted to operate as a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP) using four banks—SBI, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank—but without onboarding new users.

India and South Korea Set to Join FTSE Russell EMGB Index in 2025.

HDFC Bank has officially opened its first branch in Singapore as part of its strategy to expand its international operations.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Partha Pratim Sengupta as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bandhan Bank for a period of three years.

Sengupta's appointment comes in the wake of the resignation of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, the founder MD and CEO of the bank, who recently stepped down from the post.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced a new 400-day term deposit scheme known as the 'bob Utsav Deposit Scheme', aimed at offering higher interest rates to various categories of depositors during the festive season.

Navi Achieves 5th Spot in UPI Rankings for Second Time.

Navi, a fintech company co-founded by Sachin Bansal, has made significant strides in the Unified

Payments Interface (UPI) landscape, emerging as India's fifth-largest ecosystem player. In September, the company achieved remarkable transaction volumes, processing 120.41 million transactions valued at Rs 6,549.1 crore.

PhonePe maintained its position as the leading player with 7.22 billion transactions valued at Rs 10.3 trillion.

Google Pay followed as the second-largest player, processing 5.62 billion transactions amounting to Rs 7.46 trillion.

International Finance Corporation (IFC) has partnered with Axis Bank to provide a \$500 million loan aimed at scaling up blue finance and green projects in India.

Bank of Baroda (BoB) is set to sell its Oman operations to Bank Dhofar as part of its strategy to rationalize foreign operations.

The sale is contingent on regulatory approvals and involves a total business value of 113.35 million Omani Rials, with a net worth of 25.54 million Omani Rials.

HDFC Bank has officially announced the divestment of its entire 100% stake in HDFC Education and Development Services Pvt. Ltd (HDFC Edu) to Vama Sundari Investments for ₹192 crore.

The government has approved a one-year extension for M. Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), effective October 9, 2024.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) have signed a currency swap agreement under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024-2027.

This agreement allows the Maldives to access up to \$400 million under the US Dollar/Euro Swap Window and Rs 30 billion under the Indian Rupee (INR) Swap Window.

All SAARC member nations, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Allows member nations to access financial support in the form of currency swaps for up to \$2 billion.

Swaps can be availed in USD, Euro, or Indian Rupee (INR) to help stabilize foreign reserves.

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has significantly boosted its stake in Bank of Maharashtra from 4.05% to 7.10%, as disclosed in an exchange filing on October 5, 2024.

This increase follows the allotment of 25.96 crore equity shares priced at ₹57.36 each through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP).

Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$162 million loan to enhance tourism development in Himachal Pradesh.

Federal Bank has signed an MoU with Bhashini, an AI-powered language translation platform, to integrate vernacular language support into its AI chatbot, Feddy.

This collaboration, inspired by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub's (RBIH) initiative for local language banking, aims to make banking services more inclusive and accessible across India. The enhancement allows Feddy to assist users in 14 Indian languages.

SEBI has imposed a penalty of ₹12 lakh on NSE Data And Analytics Ltd due to multiple regulatory infractions identified during an inspection.

The central government has reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) ahead of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) monetary policy review scheduled for October 7-9.

This decision comes as part of the RBI's mandate to maintain consumer price index (CPI) inflation within a target range of 2-6% and aims to stabilize inflation at 4% on a durable basis.

SEBI introduced a new asset class and liberalized the Mutual Funds Lite (MF Lite) framework for passively managed schemes, setting a minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh per investor. It also expanded the T+0 settlement cycle to top 500 scrips.

Solex Energy Partners with SBI for Solar Project Financing.

Solex Energy has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to offer solar project financing for commercial, industrial, and institutional customers, providing loans up to ₹10 crore under the Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme.

Nvidia Overtakes Apple A New Leader in Market Value.

Nvidia has officially dethroned Apple as the world's most valuable company, achieving this milestone on Friday after a remarkable surge in its stock price driven by soaring demand for its cutting-edge supercomputing AI chips.

At one point, Nvidia's market value soared to an impressive \$3.53 trillion, just edging out Apple, which was valued at \$3.52 trillion.

Airbus Launches State-of-the-Art Headquarters and Training Centre in India

Airbus has inaugurated its new India and South Asia Headquarters and Training Centre, marking a significant investment in the Indian aerospace sector.

EIB Funds ₹2,800 Cr for Bengaluru Suburban Railway to Enhance Urban Mobility.

The European Investment Bank (EIB Global) has announced a significant loan of €300 million (approximately ₹2,800 crore) for the construction of a new suburban railway network in Bengaluru.

Reliance and Nvidia Partner to Build AI Infrastructure in India.

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has teamed up with US chipmaker Nvidia to establish AI infrastructure in India, announced during the Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai.

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang.

Hindalco Industries Ltd. Joins the International Copper Association (ICA) as Newest Member.

The International Copper Association (ICA) is a prominent global industry body that brings together major copper producers worldwide. Representing 50% of the world's copper production, ICA is a not-for-profit trade association comprising 33 member organizations spanning six continents. With its headquarters in Washington, D.C.

IIM Shillong and SIDBI Collaborate to Foster Northeast Entrepreneurship.

Adar Poonawalla Acquires 50% Stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.

Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute of India, has entered into a binding agreement to acquire a 50% stake in Karan Johar's renowned production house, Dharma Productions, and its digital arm, Dharmatic Entertainment. The deal, valued at ₹1,000 crore.

Jio Payments Bank Secures Mutual Funds Distribution License from AMFI.

Jio Payments Bank, a subsidiary of Jio Financial Services, has successfully obtained a mutual fund distribution license from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

SECL Becomes First Coal Company to Open Four AMRIT Pharmacies.

South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India, has opened its fourth AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy, making it the first coal company to do so.

Noel Tata a New Leader of Tata Group's Charitable Efforts.

The Tata Trusts, holding a significant 66% ownership of Tata Sons, wields immense influence over the strategic, investment, and philanthropic directions of one of India's largest conglomerates. Recently, Noel Tata was appointed chairman of this philanthropic arm, following the death of his half-brother, Ratan Tata.

Tata Trusts holds 66% of Tata Sons.

Noel Tata, aged 67, has been named chairman of Tata Trusts, succeeding Ratan Tata, who passed away recently.

The Tata Group, founded in 1868 by Jamsedji Tata.

Power Finance Corporation Secures Record USD 1.265 Billion Loan.

PFC (Power Finance Corporation), a Maharatna company and leading NBFC in the Indian power and infrastructure sector, announced the successful closing of issuance of the largest-ever foreign currency term loan from an Indian PSU amounting to USD 1.265 billion.

Adani and Google Partner to Boost Clean Energy in India.

Adani Group will supply renewable energy from its new solar-wind hybrid project in Khavda, Gujarat, to Google starting in 2025.

Reliance Group Collaborates with Bhutan on Renewable Energy.

Anil Ambani's Reliance Group is making significant strides into Bhutan's renewable energy sector by planning the development of 1,270 megawatts of solar and hydroelectric power projects.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained its growth projections for India, forecasting the economy to expand by 7% in FY25 and 6.5% in FY26.

Global growth for 2024 and 2025 is expected to be 3.2%, slightly revised downward by 10 basis points (bps) from July's projection of 3.3%.

According to a report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the world's total public debt is poised to surpass \$100 trillion this year for the first time.

Enterprising rural women in Uttar Pradesh, working as BC Sakhis, have facilitated Rs 27,000 crore in financial transactions over the past four and a half years.

BC Sakhis, appointed under a nationwide women empowerment initiative, are part of self-help groups (SHGs) providing banking services in rural, unbanked areas.

Small Savings Scheme Interest Rates Unchanged for Q3 FY25.

The government has decided to keep interest rates on small savings schemes unchanged for the third consecutive quarter, effective from October 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024.

Sukanya Samriddhi Scheme: 8.2%

Kisan Vikas Patra: 7.5% (115 months maturity)

Public Provident Fund (PPF): 7.1%

National Savings Certificate (NSC): 7.7%

Post Office Savings Deposit: 4%

3 new members appointed to the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI.

The Government of India has reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India and appointed three new members: Prof. Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar.

The term of the members appointed by the government is four years.

India 4th country in the world to have \$700 billion Forex Reserves.

India has become the fourth country in the world, after China, Switzerland, and Japan, with a foreign exchange (forex) reserve of more than \$700 billion

China is the largest foreign exchange holder in the world, followed by Japan, Switzerland and India.

According to the latest figure released by the Reserve Bank of India, the country's total foreign exchange reserves were \$704.89 billion as of 27 September 2024.

According to the RBI Act 1934, the Indian foreign exchange reserves include foreign currency assets, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), a Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) with the IMF, and Gold.

IMF retains India's growth forecast at 7 per cent for 2024-25.

The International Monetary Fund has retained its forecast for the Indian economic growth rate of 7 % for 2024-25 and 6.5 % for the 2025-26 financial year.

The IMF made the latest projection on the Indian and world economies in its October 2024 edition of the World Economic Outlook report, titled 'Policy Pivot, Rising Threats.'

The British multinational bank Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) made history by appointing Pam Kaur as its first female chief financial officer(CFO).

She succeeds Georges Elhedery, who has been appointed HSBC's chief executive officer (CEO).

US, Japan and S.Korea to support digital infrastructure in India.

The United States, Japan, and South Korea announced on 26 October 2024 that they will launch a new framework to collaborate with the Indian private sector to support digital infrastructure in India. The new framework is called the Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India Framework (DiGi Framework).

The DiGi Framework will be supported by the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, the Export-Import Bank of Korea (Korea Eximbank) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The government has doubled the limit of Mudra loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, introducing a new 'Tarun Plus' category.

The new 'Tarun Plus' category allows loans up to Rs 20 lakh, providing crucial capital for business expansion.

Launched on April 8, 2015, PMMY initially provided loans up to Rs 10 lakh for non-corporate, non-farm small and micro-entrepreneurs, facilitating easy, collateral-free access to credit.

The scheme includes three existing categories—Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (between Rs 50,000 and Rs 5 lakh), and Tarun (up to Rs 10 lakh).

PMMY credit guarantees up to Rs 20 lakh will be offered under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU).

BANKING, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AWARENESS SEPTEMBER 2024

RBI fines HDFC Bank & Axis Bank for non-compliance.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has fined the largest private sector bank, HDFC Bank, and the third largest private bank, Axis Bank, for non-compliance with the RBI's regulatory norms.

The RBI announced the monetary penalties on these two banks on 10 September 2024.

The Banking Regulation Act of 1949 makes the RBI the regulator of the banks in India and gives it the power to punish banks that fail to follow its rules and regulations.

Rs 1.91 crore fine on Axis Bank

The RBI fined Axis Bank Rs 1.91 crore for violating the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 regarding the opening of savings accounts for ineligible persons, failing to issue unique customer identification codes (UCIC), and improperly managing collateral for agricultural loans up to Rs 1.60

lakh. RBI also fined the bank for its subsidiary's conduct in violating RBI's norms.

Rs 1 crore fine on HDFC Bank

The RBI fined HDFC Bank Rs 1 crore for failing to follow RBI's instructions regarding deposit interest rates, recovery agents, and customer service practices. The bank was found guilty of paying first-year premiums for the life insurance policies of some of its customers, opening accounts for ineligible entities, and failing to follow customer contact guidelines.

Five years after the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) came down heavily on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) for alleged lapses in high-frequency trading offered through its co-location (colo) facility.

About Co-location Trading:

The National Stock Exchange in 2009 started to offer co-location services to members of the exchange.

It allows a member to set up his server in a specifically earmarked data centre within the NSE's exchange premises for a certain price.

The relative proximity allows members wishing to gain access to the entirety of buy and sell orders sent because of the reduced time taken for order execution.

Is it Illegal? Stock exchanges across the world allow the practice to flourish as a paid service. The SEBI allowed exchanges to offer co-location in 2008.

Union Cabinet recently approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for modification of the scheme of budgetary support for the cost of Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) with a total outlay of Rs. 12461 crore.

About Scheme of budgetary support for the cost of Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP):

This scheme, set to run from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32, aims to enhance infrastructure and support the development of hydropower in India.

The scheme is set to support hydropower projects with a cumulative generation capacity of approximately 31,350 MW.

It applies to all hydro projects over 25 MW, including private sector projects, and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs).

Budgetary support limits have been revised to Rs. 1 crore per MW for projects up to 200 MW, and 200 crores plus Rs. 0.75 crore per MW for projects above 200 MW, with potential increases up to Rs. 1.5 crore per MW in exceptional cases.

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) for the implementation of a scheme titled PM E-DRIVE Scheme'.

About PM E-DRIVE Scheme:

PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme has an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over a period of two years for the promotion of electric mobility in the country.

Components of the scheme

Subsidies and Demand Incentives: The scheme allocates Rs 3,679 crore to incentivise the purchase of electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws), three-wheelers (e-3Ws), electric ambulances, trucks, and other emerging EV categories.

E-Vouchers for EV Buyers: Buyers of electric vehicles will be issued an e-voucher under the scheme to avail demand incentives. The e-voucher will be Aadhaar-authenticated and sent to the buyer's registered mobile number after the purchase.

E-Ambulance Deployment: A budget of Rs 500 crore has been allocated to deploy electric ambulances. This new initiative aims to provide comfortable and environmentally friendly patient transport.

Incentives for E-Trucks: Under this component Rs 500 crore has been allocated to promote the deployment of e-trucks, a major contributor to air pollution. Those who hold a scrapping certificate from authorised MoRTH Vehicle Scrapping Centres (RVSFs) will be eligible for the incentives.

Charging Infrastructure: To address range anxiety and support the growth of electric vehicles, Rs 2,000 crore will be used to install public charging stations (EVPCS) in cities with high EV penetration and along selected highways.

Two anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft vessels (ASWCWC) of the Indian Navy, INS Malpe and INS Mulki, were recently launched at Cochin Shipyard.

About INS Malpe and INS Mulki:

They are two indigenously designed and constructed Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercrafts

(ASWCWC) built for the Indian Navy.

This is the fourth and fifth ASWCWC being built for the Navy.

They are constructed by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

These vessels, known as the Mahe Class, will replace the current Abhay Class ASW Corvettes in the Indian Navy

Features:

The vessels are capable of conducting anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low-intensity maritime and mine-laying operations, besides sub-surface surveillance and search and rescue operations.

The vessels are 78.0 m long and 11.36 m wide, with a draught of about 2.7 m.

The displacement is about 900 tonnes, with a maximum speed of 25 knots and endurance of 1,800 nautical miles.

The ships are designed to fit indigenously developed, state-of-the-art SONARS for underwater surveillance.

They are equipped with light-weight torpedoes, anti-submarine warfare rockets, a close-in weapon system and remote-controlled guns.

United Arab Emirates has successfully completed the Arab world's first nuclear power plant, the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.

Annual exports of technical textiles will cross \$10 billion by 2030, Union Minister for Textiles said recently.

Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products used primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics.

National Technical Textiles Mission:

It was launched by the Union Ministry of Textiles 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.

The mission will comprise of the following four components:

Research, Innovation and Development

Promotion and Market Development

Export Promotion

Education, Training, and Skill Development

Target: The Mission has a target to take the domestic market size of the technical textile sector to \$ 40-50 Billion by the year 2024 with an average growth rate of 15-20% per annum

Union Minister of Textiles launched the 'VisionXt Fashion Forecasting Initiative' of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).

About VisionXt Initiative:

It is India's first-ever trend insights and forecasting Initiative.

It was conceived and established at NIFT Delhi (Creative Lab) and NIFT Chennai (Insights Lab) with the support of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in 2018.

The initiative, now centralized in Chennai, focuses on delivering trend insights and forecasting for the Indian fashion and retail market.

EPS Pensioners to get pension from any bank, any branch, anywhere in India from 1st January 2025.

Union Minister of Labour and Employment and Chairperson, Central Board of Trustees, EPF has approved the proposal for a Centralized Pension Payment System (CPPS) for the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

About Centralized Pension Payment System:

It provides a national-level centralized system allowing pension payouts through any bank or branch in India.

This replaces the current decentralized pension disbursement system, where each EPFO Zonal/Regional Office maintains individual arrangements with just three to four banks.

Who is eligible for a pension?

Individuals have to fulfil the following criteria to be eligible for availing benefits under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).

Should be a member of EPFO

Should have completed 10 years of service

Has reached the age of 58

They can also withdraw the EPS at a reduced rate from the age of 50 years and can also defer the pension for two years (up to 60 years of age) after which they will get a pension at an additional rate of 4% for each year.

This facility will be launched as part of EPFO's ongoing IT modernization project Centralized IT Enabled System (CITES 2.01) from 1st January 2025.

Benefits: The CPPS would also ensure disbursement of pension throughout India without any need for transfer of Pension Payment Orders (PPO) from one office to another even when the Pensioner moves from one location to another or changes his bank or branch.

It is estimated to benefit more than 78 lakh EPFO EPS pensioners and will particularly benefit retirees who relocate to their hometown after retirement.

National Test House signs Memorandum of Understanding with Bureau of Energy Efficiency to promote energy efficiency in India

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development launched the AgriSURE Scheme in New Delhi.

About AgriSURE Fund:

Agri Fund for Start-ups & Rural Enterprises (AgriSURE) is an innovative fund which is a pioneering step toward revolutionizing the agricultural landscape in India.

Focus area: It mainly focuses on technology-driven, high-risk, high-impact ventures.

It is designed to fuel growth and foster innovation in the agricultural and rural start-up ecosystem.

Funding Pattern: A Blended capital fund of ₹750 crore with SEBI Registered Category II, Alternative Investment Fund (AIF), contributions from the Government of India is ₹250 crore, NABARD is ₹250 crore and ₹250 crore is being mobilized from banks, insurance companies and private investors.

Its main focus areas include promoting innovative, technology-driven initiatives in agriculture, enhancing the farm produce value chain, creating new rural ecosystem linkages and infrastructure, generating employment and supporting Farmers Producer Organisations (FPOs).

NABVENTURES a fully owned subsidiary of NABARD will act as the fund manager.

Union Cabinet Committee chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved the Digital Agriculture Mission with an outlay of Rs. 2817 Crore, including the central share of Rs. 1940 Crore.

About Digital Agriculture Mission:

It is conceived as an umbrella scheme to support digital agriculture initiatives, such as creating Digital Public Infrastructure, implementing the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES), and taking up other IT initiatives by the Central Government, State Governments, and Academic and Research Institutions.

Three major components of DPI are envisaged under the Digital Agriculture Mission: AgriStack, Krishi Decision Support System (DSS) and Soil Profile Maps.

Each of these DPI components will provide solutions that will allow farmers to access and avail of various services.

AgriStack: The farmer-centric DPI AgriStack consists of three foundational agri-sector registries or **databases:** Farmers' Registry, Geo-referenced Village Maps and Crop Sown Registry, all of which will be created and maintained by state/ UT governments.

Farmers' Registry: It will be given a digital identity ('Farmer ID') similar to Aadhaar, which will be linked dynamically to records of land, ownership of livestock, crops sown, demographic details, family details, schemes and benefits availed, etc.

Pilot projects for the creation of Farmer IDs have been carried out in six districts — Farrukhabad (Uttar Pradesh), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Beed (Maharashtra), Yamuna Nagar (Haryana), Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab), and Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu).

Crop Sown Registry: It will provide details of crops planted by farmers. The information will be recorded through Digital Crop Surveys — mobile-based ground surveys — in each crop season.

Geo-referenced Village Maps: It will link geographic information on land records with their physical locations.

Krishi DSS: It will create a comprehensive geospatial system to unify remote sensing-based information on crops, soil, weather and water resources, etc.

This information will support crop map generation for identifying crop sown patterns, droughts/flood monitoring and technology/model-based yield assessment for settling crop insurance claims by farmers.

Soil Profile Maps: Under the Mission, detailed Soil Profile Maps (on a 1:10,000 scale) of about 142 million hectares of agricultural land are envisaged to be prepared. A detailed soil profile inventory of about 29 million ha has already been completed.

Visa partners with Skill India to upskill 20,000 youth for India's booming tourism industry.

The Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Visa (NYSE: V).

Key points about the recent Memorandum of Understanding

This initiative will ensure a skilled workforce to support India's ambitions of becoming a global tourism hub.

It is designed to upskill at least 20,000 Indian youth in tourism-relevant skills.

Time period: 3 years

It aims to train youth across 10 States, including Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal to elevate the tourism service experience for tourists.

The program will focus on essential roles within the domestic tourism industry, such as tour guides, customer service executives, naturalists, and paragliding tandem pilots.

SJVN, NHPC, RailTel and Solar Energy Corporation of India get 'Navratna' Status.

Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, Government of India has granted "Navratna status" to four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) viz. Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN).

With this, the number of Navratna CPSEs has increased to 25 from 21.

New Delhi, Delhi based Railtel Corporation, a 'mini ratna' PSU under the Ministry of Railways, has been upgraded as the 22nd Navratna CPSE.

New Delhi based SECI Ltd, a miniratna Category-I CPSE under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been upgraded as the 23rd Navratna CPSE.

Faridabad, Haryana based NHPC, a mini ratna Category-I CPSE under the Ministry of Power has been upgraded as the 24th Navratna CPSE.

Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (HP) based SJVN, a mini ratna, Category-I and Schedule 'A' CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has been upgraded as the 25th Navratna CPSE.

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

UPI Users can now Send 5 Lakh For Some Transactions.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has increased the transaction limits for tax payments using UPI (Unified Payment Interface), by allowing people to send 5 lakh in a single transaction.

Earlier, the transaction limit for UPI was Rs 1 lakh except for certain categories of payments which have higher transaction limits.

It has now been decided to enhance the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per

transaction.

Union Bank of India Becomes First Major Bank to Join PCAF.

Union Bank of India has made a significant move by becoming the first major bank to sign on to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).

This decision reflects a growing global focus on managing climate risk and aligns with the recent draft guidelines on climate risk disclosures issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

RBL Bank Teams Up with IndianOil for New Credit Card.

RBL Bank has launched a new credit card in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation, named 'Xtra Credit Card,' as part of its strategy to moderately grow its credit card portfolio and enhance customer engagement.

RBL Bank aims for a moderate increase in its credit card portfolio, targeting a 15% growth if the industry expands by 20-25%.

RBI imposes penalties on Godrej Housing, HUDCO, and Aadhar Housing Finance.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied penalties on three Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) for failing to comply with its directives on housing finance companies. The penalties are as follows: Godrej Housing Finance Limited and Aadhar Housing Finance Limited were each fined Rs 5 lakh, while Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) faced a penalty of Rs 3.5 lakh.

These fines, imposed under Section 52A of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, followed inspections by the National Housing Bank (NHB) based on the companies' financial positions as of March 31, 2022.

HDFC Bank Launches GIGA: Financial Services for India's Gig Workforce.

HDFC Bank has introduced GIGA, a new suite of financial products and services specifically designed for gig workers and freelancers in India.

The initiative aims to cater to an estimated 30-50 million gig workers across various job sectors, from white-collar to pink-collar roles

POP Launches India's First Multi-Brand Co-Branded Card with RuPay & Yes Bank.

POP, a fintech startup founded by former Flipkart employees, has introduced India's first multi-brand co-branded credit card in partnership with RuPay and Yes Bank.

This innovative card, known as the YEB BANK POP-CLUB RuPay credit card, integrates major brands like Zomato, Blinkit, Cult, Rapido, Cleartrip, and Pharmeasy to address key daily spending areas, including e-commerce, groceries, food and beverages, travel, and health and fitness.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that India's forex reserves jumped USD 5.248 billion to a new all-time high of USD 689.235 billion till 6th September, 2024.

What are Forex Reserves?

Forex reserves or foreign exchange reserves are assets that are held by a nation's central bank or monetary authority. It is generally held in reserve currencies, usually the US Dollar and to a lesser degree the Euro, Japanese Yen, and Pound Sterling. It is used to back its liabilities.

Components of India's foreign exchange reserves

Foreign currency assets (FCAs): These are maintained in currencies like the US dollar, euro, pound sterling, Australian dollar and Japanese yen.

Gold

SDR (Special Drawing Rights): This is the reserve currency with the IMF. (The SDR is an international reserve asset. The SDR is not a currency, but its value is based on a basket of five currencies like the US dollar, the euro, the Chinese renminbi, the Japanese yen, and the British pound sterling.)

RTP (Reserve Tranche Position): This is the reserve capital with the IMF. (Each member of the IMF is assigned a quota (membership fee). A country's Reserve Tranche Position (RTP) is the difference between the IMF's holdings of that country's currency and the country's IMF-designated quota.)

International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revised its forecast for India's GDP growth in FY2024-25 upward to 7%, a 20 basis point increase from the previous estimate of 6.8%.

Finance Ministry to Sell 6.78% Stake in GIC Re for Rs 4,700 Crore.

Union Ministry of Finance plans to divest a 6.78% stake in General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) through an offer-for-sale (OFS) to raise approximately Rs 4,700 crore. This will be the first stake sale since GIC Re's listing in 2017.

World Bank has revised its growth forecast for the Indian economy, increasing it to 7% for the fiscal year 2024-25, up from the earlier estimate of 6.6%.

India's GST collections reached ₹1.75 lakh crore, marking a 10% year-on-year growth compared to ₹1.59 lakh crore in August 2023

Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) announced a significant collaboration to enhance the C-130J Super Hercules program in India.

This partnership aims to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India to support both the Indian Air Force's (IAF) fleet of 12 C-130Js and global C-130J fleets.

CCI approved merger of Tata Motor Finance into Tata Capital.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared the proposal of India's giant business group Tata Motors Finance Limited merger into the Tata Capital Limited marking a significant consolidation into Tata group financial services. The merger will be carried out through a scheme of arrangement to be submitted to the National Company Law Tribunal.

CDSL Secures SEBI Approval for Nehal Vora's Appointment as MD & CEO.

Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL) has announced a crucial step in its leadership transition. The company has received the green light from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for the appointment of Nehal Vora as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO).

Kotak General Insurance rebrands As Zurich Kotak General Insurance.

Tamil Nadu's Rising Fintech Paysharp Secures RBI Authorization.

Paysharp, an emerging startup from Tamil Nadu, has achieved a major milestone. On August 30, 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted Paysharp its final authorization, cementing the company's position in India's dynamic payment system ecosystem.

Star Health's Introducing Braille Insurance Policies for the Visually Impaired.

Star Health and Allied Insurance, a prominent health insurance provider in India, has taken a groundbreaking step towards inclusivity by introducing an insurance policy in Braille. The new policy is meticulously designed to cater to the unique requirements of individuals with disabilities, specifically:

Those with 40% or more disability

Individuals with physical, sensory, or cognitive impairments.

RIL Becomes India's First Company to Surpass Rs 10 Lakh Crore in Annual Revenue.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has made history as the first Indian company to exceed ₹10 lakh crore in annual revenue. This milestone was revealed during RIL's Annual General Meeting (AGM) by Chairman Mukesh Ambani.

For the financial year 2023-24, Reliance achieved a record consolidated turnover of ₹10,00,122 crore (USD 119.9 billion), with a net profit of ₹79,020 crore (USD 9.5 billion)

Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd. has partnered with the Government of Goa to improve waste management in Mormugao, Vasco.

ADB projects 7 % growth for Indian economy in 2024-25.

The Asian Development Bank, in its latest report, Asian Development Outlook, released in September 2024, has projected a growth rate of 7 per cent for the Indian economy in 2024-25 and 7.2 per cent in 2025-26.

The ADB's forecast is in line with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund's forecast of 7 per cent growth for the Indian economy in 2024-25.

The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has projected the Indian economy's growth rate of 7.2 per cent in 2024-25.

Strategic disinvestment in Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited approved by Govt.

The government of India has approved 100 per cent strategic disinvestment in the central public-sector enterprise Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited.

The government also approved the highest bid of Rs 320 crore of the Japanese company Konoike Transport Co. Ltd for Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited.

100 per cent disinvestment in Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited

The government-owned MSTC Limited will sell its 100 per cent equity shares in Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited to the Japanese company Konoike Transport Co. Ltd for Rs 320 crore.

Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited's management control will also be transferred to the Japanese company Konoike Transport Co. Ltd.

Disinvestment Target for 2024-25

The Indian government has set a disinvestment target of Rs 50,000 crore in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

In 2024-3-24, the government of India initially set a disinvestment target of Rs 51,000 crore, but it was later revised down to Rs 30,000 crore.

SEBI Introduces New Asset Class and Liberalizes MF Lite Framework.

SEBI introduced a new asset class and liberalized the Mutual Funds Lite (MF Lite) framework for passively managed schemes, setting a minimum investment of Rs 10 lakh per investor. It also expanded the T+0 settlement cycle to top 500 scrips.

IndusInd Bank Reappoints Sumant Kathpalia as MD & CEO.

The board of IndusInd Bank has approved the reappointment of Sumant Kathpalia as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) for another three-year term from March 24, 2025, to March 23, 2028, pending approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and shareholders.

Kathpalia has been MD & CEO since March 24, 2020.

Bank of Baroda and EaseMyTrip Launch Co-Branded Travel Debit Card

Bank of Baroda has partnered with EaseMyTrip.com to launch the Bank of Baroda EaseMyTrip Co-branded Travel Debit Card, the first of its kind by a public sector bank in India.

Designed for frequent travelers and lifestyle enthusiasts, the card offers significant discounts on travel and hotel booking.

Axis Bank and Mastercard Launch MyBiz Credit Card for Small Business Owners

Axis Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has partnered with Mastercard, a global payments technology firm, to launch the MyBiz credit card, specifically designed for sole proprietors and small business owners.

This premium World Mastercard® offers a comprehensive suite of business and travel benefits tailored to meet the diverse needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

KVS Manian Assumes Office as Federal Bank CEO.

KVS Manian has officially taken charge as the Managing Director and CEO of Federal Bank, effective September 23, 2024. He succeeds Shyam Srinivasan, who retired after successfully leading the bank since 2010. Manian joins Federal Bank following a distinguished career at Kotak Mahindra Bank.

YES BANK and Paisabazaar Launch Feature-rich 'PaisaSave' Cashback Credit Card.

Paisabazaar, India's leading online marketplace for consumer credit and free credit score platform, has partnered with YES BANK, India's sixth largest private sector bank, to unveil their co-branded credit card – YES BANK Paisabazaar PaisaSave Credit Card.

Banks and FIs to Invest Rs 32.5 Trillion in Renewable Energy by 2030.

India aims to build 500 gigawatts (Gw) of renewable energy (RE) by 2030, with commitments totaling 570 Gw from major developers, led by Reliance Industries (100 Gw) and NTPC (41.3 Gw).

Banks and financial institutions pledged Rs 32.45 trillion, with REC committing Rs 6 trillion.

India's solar capacity has increased 33 times since 2014, with the country already reaching 200 Gw of RE capacity, aiming for 500 Gw by 2030. This is part of India's global commitments, including at G20 and the UNFCCC.

LIC Appoints Infosys for NextGen Digital Platform.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has selected Infosys to develop its next-generation digital platform as part of its DIVE (Digital Innovation and Value Enhancement) programme.

This new platform will serve as an integrated end-to-end solution, enhancing customer services, business lifecycle management, and operational activities for sales intermediaries, while also offering a digital front-end for branch employees.

UPI Users can now Send 5 Lakh For Some Transactions.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has increased the transaction limits for tax payments using UPI (Unified Payment Interface), by allowing people to send 5 lakh in a single transaction.

Earlier, the transaction limit for UPI was Rs 1 lakh except for certain categories of payments which have higher transaction limits.

It has now been decided to enhance the limit for tax payments through UPI from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an initiative taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Bank's Association (IBA) to operate the retail payments and settlement systems in India.

This organization was founded in the year 2008 under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

BSE and NSE have announced revisions to their transaction fees, effective from October 1, 2024.

The changes, which impact various segments, align with SEBI's July directive mandating a uniform fee structure across market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).

This move eliminates the previous slab-based structure and ensures transparency for end clients.

Key Changes for BSE and NSE

BSE: Transaction charges for Sensex and Bankex options contracts will rise to ₹3,250 per crore of premium

turnover. For other equity derivatives like Sensex Fifty and stock options, charges remain at ₹500 per crore of premium turnover.

NSE: The cash segment will see a charge of ₹2.97 per lakh of trade value on both sides, while equity futures will be charged at ₹1.73 per lakh. Equity options will incur ₹35.03 per lakh of premium value on both sides. Currency futures will see a fee of ₹0.35 per lakh, and currency and interest rate options will be charged ₹31.10 per lakh of premium value.

Amazon India has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to utilize the National Career Service (NCS) portal.

This partnership aims to connect job seekers with suitable career opportunities at Amazon and its staffing agencies, improving access to job roles and enhancing recruitment.

Sebi imposes Rs 1 crore fine on Jai Anmol Ambani in Reliance Home Finance case

The Securities and Exchange Board of India fined Jai Anmol Ambani ₹1 crore for irregularities in Reliance Home Finance, alleging he approved ₹40 crore in unsecured loans. Sebi asserted he misrepresented his involvement in the company's operations.

Jai Anmol Ambani – the elder son of businessman Anil Ambani, was the director of RHFL between April 2018 and May 2019.

The partnership between JK Lakshmi Cement (JKLC) and Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma enters its fifth consecutive year.

India has now become the sixth largest market in the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index (ACWI IMI), surpassing China and narrowly behind France. As of August 2024, India's weight in the index stands at 2.35%, surpassing China's 2.24%, with France just 3 basis points ahead of India. India is also now the largest emerging market (EM) in the MSCI ACWI IMI for the first time.

The MSCI ACWI IMI includes large- and mid-cap stocks globally. While India's weight has more than doubled since early 2021, China's has halved during the same period. However, in the standard MSCI ACWI Index, India trails China with a weight of 2.07% compared to China's 2.41%.

India's exports fell 9.3% in August to \$34.7 billion, with the trade deficit hitting a 10-month high of \$29.7 billion as imports surged to \$64.4 billion

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has formed a 10-member Group of Ministers (GoM), chaired by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to address the future taxation of luxury, sin, and demerit goods as the compensation cess is set to expire in March 2026.

Currently, the compensation cess, levied at varying rates on specified goods in addition to the 28% GST, was originally intended to last five years following the rollout of GST.

Currently, GST operates under a four-tier tax structure with rates set at 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28%.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a dedicated Foreign Portfolio Investor Outreach Cell as part of the Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department (AFD).

Aim

This cell will focus on direct engagement with Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), and supporting them in accessing the Indian securities market seamlessly.

About AFD

AFD (Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department) handles all work related to,

Alternative Investment Funds (AIF),
Venture Capital Funds (VCF),
Foreign Venture Capital Investors (FVCI),
Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPI),
Designated Depository Participant (DDP),
Custodian.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has implemented new guidelines requiring retail investors to use the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to block funds when applying for public issues of debt securities amounting up to ₹5 lakh.

The new rule will take effect on November 1, 2024.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated Invest India's new office in Singapore.

The office will serve as a dedicated point of contact for companies from the region looking to invest in India, fostering collaboration across sectors.

Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India, established as a non-profit initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of

Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

India is set to become the Third-largest Economy by 2030-31

India is on track to become the third largest economy by fiscal 2030-31, driven by a robust projected annual growth rate of 6.7%, the credit rating agency S&P Global said in its report called India forward Emerging Perspectives.

The Central government has allocated Rs 12,554 crore to states this year for disaster relief and rehabilitation.

This includes funding for urban flood management, fire services, glacial lake outburst flood mitigation, and emergency response enhancements.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Subscribers at 69 Million, Corpus at Rs 35,149 Crore

About 7 crore people have subscribed to the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) since its inception in 2015, with a corpus of Rs 35,149 crore. The scheme guarantees a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 from age 60, and in the event of the subscriber's death, the spouse receives the same pension.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY): Key Points

Launch Year: 2015, under the Government of India.

Objective: Provides a guaranteed minimum monthly pension to individuals after the age of 60.

Eligibility: Open to all Indian citizens aged 18-40, especially targeting the unorganized sector.

Pension Range: Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month, depending on contributions.

Contribution Period: Until the subscriber turns 60.

Death Benefits: Pension continues to spouse; corpus paid to nominee after both the subscriber and spouse's death.

Corpus (2024): Rs 35,149 crore.

Subscribers (2024): 6.9 crore (69 million).

Cabinet Clears 'One Nation, One Poll' and Major Agriculture-Space Proposals.

The Union Cabinet has approved a ₹60,000 crore plan covering agriculture to space, including the 'One Nation, One Poll' policy for simultaneous elections. Key decisions include revamping the PM-AASHA scheme with a ₹35,000 crore outlay to support farmers and a ₹24,474.53 crore subsidy on fertilizers.

PM-AASHA Reforms

The scope of PM-AASHA was expanded by merging the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF), Price Support Scheme (PSS), and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) with the existing Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS). The Centre has also enhanced government guarantees to ₹45,000 crore for MSP-based procurement. Notably, the coverage for oilseeds under PDPS will increase from 25% to 40% of state production, while procurement for tur, urad, and masur will see 100% coverage for the 2024-25 season.

The government has scrapped the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil with effect from September 18. The windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil will be zero, the government said in a notification.

What is the Windfall Tax?

It is a tax levied by governments against certain industries when economic conditions allow those industries to experience significantly above-average profits.

The term "windfall" refers to an unexpected rise in profits, and the tax on windfall gains is known as the windfall tax.

The GST Council has formed a 13-member Group of Ministers (GoM) to review and recommend GST rates on health and life insurance premiums, with the report due by October 30, 2024. The panel will assess tax rates for various insurance categories, including individual and group plans.

The decision was made during the 54th GST Council meeting on September 9, 2024

Currently, a GST rate of 18% applies to health and life insurance premiums. Some opposition-ruled states like West Bengal have called for complete exemption, while others advocate reducing the rate to 5%.

NICDC Logistics Data Services Ltd. (NLDSL) announces the launch of Unified Logistics Interface Platform Hackathon 2.0.

Hackathon 2.0 is a competitive event, aimed at fostering innovation and developing digital solutions to tackle pressing challenges in the logistics industry.

It invites developers, start-ups, and industry players to come together.

The focus of this year's hackathon is on addressing key logistics challenges such as sustainability, complex supply chain processes, unified documentation, and multimodal logistics optimization.

About Unified Logistics Interface Platform:

ULIP is a digital gateway that allows industry players to access logistics-related datasets from various

Government systems through API-based integration.

Currently, the platform integrates with 37 systems from 10 ministries via 118 APIs, covering over 1800 data fields.

It was launched by the Prime Minister as part of the 'National Logistics Policy (NLP)' on September 17, 2022.

objectives:

To create a nationwide single window logistics platform for end-to-end visibility.

To develop a logistics gateway by integrating information available with various Govt. agencies across the value chain

Indian REITs Association (IRA) recently launched Data Benchmarking Institutions (DBIs) to provide investors with detailed information on real estate investment trusts (REITs).

About Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):

REITs are companies that own or finance income-producing real estate across a range of property sectors.

It allows investors to pool their funds and invest in various real estate projects.

Essentially, it functions like a mutual fund for real estate investments.

These trusts own and oversee a portfolio of income-generating properties, such as office buildings, hotels, shopping malls, etc.

Unlike other real estate companies, a REIT does not develop real estate properties to resell. Instead, a REIT buys and develops properties primarily to operate them as part of its own investment portfolio.

REITs in India:

In India, REITs were introduced in 2014 and are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

For a company to qualify as a REIT, the following criteria must be satisfied:

90% of the income must be distributed to the investors in the form of dividends.

80% of the investment must be made in properties that are capable of generating revenues.

Only 10% of the total investment must be made in real estate under-construction properties.

The company must have an asset base of at least Rs 500 crores.

REITs cannot invest in agricultural land, vacant land.

Women-owned micro and small enterprises will get enhanced credit guarantee coverage of 90 percent under the CGTMSE scheme, after its board approved the new guidelines recently.

About Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE):

The Union Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) started Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs) in the year 2000.

Objective: To catalyze the flow of institutional credit to Micro & Small Enterprises (MSEs).

The scheme was formally launched on August 30, 2000, and is operational with effect from 1st January 2000.

The scheme aims to facilitate access to credit for the unserved and underserved MSE segment of the MSME Sector, making the availability of credit from conventional lenders to new generation entrepreneurs and underprivileged, that lack supporting their loan proposal with collateral security and/or a third-party guarantee.

In order to implement the Credit Guarantee Scheme, CGTMSE was jointly set up by the Union Ministry of MSME and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

Funding: The corpus of CGTMSE is being contributed by the Government of India and SIDBI in the ratio of 4:1.

Eligible Lending Institutions:

Scheduled commercial banks (Public Sector Banks/Private Sector Banks/Foreign Banks) and select Regional Rural Banks (which have been classified under the 'Sustainable Viable' category by NABARD).

National Small Industries Corporation Ltd. (NSIC), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (NEDFi), SIDBI, selected Small Finance banks, and NBFCs have also been made eligible institutions.

Eligible Credit Facility:

CGTMSE facilitates collateral free credit support of upto Rs. 5 crores to MSEs, extended by the CGTMSE's Member Lending Institutions.

The extent of guarantee cover is 85% for microenterprises for credit up to Rs. 5 lakhs. For credit ranging from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 500 lakhs, the extent of guarantee cover is 75%.

The extent of guarantee cover is 80% for loans/credits in the North East Region (incl. Sikkim, UT of Jammu & Kashmir, and UT of Ladakh) for credits up to Rs. 50 lakhs. Above Rs. 50 lakhs, guarantee cover is 75%.

The extent of guarantee cover is 85% for MSMEs owned/operated by SC/ST entrepreneurs, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), MSEs situated in Aspirational Districts, ZED certified MSEs and MSE promoted by Agniveers.

Extent of guarantee cover is 90% for MSME owned/operated by women.

For all other categories of borrowers, the Extent of guarantee cover is 75%.

In cases of default, the trust settles the claim up to 75% (85%/80% wherever applicable) of the amount in default of the credit facility extended by the lending institution

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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.

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 ginners 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.

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.

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.

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:

$$\text{LCR} = (\text{High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA)}) / (\text{Total net cash outflows over the next 30 calendar days}).$$

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 ≤3% and Net NPA ratio of ≤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 Sapphiro Forex Card for International Students.

ICICI Bank announced the launch of its 'Student Sapphiro 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 Sapphiro 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.

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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.

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.

IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS UNION BUDGET 2024-25

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2024-25 in Parliament today. The highlights of the budget are as follows:



Part-A

Budget Estimates 2024-25:

Total receipts other than borrowings: `32.07 lakh crore.

Total expenditure: `48.21 lakh crore.

Net tax receipt: `25.83 lakh crore.

Fiscal deficit: 4.9 per cent of GDP.

Government aims to reach a deficit below 4.5 per cent next year.

Inflation continues to be low, stable and moving towards the 4% target; Core inflation (non-food, non-fuel) at 3.1%.

The focus of budget is on EMPLOYMENT, SKILLING, MSMEs, and the MIDDLE CLASS.

Package of PM's five schemes for Employment and Skilling

Prime Minister's Package of 5 Schemes and Initiatives for employment, skilling and other opportunities for 4.1 crore youth over a 5-year period.

Scheme A - First Timers: One-month salary of up to `15,000 to be provided in 3 installments to first-time employees, as registered in the EPFO.

Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing: Incentive to be provided at specified scale directly, both employee and employer, with respect to their EPFO contribution in the first 4 years of employment.

Scheme C - Support to employers: Government to reimburse up to `3,000 per month for 2 years towards EPFO contribution of employers, for each additional employee.

New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling

20 lakh youth to be skilled over a 5-year period.

1,000 Industrial Training Institutes to be upgraded in hub and spoke arrangements.

New Scheme for Internship in 500 Top Companies to 1 crore youth in 5 years

Nine Budget Priorities in pursuit of 'Viksit Bharat':

Productivity and resilience in Agriculture

Employment & Skilling
Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice
Manufacturing & Services
Urban Development
Energy Security
Infrastructure
Innovation, Research & Development and
Next Generation Reforms
Priority 1: Productivity and resilience in Agriculture

Allocation of `1.52 lakh crore for agriculture and allied sectors.
New 109 high-yielding and climate-resilient varieties of 32 field and horticulture crops to be released for cultivation by farmers.
1 crore farmers across the country to be initiated into natural farming, with certification and branding in next 2 years.
10,000 need-based bio-input resource centres to be established for natural farming.
Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture to be implemented for coverage of farmers and their lands in 3 years.
Priority 2: Employment & Skilling

As part of the Prime Minister's package, 3 schemes for 'Employment Linked Incentive' to be implemented - Scheme A - First Timers; Scheme B - Job Creation in manufacturing; Scheme C - Support to employers. To facilitate higher participation of women in the workforce, working women hostels and crèches to be established with industrial collaboration women-specific skilling programmes to be organized market access for women SHG enterprises to be promoted
Skill Development

New centrally sponsored scheme for Skilling under Prime Minister's Package for 20 lakh youth over a 5-year period.
Model Skill Loan Scheme to be revised to facilitate loans up to `7.5 lakh.
Financial support for loans upto `10 lakh for higher education in domestic institutions to be provided to youth who have not been eligible for any benefit under government schemes and policies.

Priority 3: Inclusive Human Resource Development and Social Justice

Purvodaya

Industrial node at Gaya to be developed along the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.
Power projects, including new 2400 MW power plant at Pirpainti, to be taken up at a cost of `21,400 crore.
Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act
Special financial support through multilateral development agencies of `15,000 crore in the current financial year.
Industrial node at Koppa along Vishakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor and at Orvakal along Hyderabad-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.
Women-led development
Total allocation of more than `3 lakh crore for schemes benefitting women and girls.
Pradhan Mantri Janatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan
Socio-economic development of tribal families in tribal-majority villages and aspirational districts, covering 63,000 villages benefitting 5 crore tribal people.
Bank branches in North-Eastern Region

100 branches of India Post Payment Bank to be set up in the North East region.

Priority 4: Manufacturing & Services

Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs in the Manufacturing Sector

A credit guarantee scheme without collateral or third-party guarantee in term loans to MSMEs for purchase of machinery and equipment.

Credit Support to MSMEs during Stress Period

New mechanism to facilitate continuation of bank credit to MSMEs during their stress period.

Mudra Loans

The limit of Mudra loans under 'Tarun' category to be enhanced to `20 lakh from `10 lakh for those who have successfully repaid previous loans.

Enhanced scope for mandatory onboarding in TReDS

Turnover threshold of buyers for mandatory onboarding on the TReDS platform to be reduced from `500 crore to `250 crore..

MSME Units for Food Irradiation, Quality & Safety Testing

Financial support to set up 50 multi-product food irradiation units in the MSME sector .

E-Commerce Export Hubs

E-Commerce Export Hubs to be set up under public-private-partnership (PPP) mode for MSMEs and traditional artisans to sell their products in international markets.

Critical Mineral Mission

Critical Mineral Mission to be set up for domestic production, recycling of critical minerals, and overseas acquisition of critical mineral assets.

Offshore mining of minerals

Auction of the first tranche of offshore blocks for mining, building on the exploration already carried out.

Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Applications

Development of DPI applications in the areas of credit, e-commerce, education, health, law and justice, logistics, MSME, services delivery, and urban governance.

Priority 5: Urban Development

Transit Oriented Development

Formulation of Transit Oriented Development plans and strategies to implement and finance 14 large cities above 30 lakh population.

Urban Housing

Investment of `10 lakh crore, including the central assistance of `2.2 lakh crore in next 5 years, under PM Awas Yojana Urban 2.0 proposed to address the , housing needs of 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families.

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.

Priority 6: Energy Security

Energy Transition

Policy document on 'Energy Transition Pathways' to balance the imperatives of employment, growth and environmental sustainability to be brought out.

Pumped Storage Policy

Policy for promoting pumped storage projects for electricity storage to be brought out.

Research and development of small and modular nuclear reactors

Government to partner with private sector for R&D of Bharat Small Modular Reactor and newer technologies for nuclear energy, and to set up Bharat Small Reactors.

Advanced Ultra Super Critical Thermal Power Plants

Joint venture proposed between NTPC and BHEL to set up a full scale 800 MW commercial plant using Advanced Ultra Super Critical (AUSC) technology.

Roadmap for 'hard to abate' industries

Appropriate regulations for transition of 'hard to abate' industries from the current 'Perform, Achieve and Trade' mode to 'Indian Carbon Market' mode to be put in place.

Priority 7: Infrastructure

Infrastructure investment by Central Government

`11,11,111 crore (3.4 % of GDP) to be provided for capital expenditure.

Infrastructure investment by state governments

Provision of `1.5 lakh crore for long-term interest free loans to support states in infrastructure investment.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

Launch of phase IV of PMGSY to provide all-weather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations.

Irrigation and Flood Mitigation

Financial support of `11,500 crore to projects such as the Kosi-Mechi intra-state link and other schemes in Bihar.

Government to provide assistance to Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim for floods, landslides and other related projects.

Tourism

Comprehensive development of Vishnupad Temple Corridor, Mahabodhi Temple Corridor and Rajgir.

Assistance for development of temples, monuments, craftsmanship, wildlife sanctuaries, natural landscapes and pristine beaches of Odisha.

Priority 8: Innovation, Research & Development

Anusandhan National Research Fund for basic research and prototype development to be operationalised.

Financing pool of `1 lakh crore for spurring private sector-driven research and innovation at commercial scale.

Space Economy

Venture capital fund of `1,000 crore to be set up for expanding the space economy by 5 times in the next 10 years.

Priority 9: Next Generation Reforms

Rural Land Related Actions

Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) or Bhu-Aadhaar for all lands

Digitization of cadastral maps

Survey of map sub-divisions as per current ownership

Establishment of land registry

Linking to the farmers registry

Urban Land Related Actions

Land records in urban areas to be digitized with GIS mapping.

Services to Labour

Integration of e-shram portal with other portals to facilitate such one-stop solution.

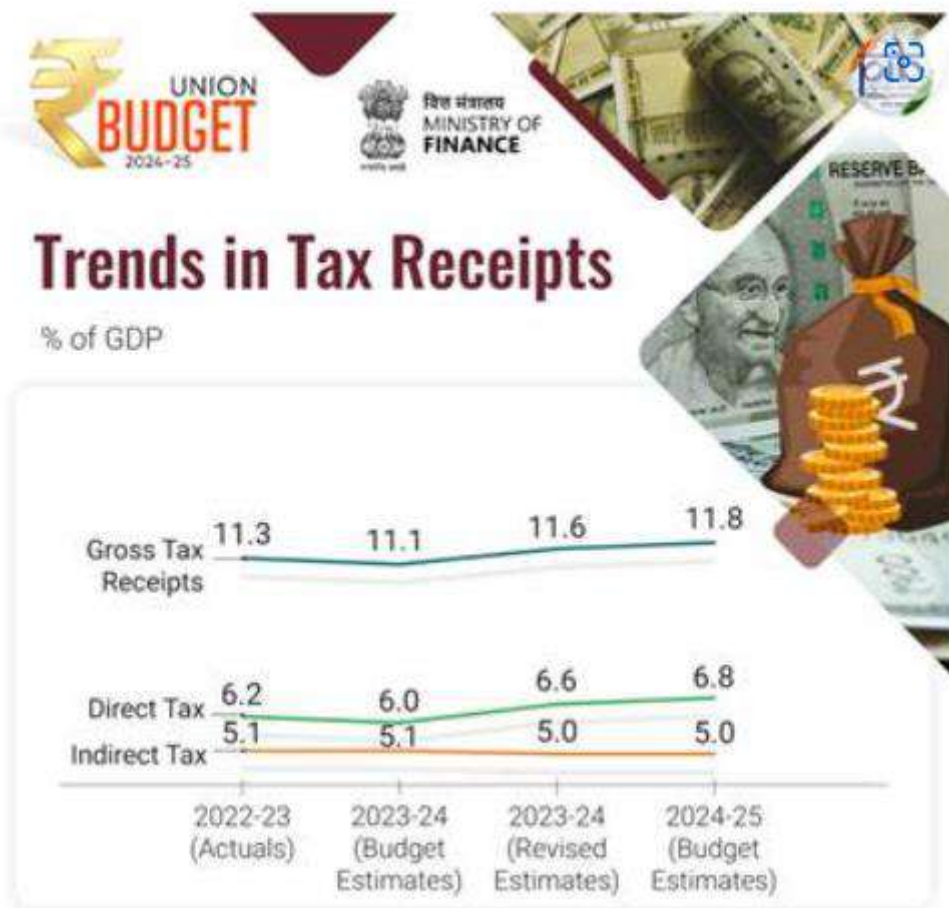
Open architecture databases for the rapidly changing labour market, skill requirements and available job roles.

Mechanism to connect job-aspirants with potential employers and skill providers.

NPS Vatsalya

NPS-Vatsalya as a plan for contribution by parents and guardians for minors.

PART B



Indirect Taxes

GST

Buoyed by GST's success, tax structure to be simplified and rationalised to expand GST to remaining sectors.

Sector specific customs duty proposals

Medicines and Medical Equipment

Three cancer drugs namely TrastuzumabDeruxtecan, Osimertinib and Durvalumab fully exempted from custom duty.

Changes in Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on x-ray tubes & flat panel detectors for use in medical x-ray machines under the Phased Manufacturing Programme.

Mobile Phone and Related Parts

BCD on mobile phone, mobile Printed Circuit Board Assembly (PCBA) and mobile charger reduced to 15 per cent.

Precious Metals

Customs duties on gold and silver reduced to 6 per cent and that on platinum to 6.4 per cent.

Other Metals

BCD removed on ferro nickel and blister copper.

BCD removed on ferrous scrap and nickel cathode.

Concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap.

Electronics

BCD removed, subject to conditions, on oxygen free copper for manufacture of resistors.

Chemicals and Petrochemicals

BCD on ammonium nitrate increased from 7.5 to 10 per cent.

Plastics

BCD on PVC flex banners increased from 10 to 25 per cent.

Telecommunication Equipment

BCD increased from 10 to 15 per cent on PCBA of specified telecom equipment.

Trade facilitation

For promotion of domestic aviation and boat & ship MRO, time period for export of goods imported for repairs extended from six months to one year.

Time-limit for re-import of goods for repairs under warranty extended from three to five years.

Critical Minerals

25 critical minerals fully exempted from customs duties.

BCD on two critical minerals reduced.

Solar Energy

Capital goods for use in manufacture of solar cells and panels exempted from customs duty.

Marine products

BCD on certain broodstock, polychaete worms, shrimp and fish feed reduced to 5 per cent.

Various inputs for manufacture of shrimp and fish feed exempted from customs duty.

Leather and Textile

BCD reduced on real down filling material from duck or goose.

BCD reduced, subject to conditions, on methylene diphenyl diisocyanate (MDI) for manufacture of spandex yarn from 7.5 to 5 per cent.

Direct Taxes

Efforts to simplify taxes, improve tax payer services, provide tax certainty and reduce litigation to be continued.

Enhance revenues for funding development and welfare schemes of government.

58 per cent of corporate tax from simplified tax regime in FY23, more than two-thirds taxpayers availed simplified tax regime for personal income tax in FY 24.

Simplification for Charities and of TDS

Two tax exemption regimes for charities to be merged into one.

5 per cent TDS rate on many payments merged into 2 per cent TDS rate.

20 per cent TDS rate on repurchase of units by mutual funds or UTI withdrawn.

TDS rate on e-commerce operators reduced from one to 0.1 per cent.

Delay for payment of TDS up to due date of filing statement decriminalized.

Simplification of Reassessment

Assessment can be reopened beyond three years upto five years from the end of Assessment Year only if the escaped income is ₹ 50 lakh or more.

In search cases, time limit reduced from ten to six years before the year of search.

Simplification and Rationalisation of Capital Gains

Short term gains on certain financial assets to attract a tax rate of 20 per cent.

Long term gains on all financial and non-financial assets to attract a tax rate of 12.5 per cent.

Exemption limit of capital gains on certain financial assets increased to ₹ 1.25 lakh per year.

Tax Payer Services

All remaining services of Customs and Income Tax including rectification and order giving effect to appellate orders to be digitalized over the next two years.

Litigation and Appeals

‘Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme, 2024’ for resolution of income tax disputes pending in appeal.

Monetary limits for filing direct taxes, excise and service tax related appeals in Tax Tribunals, High Courts and Supreme Court increased to ₹60 lakh, ₹2 crore and ₹5 crore respectively.

Safe harbour rules expanded to reduce litigation and provide certainty in international taxation.

Employment and Investment

Angel tax for all classes of investors abolished to bolster start-up eco-system,.

Simpler tax regime for foreign shipping companies operating domestic cruises to promote cruise tourism in India.

Safe harbour rates for foreign mining companies selling raw diamonds in the country.

Corporate tax rate on foreign companies reduced from 40 to 35 per cent.

Deepening tax base

Security Transactions Tax on futures and options of securities increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively.

Income received on buy back of shares in the hands of recipient to be taxed.

Social Security Benefits.

Deduction of expenditure by employers towards NPS to be increased from 10 to 14 per cent of the employee's salary.

Non-reporting of small movable foreign assets up to ₹20 lakh de-penalised.

Other major proposal in Finance Bill

Equalization levy of 2 per cent withdrawn.

Changes in Personal Income Tax under new tax regime

Standard deduction for salaried employees increased from ₹50,000 to ₹75,000.

Deduction on family pension for pensioners enhanced from ₹15,000/- to ₹25,000/-

Revised tax rate structure:

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

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

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 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.

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 Sadegh, 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,

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
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

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	



A) ₹10,000 B) ₹20,000
C) ₹30,000 D) ₹50,000

- ✓ To encourage wider adoption of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), the RBI has announced an increase in transaction limits on UPI123 and UPI Lite.
- ✓ Recent Changes Announced by RBI
- ✓ UPI Lite wallet limit: The UPI Lite wallet limit has been increased from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000, and the per-transaction limit has been enhanced from ₹500 to ₹1,000.
- ✓ UPI123Pay transaction limit: The per-transaction limit for UPI123Pay has been raised from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000 to support higher-value transactions.
- ✓ Beneficiary account name look-up: RBI will introduce a beneficiary account name look-up facility for RTGS and NEFT, similar to UPI and IMPS, enhancing security in payment transactions

A) ₹10,000
B) ₹4,000
C) ₹3,000
D) ₹5,000

- ✓ RBI also decided to increase the limit per transaction through UPI Lite from ₹500 to ₹1,000 and the total limit of UPI Lite wallet from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000.

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das earned an 'A+' grade in Central Bank Report Cards 2024 ranking for a second consecutive year.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India revoked UAE Exchange Centre LLC's Certificate of Authorisation for non-compliance with regulatory norms, preventing it from conducting cross border in-bound money transfers.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as the Managing Director & CEO of the Axis Bank, for a period of three years w.e.f. January 1, 2025 till December 31, 2027.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has rejected Religare Enterprises' attempt to appoint Rakesh Asthana to its board. This followed a complaint from the Burman family, who hold a significant stake in REL, citing procedural irregularities.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved appointment of Pranav Chawda as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of JP Morgan Chase & Co domestic banking unit – JP Morgan India -- for the period of three years.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India added 13 more entities to its 'Alert List' of unauthorised forex trading platforms. This brings the total number of entities on the list to 88. The list names entities that are not authorised under FEMA or to operate electronic trading platforms for forex transactions.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has projected India's real GDP growth for FY25 at 7.2 per cent.
- ✓ PB Financial Account Aggregator Private Limited (PBAA) received Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The fintech company incorporated the NBFC with a paid-up share capital of INR 5 Cr in February 2022.

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed business curbs on four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for violating regulations: Asirvad Micro Finance, Arohan Financial Services, DMI Finance, and Navi Finserv.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the merger of Tata Capital and Tata Motors Finance (TMFL). The merger will create India's 12th largest non-banking finance company.
- ✓ L&T Finance Ltd. received its certificate of registration as a Non-Banking Financial Company (Investment and Credit Company) (NBFC-ICC) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das today said that India has developed a world-class digital public infrastructure which has facilitated the development of high-quality digital financial products. country is now home to the world's third most vibrant startup ecosystem, with over one lakh 40 thousand startups, and more than a hundred unicorns.
- ✓ The Governor also raised concern over the rising debt saying that global public debt has surged post the pandemic to 93.2 per cent of GDP in 2023 and is likely to increase to 100 per cent of GDP by 2029.
- ✓ Shares of Bandhan Bank jumped 12 per cent after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the appointment of Partha Pratim Sengupta as its MD and CEO for three years.
- ✓ According to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2023-24 Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Entities, the US remains the largest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) in India.
- ✓ US : Largest source of FDI
- ✓ Mauritius : Second largest source of FDI
- ✓ Singapore : Third largest source of FDI
- ✓ UK : Fourth largest source of FDI.
- ✓ In 2023-24, total FDI in India increased by 23.3% in rupee terms.
- ✓ The US remains the largest source of FDI in India, followed by Mauritius, Singapore, and the UK. FDI in India increased by 23.3 per cent in 2023-24, supported by valuation gains and fresh inflows. Non-financial companies accounted for nearly 90 per cent of the FDI equity.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked the asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to become members of all the credit information companies (CICs) and submit the required data to them as per the Uniform Credit Reporting Format.
- ✓ Currently, there are four CICs—TransUnion CIBIL, Experian, Equifax, and CRIF High Mark.
- ✓ RBI has asked the ARCs to put in place a system and processes to ensure compliance with these guidelines by January 1, 2025.
- ✓ RBI increases UPI Lite and UPI 123Pay Limits.
- ✓ enhance the per-transaction limit in UPI123Pay from ₹5,000 to ₹10,000; and (ii) increase the UPI Lite wallet limit from ₹2,000 to ₹5,000 and per-transaction limit from ₹500 to ₹1,000,".
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a scholarship scheme inviting applications from full-time faculty members teaching economics or finance in UGC or AICTE-recognized institutions in India. The initiative aims to enhance awareness of RBI activities among faculty and students while providing exposure to its operations.
- ✓ Selected scholars will receive a monthly allowance of ₹50,000, along with a ₹2,00,000 honorarium upon project completion.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) entered into a Currency Swap Agreement with the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2024-27.
- ✓ Under the agreement, the MMA is eligible for financing support from the RBI amounting to \$400 million under the U.S. Dollar/ Euro Swap Window and ₹30 billion (Rs 3,000 crore) under the INR Swap Window.
- ✓ The agreement would be valid till June 18, 2027.
- ✓ The SAARC Currency Swap Framework came into operation on November 15, 2012, to provide a backstop line of funding for short-term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or short-term balance of payments stress till longer term arrangements are made.
- ✓ The terms of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das and deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra are set to end in December 2024 and January 2025.
- ✓ The RBI governor and deputy governors can serve for up to five years.

- ✓ The RBI has four deputy governors, including Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Sankar, and Swaminathan J.
- ✓ The RBI was nationalized on January 1, 1949.
- ✓ The RBI is a member of the Asian Clearing Union and a leading member of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI).
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Aviral Jain as the new Executive Director, effective from October 1, 2024.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to revise the bulk deposit limit for scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) and small finance banks (SFBs) to Rs 3 crore. The limit for bulk deposits was increased in 2019 for SCBs and SFBs to Rs 2 crore from Rs 1 crore earlier.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India laid out a roadmap for the voluntary transition of small finance banks (SFBs) to universal banks, prescribing criteria such as minimum net worth of ₹1,000 crore, net profit in the last two financial years.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) infused ₹25,000 crore into the banking system through a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction on October 26, 2024. The auction was the first of its kind since September 24, 2024.
- ✓ The RBI conducts VRR auctions when the weighted average call money rate in the interbank money market is higher than the repo rate. This indicates a System Liquidity Deficit to the RBI. The auctions are a short-term liquidity injection against collaterals, with a tenor of Overnight to 13 days.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that fossil fuel dominance in electricity generation in India is expected to end by 2030. The RBI's report also states that renewable energy is expected to cross 50% of the global electricity generation share by the end of the decade.
- ✓ India has also set a target to achieve 50% cumulative electric power installed by 2030 from renewables. India aims for 500 GW of renewable energy installed capacity by 2030.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of IDFC First Bank's Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) V Vaidyanathan, for a period of three years, effective from December 19, 2024, to December 18, 2027.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has lifted restrictions on IIFL Finance's gold loan operations, effective immediately.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India plans to modernise its currency management infrastructure over the next 4-5 years. This includes creating new currency management centres, introducing warehouse automation, and enhancing security systems.
- ✓ RBI fined BNP Paribas Rs 31.8 lakh for failing to comply with its guidelines on interest rates on advances
- ✓ Sangam Sir (Kumar Kaushal Sir), [28-10-2024 23:15]
- ✓ Finance Ministry has notified new rules for compounding under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).
- ✓ The monetary limits for adjudications by RBI officials have been raised.
- ✓ Assistant General Manager: Can decide on compounding applications up to ₹60 lakh.
- ✓ Deputy General Manager: Can decide on compounding applications up to ₹2.5 crore
- ✓ General Manager: Can decide on compounding applications up to ₹5 crore
- ✓ Chief General Manager: Can decide on compounding applications above ₹5 crore.
- ✓ Application fee
- ✓ The fee for filing a compounding application has been doubled to ₹10,000 plus GST
- ✓ Timeline
- ✓ The compounding officer has 180 days to pass the compounding order from the date of receipt of the application.
- ✓ Payment method
- ✓ Compounded amounts can be paid online through NEFT or RTGS, or through other permissible electronic or online modes of payment.
- ✓ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has increased the UPI transaction limit for tax payments to ₹5 lakh per transaction. This is an increase from the previous limit of ₹1 lakh.

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reviewed the limit for bulk deposits for scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), small finance banks (SFBs), and local area banks.
- ✓ RBI proposed redefining bulk deposits as "single rupee term deposits of Rs 3 crore and above" for SCBs and SFBs. This raises the bulk deposits limit from Rs 2 crore, which was set in 2019, up from Rs 1 crore.
- ✓ Similarly, for local area banks, the new definition of bulk deposits will be "single rupee term deposits of Rs 1 crore and above."
- ✓ Three potential suitors for IDBI Bank have secured 'Fit & Proper' certificates from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) paving the way for their possible acquisition of the bank, CNBC-TV18 reported. The candidates include Fairfax Financial, Emirates NBD, and Kotak Mahindra Bank.
- ✓ The Centre and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will be offloading 61 percent stake in the bank, which comprises of 30.48 percent stake of the Government of India and 30.24 percent of LIC.
- ✓ The 610th meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was held in Mumbai.
- ✓ The RBI's Central Board of Directors is made up of 21 members.
- ✓ Dr. Michael D. Patra, the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), addressed the "Financing 3.0 Summit" in Mumbai. The summit was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as part of its strategy to create digital public infrastructure in the country, has announced that a new technology platform called the Unified Lending Interface (ULI) would be introduced by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, Bengaluru which will enable friction-less credit to farmers and MSME borrowers to begin with.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a penalty of Rs 2.68 crore on UCO Bank for violating certain provisions.
- ✓ NPCI launched new ATM products and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rebranded the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) to Bharat Connect.
- ✓ RBI allows foreign investors in IFSC to invest in sovereign green bonds.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has recognized the Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) as a Self-Regulatory Organisation in the FinTech sector (SRO-FT).
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has issued the framework for self-regulatory organisations (SROs) in financial markets, inviting applications from entities which meet the eligibility criteria including a minimum net worth of ₹10 crore.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved IndusInd Bank's request to establish a subsidiary to manage mutual fund assets.
- ✓ The RBI granted approval for the bank to establish a wholly-owned subsidiary that will manage mutual fund operations.
- ✓ The 43 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in India posted a consolidated net profit of ₹7,796 crore in FY24, which is a 26% increase from ₹6,178 crore in FY23.
- ✓ Rural fintech startup Jai Kisan gets RBI approval for NBFC acquisition. Jai Kisan co-founder and CEO Arjun Ahluwalia
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the rules for deposit-taking housing finance companies (HFCs) to require them to maintain 15% liquid assets against public deposits.
- ✓ HFCs must increase their liquid assets to 14% by January 1, 2025, and to 15% by July 1, 2025.
- ✓ Public deposit limits
- ✓ HFCs are prohibited from raising public deposits for more than five years.
- ✓ Deposit renewal
- ✓ Public deposits accepting HFCs can renew deposits after 12 months or more but not later than sixty months.
- ✓ RBI has now allowed HFCs to participate in currency future exchanges. Non-deposit-taking HFCs, with asset size of Rs 1,000 crore.
- ✓ RBI a penalty of Rs 1.06 crore has been imposed on Union Bank of India for non-compliance with certain norms on 'Creation of a Central Repository of Large Common Exposures-Across Banks' and 'Know Your Customer (KYC)'.

- ✓ A penalty of Rs 1.86 crore has been imposed on CSB Bank for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI.
- ✓ Reserve Bank has non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will pay 100 per cent of deposit amount within the first three months of accepting the fund, if the depositor seeks an withdrawal citing an emergency.
- ✓ Emergency withdrawals
- ✓ If the depositor requests a withdrawal due to an emergency, the NBFC must return the full deposit amount within three months. This includes medical emergencies, natural disasters, or other expenses as notified by the government. There is no interest paid for these premature withdrawals.
- ✓ Other withdrawals
- ✓ If the depositor requests a withdrawal for a reason other than an emergency, the NBFC can pay up to 50% of the deposit or Rs 5 lakh, whichever is lower, within three months. There is no interest paid for these premature withdrawals.
- ✓ Tiny deposits
- ✓ For deposits of Rs 10,000 or less, the depositor can request the full amount back without interest.
- ✓ These new rules will come into effect on January 1, 2025.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has established a 10-member expert panel, led by Deputy Governor Michael Patra, to align India's statistics with global standards. The committee will review and enhance statistical practices, focusing on data quality and best practices. The report is expected by November 2024.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the UPI limit for tax payments from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. This means you can now pay larger tax amounts quickly and easily using UPI. Effective immediately, taxpayers can transfer up to Rs 5 lakh in a single UPI transaction for paying taxes.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has completed its review of potential buyers for a majority stake in IDBI Bank, approving Fairfax Financial Holdings, Emirates NBD and Kotak Mahindra Bank as bidders, three sources aware of the development.
- ✓ The Indian government, which owns 45.48 per cent in IDBI Bank, and state-owned Life Insurance Corp of India which holds 49.24 per cent, together plan to sell 60.7 per cent of the lender.
- ✓ RBI has introduced e-mandates for insurance premiums, mutual funds, credit card payments up to Rs 1 lakh, and other recurring transactions up to Rs 15,000.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a draft circular to propose new rules for safer digital payments:
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a draft circular proposing Alternative Factor Authentication (AFA) for all digital transactions, emphasizing enhanced security for digital payments.
- ✓ Exemptions from this proposal include contactless card transactions below ₹5000, insurance premiums, credit card payments above ₹1,00,000, and other categories up to ₹15,000.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has asked lenders to examine wilful defaulters in all Non-Performing Assets (NPA) accounts with an outstanding amount of Rs 25 lakh and above and said the process should be completed in six months. The new norms will come into force after 90 days, that is, from November 1, 2024.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) predicts that India will become the world's leading supplier of labor and that remittances to India will reach \$160 billion by 2029.
- ✓ RBI's Report on Currency and Finance predicts that remittances to India will increase from \$115 billion in 2023 to \$160 billion in 2029.
- ✓ India is already the world's top recipient of remittances, accounting for 13.5% of the global total. The ratio of remittances to GDP in India has increased from 2.8% in 2000 to 3.2% in 2023.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India imposed a penalty of 24.1 million rupees (almost \$288,000) on Visa for using an unauthorised payment transfer mechanism.
- ✓ RBI introduces PCA framework to improve financial health of UCBs.
- ✓ Framework will replace the existing Supervisory Action Framework (SAF), and will be effective from April 1, 2025.
- ✓ The PCA framework has been harmonized with similar frameworks applicable to scheduled commercial banks and non-banking financial companies.
- ✓ The PCA Framework has been made applicable to all UCBs in Tier 2, Tier 3 and Tier 4, except UCBs under All Inclusive Directions (AID).

- ✓ Tier 1 UCBs have been excluded from the PCA framework for the present
- ✓ About Urban Co-operative Banks
- ✓ Definition: UCBs, though not formally defined, refers to Primary Cooperative Banks located in urban and semi-urban areas.
- ✓ Duality of Control: Banking related functions (viz. licensing, area of operations, etc.) governed by RBI and registration, management, audit and liquidation, etc. governed by State Governments.
- ✓ 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)
 - ✓ Tier-4 (above ₹10,000 crore).
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced stricter regulations for cash pay-out services at banks, which will take effect from November 1, 2024. Under the revised framework for 'Domestic Money Transfer,' remitting banks are now required to maintain records of recipients' names and addresses for cash pay-outs.
- ✓ The revised norms update the RBI's October 2011 framework for 'Domestic Money Transfer,' and will be effective from November 1, 2024.
- ✓ Cash Pay-In Service: Remitting banks/business correspondents (BCs) will register the remitter using a verified cell phone number and a self-certified 'officially valid document (OVD)' as per the Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a committee to review the fee structure for white-label ATMs (WLAs).
- ✓ This committee, led by Indian Banks' Association CEO Sunil Mehta, aims to propose a fair and sustainable model.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The interchange fee is around ₹17 for a financial transaction and ₹6 for a non-financial transaction. This essentially means that the bank gives ₹17 to the other party if its customers use the ATM of the other bank.
- ✓ white-label ATM operators (WLAOs) had suggested a revision of interchange fee for financial transactions to up to ₹30 and for non-financial transactions to ₹10.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined Project Nexus, a multilateral international initiative to enable instant cross-border retail payments by interlinking domestic Fast Payments Systems (FPSs).
- ✓ Project Nexus is conceptualised by the Innovation Hub of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).
- ✓ Project Nexus aims to connect the FPSs of four ASEAN namely, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and India.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for state governments and Union Territories (UTs) from ₹47,010 crore to ₹60,118 crore, effective July 1, 2024.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has invited applications for recognition of Self-Regulatory Organisations (SROs) for non-banking financial companies.
- ✓ To ensure fair representation to smaller NBFCs, the SRO will also have at least 10% of the total number of NBFCs in the Base Layer as per the regulator's Scale Based Regulatory Framework.
- ✓ As per the SRO application rules, the applicant will have to achieve a minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore within a period of one year after recognition as an SRO by the Reserve Bank.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the first 10-year green bond auction of the 2024-2025 financial year (FY25).
- ✓ The government had planned to issue Rs 12,000 crore worth of green bonds in two tranches of Rs 6,000 crore each for a period of 10 years.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched three major initiatives namely, PRAVAAH portal, RBI Retail Direct mobile application and FinTech Repository.
- ✓ PRAVAAH' (Platform for Regulatory Application, VALidation and AutHorisation) portal will make it convenient for any individual or entity to apply online for various regulatory approvals in a seamless manner.

- ✓ The Retail Direct Mobile App will provide retail investors a seamless and convenient access to the retail direct platform and provide ease of transacting in government securities (G-Secs).
- ✓ The Fintech Repository will contain information on Indian FinTech Sector for a better understanding of the sector from a regulatory perspective and facilitate in designing appropriate policy approaches.
- ✓ 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%).
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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. Tavarana 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 bank has inaugurated its first branch in Singapore after receiving a wholesale banking license from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) ?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ HDFC Bank has officially opened its first branch in Singapore as part of its strategy to expand its international operations.
- ✓ Granted a wholesale banking license by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), effective from October 15, 2024, the bank aims to offer a variety of financial products and services to residents of Singapore.
- ✓ With a focus on serving multinational corporations (MNCs), portfolio investors, wealthy customers, and trade partners, this new branch marks another milestone in HDFC's growing international presence.
- ✓ **HDFC Bank's International Presence**
- ✓ With the addition of Singapore, HDFC now operates five international branches: Hong Kong, Bahrain, Dubai, Singapore, and an IFSC Banking Unit in Gujarat International Finance Tech City (GIFT City).
- ✓ The bank also maintains representative offices in Kenya, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and London.

HDFC BANK IN NEWS 2024

- HDFC Bank will sell about ₹10,000-crore worth stake in the proposed initial public offering (IPO) of its NBFC arm HDB Financial Services (HDBFS).
- Morgan Stanley and Citigroup recently purchased 43.75 lakh shares of HDFC Bank for over ₹755 crore through open market transactions.
- UBS Group has acquired 30.72 lakh shares of HDFC Bank for over Rs 543 crore through an open market transaction.
- HDFC Bank's Parivartan initiative aims to increase the income of five lakh marginal farmers by 2025
- HDFC Bank inaugurates first branch in Singapore.
- 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 transactions 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 has approved the sale of its 100% stake in HDFC Education and Development Services Private Limited (HDFC Edu) to Vama Sundari Investments (Delhi) Private Limited
- HDFC Bank is the first bank to cross the milestone of 2 crore credit cards-in-force.
- HDFC BANK
- Founded : 1994
- Founder : Hasmukhbhai Parekh
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sashidhar Jagdishan
- Tagline : We understand your world

Q. Which bank has unveiled its Corporate Credit Card Suite designed specifically for start-ups within the New Economy Group (NEG)?

A) ICICI Bank	B) IDBI Bank
C) State Bank of India	D) Axis Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Axis Bank has unveiled its Corporate Credit Card Suite designed specifically for start-ups within the New Economy Group (NEG).
- ✓ This innovative offering is tailored to streamline various financial processes for start-ups, including travel, expenses, and vendor payments.
- ✓ The suite consists of two distinct cards: the Executive Corporate Credit Card, catering to founders, and the Purchase Reward Credit Card, focused on expense management.

AXIS BANK IN NEWS 2024

- Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as the Managing Director & CEO of the Axis Bank, for a period of three years w.e.f. January 1, 2025 till December 31, 2027
- Axis Bank has unveiled its Corporate Credit Card Suite designed specifically for start-ups within the New Economy Group (NEG).
- 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.
- The Board of Axis Bank has approved the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as Managing Director & CEO of the Bank, for a further period of three years with effect from January 1, 2025 up to December 31, 2027.
- NPCI has approved Paytm's migration to new payment service provider (PSP) banks, including State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank.
- Axis Bank and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance have formed a strategic bancassurance partnership to increase insurance access in India.
- VST Tillers Tractors Limited (VST), a farm equipment manufacturer, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Axis Bank, to offer financial solutions to the farmers for purchasing tractors and Farm Mechanisation products.
- Axis Bank to groom LGBTQIA+ talent for careers in banking.
- Axis Bank has launched the digital US dollar Fixed Deposits (FD) tailored for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) customers at the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) situated in GIFT City, Gujarat.
- **AXIS BANK**
- Founded : 1993
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman : Rakesh Makhija
- MD & CEO : Amitabh Chaudhary
- Tagline : Badhti Ka naam Zindagi

Q. Which bank has partnered with MakeMyTrip to launch a premium co-branded credit card aimed at travel enthusiasts?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ ICICI Bank has collaborated with MakeMyTrip (MMT), the country's biggest online travel operator, and introduced a premium co-branded credit card tailored to the country's aspirational travellers.
- ✓ The MakeMyTrip ICICI Bank Credit Card, with its several features, enriches the trip experience by providing infinite points that never expire.
- ✓ This card is a dual offering, providing the convenience of two cards, one powered by Mastercard and one powered by RuPay. Furthermore, the RuPay credit card can be linked to UPI, allowing safe and secure transactions via UPI-enabled Apps.

ICICI BANK IN NEWS 2024

- ICICI Bank and MakeMyTrip (MMT) have launched a co-branded credit card for travel enthusiasts
- ICICI Bank has crossed the Rs 9 lakh crore market capitalization mark for the first time
- ICICI Bank partners with PFRDA to launch NPS Vatsalya, a pension account for minors
- 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 Sapphire 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.
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) BANK
- Founded : 1994
- HQ : Mumbai, Maharashtra
- MD & CEO : Sandeep Bakhshi
- Tagline : Hum Hai Na Khayal Apka

Q. Which bank raised ₹5,000 crore through Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) bond issuance at a coupon rate of 7.98 per cent in October 2024?

- A) State Bank of India B) HDFC Bank
C) ICICI Bank D) Canara Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ State Bank of India (SBI) raised ₹5,000 crore through Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) bond issuance on at a coupon rate of 7.98 percent.
- ✓ This is the bank's first AT-1 bond issuance in the current financial year. The tenor of these bonds is perpetual with a call option after 10 years, and each anniversary date thereafter.
- ✓ The bonds are rated AA+ with a stable outlook from CRISIL Ratings and CARE Ratings.
- ✓ The issue attracted bids from investors in excess of 3.5 times the base issue size of ₹2,000 crore, the bank said, adding that the total number of bids received from qualified institutional bidders was 108.
- ✓ The participants were from provident funds, pension funds, insurance companies, mutual funds, NBFCs, banks, etc.
- ✓ Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Chairman, said the wider participation and heterogeneity of bids demonstrated the trust investors place in the country's largest bank

SBI IN NEWS 2024

- State Bank of India (SBI) is set to enhance the instant loan scheme threshold for MSMEs beyond the current Rs 5 crore.
- State Bank of India (SBI) plans to open 600 branches across India in the 2024–2025 financial year.
- As of March 2024, SBI had 22,542 branches across the country. The bank also has 65,000 ATMs and 85,000 business correspondents.
- TCS, HDFC, Airtel, Infosys, and SBI are among the top five most valuable brands in India, according to the Kantar BrandZ report.

- State Bank of India (SBI) sanctioned a loan of ₹10,050 crore to the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for a 1,600 MW thermal power project in Koderma, Jharkhand.
- State Bank of India (SBI) raised ₹7,500 crore at a coupon rate of 7.33 per cent through its second Basel III compliant Tier-2 bond issuance for the current financial year.
- State Bank of India (SBI) launched India's first MTS card, the MTS RuPay NCMC prepaid card. The card is also known as the Nation First MTS Card.
- Adani group-controlled Mumbai International Airport (MIAL) has pledged 51% stake in the upcoming Navi Mumbai airport to State Bank of India (SBI) in relation to a facility aggregating Rs 12,770 crore sanctioned by the lender to the project.
- MIAL holds 74% of the total paid-up equity share capital of Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIAL).
- State Bank of India's (SBI) net profit for the first quarter of the 2025 fiscal year was Rs 17,035 crore, which was a 0.89% increase from the previous year
- State Bank of India (SBI) raised ₹5,000 crore through Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) bond issuance on at a coupon rate of 7.98 percent
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 of the following has granted approval to Paytm to onboard new UPI users, subject to the adherence to all procedural guidelines and circulars?

- A) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- B) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- C) Central Information Commission (CIC)
- D) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Answer : A

- ✓ Paytm gets NPCI nod to onboard new UPI users.
- ✓ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has granted approval to Paytm to onboard new UPI users, subject to the adherence to all procedural guidelines and circulars.
- ✓ The move is expected to come as a relief to Paytm, which had suffered a blow following the Reserve Bank of India's restrictions earlier this year on associate company Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) in onboarding new UPI users on the Paytm app.
- ✓ In March, the NPCI gave approval to Paytm to participate in UPI as a Third-Party Application Provider (TPAP). The NPCI allowed the company to continue UPI transactions through four banks - SBI, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank and YES Bank.
- ✓ One97 Communications is the parent company of fintech firm Paytm.

NPCI IN NEWS 2024

- NPCI has granted approval to Paytm to onboard new UPI users, subject to the adherence to all procedural guidelines and circulars.
- Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu has decided to take the necessary steps to introduce India's Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in the Maldives.
- National Payments Corporation of India is already operational in several international locations, including UAE, Sri Lanka, France, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, the UK, and Mauritius.
- NPCI and The Times of India (TOI) have announced a partnership to launch a nationwide campaign to promote digital payment safety. The campaign will feature R.K. Laxman's iconic cartoon character, Common Man, to raise awareness about digital payment frauds.
- NPCI has incorporated Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) as a wholly-owned subsidiary, hiving it off into a new entity known as NPCI-BHIM Services Ltd (NBSL).
- NPCI International and Qatar National Bank (QNB) have partnered to launch UPI payments in Qatar.
- NPCI Inks Pact With Peru To Build UPI-Like Payments System. With this, Peru becomes the first country in South America to adopt UPI.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is developing a UPI-like system for the Bank of Namibia.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- Founded : 2008
- Headquarters : Mumbai, Maharashtra

- Non-Exe Chairman : Ajay Kumar Chaudhary
- MD & CEO : Dilip Asbe

Q. According to a Reuters report, SBI is planning to sell its 24 per cent stake in which bank, worth Rs 18,420 crore (\$2.2 billion) by the end of March 2025?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ According to a Reuters report, 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.
- ✓ "Japanese lender Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp and Dubai-based Emirates NBD are in advanced talks to acquire a majority stake in YES Bank. Both the bidders are interested in acquiring a majority 51 per cent stake in YES Bank .
- ✓ Apart from SBI, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank hold nearly 9.74 per cent stake

YES BANK IN NEWS 2024

- According to a Reuters report, 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.
- Yes Bank Partners with Newtap Finance to Offer Financing Solutions.
- RBI's approval for up to a 51% stake sale in Yes Bank opens an exit for SBI, LIC and others owning stakes in the private lender that survived a near-death experience four years ago.
- NPCI has approved Paytm's migration to new payment service provider (PSP) bank handles:
- The four banks that will act as PSPs are State Bank of India (SBI), Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, and YES Bank.
- Yes Bank launches premium services under 'Yes Grandeur' for affluent, elite customers.
- YES Bank collaborates with ANQ to launch 2 co-branded credit cards Pi, Phi.
- YES Bank has partnered with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the Official Banking Partner for Team India at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Yes Bank becomes first Indian bank to conduct export finance transactions on RXIL's ITFS.
- Yes Bank Launches SmartFin With Veefin Solutions, An Advanced Digital Platform To Boost MSMEs.
- Yes Bank becomes first lender to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- Yes bank partnered with fintech Zagggle for next-gen corporate credit card.
- YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App.
- Reliance General Insurance becomes first insurer to accept Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) e-Rupee (₹) in tie-up with YES Bank
- YES BANK
- 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. Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 241.3 million loan to improve electricity distribution in which state?

- A) Assam
- B) Odisha
- C) Bihar
- D) West Bengal

Answer : D

- ✓ ADB commits \$241 million loan to improve power distribution in West Bengal.
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 241.3 million loan to improve electricity distribution in West Bengal.
- ✓ This program will enhance power reliability for 8.96 million consumers across seven districts.
- ✓ It includes replacing old power lines, separating agricultural and non-agricultural feeders, and implementing a management system.
- ✓ The program will also improve efficiency and promote renewable energy.

ADB IN NEWS 2024

- Israel has joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its 69th member and 20th nonregional member.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 434.25 million loan for the development of a 500 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) facility in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.
- Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 241.3 million loan to improve electricity distribution in West Bengal.
- ADB grants \$162 mn to support tourism development in Himachal Pradesh
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$50 million loan to improve water resources management, in Meghalaya.
- ADB approves Rs 530 Crore to boost drinking water supply in 12 cities of Tripura
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned \$2.6 billion in sovereign lending to India in the calendar year 2023.
- Asian Development Bank commits USD 500 mn loan for improving healthcare in Maharashtra.
- ADB has approved a \$200 million loan to expand metro rail corridors and improve transport connectivity in Nagpur.
- ADB approved USD 240.5 million in loans for rooftop solar system in India
- ADB and ENGIE Group Signed Loan Agreement to Build 400 MW Solar Power Plant in Gujarat.
- Government of India and ADB sign \$170 million loan to strengthen health system preparedness and response.
- ADB Approves \$170 Million for India's Health System Preparedness.
- 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).
- Global fund houses Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank's IFC and Germany-headquartered DEG have pumped in an aggregate equity investment of \$275 million (around Rs 2,000 crore) in Hyderabad-based green energy platform Fourth Partner Energy (4PE).
- 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 : 69 (Israel)
- Japan is the largest contributor in the subscribed capital of the country.

- Asian Development Outlook, reports published by ADB.

Q. Who will launch its first-ever debt-for-development swap ?

- A) World Bank
- B) AIIB
- C) ADB
- D) IMF

Answer : A

- ✓ World Bank gears up to launch debut debt-for-development swap.
- ✓ The World Bank will launch its first ever debt-for-development swap within weeks, its Vice President and Treasurer Jorge Familiar told Reuters, as the Washington-based lender expands its toolkit to help economies facing liquidity challenges.
- ✓ Debt swaps have become increasingly popular in recent years, especially those where funds saved are used for environmental projects, so-called debt-for-nature swaps.
- ✓ They generate those savings by buying up existing bonds or loans of a country which are then replaced with cheaper debt, usually with the help of a development bank.

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.
- 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 general insurance company has partnered with Maruti Suzuki Insurance Broking to enhance insurance awareness in rural and urban regions?

- A) Bharti AXA General Insurance B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
C) Liberty General Insurance D) Universal Sompo General Insurance

Answer : C

- ✓ Liberty General Insurance and Maruti Suzuki Join Hands to Boost Insurance Awareness in Punjab and Delhi
- ✓ Liberty General Insurance, one of India's prominent non-life insurers, has joined hands with Maruti Suzuki Insurance Broking to enhance insurance awareness across rural and urban regions.
- ✓ The collaboration is part of the 'Bima Prachar Aur Prasaar' initiative, focusing on raising insurance awareness in Punjab's Gram Panchayats and increasing penetration in Delhi.
- ✓ This effort aligns with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) goal of achieving 'Insurance for All by 2047.
- ✓ Liberty General Insurance, as the lead non-life insurer in Delhi, has been at the forefront of similar awareness campaigns in the capital, while also extending its rural outreach in Punjab.
- ✓ With referenced to Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) consider the following statements:
 1. PMMY credit guarantees up to Rs 20 lakh will be offered under the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU).
 2. PMMY is designed to provide loans up to Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.
 3. PMMY from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, introducing a new category called 'Tarun Plus.'

Q. Which of the statements given above are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1 and 3 only D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer : D

- ✓ The Indian government increased the loan limit under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, introducing a new category called 'Tarun Plus.'
- ✓ This initiative aims to support emerging entrepreneurs, facilitating their growth and expansion.
- ✓ The announcement was initially made by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the July 2024 Union Budget, specifically targeting individuals who have successfully repaid previous loans in the existing 'Tarun' category.
- ✓ About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY):
 - ✓ Launch Date: April 2015
 - ✓ Objective: PMMY is designed to provide loans up to Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.
 - ✓ Loan Classification: These loans are categorized as MUDRA loans and are provided by various financial institutions, including:
 - ✓ Commercial Banks
 - ✓ Regional Rural Banks (RRBs)
 - ✓ Small Finance Banks
 - ✓ Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)
 - ✓ Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
 - ✓ Role: MUDRA is the financial institution established by the Government of India to support the non-corporate small business sector through last-mile financial institutions.
 - ✓ Application Process: Eligible individuals can apply for PMMY loans through any of the mentioned institutions, as MUDRA does not lend directly to micro-entrepreneurs.
 - ✓ Categories of Loans under PMMY:
 - ✓ Shishu: Loans up to Rs 50,000

- ✓ Kishore: Loans above Rs 50,000 and up to Rs 5 lakh
- ✓ Tarun: Loans above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 10 lakh
- ✓ Tarun Plus: Newly introduced, covering loans up to Rs 20 lakh for those in the Tarun category.
- ✓ Eligibility Criteria for PMMY:
- ✓ Applicants must have a business plan for non-farm income-generating activities (manufacturing, processing, trading, or service sector).
- ✓ The applicant should not be a defaulter with any bank or financial institution and must have a satisfactory credit track record.
- ✓ Application Process: Loans can be applied for online via the portal udyamimitra.in.
- ✓ Interest Rates on Mudra Loans:
- ✓ Public Sector Banks (PSBs): Interest rates range from 9.15% to 12.80%.
- ✓ Private Banks: Interest rates vary from 6.96% to 28%, depending on factors like the cost of funds, borrower's risk profile, and loan tenure.
- ✓ Loan repayment can be extended up to 7 years, providing flexibility

Q. The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has imposed a fine of Rs 54 lakh on which bank for “failing” to report suspicious transactions and not conducting proper investigation under the anti-money laundering law for certain accounts at one of its branches in Mumbai?

A) Punjab National Bank	B) Canara Bank
C) Indian Bank	D) Union Bank of India

Answer : D

- ✓ FIU slaps Rs 54 lakh fine on Union Bank of India for multiple PMLA violations
- ✓ The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has imposed a fine of Rs 54 lakh on the Union Bank of India for “failing” to report suspicious transaction reports and for not undertaking due diligence under the anti-money laundering law for certain accounts at one of its branches in Mumbai.
- ✓ The federal agency issued the penalty notice under section 13 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on October 1 as it observed that the charges against the lender were “substantiated” after it considered written and oral submissions made by the Bank.
- ✓ The investigation started, pursuant to an observation by the FIU, and a “comprehensive review” of the Bank’s operations was undertaken, which uncovered certain “irregularities” related to KYC/AML (know your customer/anti-money laundering compliance).

Q. With whom has Reliance Industries signed an agreement to set up AI infrastructure in the country?

A) Meta	B) Microsoft
C) Nvidia	D) Open AI

Answer : C

- ✓ Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has signed an agreement with US chip maker Nvidia to set up AI infrastructure in India.
- ✓ It was announced during the Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai

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.

- ✓ Swiggy, the food and grocery delivery platform, has introduced 'International Logins', a feature that allows users from 27 countries—including the United States, Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, Australia, and the UAE—to access all the offerings on the Swiggy app using their international phone numbers.
- ✓ This permanent feature offers a seamless experience while ordering food, shopping on Swiggy's quick commerce platform, Swiggy Instamart, and booking tables through Swiggy Dineout.
- ✓ Swiggy
- ✓ Founded : 2014
- ✓ Founders : Sriharsha Majety , Nandan Reddy & Rahul Jaimini
- ✓ Headquarters : Bangalore, Karnataka
- ✓ CEO : Sriharsha Majety

Q. Who has introduced new subsidiary Nirmat Bharat with DigiHaat App to boost inclusive digital commerce?

- A) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- B) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- C) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- D) Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)

Answer : D

- ✓ ONDC to launch own buyer app 'DigiHaat' to stimulate wider adoption of the network.
- ✓ The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has decided to launch its own buyer app 'DigiHaat' through a new 100 percent subsidiary 'Nirmat Bharat'.
- ✓ The introduction of Nirmat Bharat's DigiHaat represents a strategic step towards demonstrating the wide potential of the network.
- ✓ The app will demonstrate a real-world example of unique features, functionalities and seamless consumer experience possible in an unbundled open network that other participants can replicate, encouraging businesses to develop their diverse buyer-side solutions.
- ✓ ONDC will continue to catalyse the e-commerce ecosystem with DigiHaat being a tool for enabling wider adoption and innovation

Q. Which company has planned to award an additional 13.6 gigawatt (GW) of thermal capacity by the financial year 2026-27 ?

- A) Tata Power
- B) Adani Green Energy
- C) Power Grid Corporation of India
- D) NTPC Ltd

Answer : D

- ✓ NTPC plans to award 13.6 GW of thermal capacity by FY27.
- ✓ State-owned power company NTPC Ltd plans to award an additional 13.6 gigawatt (GW) of thermal capacity by the financial year 2026-27 in line with the government's target of adding more thermal based capacities to meet the rising power demand.
- ✓ The company intends to commission 2.7 GW of thermal capacity by the end of the current financial year and another 1.46 GW in FY26.
- ✓ NTPC Group's coal production from 40 million metric tonnes in FY25 to about 67 million metric tonnes up to FY29."

Q. In which country have Indian bank branches earned the highest fee income?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- C) Singapore
- D) Hong Kong

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian banks increased their overseas presence during 2023-24 : RBI Survey
- ✓ Bank's employee strength increased by 8.2 per cent in overseas branches and 1.7 per cent in subsidiaries.
- ✓ During the year, the number of branches and employees of foreign banks in India also expanded by 0.6 per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively
- ✓ Branches of Indian banks in the United Kingdom (UK) generated highest fee income, followed by those in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Singapore and Hong Kong.

Q. India must close the gender gap by integrating 145 million 'missing' women into the workforce by 2047 to reach its ambitious \$30 trillion GDP target by which year?

- A) 2030
B) 2035
C) 2040
D) 2047

Answer : D

- ✓ India must close gender gap in workforce to reach \$30 trn economy by 2047
- ✓ India must close the gender gap by integrating 145 million 'missing' women into the workforce by 2047 to reach its ambitious \$30 trillion GDP target by 2047, according to a new report.
- ✓ The report by Magic Bus India Foundation, an NGO working in the education and skilling space, in collaboration with Bain & Company, a management-consulting firm, showed India must double the female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) from its current 35 per cent-40 per cent to 70 per cent by 2047.
- ✓ Despite favourable socio-economic conditions, including a positive demographic dividend and supportive policies, India's workforce is projected to add only 110 million women to its workforce by 2047, reaching an FLFPR of 45 per cent, that is, 255 million women.
- ✓ This leaves a staggering gap of 145 million 'missing women' who need to be integrated into the workforce to meet the country's economic goals.
- ✓ "Empowering women is more than a moral choice; it is also an economic lifeline. To meet our \$30 trillion GDP target by 2047, we must address the challenge of increasing female labour force participation to 70 per cent, which means bringing 400 million women into the workforce,"
- ✓ Furthermore, the report highlights that approximately 70 per cent of the women out of the workforce by 2047 are expected to reside in rural areas

Q. Which fund has been launched by the central government to strengthen the animal health infrastructure in the country?

- A) USD 85 million B) USD 75 million
C) USD 25 million D) USD 50 million

Answer : C

- ✓ The government launched a \$25 million Pandemic Fund Project to strengthen the country's animal health infrastructure.

Q. Which of the following has revoked the certificate of authorisation of UAE Exchange Centre LLC for non-compliance with regulatory requirements?

- A) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- B) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- C) Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- D) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI revokes authorisation certificate of UAE Exchange Centre.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank has revoked the certificate of authorisation of UAE Exchange Centre LLC for non-compliance with regulatory requirements and now it cannot transact the business of cross border in-bound money transfer.
- ✓ UAE Exchange Centre LLC (UAEEC), with registered office in Dubai, was issued Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) for cross border in-bound money transfer operator (customer-to-customer) as 'Overseas Principal'.
- ✓ In a statement, the RBI said the CoA of the payment system operator has been revoked for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

Q. BOBCARD Limited, a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, has appointed cricketer ____ as its brand ambassador.

- A) Mithali Raj
B) Smriti Mandhana
C) Harmanpreet Kaur
D) Shreyanka Patil

Answer : D

- ✓ BOBCARD Limited, a subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, has appointed cricketer Shreyanka Patil as its brand ambassador.
- ✓ Shreyanka will represent the company in upcoming campaigns and initiatives, as BOBCARD LIMITED works to promote its vision of 'Reimagine Credit for Everyone in India.'
- ✓ BOBCARD LIMITED aims to redefine the credit card experience by offering solutions that address the evolving needs of consumers.

BOB IN NEWS 2024

- Bank of Baroda ropes in Sachin Tendulkar as global brand ambassador
- Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced 'Aditi', a GenAI-powered virtual relationship manager, to enhance the digital customer service experience.
- 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 of the following has approved Aquilo House Pte. Ltd (AHPL) 's proposed acquisition of Aavas Financiers Limited (AFL)?

- A) Reserve Bank of India
B) Competition Commission of India
C) Securities Exchange Board of India
D) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Answer : B

- ✓ The Competition Commission of India has approved Aquilo House Pte. Ltd (AHPL) 's proposed acquisition of Aavas Financiers Limited (AFL).
- ✓ Aavas Financiers Limited (Acquirer) is a newly incorporated entity, wholly and indirectly held by the Relevant CVC Funds which are certain investment funds or vehicles managed and/or advised by members of the CVC Network.
- ✓ The "CVC Network" or "CVC Group" is a global alternative investment manager focused on private equity, credit, secondaries and infrastructure, consisting of CVC Capital Partners plc. (CVC PLC) and each of its subsidiaries from time to time.
- ✓ CVC PLC is a public limited company whose shares are listed and admitted to trading on the Euronext Amsterdam Stock Exchange.

Q. Which company has recently launched its new logo and introduced seven digital services focusing on secure, affordable, and reliable connectivity across India?

- A) Airtel
B) Reliance Jio
C) BSNL
D) Vi

Answer : C

- ✓ BSNL unveils new brand identity, launches seven digital services for pan-India connectivity
- ✓ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) revealed its new logo and introduced seven digital services focusing on secure, affordable, and reliable connectivity across India.
- ✓ The launch event was led by Union Minister of Communications Jyotiraditya M Scindia in New Delhi.
- ✓ The company also introduced automated SIM kiosks offering 24/7 services with UPI payment options and an intranet TV service providing 500+ channels through its FTTH network at no additional cost.
- ✓ BSNL's security-focused services feature an automatic spam-blocking system and a dedicated network for disaster relief operations.
- ✓ The company launched a national Wi-Fi roaming service for FTTH customers and pioneered private 5G connectivity for mining operations in collaboration with C-DAC.
- ✓ The new logo incorporates green and white arrows surrounding India against an orange backdrop, emphasizing nationwide coverage and inclusivity.
- ✓ The company's tagline, "Connecting Bharat," underscores its mission to bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas.
- ✓ These developments represent BSNL's strategic push to modernize its services and strengthen its position in India's competitive telecommunications market

Q. Which company has been awarded the SHRM – HR Excellence Awards for ‘Excellence in Inclusion, Equity & Diversity’ and ‘Excellence in Managing the Distributed Workforce’ categories at the prestigious SHRM India Annual Conference 2024?

- A) Hindustan Petroleum B) Indian Oil Corporation
C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation D) Steel Authority of India Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ SAIL Wins SHRM HR Excellence Awards for Inclusion and Workforce Management
- ✓ Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been honored with prestigious awards at the SHRM India Annual Conference 2024, held in New Delhi.
- ✓ SAIL received recognition in two key categories: 'Excellence in Inclusion, Equity & Diversity' and 'Excellence in Managing the Distributed Workforce.'
- ✓ These accolades underscore SAIL's commitment to innovative and forward-thinking human resource practices, which are being implemented across its various plants and units nationwide.
- ✓ The awards highlight SAIL's dedication to fostering an inclusive environment where equity and diversity thrive, ensuring the holistic growth of its workforce.

- ✓ The company is recognized for continuously motivating and engaging its employees, understanding their central role in driving organizational success

Q. Who has been appointed as the chief executive officer of the J P Morgan Chase Bank?

- A) Aviral Jain
B) Sandip Goenka
C) Ravindra Kumar Kunda
D) M. Rajeshwar Rao

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI approves Pranav Chawda's appointment as JP Morgan Chase Bank India CEO
- ✓ India's central bank approved the appointment of Pranav Chawda as chief executive officer of JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s local banking unit for a period of three years.
- ✓ Chawda, who heads commercial banking, will expand his current responsibility to become head of the corporate banking entity.
- ✓ The position fell vacant after former CEO Prabdev Singh stepped down before the end of his term.
- ✓ Chawda joined J P Morgan in 2019 and has been heading the commercial banking vertical.

Q. To which state has the Asian Development Bank approved a loan for solar photovoltaic facility?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Rajasthan
C) Madhya Pradesh D) Assam

Answer : D

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 434.25 million loan for the development of a 500 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) facility in Karbi Anglong district of Assam.
- ✓ ADB was established in the year 1966, its headquarter is in Manila, Philippines

Q. With reference to the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) System, consider the following statements:

1. It provides safe and secure financial transactions for its members.
2. It is used by banks mainly to give instructions for transferring funds between accounts.
3. It is overseen by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Russian envoy in India recently called for an alternative to the SWIFT system used for global payments, from which Russia was expelled after the beginning of war in Ukraine.
- ✓ About SWIFT System:
- ✓ It is a member-owned cooperative that provides safe and secure financial transactions for its members.
- ✓ Establishment: It was founded in 1973 by 239 banks from 15 countries.
- ✓ SWIFT is a network that banks use to communicate with each other securely, mainly to give instructions for transferring funds between accounts.
- ✓ SWIFT is the largest and most streamlined method for international payments and settlements.
- ✓ SWIFT works by assigning each financial organization a unique code with either eight or 11 characters, known as a bank identifier code, or BIC.
- ✓ Although SWIFT is crucial to global financial infrastructure, it's not a financial institution.

- ✓ SWIFT does not hold or transfer assets but facilitates secure, efficient communication between member institutions. It transmits essential details such as the recipient's account information and transfer amount.
- ✓ Headquartered in La Hulpe, Belgium, the system is overseen by the central banks of the G10 countries, the European Central Bank, and the National Bank of Belgium.
- ✓ Its shareholders represent around 3,500 member organisations.

Q. Which multilateral agency is supporting the Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) project of the Assam Government?

- A) Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
- B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- D) World Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Assam Government launches SWIFT project with ADB support.
- ✓ The Himanta Biswa Sarma government in Assam has launched the Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) project to revitalise 129 Beels and boost Indigenous fish production.
- ✓ The state government's SWIFT project is funded and supported by the Asian Development Bank(ADB).
- ✓ What is a Beel?
- ✓ Beel are floodplain wetlands and cover around one lakh hectares of land in Assam.
- ✓ Floodplain wetlands are low-lying areas bordering large rivers that are inundated during the monsoon season due to overflow from the main river channel. They are part of the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems in the country.
- ✓ Assam has the maximum number of water areas under floodplain wetlands in the country. The floodplain wetlands are mainly associated with the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in the state.
- ✓ These floodplain wetlands are locally known as beels (Assam, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Tripura), maun, chauras and dhars (Bihar), pats (Manipur), charhas and boars (northern and south-eastern West Bengal respectively)
- ✓ These water bodies are important fishery resources and a source of livelihood in these states.
- ✓ About the SWIFT Project of Assam
- ✓ The total outlay for the project is Rs Rs 798.88 crore.
- ✓ It aims to revitalise 129 Beels of the state.
- ✓ The project aims to restore nearly 4,000 hectares of beel areas.
- ✓ It will help with flood control, groundwater replenishment, and river flow regulation in the state.
- ✓ The SWIFT project is expected to increase fish production by 1,200 kg per hectare annually in the state.

Q. What is the total outlay for the Sustainable Wetland and Integrated Fisheries Transformation (SWIFT) project of the Assam Government?

- A) Rs 798.88 crore
- B) Rs 986.33 crore
- C) Rs 561.11 crore
- D) Rs 368.28 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ About the SWIFT Project of Assam
- ✓ The total outlay for the project is Rs Rs 798.88 crore.
- ✓ It aims to revitalise 129 Beels of the state.
- ✓ The project aims to restore nearly 4,000 hectares of beel areas.
- ✓ It will help with flood control, groundwater replenishment, and river flow regulation in the state.

- ✓ The SWIFT project is expected to increase fish production by 1,200 kg per hectare annually in the state.

Q. Which bank has launched of the “IOB-MAHILA SHAKSHAM” scheme to Empower Women Entrepreneurs ?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian Overseas Bank Launches “IOB-MAHILA SHAKSHAM” Scheme to Empower Women Entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) proudly announces the launch of the “IOB-MAHILA SHAKSHAM” scheme, a unique initiative designed to finance individual Women Self-Help Group (SHG) members of the DAY-NRLM (Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission) SHGs.
- ✓ This scheme aims to uplift women by facilitating their transition to entrepreneurship and ensuring their financial self-reliance.
- ✓ This scheme is in line with the Ministry of Rural Development’s (MoRD) ‘Lakshpati Didi Yojana’, which is designed to improve the financial standing of women SHG members from matured DAY-NRLM SHGs. The goal is to ensure these women earn a sustainable annual income of at least ₹1 lakh per household through financial assistance and entrepreneurial support.
- ✓ Key Features of the “IOB-MAHILA SHAKSHAM” Scheme:
- ✓ Financing for individual Women SHG members to foster entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Credit support of up to ₹10 lakh to individual members of DAY-NRLM SHGs.
- ✓ Promotes the financial independence of women and aims to deepen credit outreach to SHG members.
- ✓ In support of this initiative, the Ministry of Rural Development has also introduced the “Women Enterprise Acceleration Fund (WEAF)”, which includes the following benefits:
- ✓ Reimbursement of Credit Guarantee Fees: Covered under CGFMU for banks on micro-enterprise loans up to ₹5 lakh, provided to women entrepreneurs from the SHG network for a maximum period of 5 years.
- ✓ 2% Interest Subvention: Applicable on enterprise loans up to ₹1.5 lakh per borrower for a maximum period of 3 years, based on prompt repayment to incentivize good repayment behavior.
- ✓ Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)
- ✓ Founded : 1937
- ✓ Founder : M. Chidambaram Chettyar
- ✓ Headquarters : Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ MD & CEO : Ajay Kumar Srivastava
- ✓ Tagline : Good People to Grow With

Q. The department of telecommunications (DoT) is considering reducing the tenure of spectrum leased to telecom operators through auctions to 10 years from the current ?

- A) 15 years
- B) 25 years
- C) 30 years
- D) 20 years

Answer : D

- ✓ The department of telecommunications (DoT) is considering reducing the tenure of spectrum leased to telecom operators through auctions to 10 years from the current 20 years.
- ✓ This is being evaluated as the life cycle of technology is getting shorter and the value of spectrum getting eroded over a longer period, resulting in operators not being able to realise its full value.
- ✓ If the proposal is finalised, it will be implemented in future auctions.

- ✓ The first auctions in the country happened in 2010 for 3G spectrum through which the government mopped up over Rs 1 lakh crore. Today, 3G technology is dead with operators shutting down these services and moving on to 4G and 5G, making 3G spectrum valueless.
- ✓ The officials also pointed out that on a yearly basis, telecom operators are spending anywhere around 15-40% of their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) on spectrum-related payments. This includes yearly investments on spectrum auctions and the payments for the spectrum acquired in the previous auctions.
- ✓ Interestingly, around two years ago, the government had proposed increasing the lease tenure of spectrum to 30 years and the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had even made a recommendation to its effect.
- ✓ The operators have anyway now been given the option to surrender the spectrum bought in auctions after 10 years.
- ✓ Operators recently have made a submission to Trai for a 5-6 year interest-free payment gap or moratorium on the spectrum bought in auctions in 2025 and beyond.
- ✓ This means that if the spectrum is currently leased to operators for a 20-year period, they want to pay only for 14-15 years in equal, annual instalments.

Q. Which Indian bank will acquire the Rs 4,100 crore personal loan book of StanChart Bank

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Kotak Bank to acquire the Rs 4,100 crore personal loan book of StanChart Bank.
- ✓ Kotak Mahindra Bank will acquire the personal loan book of Standard Chartered Bank India, which has a total outstanding of around Rs 4,100 crore, in an effort to expand its retail lending business.
- ✓ Kotak Bank - India's fourth largest lender in terms of market capitalisation

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IN NEWS 2024

- Kotak Bank to acquire the Rs 4,100 crore personal loan book of StanChart Bank.
- 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. Coal India Limited has set up a Joint Venture with which company to establish a coal-to-synthetic natural gas plant in West Bengal?

- A) GAIL India Limited (GAIL)
- B) Oil India Ltd (OIL)
- C) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
- D) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

Answer : A

- ✓ GAIL & CIL Joint Venture for Coal to Synthetic Natural Gas Plant in WB .
- ✓ In a boost to the National Coal Gasification Mission, the two Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) Coal India Limited (CIL) and GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) have set up a joint venture to establish a Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas plant.
- ✓ The agreement was signed between the two CPSEs in the presence of M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary, Coal in New Delhi.
- ✓ India is the second-largest coal producer in the world after China, and it has an estimated coal reserve of 361411.46 million tonnes.
- ✓ Recently, Eastern Coalfields Limited launched a pilot project for in situ underground coal gasification at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand.
- ✓ The Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas plant will be built in the Raniganj coal field area of West Bengal.
- ✓ The Raniganj coalfield is India's first and oldest commercial coal field, which started production in 1774. The Raniganj coalfield is under Eastern Coalfields Limited, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited.
- ✓ The plant will produce 80000 Nm³ per hour of Synthetic Natural Gas, with an annual production capacity of 633.6 Million Nm³ per hour.
- ✓ The plant is expected to consume 1.9 million tonnes of coal. Coal India Limited will provide the coal, while GAIL will operate the technology and the plant.
- ✓ National Coal Gasification Mission
- ✓ The government of India launched the National Coal Gasification Mission in 2020.
- ✓ It aims to convert 100 million tonnes of coal into natural gas by 2030.
- ✓ The mission is part of the government of India's plan to achieve energy independence by 2027.

Q. Who is the first female to be appointed as the chief financial officer of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC)?

- A) Pam Kaur
- B) Mary Barra
- C) Safra Catz
- D) Corie Barry

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian-born Pam Kaur appointed first female CFO of HSBC.
- ✓ The British multinational bank Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) made history by appointing Pam Kaur as its first female chief financial officer(CFO).
- ✓ She succeeds Georges Elhedery, who has been appointed HSBC's chief executive officer (CEO).
- ✓ The 60-year-old Indian-born British citizen Pam Kaur joins a growing list of women who occupy top posts in the global banking system.
- ✓ She joins the ranks of Morgan Stanley's CFO Sharon Yeshaya, JP Morgan's Mary Erdoes, Marianne Lake, and Jennifer Piepszak, as well as Citi's chief executive officer (CEO) Jane Fraser.
- ✓ About Pam Kaur
- ✓ Pam Kaur completed her MBA and graduated from Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab. She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. She has worked at various top multinational banks, such as Citi Bank, Lloyds Banking Group, Royal Bank of Scotland, and Deutsche Bank.

- ✓ In 2013, she joined HSBC as an internal audit head. Pam Kaur served on HSBC's group executive panel for over a decade and was promoted to head of the wholesale market and credit risk in 2019.
- ✓ Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation(HSBC) Limited
- ✓ The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) is a British multinational bank established in Hong Kong in 1865.
- ✓ It started its India operation in 1959 by buying a local bank - Mercantile Bank of India.
- ✓ HSBC India is a registered foreign bank regulated by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ HSBC India has 26 branches in 14 cities in India.
- ✓ Global Headquarters: London, United Kingdom
- ✓ Chief Executive Officer of HSBC India Operation: Hitendra Dave
- ✓ Global CEO: Georges Elhedery
- ✓ Tagline: The world's local bank

Q. According to the latest report of the International Monetary Fund, the Indian economy in 2024-25- is expected to grow by ?.

- A) 7.8 %
- B) 6.5%
- C) 7.0%
- D) 6.9%

Answer : C

- ✓ IMF retains India's growth forecast at 7 per cent for 2024-25 .
- ✓ The International Monetary Fund has retained its forecast for the Indian economic growth rate of 7 % for 2024-25 and 6.5 % for the 2025-26 financial year.
- ✓ The IMF made the latest projection on the Indian and world economies in its October 2024 edition of the World Economic Outlook report, titled 'Policy Pivot, Rising Threats.'
- ✓ According to the IMF, the decline in the Indian economy's growth rate is due to the exhaustion of the pent-up demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ According to the IMF, the Indian economy is expected to grow according to its potential.
- ✓ The IMF expects the Indian economy to grow by 6.5% from 2026-27 to 2030-31 fiscal years.
- ✓ However, a senior IMF official said India is still the world's largest growing economy.
- ✓ The IMF releases the World Economic Outlook twice a calendar year at a six-month interval.
- ✓ The report analyses the world economy and its direction in the near and medium term.
- ✓ The last World Economic Report report was released in April 2024.
- ✓ World Economy to Grow by 3.2%in 2024 and 2025
- ✓ According to the IMF, the world economy is expected to grow 3.2 % in 2024 and 2025.
- ✓ The world's largest economy, the United States, is expected to grow by 2.8 % in 2024 and by 2.2 % in 2025.
- ✓ The IMF expects the Chinese economy's growth rate to slow from an expected growth of 4.8 % in 2024 to 4.5% in 2025.
- ✓ About International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- ✓ The International Monetary Fund is a global multilateral development bank set up in 1944.
- ✓ The IMF provides loans to the member countries facing economic crisis.
- ✓ Members ;189
- ✓ Headquarters: Washington D.C, USA
- ✓ Managing Director: Kristalina Georgieva
- ✓ Reports issued by IMF
- ✓ World Economic Outlook
- ✓ Global Financial Stability Report
- ✓ Fiscal Monitor

Q. According to the latest report of the International Monetary Fund, which country is expected to be the world's largest growing economy?

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

Answer : A

Q. According to the International Monetary Fund the Indian economy is expected to grow during 2025-26 to 2030-31 by – percent?

- A) 6.8%
- B) 7.1%
- C) 6.5%
- D) 7.5%

Answer : A

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

IMF IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ International Monetary Fund has retained its forecast for the Indian economic growth rate of 7 % for 2024-25 and 6.5 % for the 2025-26 financial year.
- ✓ 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.

1. It is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) in India.
2. It provides a financial incentive of Rs.10000/- per month for each notified tuberculosis (TB) patient for duration for which the patient is on anti-TB treatment.

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 Health Ministry has doubled the monthly nutrition support under Ni-Kshay Poshan Yojana from the existing Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 per month for all TB patients, during treatment.
- ✓ About Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana (NPY):
- ✓ NPY was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) as a centrally sponsored scheme under the National Health Mission (NHM) in April 2018.
- ✓ It is a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) in India.
- ✓ Objective: Provides incentives for nutritional support to tuberculosis (TB) patients.
- ✓ Beneficiary: All notified TB patients are beneficiaries of the scheme.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ All patients with TB who are notified to the government on or after April 1, 2018, including those who are already being treated for TB, are eligible for financial incentives.
- ✓ To be eligible for the incentives, patients must be registered or notified on the NIKSHAY portal.
- ✓ Benefits: Financial incentive of Rs.1000/- per month for each notified TB patient for duration for which the patient is on anti-TB treatment.
- ✓ The incentives can be distributed in Cash (only via DBT, preferably through Aadhaar enabled bank accounts) or in-kind.
- ✓ This scheme is implemented across all States and UTs in India

Q.

1. It aims to bridge the gap in climate-related data that is currently available in a fragmented manner.
2. It will have a web-based directory and data portal for regulated entities to ensure smooth adaptation.

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 proposes to create a data repository namely, the Reserve Bank Climate Risk Information System (RB-CRIS).
- ✓ It will bridge the gap in climate-related data that is currently available in a fragmented manner.
- ✓ Presently the available climate related data is characterised by various gaps such as fragmented and varied sources, differing formats, frequencies and units.
- ✓ It will comprise of two parts
- ✓ The first part will be a web-based directory, listing various data sources, (meteorological, geospatial, etc.) which will be publicly accessible in the RBI website.
- ✓ The second part will be a data portal comprising of datasets (processed data in standardised formats).

- ✓ The RBI plans a phased launch of RB-CRIS starting with the web-based directory, followed by a gradual introduction of the data portal for regulated entities to ensure smooth adaptation.
- ✓ It is crucial for regulated entities to undertake climate risk assessments for ensuring stability of their balance sheets and that of the financial system.
- ✓ On February 28, 2024, RBI had issued draft guidelines for a 'Disclosure Framework on Climate-Related Financial Risks,' requiring regulated entities (REs) to disclose information across four key areas: governance, strategy, risk management, and metrics and targets.
- ✓ The framework aims to inform stakeholders—such as regulators, investors, and customers—about the climate-related risks faced by REs and their strategies for addressing these issues.

Q. Who was recently appointed as the additional CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM)?

- A) Arun Puri
B) Ramesh Sinha
C) Ravi Shankar Prasad
D) L Satya Srinivas

Answer : D

- ✓ The Central Government has recently appointed L Satya Srinivas as the additional CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM).
- ✓ He is at present posted as Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
- ✓ He will replace the previous CEO P K Singh who has recently been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Renewable Energy.
- ✓ India's 'Government e-Market' (GeM) portal is the world's third largest e-commerce platform for public procurement after Korea's On-Line e-Procurement System (KONEPS) and Singapore's GeBIZ.
- ✓ About Government e-Market (GeM) Portal:
- ✓ GeM was launched in the year 2016 to facilitate procurement of goods and services by many government departments and organizations. It is an online platform launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.
- ✓ GeM is open to all government departments, public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies and other organizations.
- ✓ Currently South Korea's KONEPS is the world's largest online platform. GeM is at third place after Singapore's GeBIZ

Q. State Bank of India (SBI) has plans to enhance limit under instant loan scheme for MSME sector from the existing Rs ?

- A) Rs 4 crore B) Rs 3 crore
C) Rs 2 crore D) Rs 5 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ SBI plans to enhance limit under instant loan scheme for MSME sector.
- ✓ To ensure easy and adequate credit availability to the MSME sector, the State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to enhance the threshold under the instant loan scheme from the existing Rs 5 crore.
- ✓ 'MSME Sahaj - End to End Digital Invoice Financing', provides solutions ranging from applying for the loan, documentation and disbursement of the sanctioned loan within 15 minutes, without any manual intervention.
- ✓ "We have, last year, introduced a business rule engine based, data based assessment of the credit limits up to Rs 5 core. Anybody walking into our MSME branch has to give only their PAN and approval for sourcing GST data, we can give approval in 15-45 minutes,"
- ✓ As far as network expansion is concerned, Setty said SBI is planning to open 600 branches across the country in the current financial year.
- ✓ SBI has a network of 22,542 branches across the country as of March 2024
- ✓ Apart from a vast branch network, SBI reaches its customers through 65,000 ATMs and 85,000 business correspondents

- ✓ Sikdar, who currently serves as the MD and CEO of Manipal Cigna Health Insurance, has extensive experience in the Indian financial services sector.
- ✓ Bima Sugam is a platform aimed at democratising insurance in India, potentially becoming the first of its kind globally.
- ✓ This single-window digital platform will serve as a comprehensive marketplace where consumers can compare, purchase, and manage insurance policies across life.

NEWLY APPOINTED BANK'S MD & CEO 2024

- Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Parveen Kumar Gupta as Non-Executive Chairman of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
- 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
- Anuj Tyagi Appointed as MD & CEO of HDFC Ergo General Insurance
- Nidhu Saxena appointed MD and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ajith Kumar K.K as the Managing Director & CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank for three years.
- RBL Bank has appointed Murali Ramakrishnan as Non-Executive Independent Director with immediate effect for four years.
- M.V. Rao, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the public sector bank, Central Bank of India, has been elected as the new chairman of the Indian Bank Association (IBA) for 2023-24.
- SBM Bank India has appointed Ashish Vijayakar as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the Bank for a period of 3 years.
- Praveen Achuthan Kutty appointed as MD & CEO of DCB Bank.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Ashok Vaswani as the Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank (KMB) for a period of three years.
- South Indian Bank has appointed P R Seshadri as its MD & CEO .
- Ashwani Kumar is new MD & CEO of UCO Bank.
- Karnataka Bank Appoints Srikrishnan Harihara Sarma as MD & CEO.
- Rajneesh Karnatak Named As New MD and Chairman Of Bank Of India.
- Debadatta Chand named as new Managing Director of Bank of Baroda.
- Ajay Kumar Srivastava has been elevated as Managing Director and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank.
- K Satyanarayana Raju named as new MD and CEO of Canara Bank.

Q. Which of the following has approved the proposed acquisition of 24.91% shareholding in Future Generali India Insurance and 25.18% shareholding in Future Generali India Life Insurance by Central Bank of India?

- A) Competition Commission of India
- B) Reserve Bank of India
- C) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- D) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India

Answer : A

- ✓ CCI approves the proposed acquisition of 24.91% shareholding in Future Generali India Insurance by Central Bank of India
- ✓ Acquisition of 25.18% shareholding in Future Generali India Life Insurance by Central Bank of India also approved.
- ✓ Competition Commission of India has approved the proposed acquisition of 24.91% shareholding in Future Generali India Insurance and 25.18% shareholding in Future Generali India Life Insurance by Central Bank of India.

- ✓ The proposed combination envisages acquisition by Central Bank of India of 24.91% equity stake in Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited (FGIICL) and 25.18% equity stake in Future Generali India Life Insurance Company Limited (FGILICL) through bid/resolution plan submitted by Central bank of India under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016.
- ✓ Central Bank of India is a scheduled commercial bank.
- ✓ FGIICL is a general insurance company. It provides personal insurance, commercial insurance, social & rural insurance etc.
- ✓ FGILICL is a life insurance company. It provides savings insurance, investment plans (ULIP), term insurance plans, health insurance plans, child plans, retirement plans, rural insurance plans and group insurance plans.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the e-Migrate Portal:

1. It aims to provide a safe and transparent framework for migrant workers by offering various services.
2. It offers multilingual helpline support and ensures timely redressal of issues faced by migrant workers.

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 External Affairs and the Ministry of Labour and Employment launched the updated e-Migrate portal and mobile app.
- ✓ It is an online platform launched by the Government of India to facilitate and manage the migration of Indian workers seeking employment abroad.
- ✓ It aims to provide a safe and transparent framework for migrant workers by offering various services, including: information access, documentation, helpline support, integration with services and awareness campaigns
- ✓ It promotes safe and legal mobility channels for Indian migrants.
- ✓ The enhanced e-Migrate portal aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 10, promoting orderly and responsible migration.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The upgraded platform offers 24/7 multilingual helpline support and a feature for feedback, ensuring timely redressal of issues faced by workers abroad, especially in the Gulf region.
- ✓ The revamped system integrates with Digilocker, enabling secure, paperless document submission.
- ✓ Additionally, a partnership with Common Service Centres (CSCs) will expand immigration services to rural areas in local languages, enhancing accessibility
- ✓ The platform also supports job-seekers by offering a one-stop marketplace for overseas employment opportunities.

Q. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry minister Piyush Goyal has launched the district version of PM GatiShakti National Master Plan for how many aspirational districts which over the next 18 months will be expanded to cover 750 districts across the country?

- A) 30
B) 27
C) 23
D) 18

Answer : B

- ✓ Hyundai announces India's largest ever IPO of over ₹27,000 crore.
- ✓ Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL) announced India's largest ever initial public offer (IPO) of ₹27,870 crore
- ✓ The IPO consists of an offer for sale for 14.2 crore equity shares by the promoter and involves no fresh issue of share. The proceeds of the offer will be received by the promoter firm. The price band has been fixed between ₹1,865 and ₹1,960 a share.
- ✓ The IPO will dilute 17.5% of the promoter shareholding. This will further increase to 25% in the next three to five years, to comply with the minimum public shareholding norms of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- ✓ This is among the world's first automobile IPOs in about two decades, HMIL's top brass said. If successful, this would be the largest ever IPO in the Indian market, eclipsing the ₹21,000 crore raised by the Life Insurance Corporation of India in 2022. Paytm, with a ₹18,300 crore offering in 2021, and Coal India's ₹15,000 crore IPO in 2010, were the other large share sales.
- ✓ Hyundai Motor India Limited
- ✓ Founded : 1996
- ✓ Headquarters : Gurugram, Haryana
- ✓ MD & CEO : Unsoo Kim
- ✓ Hyundai Motor India Limited (HMIL) is a wholly-owned Indian subsidiary of the South Korean automobile manufacturer Hyundai Motor Company. It is the second largest car manufacturer in India.

Q. What is the Government stake in the Cochin shipyard?

- A) 72.86%
- B) 74.86%
- C) 52.86%
- D) 49.86%

Answer : A

- ✓ Cochin Shipyard share price dips 5%, as government announces offload of stakes worth ₹2,026
- ✓ Cochin Shipyard share price declined as much as 4.90 per cent to ₹1,590 on the BSE during the early trading session on October 16 as the two-day offer for sale (OFS) by the government began for subscription
- ✓ The Indian government plans to divest about 5 per cent of its stake in the company through an OFS, priced at ₹1,540 per share.
- ✓ This price reflects a 7.8 per cent discount to the previous day's closing price, valuing the total stake at approximately ₹2,026 crore.
- ✓ The government currently owns a 72.86 percent stake in Cochin Shipyard

Q. What is the Minimum Support Price announced by the government of India for the wheat crop for the 2025-26 agricultural marketing season?

- A) Rs 2597
- B) Rs 2178
- C) Rs 2267
- D) Rs 2425

Answer : D

- ✓ Wheat MSP hiked by Rs 150 per quintal for the 2025-26 Rabi season.
- ✓ The government of India has approved a hike of Rs 300 per quintal in the minimum support price (MSP) for Rapeseed and Mustard and Rs 150 per quintal for wheat for the 2025-26 agricultural season.
- ✓ The hike in the MSP for the rabi crops for the 2025-26 season was approved by the Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 16 October 2024. Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the CCEA meeting.
- ✓ July to June is the agricultural marketing season in India.
- ✓ In the Union Budget of 2018-19, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that a crop's MSP should be at least 1.5 times the All-India weighted average Cost of Production.

- ✓ In the recently announced MSP for Rabi crops, the highest increase was in the MSP for Rapeseed and mustard, Rs.300 per quintal, followed by Lentil (Masur), Rs.275 per quintal
- ✓ **MSP for all Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2025-26**

Serial No.	Crops	MSP 2025-26 (Rs per Quintal)	MSP 2024-25 (Rs per Quintal)	Increase in MSP (Rs per Quintal)	Cost of production (Rs per Quintal)	Margin over cost (in per cent)
1	Wheat	2425	2275	150	1182	105
2	Barley	1980	1850	130	1239	60
3	Gram	5650	5440	210	3527	60
4	Lentil(Masur)	6700	6425	275	3537	89
5	Rapeseed and Mustard	5950	5650	300	3011	98
6	Safflower	5940	5800	140	3960	50

- Q.** Which crop has seen the maximum increase in minimum support price for the 2025-26 rabi season?
- A) Lentil (Masur) B) Safflower
C) Rapeseeds and Mustards D) Barley

Answer : C

- Q.** Who recommends the minimum support price for crops to the government of India?
- A) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices
B) Department of Agriculture
C) Cabinet committee on Economic Affairs
D) Department of Economics and revenue

Answer : A

- ✓ What is the Minimum Support Price (MSP)?
- ✓ The government of India introduced Minimum Support Crop(MSP) for selected crops in 1966-67. The government announces it before the Kharif and Rabi season.
- ✓ MSP assures farmers that the government will buy their crops at an assured price; however, the government is not obligated to buy all crops from all farmers at the MSP rates.
- ✓ Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) and its Role

- ✓ In 1965, the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare set up an expert committee named the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP). The CACP recommends MSP for the mandated crops to the government of India.
- ✓ The recommendation of the CACP is advisory in nature, and the central government is not bound to accept it.
- ✓ Mandated Crops under MSP
- ✓ At present, the CACP recommends MSP for 22 crops and a fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- ✓ The mandated crops are;
- ✓ Cereals -Wheat, Paddy, Wheat, Barley, Ragi, Maize, Sorghum, Pearl millet,
- ✓ Pulses- Chickpea / Gram, Tur, Moong, Urad, Lentil
- ✓ Oilseeds - Soybean, Sesame, Sunflower, Peanut, Rapeseed, Safflower, Niger seed
- ✓ Commercial crops -Copra, Sugarcane, Cotton, Raw jute
- ✓ For Toria and De-Husked coconut, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India, fixes the MSP based on the MSPs of Rapeseed/Mustard Seed and Copra, respectively.
- ✓ Cropping Season in India
- ✓ According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Kharif, Rabi, and Zaid are India's three main cropping seasons.
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Paddy, soyabean, moong, toor(arhar) maize, jawar, bajra, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soyabean.
- ✓ Rabi Crops
- ✓ It is sown during October -December and harvested in March/April. Major crops are Barley, peas, sunflower, mustard, wheat gram, etc.
- ✓ Zaid Crops
- ✓ It is a period after harvesting the rabi crops and before the sowing of the kharif crops.
- ✓ Cucumbers, vegetables, fodder crops, watermelon, and muskmelon are major crops.

Q. State governments have conveyed to the Centre their support for the merger of the compensation cess with the highest goods and services tax (GST) slab of ___ after March 2026, when the existing regime expires.

A) 12%	B) 28%
C) 18%	D) 5%

Answer : B

- ✓ States convey support for compensation cess merger with 28% GST slab.
- ✓ State governments have conveyed to the Centre their support for the merger of the compensation cess with the highest goods and services tax (GST) slab of 28 per cent after March 2026, when the existing regime expires.
- ✓ At present, assorted tobacco items, pan masala and aerated water are among the products that attract the highest GST rate of 28% and also the 'compensation cess'.
- ✓ According to sources privy to the matter, the 10-member GoM, set up under the convenorship of Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, doesn't believe in retaining the cess "in a new form" beyond the end of FY26, as mooted by some quarters.
- ✓ During the 54th GST Council meeting on September 9, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had indicated that the government aims to fully repay the loan taken to meet the shortfall in GST compensation kitty, including interest, by January 2026.
- ✓ This could result in a surplus of approximately Rs 40,000 crore from cess collections for February-March 2026.

- ✓ The GST compensation cess was introduced by the central government to fulfill its commitment to the states, to ensure a 14% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) in tax revenues for five years following the GST implementation. While the compensation payments to the states officially ended in June 2022, the scheme was extended until March 2026 to help repay a Rs 2.7 trillion loan taken by the Centre during the pandemic to cover revenue shortfalls
- ✓ Currently, there are four GST slabs – 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%. A clutch of 46 demerit and luxury goods in the 28% bracket also attract cesses, the proceeds of which go to a separate fund meant to compensate states for the revenue shortfall for the first five years up to June 2022.

Q. Who has become the first firm at GIFT IFSC to receive a BATF (Bookkeeping, Accounting, Taxation, and Financial Crime Compliance) licence?

- A) Perfeito Business Solutions B) InCorp Global
C) Meerad Business Solutions D) Creative Business Solution

Answer: B

- ✓ InCorp Global becomes first firm at GIFT IFSC to receive book-keeping, accounting licence
- ✓ InCorp Global, a provider of corporate solutions and professional services across the Asia-Pacific, has become the first firm at GIFT IFSC to receive a BATF (Bookkeeping, Accounting, Taxation, and Financial Crime Compliance) licence.
- ✓ Under the IFSCA (BATF Services) Regulations, 2024, this licence authorises InCorp Global to offer BATF services to businesses beyond the BFSI sector.
- ✓ Manish Modi, India CEO at InCorp Global, said, “Securing the BATF licence is a pivotal moment for InCorp Global in India, affirming our leadership in shaping the financial services framework at GIFT IFSC.
- ✓ The BATF Regulations were issued following the Centre’s notification on January 18, 2024. The IFSCA - Bookkeeping, Accounting, Taxation, and Financial Crime Compliance Services (BATF) Regulations, 2024, designate these services as ‘financial services’ under Section 3 of the IFSCA Act, 2019.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SAMARTH Scheme:

1. It aims to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile sector.
2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Textiles.

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 has extended the Samarth Scheme for two years (FY 2024-25 and 2025-26) with a budget of Rs. 495 Crore to train 3 lakh persons in textile-related skills.
- ✓ The Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector (SAMARTH) is a demand-driven and placement-oriented umbrella skilling programme.
- ✓ Aim:
- ✓ It aims to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the organized textile and related sectors, covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning and Weaving.
- ✓ In addition to the entry-level skilling, a special provision for an upskilling/re-skilling programme has also been operationalized under the scheme towards improving the productivity of the existing workers in the Apparel & Garmenting segments.
- ✓ Under this scheme skilling programme is implemented through the following Implementing Agencies:

Q. Which is the first country in the world to receive a rupee loan from the Indian government under its Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) scheme?

- A) Maldives
B) Nepal
C) Sri Lanka
D) Mauritius

Answer : D

- ✓ Mauritius, first recipient of Rupee loan under IDEAS of Govt. of India.
- ✓ India has extended a line of credit (loan) of Rs 487.60 crores to the Government of Mauritius under the Government of India's Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) programme.
- ✓ It is the first time that India has extended a line of credit in Indian rupees to a foreign government under the IDEAS programme.
- ✓ The loan offer was made to the Mauritius foreign minister Maneesh Gobin, by Indian External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar. The loan was approved after the Mauritius government accepted Dr Jaishankar's offer.
- ✓ SBI to Provide Loan to Mauritius
- ✓ The Rs 487.60 crore line of credit to the government of Mauritius for financing a water project in Mauritius will be provided through the State Bank of India (SBI).
- ✓ The loan amount will be used to replace around 100 km of obsolete water pipeline in Mauritius

Q. Which financial institution of India will provide a Rs 487.60 Crore loan to Mauritius under the government of India's Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS)?

- A) HDFC Bank
B) ICICI Bank
C) State Bank of India
D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ SBI to Provide Loan to Mauritius
- ✓ The Rs 487.60 crore line of credit to the government of Mauritius for financing a water project in Mauritius will be provided through the State Bank of India (SBI).
- ✓ The loan amount will be used to replace around 100 km of obsolete water pipeline in Mauritius

Q. Which ministry of the government of India administers the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS)?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
B) Ministry of Finance
C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
D) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Answer : B

- ✓ What is IDEAS?
- ✓ The Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) was launched as India Development Initiative by the government of India. It was announced in the 2003-2004 budget speech by the then Finance Minister Jaswant Singh with an allocation of Rs 200 crore.
- ✓ It was later renamed the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).
- ✓ Aim of the IDEAS
- ✓ Under IDEAS, the government of India provides concessional loans or grants to developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America for developmental or other projects.
- ✓ The aim is to promote India's strategic economic interest in the world.
- ✓ The repayment of loans is the responsibility of the borrowing country.
- ✓ The borrowing country must buy at least 75 % of the goods /services from India for the projects for which a loan has been provided under IDEAS.
- ✓ Lending Bank

- ✓ The loan will be channelled to the borrowing country under IDEAS through the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM) bank/Public Sector Bank or any other financial agency nominated by the Union Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ Who manages the IDEAS?
- ✓ The IDEAS programme is administered by the Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance. However, loans are provided to foreign countries on the recommendation of the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✓ EAM Jaishankar inaugurates Maitree Udyan in Port Louis, Mauritius
- ✓ Mauritius is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean near the eastern African coast and two-thirds of the country's population are of Indian origin.
- ✓ Capital: Port Louis
- ✓ Currency: Mauritian Rupee
- ✓ Prime Minister: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth

Q. Business- Ready Index, is prepared by:

A) International Monetary Fund	B) World Trade Organisation
C) World Economic Forum	D) World Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ The Indian government is aligning state business readiness rankings with the upcoming World Bank's B-READY index.
- ✓ The B-READY index (Business- Ready Index) is a successor to the Ease of Doing Business rankings, which were discontinued in 2021 due to irregularities.
- ✓ It is a ground-breaking initiative that aims to focus on quantitatively assessing the business environment across world economies.
- ✓ It envisages taking into consideration more diverse factors while arriving at the rating.
- ✓ Global financial institutions and multi-national companies will use the B-Ready framework as a benchmark to understand the regulatory and policy environment of a country.
- ✓ It will be published annually, taking into consideration three main pillars: regulatory framework, public services, and efficiency.
- ✓ The index incorporates digitalization, environmental sustainability, and gender equality into each indicator, ensuring a holistic and forward-thinking approach to business evaluation.
- ✓ It tracks ten parameters covering a firm's lifecycle from starting, operating, closing, and reorganising.
- ✓ It tracks ten parameters covering a firm's lifecycle from starting, operating, closing, and reorganising.
- ✓ The index will expand in three stages, covering 54 economies initially and reaching up to 180 countries by 2026.

Q. Where did PM Modi launch the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan?

A) Deoghar, Jharkhand	B) Hazaribagh, Jharkhand
C) Ranchi, Jharkhand	D) Bokaro, Jharkhand

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan
- ✓ in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, on 2nd October 2024.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi was on a day-long visit to Jharkhand, where he laid foundation stones and inaugurated projects worth Rs 83,000 crore.
- ✓ It included Eklavya Model Residential Schools and the foundation stones of various developmental projects under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), targeting the tribal communities.
- ✓ Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan.

- ✓ The Abhiyan aims to fill critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 intervention schemes implemented by 17 central government Ministries and the Department of Government of India.
- ✓ The scheme's total expenditure is Rs 79,150 crore. The Abhiyan will cover around 63,000 villages in 549 districts and 2,740 blocks across 30 States and Union Territories.
- ✓ It is expected to benefit more than 5 crore tribal people in the targeted areas.
- ✓ Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also inaugurated 40 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) and laid the foundation stone for 25 EMRS worth over Rs 2,800 crore.
- ✓ The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) was launched in 1997-98 by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs to provide quality education to Scheduled Tribes children in remote areas.
- ✓ From 2022, every block with a population of more than 50% Schedule Tribes and at least 20,000 tribal persons will have an EMRS.
- ✓ Each school can accommodate 480 students, of class VI to XII.
- ✓ First Anniversary of PM-Janman Yojana
- ✓ The Prime Minister also announced that on 15th November 2024, Janjati Gaurav Diwas, India, will celebrate the first anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN).
- ✓ Since 2021, the Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas has been celebrated on 15 November to commemorate the birthday of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda.
- ✓ Various projects worth Rs 1380 crore under the PM-JANMAN were inaugurated, and Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stones for new projects. These include the construction of more than 1380 km of road, 120 Anganwadis, 250 multi-purpose centres, and 10 school hostels.
- ✓ The Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN) was launched by the Prime Minister on 15 November 2023 on the occasion of the Janjati Gaurav Diwas in Khunti, Jharkhand.
- ✓ The duration of the scheme is three years, and the total outlay is 24,104 crore (Central Share: Rs.15,336 crore and State Share: Rs.8,768 crore)
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) households and habitations with basic facilities such as sustainable livelihood opportunities, safe housing, clean drinking water and sanitation, road and telecom connectivity, improved access to education, health and nutrition, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- ✓ According to the 2011 census, the total tribal population in the country was 10.45 crore. The central government has recognised 75 tribal communities in 18 States and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Q. Which ministry of the government of India is the nodal ministry for the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan of the government of India?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs B) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
C) Ministry of Rural Development D) Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Answer : D

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan

Q. How many tribal villages will be covered under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan?

- A) 63,000 B) 65,000
C) 67,000 D) 62,000

Answer : A

- ✓ The Abhiyan will cover around 63,000 villages in 549 districts and 2,740 blocks across 30 States and Union Territories

Q. Which Ministry of the government of India has launched the Cruise Bharat Mission?

- A) Ministry of Defence
B) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
C) Ministry of Power
D) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Answer : D

- ✓ Cruise Bharat Mission launched to promote Cruise Tourism.
- ✓ Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarabjit Singh, launched the Cruise Bharat Mission on 30 September 2024 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The Minister launched the mission onboard the cruise ship Empress.
- ✓ The initiative aims to achieve India's vision of becoming a global hub for cruise tourism and promote the country as the leading global cruise destination.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is the nodal ministry for implementing the Cruise Bharat Mission. The mission will be implemented with the support of all regulatory agencies, such as Customs, Immigration, CISF, State Tourism Departments, State Maritime Agencies, District Administrations, and local police.
- ✓ The ministry will establish a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for cruise development under the Indian Ports Association. The Indian Port Association is an association of major ports in India.
- ✓ Phases of the Cruise Bharat Mission
- ✓ The Cruise Bharat Mission will be implemented from 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2029 in three phases.
- ✓ Phase -1 (1 October 2024-30 September 2025)
- ✓ The main focus will be on planning and forming cruise alliances with neighbouring countries. The existing cruise terminals and marinas will be modernized.
- ✓ Phase II (1 October 2025-31 March 2027)
- ✓ Focus will be on developing new cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.
- ✓ Phase III (1 April 2027- 31 March 2029)
- ✓ The focus will be on integrating all cruise circuits across the Indian Subcontinent, continuing the development of cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.
- ✓ Performance Target
- ✓ The mission has also set a performance target, which will be achieved during the mission period.
- ✓ Increase in sea cruise passenger traffic from 5 lakhs to 10 lakhs by Phase III.
- ✓ Increase in river cruise passenger traffic from 5 lakhs to 15 lakhs by Phase III.
- ✓ Number of international cruise terminals from 2 to 10 by Phase III.
- ✓ Number of river cruise terminals from 50 to 100. Similarly, marinas will grow from 1 to 5, and employment generation will grow from 1 lakhs to 4 lakhs by the end of Phase III.
- ✓ Cruise Segments
- ✓ Under the Cruise Bharat Mission, there are three cruise segments - Ocean and Harbour, River and inland and Islands segments.
- ✓ The Ocean and Harbour segment will focus on ocean, deep sea and coastal cruises with a focus on yachting and sailing cruises.
- ✓ River and Inland Cruise will focus on rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks, and lakes.
- ✓ The Island Cruise segment will focus on lighthouse tours, live-aboard experiences, expedition cruises, and boutique cruises to lesser-known destinations.

Q. The recently launched Cruise Bharat Mission aims to increase sea cruise passenger traffic by the end of 31st March 2029 to –?

- A) 10 lakhs
B) 25 lakhs
C) 20 lakhs
D) 15 lakhs

Answer : A

Q. What is the duration of the recently launched Cruise Bharat Mission?

- A) 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2029
- B) 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2030
- C) 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2028
- D) 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2026

Answer : A

- ✓ The Cruise Bharat Mission will be implemented from 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2029 in three phases.

Q. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements:

1. It is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation.
2. It is a six-member committee with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor as Chairperson.
3. It takes decisions based on a majority vote.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The Central government recently appointed new monetary policy committee members with immediate effect.
- ✓ About is Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):
- ✓ The MPC was set up after a Memorandum of Understanding between the government and the RBI about the conduct of the new inflation-targeting monetary policy framework.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016 to provide for a statutory and institutionalized framework for an MPC.
- ✓ Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member MPC.
- ✓ Function: The MPC is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level.
- ✓ The MPC replaced the previous arrangement of the Technical Advisory Committee.
- ✓ Composition:
- ✓ MPC will have six members: the RBI Governor (Chairperson), the RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board, and the remaining three members would represent the Government of India.
- ✓ The external members hold office for a period of four years.
- ✓ The quorum for a meeting shall be four Members, at least one of whom shall be the Governor and, in his absence, the Deputy Governor, who is the Member of the MPC.
- ✓ The MPC takes decisions based on a majority vote. In case of a tie, the RBI governor will have the second or casting vote.
- ✓ The decision of the MPC would be binding on the RBI.
- ✓ RBI's Monetary Policy Department (MPD) assists the MPC in formulating the monetary policy

Q. Who was the head of the search and selection committee set up by the government of India to select new members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India?

- A) Governor of RBI
B) Cabinet Secretary
C) Deputy Governors of RBI
D) Chief Economic Advisor

Answer : B

- ✓ 3 new members appointed to the Monetary Policy Committee of the RBI.
 - ✓ The Government of India has reconstituted the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India and appointed three new members: Prof. Ram Singh, Saugata Bhattacharya, and Dr. Nagesh Kumar.
 - ✓ The Finance Act of 2016 amended the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 and provided for a six-member Monetary Policy Committee.
 - ✓ The central government notified the first Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 29 September 2016.
 - ✓ Search and Selection Committee
-
- ✓ Section ZC of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 provides for a Search and Selection Committee to recommend the names of the persons to be appointed as members of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee.
 - ✓ The committee consists of ;
 - ✓ Cabinet Secretary who is also the Chairperson of the committee - TV Somanathan;
 - ✓ Governor of the Reserve Bank of India or his representative (not below the rank of Deputy Governor);
 - ✓ Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs- Ajay Seth
 - ✓ Three experts, nominated by the central government who, are experts in economics /banking/ finance/ monetary policy.
 - ✓ Newly Appointed 3 Members of the Monetary Policy Committee
 - ✓ According to section ZB of the RBI Act 1934, the Monetary Policy Committee consists of six members and is headed by the Governor of the RBI.
 - ✓ Three members are from RBI, and the government of India appoints the remaining three members.
 - ✓ Members from RBI
 - ✓ Governor of RBI, who is also the Chairman of the MPC- Dr Saktikanta Das
 - ✓ Deputy Governor of the RBI in charge of the Monetary Policy- Dr Michael Patra
 - ✓ One Officer of the RBI nominated by the Central Board of the RBI-
 - ✓ Members appointed by the Government of India
 - ✓ They are eminent economist, and the recently appointed members are as follows :
 - ✓ Prof. Ram Singh, Director, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University,
 - ✓ Saugata Bhattacharya,
 - ✓ Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Director, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi
 - ✓ Term of the Members
 - ✓ The term of the members appointed by the government is four years, and they are not eligible for re-appointment. The government can remove them from their office on certain grounds, and they can also resign from their office.
 - ✓ Functions of the Monetary Policy Committee
 - ✓ Under section 45ZA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Monetary Policy Committee determines the policy rates of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to achieve the inflation target set by the government of India.
 - ✓ The government of India, in consultation with the RBI, sets the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index once every five years

- ✓ Presently, the Monetary Policy Committee meeting is conducted once in every 2 months i.e. 6 times in a year.
- ✓ The quorum for the meeting of this Monetary Policy Committee shall be four Members.
- ✓ Minutes of MPC meet : The Reserve Bank of India shall publish, on the fourteenth day after every meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee the minutes of the meeting.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:

1. It aims to foster holistic development in tribal villages, bringing transformative changes to the socio-economic landscape of the region.
2. It envisions saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood.

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 recently launched the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan in Jharkhand with an outlay of around Rs 80,000 crore.
- ✓ About Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan:
- ✓ It aims to foster holistic development in tribal villages, bringing transformative changes to the socio-economic landscape of the region.
- ✓ The Abhiyan will cover around 63,843 villages, benefiting more than 5 crore tribal people in 549 districts, and 2,911 blocks spread across all tribal majority villages and aspirational blocks in 30 States/UTs.
- ✓ It envisions saturation of critical gaps in social infrastructure, health, education, and livelihood through 25 interventions implemented by 17-line ministries of Govt of India by convergence and outreach; and ensures holistic and sustainable development of tribal areas and communities.
- ✓ The scheme has a total outlay of Rs.79,156 crores (Central Share: Rs.56,333 crore and State Share: Rs. 22,823 crore).
- ✓ It has been planned based on the learning and success of Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN), which was launched in November, 2023.
- ✓ With a budget outlay of Rs. 24,104 crores, the PM-JANMAN focuses on the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) population

Q. Consider the following statements regarding SARTHIE 1.0 initiative:

1. It is intended to empower disadvantaged communities in India.
2. It aims to bridge the awareness gap and ensure the effective implementation of social welfare programmes.

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 Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE), Government of India, and the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) launched the SARTHIE 1.0.
- ✓ It is an initiative intended to empower disadvantaged communities, including Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Senior Citizens, Transgender Persons, Victims of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, persons engaged in the act of Begging, Denotified and Nomadic Tribes, and more.

- ✓ It aligns with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the goals focused on eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, and promoting social protection policies that ensure greater equality for all.
- ✓ The collaboration aims to bridge the awareness gap and provide legal assistance to ensure the effective implementation of social welfare programmes.
- ✓ It offers synergy between the executive and the judiciary and ensures that social justice is further strengthened.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Mission for Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP):

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North-east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
2. It targets a substantial increase in oil palm cultivation and crude palm oil production.

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 second day of a National Level Multi-Stakeholder Consultative Workshop on Sustainable Oil Palm Cultivation under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) was held recently.
- ✓ About National Mission for Edible Oils - Oil Palm (NMEO-OP):
- ✓ Launched by the Government of India in August 2021, NMEO-OP targets a substantial increase in oil palm cultivation and crude palm oil production.
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with a special focus on the North east region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, with a focus on increasing the area and productivity of oilseeds and Oil Palm.
- ✓ Scheme Outlay: A financial outlay of Rs. 11,040 crores have been made for the scheme, out of which Rs. 8,844 crore is the Government of India share and Rs. 2,196 crore is the State share, and this includes the viability gap funding also.
- ✓ Targets:
- ✓ To increase the area of oil palm to 10 lakh hectares from 3.5 lakh ha during 2019-20 by 2025-26 (an additional 6.50 lakh ha).
- ✓ To increase the Crude Palm Oil production from 0.27 lakh tonnes during 2019-20 to 11.20 lakh tonnes by 2025-26.
- ✓ Increase consumer awareness to maintain a consumption level of 19.00 kg/person/annum till 2025-26.
- ✓ The State Department of Agriculture, State Department of Horticulture, Central University, ICAR-Institutions, CDDs, SAUs, KVKs, Central Agencies/Cooperatives, Oil palm processors/ Associations, DD Kisan, AIR, DD, TV channels will be the implementing stake holders of the NMEO-Oil palm.
- ✓ Features: The salient features of NMEO-OP include assistance for planting material, inputs for intercropping upto gestation period of 4 years and for maintenance, establishment of seed gardens, nurseries, micro irrigation, bore well/pumpset/water harvesting structure, vermi compost units, solar pumps, harvesting tools, custom hiring centre cum harvester Groups, farmers and officers training, and for replanting of old oil palm gardens, etc.

Q. With reference to BharatGen initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative which generates high-quality text and multimodal content in various Indian languages.
2. It is the first Indian government supported Multimodal Large Language Model Initiative.
3. It is implemented by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT).

D) None

- ✓ The BharatGen initiative was launched by the union Ministry of Science & Technology.
- ✓ It is an initiative which will create generative AI systems that can generate high-quality text and multimodal content in various Indian languages.
- ✓ It is the first Indian government supported Multimodal Large Language Model Initiative.
- ✓ It is implemented by IIT Bombay under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS).
- ✓ Features of BharatGen
 - ✓ The multilingual and multimodal nature of foundation models;
 - ✓ Bhartiya data set based building, and training;
 - ✓ Open-source platform development of an ecosystem of generative AI research in the country.
 - ✓ The project is expected to be completed in two years along with plans to benefit several government, private, educational, and research institutions.

D) Food Corporation of India

- ✓ Food Corporation of India (FCI) has selected Coforge Limited as the system integrator (SI) for its digital transformation project, Anna DARPAN.
- ✓ The project aims to streamline and enhance the supply chain management system at various levels.
- ✓ This system will be designed to improve efficiency and productivity by creating an interactive and user-friendly UI design.
- ✓ It will also enable data-driven decision-making by leveraging data analytics to support strategic and operational decisions. The system will be integrated with internal and external systems, and a mobile-first approach will be prioritized to ensure that it is accessible anytime, anywhere.
- ✓ As part of the project, Coforge will be responsible for the end-to-end design, development, implementation, and maintenance of the Anna DARPAN system.
- ✓ The development team will leverage the latest technology and a state-of-the-art IT environment to build a cloud-based platform for hosting the system.
- ✓ It will be powered by a service mesh architecture, which will facilitate seamless communication among microservices.
- ✓ In the requirement gathering, analysis, and documentation phase of the project, Coforge will have extensive visibility into FCI's operations, including a deep understanding of its requirements, existing process flows, and potential integration opportunities with current FCI-related applications.

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs said that the government has introduced the Jal Hi AMRIT scheme in its first 100 days.
- ✓ It was launched under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme.
- ✓ Under this initiative, it is envisaged to incentivise State & UTs to manage the used water (sewage) treatment plants (UWTPs/ STPs) efficiently for ensuring recyclable good quality treated water, meeting environmental standards, on a sustained basis.
- ✓ The purpose of the exercise is to build the competition among the cities, develop capacities and incentivise them to attain the best quality of used treated water at the treatment facilities.
- ✓ The main focus is thus on capacity building & incentivizing qualitative improvements in the treated discharge effluent.
- ✓ A mid-course assessment and water quality testing will be conducted, culminating in a final assessment & award of Clean Water Credits in terms of Star-rating (between 3 stars to 5 stars) certificate valid for six months.
- ✓ Key facts about AMRUT 2.0 scheme
- ✓ It was launched for a period of five years, from the financial year 2021-22 to the financial year 2025-26.
- ✓ It is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all the statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in the first phase of the AMRUT scheme.
- ✓ AMRUT 2.0 will promote a circular economy of water through the development of City Water Balance Plan (CWBP) for each city focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, the rejuvenation of water bodies, and water conservation.

Q. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has celebrated its Eighth Annual Day on 1st October 2024. Who is the chairperson of IBBI?

A) V Janki Raman	B) Ashima Goel
C) TV Somnathan	D) Ravi Mittal

Answer : D

- ✓ The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has celebrated its Eighth Annual Day on 1st October 2024.
- ✓ To mark the occasion, an annual publication, “IBC के आठवर्ष: शोध एवं विश्लेषण” has released. Over the past eight years, the IBC has significantly accelerated the resolution of insolvency cases, bolstered investor and stakeholder confidence and fostering a more favourable environment for business growth.
- ✓ The Code’s deterrent effect, enabling the transfer of control of a Corporate Debtor, has significantly influenced debtor behaviour. The risk of ownership transfer is a strong incentive, encouraging disciplined management and discouraging insolvency-triggering actions.
- ✓ About IBBI
- ✓ It was established on 1st October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016.
- ✓ It is responsible for the implementation of the IBC.
- ✓ The IBC amends and consolidates the laws relating to insolvency resolution of individuals, partnership firms and corporate persons in a time-bound manner.
- ✓ Chairperson of IBBI : Ravi Mittal

Q. SEBI has approved a new asset class, allowing high-net-worth investors to invest in riskier regulated products. What is the minimum investment amount required for this new asset class approved by SEBI?

A) 10 lakh	B) 15 lakh
C) 20 lakh	D) 25 lakh

Answer : A

- ✓ Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved a new asset class, allowing high-net-worth investors to invest in riskier regulated products.
- ✓ The new asset class is to have a minimum investment amount of Rs 10 lakh. The offerings under the new product will be referred to as 'Investment Strategies', to maintain a clear distinction from the schemes offered under the traditional mutual funds.
- ✓ The new product is intended to add depth and variety to the investment landscape of the country through a new asset class.
- ✓ SEBI floated a consultation paper on introducing a 'New Asset Class' in July, inviting public comments by August 6, 2024.
- ✓ The move is aimed at creating a new product that lies between mutual funds and portfolio management services (PMS), catering to investors with higher risk-taking capabilities and larger ticket sizes. Among other important decisions, the regulator also approved rules for a new investment product under mutual funds.
- ✓ It introduced the liberalized Mutual Funds Lite (MF Lite) framework for passively managed schemes of mutual funds.

SEBI IN NEWS 2024

- SEBI approved a new asset class, allowing high-net-worth investors to invest in riskier regulated products.
- The new asset class is to have a minimum investment amount of Rs 10 lakh
- 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. Which umbrella scheme has been launched by the government of India to promote sustainable agriculture in the country?

- A) Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)
- B) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
- C) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
- D) Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojna

Answer : A

- ✓ Central Govt Approves PM-RKVY and KY Schemes for Agriculture sector.
- ✓ The Government of India has rationalised the various central sector schemes of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare into two main schemes: Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY).
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the plan in a meeting held in New Delhi on 3 October 2024.
- ✓ The PM-RKVY scheme focuses on promoting sustainable agriculture, while the KY will focus on food security and achieving agricultural self-sufficiency.
- ✓ Only those central sector schemes related to agriculture and implemented by the state government have been merged. The newly approved scheme will also be implemented by the State governments.
- ✓ Outlay for the PM-RKVY and KY
- ✓ The total outlay for the centrally sponsored scheme Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY) is Rs.1,01,321.61crore.
- ✓ The central government's share will be Rs 69,088.98 crore, and the state's share will be Rs 32,232.63 crore.
- ✓ The allocation for the PM-RKVY is Rs 57,074.72 crore, and the allocation for the KY scheme is Rs 44,246.89 crore.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY)
- ✓ The Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) was launched by the central government in 2007-08. The scheme provides incentives to the state government to draw up comprehensive agriculture development plans to ensure more inclusive and integrated development of agriculture and allied sectors.
- ✓ In the 2017 -18 fiscal year, the RKVY was converted into Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana - Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) with a major focus on pre and post-harvest infrastructure, besides promoting agri - entrepreneurship, innovations and value addition.
- ✓ Now, it has been replaced by Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY).
- ✓ The PM-RKVY scheme comprises the following central government schemes ;
- ✓ Soil Health Management,
- ✓ Rainfed Area Development,
- ✓ Agroforestry,
- ✓ Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana,
- ✓ Agricultural Mechanization, including Crop Residue Management,
- ✓ Per Drop More Crop,
- ✓ Crop Diversification Programme
- ✓ RKVY DPR component
- ✓ Accelerator Fund for Agri Startups
- ✓ Krishonnati Yojana
- ✓ Krishonnati Yojana was launched in 2005, during the 10th five-year plan. It is an umbrella scheme of 12 schemes/missions of the central government and centrally sponsored schemes related to the agriculture sector.
- ✓ These schemes aim to develop the agriculture and allied sectors holistically and scientifically.
- ✓ It aims to increase farmers' income by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.
- ✓ Reason for Rationalisation of the Scheme
- ✓ According to the Government of India, the various central sector agriculture-related schemes have merged into two with the following objectives;
- ✓ Ensure convergence, avoid duplication and provide flexibility to States.
- ✓ Focus on Nutrition security, Sustainability, Climate resilience, value chain development & private sector participation.
- ✓ Give flexibility to the state government to draw a comprehensive strategic plan according to their requirements.

- ✓ The State government's Annual Action Plan (AAP) of States can be approved in one go rather than approving individual scheme-wise AAPs.

Q. Which umbrella scheme has been launched by the government of India to achieve food security and self-sufficiency in agriculture?

- A) Krishonnati Yojana
- B) Pradhan Mantri Kisan MaanDhan Yojana
- C) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)
- D) Modified Interest Subvention Scheme

Answer : A

- ✓ Krishonnati Yojana
- ✓ Krishonnati Yojana was launched in 2005, during the 10th five-year plan. It is an umbrella scheme of 12 schemes/missions of the central government and centrally sponsored schemes related to the agriculture sector.
- ✓ These schemes aim to develop the agriculture and allied sectors holistically and scientifically.
- ✓ It aims to increase farmers' income by enhancing production, productivity and better returns on produce.

Q. What is the total outlay for the recently approved Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana?

- A) Rs 67,074.72 crore
- B) Rs 57,074.72 crore
- C) Rs 89,074.72 crore
- D) Rs 45,074.72 crore

Answer : B

Q. What is the total outlay for the recently approved Krishonnati Yojana?

- A) Rs 44,246.89 crore
- B) Rs 56,246.89 crore
- C) Rs 23,246.89 crore
- D) Rs 10,246.89 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ The allocation for the PM-RKVY is Rs 57,074.72 crore, and the allocation for the KY scheme is Rs 44,246.89 crore.

Q. What is the duration of the recently approved National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)?

- A) Seven years
- B) Five years
- C) Six years
- D) Four years

Answer : A

- ✓ NMEO-Oilseeds approved to make India self-sufficient in Edible Oils.
- ✓ The Government of India has approved the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) to make India self-sufficient in edible oils.
- ✓ India is the world's largest importer of edible oils and meets around 60-65 per cent of its requirements through imports.
- ✓ India sources most of its palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, while Argentina, Brazil, Russia, and Ukraine are the major sources of soy oil and sunflower oil.
- ✓ In 2022-23, 40 to 45 per cent of India's edible needs were met through domestic production, while it imported 16.5 million tonnes of edible oils.

- ✓ The government of India has imposed a 20% import duty on edible oils to increase the domestic production of edible oils and protect domestic oil producers.
- ✓ The duration of the scheme is seven years, from 2024-25 to 2030-31. The total outlay for the scheme is Rs 10,103 crore.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare will implement the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds).
- ✓ The National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) will be operational, along with the National Mission for Edible Oils – Oil Palm (NMEO-OP). The government of India launched the NEMO-OP in August 2021 to expand oil palm cultivation and boost Crude Palm Oil (CPO) production.
- ✓ The Aim of the NEMO-Oilseeds are as follows:
- ✓ Increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.
- ✓ Increase domestic edible oil production to 25.45 million tonnes by 2030-31, meeting around 72% of domestic requirements (along with NMEO-OP).
- ✓ Focus on increasing the production of primary oilseed crops such as Rapeseed Mustard, Groundnut, Soybean, Sunflower, and Sesamum.
- ✓ Increasing the efficiency of oil collection and extraction from secondary sources like Cottonseed, Rice Bran, and tree-borne oils.
- ✓ Ensure timely availability of quality seeds, and for this purpose, the Mission will introduce an Online 5-year rolling seed plan through the 'Seed Authentication, Traceability & Holistic Inventory (SATHI)' Portal,
- ✓ Government will set up 65 new seed hubs and 50 seed storage units to improve the seed production infrastructure.
- ✓ 600 Value Chain Clusters will be developed across 347 unique districts, covering more than 10 lakh hectares annually, where high-quality seeds will be made available to the farmers.
- ✓ Oilseed cultivation area to be expanded by bringing four million hectares under cultivation by targeting rice and potato fallow lands and promoting intercropping and crop diversification

Q. What is the total outlay for the recently approved National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)?

- A) Rs 10,103 crore B) Rs 16,765 crore
C) Rs 15,573 crore D) Rs 20,157 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ The duration of the scheme is seven years, from 2024-25 to 2030-31. The total outlay for the scheme is Rs 10,103 crore

Q. The recently launched National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds) aims to increase the country's oil seed production by 2030-31 to –?

- A) 69.7 million tonnes B) 90.1 million tonnes
C) 52.5 million tonnes D) 78.9 million tonnes

Answer : A

- ✓ Increase primary oilseed production from 39 million tonnes (2022-23) to 69.7 million tonnes by 2030-31.

Q. Which country is the largest importer of edible oils in the world?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India is the world's largest importer of edible oils and meets around 60-65 per cent of its requirements through imports.
- ✓ India sources most of its palm oil from Indonesia and Malaysia, while Argentina, Brazil, Russia, and Ukraine are the major sources of soy oil and sunflower oil.

Q. Which ministry of the government of India will implement the recently approved National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds)?

- A) Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer : A

- ✓ Union Ministry of Agriculture and Family Welfare will implement the National Mission on Edible Oils – Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds).

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%

Q. Which of the following is not a small savings scheme?

- A) NSC
- B) Post Office Time Deposit Scheme
- C) Senior Citizen Savings Scheme
- D) All of the above are small savings schemes

Answer : D

- ✓ The Finance Ministry on Monday kept interest rates of small saving schemes unchanged for the October-December 2024 quarter, with Sukanya Samriddhi and Senior Citizen Savings Scheme offering 8.2 per cent interest rate.
- ✓ The interest rates were last revised on December 31 last year: For small savings schemes including the Public Provident Fund (PPF), National Savings Certificates (NSC), and Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP).
- ✓ As of October 2024, the interest rates for some small savings schemes in India are:
- ✓ Post Office Savings Account: 4%
- ✓ National Savings Recurring Deposit Account: 6.7%

- ✓ National Savings Time Deposit Account: 6.9% for 1 year, 7.0% for 2 years, 7.1% for 3 years, and 7.5% for 5 years
- ✓ National Savings Monthly Income Account: 7.4%
- ✓ Public Provident Fund: 7.1%
- ✓ National Saving Certificates: 7.7%
- ✓ Kisan Vikas Patra: 7.5% for investments maturing in 115 months
- ✓ Sukanya Samriddhi Account: 8.2%
- ✓ Senior Citizens Savings Scheme: 8.2%
- ✓ Mahila Samman Savings Certificate: 7.5%

Q. Who has been awarded an A+ grade in the Central Bank Report Cards 2024, marking his second consecutive year of recognition?

A) Bimal Jalan	B) C. Rangarajan
C) Y V Reddy	D) Shaktikanta Das

Answer : D

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been awarded an A+ grade in the Central Bank Report Cards 2024, marking his second consecutive year of recognition. This accolade was presented by Global Finance during an event in Washington, D.C.
- ✓ The grades, ranging from “A+” to “F,” assess central banks on their effectiveness in critical areas such as inflation control, economic growth targets, currency stability, and interest rate management.
- ✓ Global Finance magazine has announced the Central Bank Governors who received the highest grades, “A+,” “A,” or “A-” in the Central Banker Report Cards 2024.
- ✓ Central Bankers Earning an A+ Grade
- ✓ Denmark: Christian Kettel Thomsen
- ✓ India: Shaktikanta Das
- ✓ Switzerland: Thomas Jordan
- ✓ Shaktikanta Das is the 25th governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Das as the 25th governor of the RBI on December 11, 2018.
- ✓ Das's term was initially for three years, but the government extended it until December 2024.
- ✓ Das is a retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre. He was a member of the 15th Finance Commission and India's Sherpa to the G20. He also served as the Secretary of the Department of Revenue and the Department of Economic Affairs in the Ministry of Finance

Q. Which digital financial services platform has launched an Instant Fixed Deposit (FD) product on its mobile app with up to a 9.5% interest rate?

A) MobiKwik	B) Rozarpay
C) Paytm	D) PhonePe

Answer : A

- ✓ MobiKwik launches fixed deposit product with up to 9.5% interest rate
- ✓ MobiKwik, a digital financial services platform, has launched an Instant Fixed Deposit (FD) product on its mobile app, in partnership with financial services firms. The product aims to simplify the savings process for its users.
- ✓ MobiKwik Fixed Deposits allows users to start investing with as little as Rs 1,000 and earn up to 9.5 per cent returns per annum without opening a new bank account.

1. It is designed to foster innovation and promote bio-entrepreneurship in India.
2. It is being implemented for a period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

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

- ✓ Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved continuation of the two umbrella schemes of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), merged as one scheme-‘Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio- RIDE).
- ✓ It is designed to foster innovation, promote bio-entrepreneurship, and strengthen India’s position as a global leader in biomanufacturing and biotechnology.
- ✓ It aims to accelerate research, enhance product development, and bridge the gap between academic research and industrial applications.
- ✓ The scheme has three broad components:
 - ✓ Biotechnology Research and Development (R&D);
 - ✓ Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development (I&ED)
 - ✓ Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry (New component under this new scheme).
- ✓ It is part of the Government of India’s mission to harness the potential of bio-innovation to tackle national and global challenges such as healthcare, agriculture, environmental sustainability, and clean energy
- ✓ Funding and Time period: The proposed outlay for the implementation of the unified scheme ‘Bio-RIDE’ is Rs.9197 crore during the 15th finance Commission period from 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ✓ Implementation of Bio-RIDE Scheme will -
 - ✓ Promote Bio-Entrepreneurship: It will nurture a thriving ecosystem for startups by providing seed funding, incubation support, and mentorship to bio-entrepreneurs
 - ✓ Advance Innovation: It will offer grants and incentives for cutting-edge research and development in areas like synthetic biology, biopharmaceuticals, bioenergy, and bioplastics
 - ✓ Facilitate Industry-Academia Collaboration: It will create synergies between academic institutions, research organizations, and industry to accelerate the commercialization of bio-based products and technologies.
 - ✓ Encourage Sustainable Biomanufacturing: A significant focus will be placed on promoting environmentally sustainable practices in biomanufacturing, aligned with India’s green goals.
 - ✓ Support researchers through Extramural funding: It will play critical role in advancing scientific research, innovation, and technological development across diverse fields of biotechnology by supporting extramural funding to research institutions, universities, and individual researchers in areas such as agriculture, healthcare, bioenergy, and environmental sustainability.
 - ✓ Nurturing Human Resource in Biotechnology sector: It will provide holistic development and support to students, young researchers and scientists working in the multidisciplinary areas of Biotechnology.

A) Rs.9197 crore B) Rs.5576 crore
C) Rs.8367 crore D) Rs.7891 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ The central government has approved the launch of the 'Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio-RIDE)' scheme of the Department of Biotechnology(DBT), Union Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ✓ The two existing schemes of the DBT have been merged, and a new component, Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry, has been added to the Bio-RIDE scheme.
- ✓ The newly approved Bio-RIDE will continue from 2021-22 to 2025-26 during the 15th Finance Commission period.
- ✓ The proposed outlay for the scheme is Rs.9197 crore for 2021-2025-26.
- ✓ Component of the Bio-RIDE Scheme
- ✓ The newly approved Bio-RIDE merges the two previous DBT schemes and includes one new component.
- ✓ The components of the scheme are;
- ✓ Biotechnology Research and Development,
- ✓ Industrial & Entrepreneurship Development,
- ✓ Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry
- ✓ Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry
- ✓ Biomanufacturing and Biofoundry are the newly introduced components of the Bio-RIDE scheme.
- ✓ Biomanufacturing refers to using biological systems (living organisms, animal/ plant cells, tissues, enzymes, etc.) to manufacture commercially important biomolecules for use in food, pharmaceuticals, agriculture, energy, etc. It is an interdisciplinary field that involves microbiology, biochemistry, and chemical engineering.
- ✓ Aim of the Bio-RIDE Scheme
- ✓ Promote and nurture the ecosystem for startups in the biotechnology centre.
- ✓ Promote innovation and research in advanced fields like bioplastics, synthetic biology, biopharmaceuticals and bioenergy by providing funding.
- ✓ Create synergy between the research and development institutes and the industry so that the technology can be better commercialised.
- ✓ Promote environmentally sustainable biomanufacturing practices aligned with India's green goals.
- ✓ Create a pool of highly skilled human resources in biotechnology.

Q. What is the duration of the recently launched Bio-RIDE scheme of the Department of Biotechnology?

- A) 2022-23 to 2026-27 B) 2021-22 to 2025-26
C) 2020-21 to 2024-25 D) 2019-20 to 2023-24

Answer : B

- ✓ The newly approved Bio-RIDE will continue from 2021-22 to 2025-26 during the 15th Finance Commission period.
- ✓ The proposed outlay for the scheme is Rs.9197 crore for 2021-2025-26.

Q. Which one of the following is NOT a component of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) scheme?

- A) Price Support Scheme (PSS)
B) Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Schemes (PPPS)
C) Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)
D) Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)

Answer : C

- ✓ Union cabinet recently extended the PM-AASHA price support scheme in agriculture till 2025-26.

- ✓ SEBI stated that in February 2019, Jai Anmol, as a non-executive director of Reliance Home Finance, approved unsecured loans of Rs 20 crore each to Visa Capital and Accura Productions, despite the disapproval of other board members.
- ✓ SEBI stated that in February 2019, Jai Anmol, as a non-executive director of Reliance Home Finance, approved unsecured loans of Rs 20 crore each to Visa Capital and Accura Productions, despite the disapproval of other board members.

Q. Which bank partnered with Decentro, India's largest fintech infrastructure platform, to become the first to support the integration of its newly unveiled eNACH and UPI AutoPay modules, designed to streamline recurring payments for businesses?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Decentro, India's largest fintech infrastructure platform, has introduced eNACH & UPI AutoPay, intended to streamline and simplify the management of recurring payments for businesses.
- ✓ The company hopes to assist at least 100+ enterprises with integrating these modules over the next three months, addressing some of the most difficult obstacles that businesses encounter regarding recurring payments. The first partner bank for this new module is YES Bank.
- ✓ The total addressable market (TAM) for recurring payments in India is around \$800 million. However, businesses encounter several hurdles, resulting in a large time (and monetary) commitment of at least 500 man-hours to integrate and test these systems with their banking partners.
- ✓ One such obstacle is the lengthy process of obtaining a utility code, which can significantly impede eNACH adoption. Furthermore, many payment gateways are unaware that lenders should use their utility codes rather than the payment gateway's code for compliance.

Q. Which bank has joined hands with Mastercard to launch MyBiz, a business credit card designed exclusively for sole proprietors and small business owners?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ Axis Bank and Mastercard join hands to unveil MyBiz credit card for small business owners in India
- ✓ Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, has joined hands with Mastercard, a global technology company in the payments industry, to launch MyBiz, a business credit card designed exclusively for sole proprietors and small business owners
- ✓ The new card, part of the World Mastercard category, combines a wide range of business and travel benefits to meet the diverse needs of SME owners.
- ✓ MyBiz card offers a comprehensive suite of business and travel benefits — an end-to-end digital offering that simplifies our small business clients' experience through greater rewards, increased purchasing power, zero liability protection, and increased employee controls.”

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Cruise Bharat Mission:

1. It aims to boost the tremendous potential of cruise tourism in India.
2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Tourism.

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 Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) launched the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' from the Mumbai port.
- ✓ It is aimed at boosting the tremendous potential of cruise tourism in the country and to propel the country's cruise tourism industry by doubling cruise passenger traffic within five years; i.e. by 2029.
- ✓ It will be implemented in three phases, beginning from 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2029.
- ✓ The Phase 1 (01.10.2024 – 30.09.2025) will focus on conducting studies, master planning, and forming cruise alliances with neighbouring countries. It will also modernise existing cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations to enhance the potential of cruise circuits.
- ✓ The Phase 2 (01.10.2025 – 31.03.2027) will concentrate on developing new cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations to activate high-potential cruise locations and circuits.
- ✓ Phase 3 (01.04.2027 – 31.03.2029) will focus on integrating all cruise circuits across the Indian Subcontinent, marking the maturity of the cruise ecosystem while continuing the development of cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.
- ✓ The mission has identified key initiatives across five strategic pillars.
- ✓ The Sustainable Infrastructure & Capital: It addresses infrastructure gaps, focusing on developing world-class terminals, marinas, water aerodromes, and heliports, alongside digitalisation (e.g., facial recognition) and decarbonisation (e.g., shore power). It includes creating a National Cruise Infrastructure Master Plan 2047, setting up a cruise-focused SPV under Indian Ports Association (IPA), and establishing a cruise development fund.
- ✓ The Operations Including Technology Enabled: This pillar aims to streamline operations, ensuring smooth embarkation, disembarkation, and destination visits with a focus on digital solutions such as e-clearance systems and e-visa facilities.
- ✓ The Cruise Promotion & Circuit Integration: It focuses on international marketing and investment promotion, including linking cruise circuits, hosting events like the "Cruise India Summit," and forming alliances with neighbouring countries.
- ✓ The Regulatory, Fiscal & Financial Policy: This pillar is centred on creating tailored fiscal and financial policies, with a focus on tax scenarios, cruise regulations, and the launch of a National Cruise Tourism Policy.
- ✓ The Capacity Building and Economic Research: This pillar emphasizes skill development, creating a Centre of Excellence for cruise-related economic research, and formulating National Occupational Standards to promote youth employment in the cruise industry.
- ✓ Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways

Q. Which bank has launched a special Scheme "Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana (SUGAM)" to boost its recovery efforts through one-time settlement of Retail NPAs up to March 31, 2021?

- A) IDBI Bank
- B) State Bank Of India
- C) Axis Bank
- D) Federal Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ IDBI Bank launched Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana for one time settlement of retail NPAs
- ✓ IDBI Bank has launched a special Scheme "Sugam Rinn Bhugtan Yojana (SUGAM)", to boost its recovery efforts through one time settlement of Retail NPAs up to March 31, 2021.
- ✓ The scheme will be applicable to borrower's principal outstanding above Rs.0.10 crore and up to Rs.10 crore (subject to eligibility criteria), at relaxed terms.
- ✓ It will provide a renewed opportunity to the borrowers who are in distress and are willing to settle their dues to avoid legal entanglement. The scheme will end on March on 2025.
- ✓ The scheme will not be applicable where the sanction given under general One Time Settlement (OTS)/ Negotiated Settlement (NS), if it is in currency, where formal offer for settlement along with upfront amount has been received before launch of this scheme and the proposal is under consideration.

Q. The board of directors of private sector lender IndusInd Bank has approved the re-appointment of Sumant Kathpalia as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO) of the bank for how many years?

- A) two years B) three years
C) four years D) five years

Answer : C

- ✓ Sumant Kathpalia reappointed as MD & CEO for IndusInd Bank
- ✓ The board of directors of private sector lender IndusInd Bank has approved the re-appointment of Sumant Kathpalia as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD & CEO) of the bank for a period of three years.
- ✓ The re-appointment will be effective March 24, 2025 upto March 23, 2028. Kathpalia has been the MD&CEO of the company since March 24, 2020.
- ✓ Kathpalia is a seasoned banker, with over 3 and a half decades of experience, and has previously worked in large multi-national banks such as Citibank etc.

Q. Which scheme has been approved by the central government in September 2024 to improve the socio-economic condition of the tribals in the country?

- A) Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)
B) Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana
C) Eklavya Model Residential Schools
D) Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA)

Answer : D

- ✓ Center approves PMJUGA scheme for holistic Tribal Development.
- ✓ Union Cabinet, in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held on 18 September 2024, has approved a new scheme, Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA), to improve the socio-economic condition of the country's tribal majority villages and aspirational districts.
- ✓ The scheme seeks to utilise the existing central government scheme to achieve the objectives of the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA) scheme.
- ✓ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the scheme in her 2024-25 Union Budget speech.
- ✓ Duration and Allocation for the PMJUGA Scheme
- ✓ The duration of the PMJUGA scheme is five years.
- ✓ The total allocation for the scheme is Rs.79,156 crore, of which the central government's share will be Rs.56,333 crore, and the State government's share will be Rs. 22,823 crore.
- ✓ Coverage of the PMJUGA Scheme
- ✓ The PMJUGA scheme will be implemented in 549 districts and 2,740 blocks in all tribal majority villages and aspirational districts of 30 States / Union Territories.
- ✓ According to the government, the scheme is expected to cover 63,000 villages and benefit more than 5 crore tribal people.
- ✓ According to the 2011 census, the tribal population in the country was 10.45 crore.
- ✓ Goals of the PMJUGA Scheme
- ✓ The PMJUGA scheme comprises 25 interventions to be implemented by 17 Union Ministries. The task and funds for the concerned ministries will be allocated under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) in the next 5 years to achieve the following four goals.
- ✓ Development of Enabling Infrastructure
- ✓ 20 lakh pucca houses to be built under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin),
- ✓ Electricity connection is to be provided to eligible households under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme.

- ✓ Piped drinking water to eligible households under the Jal Jeevan Mission,
- ✓ Ayushman Health Card to be issued under the Ayushman Bharat -Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana(AB PM-JAY).
- ✓ 25 Lakh LPG connection under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana
- ✓ 5000 villages to be connected with a broadband connection through Bharat Net Yojana
- ✓ 25000 km of all-weather roads to be constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana,
- ✓ Economic Empowerment
- ✓ The eligible tribal boys and girls will be skilled through the Skill India Mission after the 10th/12th standard.
- ✓ The beneficiaries will be provided support to sell their products through Tribal Multipurpose Marketing Centre (TMMC),
- ✓ Under the Swadesh Darshan scheme, tourism in these areas will be promoted through 1000 homestays. Eligible households will be provided Rs. 5.00 lakhs for the construction of two new rooms, up to Rs. 3.00 lakhs for renovation of existing rooms, and Rs 5 lakh for village community requirements.
- ✓ The forest rights of the twenty-two lakh Forest Right Holders (FRA) patta holders will be recognised to secure their forest rights. They will be empowered to maintain and conserve the forests and provide them with sustainable livelihoods through the support of the government scheme.
- ✓ Access to Good Education
- ✓ 1000 Tribal hostels are to be constructed under the Samgra Shiksha Abhiyan to bring the gross enrollment ratio of the tribal students to the national level
- ✓ Healthy Living
- ✓ Measures to be taken to reduce the infant mortality rates (IMR) and maternal mortality rates (MMR) in these blocks to the national level.
- ✓ Coverage of these remote areas under the Universal Immunisation scheme through mobile medical units in areas where the sub-centre is more than 10 km in plain areas and 5 km in the Hilly areas

Q. What is the duration of the recently approved Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA) scheme?

- A) five years
- B) four years
- C) six years
- D) three years

Answer : A

- ✓ The duration of the PMJUGA scheme is five years

Q. What is the allocation for the recently approved Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA)?

- A) Rs.56,340 crore
- B) Rs.65,810 crore
- C) Rs.81,780 crore
- D) Rs.79,156 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ The total allocation for the scheme is Rs.79,156 crore, of which the central government's share will be Rs.56,333 crore, and the State government's share will be Rs. 22,823 crore

Q. The recently approved Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA) will be implemented in how many states/Union Territory?

- A) 28
- B) 30
- C) 26
- D) 22

Answer : B

- ✓ The PMJUGA scheme will be implemented in 549 districts and 2,740 blocks in all tribal majority villages and aspirational districts of 30 States / Union Territories

Q. How many goals have been identified under the Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan (PMJUGA) scheme?

- A) 3
- B) 4
- C) 5
- D) 7

Answer : B

- ✓ Goals of the PMJUGA Scheme
- ✓ The PMJUGA scheme comprises 25 interventions to be implemented by 17 Union Ministries. The task and funds for the concerned ministries will be allocated under the Development Action Plan for Scheduled Tribes (DAPST) in the next 5 years to achieve the following four goals.

Q. What is the minimum contribution under the NPS Vatsalya Scheme?

- A) Rs 4000 per year
- B) Rs 3000 per year
- C) Rs 2000 per year
- D) Rs 1000 per year

Answer : D

- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman launches NPS Vatsalya for Minors.
- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister, launched the NPS Vatsalya scheme for minors in New Delhi on 17 September 2024. The event was attended by schoolchildren and was held simultaneously in 75 locations across the country.
- ✓ She also distributed the Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) cards to new minor subscribers.
- ✓ Nirmala Sitharaman announced the NPS Vatsalya scheme in her 2024-25 union budget speech.
- ✓ The NPS Vatsalya will be regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ✓ About the NPS Vatsalya
- ✓ National Pension System (NPS) Vatsalya is for minors under 18 years of age and who are residents of India.
- ✓ The NPS Vatsalya account is not for non-resident Indians (NRI).
- ✓ An NPS -Tier II account will be opened in the name of the minor.
- ✓ A Tier-II account is a voluntary savings pension scheme linked to the subscriber's Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN).
- ✓ Each National Pension System subscriber is provided with a unique 12-digit alphanumeric PRAN number that remains with the subscriber until the end.
- ✓ Contribution, Withdrawal, Exit facility
- ✓ The minimum contribution under the NPS Vatsalya scheme is Rs 1000 per year, with no maximum limit.
- ✓ The parents can contribute on behalf of the minor.
- ✓ The lock-in period is three years.
- ✓ After three years, the subscriber can partially withdraw 25 per cent of the corpus(the invested amount plus the return on the amount) for education, specified illness, and disability.
- ✓ The partial withdrawal is allowed only three times the duration of the scheme
- ✓ After the subscriber attains the age of 18 years, the subscriber has the option to shift to an NPS Tier-1 account or
- ✓ If the corpus (total amount) is equal to or less than Rs 2.5 lakhs, the subscriber can withdraw the whole amount.
- ✓ If the corpus is more than Rs 2.5 lakhs, the subscriber can withdraw 20 per cent, and the other 80 per cent will be used to buy an annuity policy from a designated insurance company.

Answer : C

- ✓ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry is set to launch a groundbreaking digital platform BHASKAR.
- ✓ The Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry (BHASKAR) initiative, under the Startup India program aimed at strengthening India's startup ecosystem.
- ✓ It is a platform designed to centralize, streamline, and enhance collaboration among key stakeholders within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, including startups, investors, mentors, service providers, and government bodies.
- ✓ The primary goal of BHASKAR is to build the world's largest digital registry for stakeholders within the startup ecosystem.
- ✓ Key Features of BHASKAR
- ✓ Networking and Collaboration: BHASKAR will bridge the gap between startups, investors, mentors, and other stakeholders, allowing for seamless interaction across sectors.
- ✓ Providing Centralized Access to Resources: By consolidating resources, the platform will provide startups with immediate access to critical tools and knowledge, enabling faster decision-making and more efficient scaling.
- ✓ Creating Personalized Identification: Every stakeholder will be assigned a unique BHASKAR ID, ensuring personalized interactions and tailored experiences across the platform.
- ✓ Enhancing Discoverability: Through powerful search features, users can easily locate relevant resources, collaborators, and opportunities, ensuring faster decision-making and action.
- ✓ Supporting India's Global Brand: BHASKAR will serve as a vehicle for promoting India's global reputation as a hub for innovation, making cross-border collaborations more accessible to startups and investors alike.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Navratna Status:

1. It is given to a Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) whose net profit is more than Rs 2,000 crore for three consecutive years.
2. This status to PSU allows invest up to ₹1,000 crore without seeking approval from the central government.

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

- ✓ Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been granted the Navratna status the Ministry of Finance.
- ✓ 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 Public Sector Unit (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.
- ✓ Advantages
- ✓ 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. How many companies were recently given 'Navratna' status by the Finance Ministry?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ SJVN, NHPC, RailTel and Solar Energy Corporation of India get 'Navratna' Status.
 - ✓ Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance, Government of India has granted "Navratna status" to four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) viz. Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVN).
 - ✓ With this, the number of Navratna CPSEs has increased to 25 from 21.
 - ✓ New Delhi, Delhi based Railtel Corporation, a 'mini ratna' PSU under the Ministry of Railways, has been upgraded as the 22nd Navratna CPSE.
 - ✓ New Delhi based SECI Ltd, a miniratna Category-I CPSE under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has been upgraded as the 23rd Navratna CPSE.
 - ✓ Faridabad, Haryana based NHPC, a mini ratna Category-I CPSE under the Ministry of Power has been upgraded as the 24th Navratna CPSE.
 - ✓ Shimla, Himachal Pradesh (HP) based SJVN , a mini ratna, Category-I and Schedule 'A' CPSE under the Ministry of Power, has been upgraded as the 25th Navratna CPSE.
 - ✓ Sangam Sir (Kumar Kaushal Sir), [27-10-2024 07:24]
 - ✓ 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

- ✓ Navratna scheme
- ✓ The government introduced the Navratna scheme in 1997.
- ✓ Under this scheme, the Boards of Navratna CPSEs have been delegated enhanced powers in the areas of:
 - i) Capital expenditure
 - ii) Investment in joint ventures/subsidiaries
 - iii) Mergers & acquisitions
 - iv) Human resources management, etc
- ✓ Eligibility criteria for grant of Navratna status
- ✓ The CPSEs which are Miniratna I, Schedule 'A' and have obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' MOU rating in three of the last five years and have a 'Composite Score' of performance to be 60 or above in six identified performance parameters are eligible to be considered for grant of Navratna status.
- ✓ The parameters are:
 - 1) Net Profit to Net worth
 - 2) Manpower Cost to total Cost of Production or Cost of Services
 - 3) Profit Before Depreciation, Interest and Tax (PBDIT) to Capital Employed
 - 4) Profit Before Interest and Tax (PBIT) to Turnover
 - 5) Earning Per Share
 - 6) Inter-Sectoral Performance
 - Benefits of being Navratna Company
- ✓ Some of the benefits enjoyed by a CPSE which are accorded Navratna status are as follows:
- ✓ Invest up to Rs 1,000 crore or 15% of their net worth in a single project without needing prior approval of the central government,
- ✓ Enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances without the permission of the central government,
- ✓ To establish financial joint ventures and wholly owned subsidiaries in India or abroad with certain conditions
- ✓ Eligibility Criteria to be a Navratna
- ✓ A CPSE has to meet the following conditions to be granted a Navratna status:
- ✓ The CPSEs have Miniratna - category 1 status,
- ✓ obtained 'excellent' or 'very good' Memorandum of Understanding rating in three of the last five years,
- ✓ having a composite score of 60 or above in the identified six performance indicators.

Q. With reference to AgriSURE Fund, consider the following statements:

1. It is designed to fuel growth and foster innovation in the agricultural and rural start-up ecosystem.
2. It is funded by the Government of India and World Bank in the 90:10 ratios respectively.
3. It is managed by the NABVENTURES a fully owned subsidiary of NABARD.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

A) Only one (1)	B) Only two (1 and 3)
C) All three (1,2 and 3)	D) None

Answer : B

Primary Cooperative Societies development, Support for FPOs, Technology support at the Farm level and Climate change.

Q. What is the total corpus of the AgriSure Fund?

- A) Rs 750 crore
- B) Rs 950 crore
- C) Rs 850 crore
- D) Rs 550 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ The total corpus of the AgriSure Fund will be Rs 750 crore. The government of India, through the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare, will contribute Rs 250 crore, NABARD will contribute Rs 250 crore, and banks, insurance companies, private investors, etc., will invest the rest of the amount.

Q. What is the duration of the AgriSure Fund?

- A) 10 years
- B) 6 years
- C) 5 years
- D) 15 years

Answer : A

- ✓ The Fund is a closed ended scheme and has a duration of 10 years which can be extended by 2 years.

Q. Which of the following companies became the first in India to surpass Rs 10 lakh crore in annual revenue, achieving a record consolidated turnover of Rs 10,00,122 crore (USD 119.9 billion) for the financial year 2023-24?

- A) Tata Group
- B) Adani Group
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Reliance Industries Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ RIL becomes India's first company to surpass Rs 10 lakh crore in annual revenue
- ✓ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has become the first Indian company to surpass Rs 10 lakh crore in annual revenue. This significant milestone was announced by RIL chairman Mukesh Ambani during the company's Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- ✓ During the AGM, Ambani revealed that Reliance achieved a record consolidated turnover of Rs 10,00,122 crore (USD 119.9 billion), for the financial year 2023-24. For the same period, RIL reported an EBITDA of Rs 1,78,677 crore (USD 21.4 billion) and a net profit of Rs 79,020 crore (USD 9.5 billion).
- ✓ The company also recorded exports amounting to Rs 2,99,832 crore (USD 35.9 billion), which accounted for 8.2% of India's total merchandise exports.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SAMRIDH scheme:

1. It is a flagship programme of the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY).
2. It aims to support existing and upcoming accelerators to select and accelerate potential IT-based startups to scale.

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

- ✓ Secretary of the Union Ministry of Electronics & IT launched the 2nd Cohort of Startup Accelerators of MeitY for Product Innovation, Development and Growth (SAMRIDH) scheme.
- ✓ SAMRIDH is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) for startups acceleration under National Policy on Software Products – 2019.
- ✓ It was launched in August 2021 and supports 300 software product startups with outlay of ₹99 crore over a period of 4 years.
- ✓ It aims to support existing and upcoming Accelerators to select and accelerate potential IT-based startups to scale.
- ✓ Among others, the program focuses on accelerating the startups by providing customer connect, investors connect and connect to international markets.
- ✓ Eligibility of Accelerator
- ✓ Should be a registered Section-8/Society, [Not-for-Profit Company (eligible to hold equity)] having operations in India.’
- ✓ The Accelerator and the team are recommended to have more than 3 years of startup experience and should have supported more than 50 start-ups of which at least 10 startups should have received investment from external Investors
- ✓ The Accelerator should have an experience of running startup program cohorts with activities listed as desirable under SAMRIDH program.
- ✓ The Accelerator should have an experience of running startup program cohorts with activities listed as desirable under SAMRIDH program.
- ✓ It is being implemented through potential and established accelerators across India which provide services like making products market fit, business plan, investor connect and international expansion to startups plus matching funding upto ₹40 lakh by MeitY.
- ✓ Implemented by: The scheme is being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH), Digital India Corporation (DIC)

Q. Which of the following were recently honoured in Time magazine’s prestigious “100 Most Influential People in AI 2024” list.

- A) Ashwini Vaishnaw and Anil Kapoor
- B) Ashwini Vaishnaw and Shashi Tharoor
- C) Rahul Gandhi and Anil Kapoor
- D) Amitabh Bachchan and Alia Bhatt

Answer : A

- ✓ Sundar Pichai, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Anil Kapoor among Indians on TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024 List.
- ✓ TIME, the New York (the United States of America-USA)based Magazine, released “TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024”.
- ✓ Sundar Pichai, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Google and Alphabet, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Anil Kapoor, Renowned Actor are among leaders from India or of Indian descent featured on the list.
- ✓ About TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI 2024:
- ✓ This is the 2nd edition of TIME 100 Most Influential People in AI, recognizing the 100 most influential people shaping the rapidly evolving field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ✓ The list has categorized the influential people into 4 different categories namely, Leaders, Innovators, Shapers and Thinkers.

Q. With reference to the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY), consider the following statements:

1. It is a small-deposit scheme tailored specifically for the girl child.
2. NRIs are not eligible to open SSY accounts.

3. Premature withdrawals are not allowed under the scheme.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A) Only one (1)
- B) Only two (1,2)
- C) All three (1,2,3)
- D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ The government recently made changes to the rules of the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, which are planned to come into force from the 1st of October 2024.
- ✓ About Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:
- ✓ SSY is a savings scheme launched in 2015 under the Government of India's " Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" campaign, which aimed to promote the education of girl children.
- ✓ SSY is a small-deposit scheme tailored specifically for the girl child.
- ✓ This scheme enables guardians to open a savings account for their girl child with an authorised commercial bank or India Post branch.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ The girl must be an Indian resident.
- ✓ The account can be initiated by the parent or legal guardian of the girl child.
- ✓ The girl child must be below the age of 10 at the time of opening the account.
- ✓ Only one SSY account is allowed per girl child.
- ✓ A family is limited to opening a maximum of two SSY scheme accounts.
- ✓ NRIs are not eligible to open these accounts.
- ✓ The girl must operate the account once she attains the age of 18 years.
- ✓ The minimum and maximum deposits that can be made in an account in a financial year are Rs.250 and Rs.1.5 lakh, respectively. The deposits can be made in multiples of 100.
- ✓ Deposits towards the scheme should be made for a period of 15 years. However, the scheme matures after 21 years.
- ✓ No interest will be payable once the account completes twenty-one years from the date of opening.
- ✓ Partial Withdrawal:
- ✓ Withdrawal up to a maximum of 50% of the amount in the account at the end of the financial year preceding the year of application for withdrawal shall be allowed for the purpose of education of the account holder.
- ✓ Such withdrawal shall be allowed only after the account holder has attained the age of 18 years or has passed the 10th standard, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Tax benefits: To encourage investments in SSY, the scheme offers the following tax benefits:
- ✓ Section 80C Deductions: Investments made in the SSY scheme can be deducted under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act up to a maximum cap of Rs. 1.5 lakh.
- ✓ Tax-Exempt Interest: The interest that accrues on the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana account, compounded annually, is exempt from tax under Section 10 of the Income Tax Act.
- ✓ Tax-Free Proceeds: The proceeds received upon maturity or withdrawal from the SSY account is also exempt from income tax.
- ✓ New Rules:
- ✓ Guardian Changes: In case of accounts opened under the guardianship of grandparents (who are other than legal guardians), the guardianship shall be transferred to a person entitled under the law in force, that is, to the natural guardian (alive parents) or Legal Guardian. If it is not done, the account will be closed, and this will be a permanent closure.
- ✓ Irregular Accounts: Families with more than two SSY accounts will face closures of excess accounts, deemed to be in violation of scheme rules.

Q. Senior citizens of which age has been recently included under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)?

- A) 70 years or above
- B) 65 years or above
- C) 75 years or above
- D) 60 years or above

Answer : A

- ✓ AB PM-JAY benefits extended to senior citizens of 70 years and above
- ✓ The central government has extended the benefits of the world's largest government-funded health insurance scheme, Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PMJAY), to all senior citizens 70 years of age or above in the country.
- ✓ This was decided at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) on September 23, 2018, in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ✓ According to the government, as of 9 September 2024, over 35.4 crore Ayushman cards have been issued under the AB-PMJAY across the country.
- ✓ The scheme is operational in 33 States and Union Territories except Delhi, West Bengal, and Odisha.
- ✓ Key features of the Decision
- ✓ The inclusion of 70 years and above senior citizens in the scheme is expected to benefit 6 crore senior citizens.
- ✓ They will get Rs 5 lakh health insurance annually, irrespective of their socio-economic status.
- ✓ If a senior citizen aged 70 or above belongs to a family covered under the scheme, then the family health insurance coverage will be increased to Rs 10 lakh. The extra Rs 5 lakh benefit will be exclusively for the senior citizen.
- ✓ Those already enrolled under various public health insurance schemes can continue with their existing health scheme or opt for Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- ✓ Senior citizens 70 years of age or older enrolled under the private health insurance scheme or the Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to receive benefits under AB PM-JAY.
- ✓ They will be issued separate Ayushman cards
- ✓ Benefits Under the AB PM-JAY
- ✓ AB PM-JAY is a family floater health insurance scheme in which eligible families get Rs 5 lakh per year insurance for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- ✓ A family floater plan means that a family member or all the members combined can get health insurance benefits of Rs 5 lakh per year in eligible public or private sector hospitals.
- ✓ The central government and the state government share the insurance premium.
- ✓ The AB PMJAY is a cashless health insurance facility. The government reimburses hospitals after the beneficiaries under the scheme are treated.

Q. What is the maximum health insurance benefit provided under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)?

- A) Rs 5 lakh
- B) Rs 1 lakh
- C) Rs 2 lakh
- D) Rs 10 lakh

Answer : A

- ✓ AB PM-JAY is a family floater health insurance scheme in which eligible families get Rs 5 lakh per year insurance for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.
- ✓ A family floater plan means that a family member or all the members combined can get health insurance benefits of Rs 5 lakh per year in eligible public or private sector hospitals

- Q.** Which institution is the nodal body for the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) in India?
- A) National Health Authority B) Yeshasvini Health Insurance
C) National Health Mission D) Life Insurance Corporation of India

Answer : A

- ✓ The scheme is being implemented by the National Health Authority under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the PM E-DRIVE Scheme:

1. It is an electric mobility promotion scheme in India approved for a period of two years.
2. Under this scheme an adhaar-authenticated e-voucher will be issued to avail demand incentives.

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 chaired by the Prime Minister India has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) for implementation of a scheme titled 'PM E-DRIVE Scheme'.
- ✓ PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme has an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over a period of two years for promotion of electric mobility in the country.
- ✓ Components of the scheme
- ✓ Subsidies and Demand Incentives: The scheme allocates Rs 3,679 crore to incentivise the purchase of electric two-wheelers (e-2Ws), three-wheelers (e-3Ws), electric ambulances, trucks, and other emerging EV categories.
- ✓ E-Vouchers for EV Buyers: Buyers of electric vehicles will be issued an e-voucher under the scheme to avail demand incentives. The e-voucher will be Aadhaar-authenticated and sent to the buyer's registered mobile number after the purchase.
- ✓ E-Ambulance Deployment: A budget of Rs 500 crore has been allocated to deploy electric ambulances. This new initiative aims to provide comfortable and environmentally friendly patient transport. Performance and safety standards for e-ambulances will be developed in consultation with MoHFW, MoRTH, and other relevant stakeholders.
- ✓ Incentives for E-Trucks: Under this component Rs 500 crore has been allocated to promote the deployment of e-trucks, a major contributor to air pollution. Those who hold a scrapping certificate from authorised MoRTH Vehicle Scrapping Centres (RVSFs) will be eligible for the incentives.
- ✓ Charging Infrastructure: To address range anxiety and support the growth of electric vehicles, Rs 2,000 crore will be used to install public charging stations (EVPCS) in cities with high EV penetration and along selected highways.

- Q.** Which of the following country was approved for membership in the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), a financial institution with the aim of supporting projects in emerging markets and developing countries?
- A) Egypt B) UAE
C) Bhutan D) Algeria

Answer : D

- ✓ Algeria Joins 9th Member of BRICS New Development Bank.

- Q.** How much fine was imposed on Axis Bank by the RBI in September 2024 for violation of its regulatory guidelines?
- A) Rs 3.12 crore B) Rs 2.89 crore
- C) Rs 1.91 crore D) Rs 2.37 crore

- ✓ The RBI fined Axis Bank Rs 1.91 crore for violating the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act 1949 regarding the opening of savings accounts for ineligible persons, failing to issue unique customer identification codes (UCIC), and improperly managing collateral for agricultural loans up to Rs 1.60 lakh. RBI also fined the bank for its subsidiary's conduct in violating RBI's norms.
- ✓ Axis Bank
- ✓ The Axis Bank started its banking operation as UTI Bank in 1994 and changed its name to Axis Bank in 2007.
- ✓ It is India's third largest private bank by assets after HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.
- ✓ The Bank has over 5,100 domestic branches (including extension counters) and over 15,000 ATMs in India.
- ✓ Its overseas branches are in Dubai, Singapore, and GIFT City-IBU (Gujarat).
- ✓ Tag Line: Badhti Ka Naam Zindagi
- ✓ MD and CEO: Amitabh Chaudhary
- ✓ Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra

1. The scheme to be implemented from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32, aims to enhance infrastructure and support the development of hydropower in India.
2. It applies only to hydro projects over 100 MW, including private sector projects.
3. Budgetary support limits have been revised to Rs. 1 crore per MW for projects up to 200 MW.

A) Only one (1)
B) Only two (1,3)
C) All three (1,2,3)
D) None

- ✓ Union Cabinet recently approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for modification of the scheme of budgetary support for the cost of Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) with a total outlay of Rs.12461 crore.
- ✓ About Scheme of budgetary support for the cost of Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP):
- ✓ This scheme, set to run from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32, aims to enhance infrastructure and support the development of hydro power in India.
- ✓ The scheme addresses major challenges such as remote locations and inadequate infrastructure by broadening its scope to cover additional costs.
- ✓ This includes funding for the construction of transmission lines, upgrading pooling substations, and developing ropeways, railway sidings, and communication infrastructure.
- ✓ It also supports the strengthening of existing roads and bridges leading to project sites.
- ✓ The scheme is set to support hydro power projects with a cumulative generation capacity of approximately 31,350 MW.

- ✓ It applies to all hydro projects over 25 MW, including private sector projects, and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs).
- ✓ Budgetary support limits have been revised to Rs. 1 crore per MW for projects up to 200 MW, and Rs. 200 crores plus Rs. 0.75 crore per MW for projects above 200 MW, with potential increases up to Rs. 1.5 crore per MW in exceptional cases.
- ✓ The scheme also incorporates a rigorous approval process, where budgetary support will be granted following cost appraisals by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIB) and Public Investment Board (PIB), and subsequent approval by the Competent Authority.
- ✓ The projects whose Letter of Award of the first major package is issued by June 30, 2028, will be eligible under the scheme.

Q. Which ministry of the government of India will implement the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme?

- A) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- B) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- C) Ministry of Heavy Industry
- D) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Government approves PM E-DRIVE scheme to promote green mobility
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) scheme to promote the adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country.
- ✓ The scheme will provide incentives for consumers to buy electric vehicles, which will help reduce pollution and carbon emissions and also boost their manufacturing in the country
- ✓ Duration and Outlay of the PM E DRIVE Scheme
- ✓ The PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme lasts two years and has a total outlay of Rs 10,900 crore
- ✓ Break up of the outlay.
- ✓ Out of the Rs 10,900 crore,
- ✓ Rs.3,679 crore has been allocated for the demand generation of 2-wheelers (e-2Ws), 3-wheelers (3Ws), e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging electric vehicles(EV).
- ✓ Rs 500 crore has been allocated for the demand creation of e-ambulance.
- ✓ Rs 4,391 crore has been allocated for the procurement of 14,028 e-buses by state public transport agencies.
- ✓ Rs 500 crore has been allocated for e-trucks.
- ✓ Rs 2000 crore for installing electric vehicle public charging stations along selected highways.
- ✓ Rs 780 crore has been allocated for the upgradation of the testing agencies.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Heavy Industries will implement the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme.
- ✓ Component of the PM E-DRIVE Scheme
- ✓ It is a subsidy scheme where the identified electric vehicle will be sold to the buyers at a subsidised price, and the manufacturer can claim a subsidy for the electric vehicle sold.
- ✓ The scheme provides demand incentives to create demand for electric e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging EVs.
- ✓ The Ministry of Heavy Industry will introduce e-vouchers for buyers to avail themselves of the discount under the scheme.
- ✓ The e-vouchers will be used to buy electric vehicles from the manufacturers, and the government of India will reimburse the manufacturer based on the submitted vouchers.
- ✓ The scheme will support demand creation to buy 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14,028 e-buses.

- ✓ The e-vouchers will be used to buy electric vehicles from the manufacturers, and the government of India will reimburse the manufacturer based on the submitted vouchers.
- ✓ The scheme will support demand creation to buy 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14,028 e-buses.
- ✓ The 14,028 e-buses demand generation will be mainly focussed on nine cities having a population of more than 40 lakhs -Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad.
- ✓ 2,100 fast chargers for e-4 Ws, 1800 fast chargers for e-buses and 48,400 fast chargers for e-2W/3W will be installed across the country.

Q. What is the duration of the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme?

- A) two years B) three years
C) four years D) five years

Answer : A

- ✓ PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme lasts two years and has a total outlay of Rs 10,900 crore.

Q. What is the duration of the Mission Mausam launched by the government of India?

- A) 2 years
B) 5 years
C) 6 years
D) 4 years

Answer : A

- ✓ Cabinet Approves Mission Mausam to Strengthen Weather Forecasting
- ✓ In a meeting held on 11 September 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Cabinet approved Mission Mausam.
- ✓ The Mission Mausam will strengthen India's research and development capability in weather and climate-related science.
- ✓ Implementing Ministry of the Mission Mausam
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Earth Science will implement the Mission Mausam scheme.
- ✓ Three institutes under the Ministry—the India Meteorological Department (IMD), New Delhi, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, and the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting, Noida—will be the prime institutions to implement Mission Mausam.
- ✓ The other research and development institutes under the ministry -the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, and the National Institute of Ocean Technology will play a supporting role.
- ✓ Duration and Outlay of the Mission Mausam.
- ✓ The duration of the Mission Mausam is two years, and the government of India has approved an outlay of Rs 2000 crore.
- ✓ Aim of the Mission Mausam
- ✓ To boost research and development in atmospheric science, especially weather surveillance, modelling, forecasting, and management;
- ✓ Use of Artificial intelligence and machine learning technology to predict weather-related phenomena like monsoon forecasts, alerts for air quality, extreme weather events, cyclones etc, with high accuracy.
- ✓ Provide real-time data related to weather and climate-related phenomena to end users such as the government, industry, etc.
- ✓ Benefit of Mission Mausam
- ✓ It will boost capacity development in weather forecasting.
- ✓ It will help the government and other stakeholders better prepare for extreme weather events.

- ✓ It will benefit various sectors, such as agriculture, disaster management, defence, environment, aviation, shipping, transport, energy, water resources, power, tourism, and health.
- ✓ It will immensely benefit data-driven decision-making in areas such as urban planning, road and rail transport, offshore operations, and environmental monitoring.

Q. What is the total outlay for the Mission Mausam launched by the government of India?

- A) Rs 1000 crore
B) Rs 4000 crore
C) Rs 5000 crore
D) Rs 2000 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ The duration of the Mission Mausam is two years, and the government of India has approved an outlay of Rs 2000 crore.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Saarthi app:

1. It is designed to assist businesses in creating their own customised buyer-side apps.
2. It has features like real-time translation, transliteration, and voice recognition.

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

- ✓ Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) launched Saarthi app in collaboration with Bhashini.
- ✓ It is a reference application designed to assist businesses in creating their own customised buyer-side apps.
- ✓ It supports network participants in building buyer apps with multilingual features.
- ✓ The app initially supports Hindi, English, Marathi, Bangla and Tamil, with plans to scale up to all 22 languages provided by Bhashini.
- ✓ Features: It includes real-time translation, transliteration, and voice recognition to allow businesses to expand market reach, enabling companies to tap into new regions and increase customer acquisition.
- ✓ What is Bhashini?
- ✓ It is India's Artificial Intelligence (AI)-led language translation platform.
- ✓ It seeks to enable easy access to the internet and digital services in Indian languages, including voice-based access, and help the creation of content in Indian languages.
- ✓ It aims to make Artificial Intelligence and Natural Language Processing (NLP) resources available in the public domain to be used by -- Indian MSMEs, startups and individual innovators.
- ✓ This will help developers to offer all Indians easy access to the internet and digital services in their native languages.
- ✓ This online platform also has a separate 'Bhasadaan' section which allows individuals to contribute to multiple crowdsourcing initiatives, and it is also accessible via respective Android and iOS apps

Q. What is the duration of the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana?

- A) four years B) threeyears
C) two years D) five years

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - IV
- ✓ In a meeting held on 11 September 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Cabinet approved the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

- ✓ The government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25 December 2000 to connect eligible rural habitation with all-weather roads as part of its poverty reduction strategy.
- ✓ **Implementing Ministry of the PMGSY-IV.**
- ✓ The PMGSY-IV will be a centrally sponsored scheme to be implemented by the Union Rural Development Ministry.
- ✓ Duration and Outlay of the PMGSY-IV
- ✓ The duration of the PMGSY-IV is five years, from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- ✓ The total outlay for the PMGSY-IV for its entire duration is Rs 70,125 crore.
- ✓ The central government's share is Rs 49,087.50 crore, and the State government's share is Rs 21,037.50 crore.
- ✓ **Target of the PMGSY-IV**
- ✓ Under the PMGSY-IV, 62,500 Km of all-weather roads/bridges will be built and upgraded to connect the 25,000 unconnected rural villages
- ✓ The rural areas to be connected are :
 - ✓ Village having a population of more than 500 in plain areas;
 - ✓ Village having a population of more than 250 in North-East/Hilly States and Union Territories/ Special category areas (Tribal Schedule V, Aspirational Districts/Blocks, Desert areas);
 - ✓ Village having a population of more than 100 in the left-wing affected districts.
- ✓ **About the Phases of the PMGSY**
- ✓ The PMGSY was launched on 25 December 2000 to connect villages with a population of more than 500 in plain areas and more than 250 in hilly, desert, and special category states.
- ✓ The PMGSY-II was launched by the central government in March 2013. It proposed upgrading the roads built under Phase I and constructing new roads in identified rural habitations. The target was to construct 50,000 km of roads.
- ✓ The PMGSY-III was launched in December 2019 to upgrade/construct 1,25,000 km of roads.
- ✓ During the third phase, the focus was on upgrading existing Routes and Major Rural Links that connect habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets, Higher Secondary Schools, and Hospitals.
- ✓ Union Minister for Rural Development: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Q. What is the total outlay on the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana?

- A) Rs 70,125 crore
- B) Rs 58,267 crore
- C) Rs 65,896 crore
- D) Rs 89,907 crore

Answer : A

- ✓ The duration of the PMGSY-IV is five years, from 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- ✓ The total outlay for the PMGSY-IV for its entire duration is Rs 70,125 crore.
- ✓ The central government's share is Rs 49,087.50 crore, and the State government's share is Rs 21,037.50 crore

Q. How many roads will be constructed under the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana?

- A) 57,800 Km
- B) 62,500 Km
- C) 47,580 Km
- D) 60,700 Km

Answer : B

- ✓ Under the PMGSY-IV, 62,500 Km of all-weather roads/bridges will be built and upgraded to connect the 25,000 unconnected rural villages

- Q.** Which Union Ministry will implement the fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana?
- A) Ministry for Rural Development B) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
C) Ministry of Heavy Industries D) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Answer : A

- ✓ The PMGSY-IV will be a centrally sponsored scheme to be implemented by the Union Rural Development Ministry.

- Q.** With reference to Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), consider the following statements:

1. REITs are companies that own or finance income-producing real estate across a range of property sectors.
2. Most REITs are publicly traded like stocks, which makes them highly liquid, unlike traditional real estate investments.
3. To be qualified as a REIT in India, at least 50% of the investment must be made in real estate properties that are capable of generating revenues.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A) Only one (1) B) Only two (1,2)
C) All three (1,2,3) D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian REITs Association (IRA) recently launched Data Benchmarking Institutions (DBIs) to provide investors with detailed information on real estate investment trusts (REITs).
- ✓ **About Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs):**
- ✓ REITs are companies that own or finance income-producing real estate across a range of property sectors.
- ✓ It allows investors to pool their funds and invest in various real estate projects.
- ✓ Essentially, it functions like a mutual fund for real estate investments.
- ✓ These trusts own and oversee a portfolio of income-generating properties, such as office buildings, hotels, shopping malls, etc.
- ✓ Unlike other real estate companies, a REIT does not develop real estate properties to resell them. Instead, a REIT buys and develops properties primarily to operate them as part of its own investment portfolio.
- ✓ When investors invest in a REIT, they become fractional owners of the property equivalent to the amount they've invested, giving them access to the benefits of owning real estate assets in small ticket sizes.
- ✓ Most REITs are publicly traded like stocks, which makes them highly liquid, unlike traditional real estate investments.
- ✓ REITs in India:
- ✓ In India, REITs were introduced in 2014 and are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- ✓ For a company to qualify as a REIT, the following criteria must be satisfied:
- ✓ 90% of the income must be distributed to the investors in the form of dividends.
- ✓ 80% of the investment must be made in properties that are capable of generating revenues.
- ✓ Only 10% of the total investment must be made in real estate under-construction properties.
- ✓ The company must have an asset base of at least Rs 500 crores.
- ✓ REITs cannot invest in agricultural land, or vacant land.

Q. The central government approved the sale of 100 per cent equity in Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited to which company?

- A) Energy Efficiency Services Limited B) Konoike Transport Co. Ltd of Japan
C) Utility Powertech Ltd D) Bharti Hexacom Ltd

Answer : B

- ✓ The government of India has approved 100 per cent strategic disinvestment in the central public-sector enterprise Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited.
- ✓ The government also approved the highest bid of Rs 320 crore of the Japanese company Konoike Transport Co. Ltd for Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited.
- ✓ **100 per cent disinvestment in Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited**
- ✓ The government-owned MSTC Limited will sell its 100 per cent equity shares in Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited to the Japanese company Konoike Transport Co. Ltd for Rs 320 crore.
- ✓ Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited's management control will also be transferred to the Japanese company Konoike Transport Co. Ltd.
- ✓ **About Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited**
- ✓ Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited was established in 1979 as a subsidiary of MSTC Limited under the Union Ministry of Steel. FSNL specialises in the recovery and processing of scrap from slag and refuse generated during iron and steel making across different steel plants.
- ✓ The company's headquarters is in Bhilai, Durg, Chhattisgarh.
- ✓ **What is Disinvestment?**
- ✓ Disinvestment refers to selling equity shares by a company's owner to other investors or the public. In the Indian context, disinvestment is mainly used in the context of selling of equity shares by the government in its company.
- ✓ The disinvestment may or may not lead to privatisation. Privatisation of a government company will take place only if the government sells 51 per cent or more equity shares of its company and transfers management control to the public or other companies.
- ✓ **Disinvestment Target for 2024-25**
- ✓ The Indian government has set a disinvestment target of Rs 50,000 crore in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
- ✓ In 2024-3-24, the government of India initially set a disinvestment target of Rs 51,000 crore, but it was later revised down to Rs 30,000 crore.

Q. Where is the headquarters of the recently privatised public sector company Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited?

- A) Bhilai, Chhattisgarh B) Jaipur, Rajasthan
C) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh D) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Answer : A

Q. How much money will the government receive from the disinvestment in Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited?

- A) Rs 280 crore
B) Rs 570 crore
C) Rs 440 crore
D) Rs 320 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ The government-owned MSTC Limited will sell its 100 per cent equity shares in Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited to the Japanese company Konoike Transport Co. Ltd for Rs 320 crore

Q. Leading renewable energy (RE) project developers, manufacturing companies, banks, and financial institutions committed close to \$386 billion or around Rs 32.45 trillion to the development of RE projects by which year?

- A) 2030
B) 2028
C) 2026
D) 2035

Answer : A

- ✓ Banks, FIs to invest Rs 32.5 trillion in renewable energy by 2030: Centre
- ✓ Leading renewable energy (RE) project developers, manufacturing companies, banks, and financial institutions committed close to \$386 billion or around Rs 32.45 trillion to the development of RE projects by 2030.
- ✓ This commitment was made at the inaugural ceremony of the 4th RE-Invest Summit hosted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ✓ Public sector and private project developers have committed to building close to 570 gigawatts (Gw) of RE capacity.
- ✓ Reliance Industries (RIL) led the pack with a commitment of 100 Gw of capacity addition by 2030. It is followed by NTPC with 41.3 Gw and ReNew with 40 Gw of commitment.
- ✓ Additionally, ReNew will set up 6 Gw of ingot-wafer, solar cell, and module manufacturing.
- ✓ This target is one of India's commitments on global platforms, including G20 and the UNFCCC.
- ✓ Additionally, banks and financial institutions (FIs) submitted a commitment of Rs 24.8 trillion for financing RE projects in the country.
- ✓ State-owned REC leads the pack with Rs 6 trillion of investment commitment, followed by dedicated renewable financing body IREDA, which will invest Rs 5 trillion.
- ✓ State owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has made an investment commitment of Rs 3 trillion.
- ✓ Among the banks, SBI made the largest announcement with Rs 5 trillion of investment undertakings, followed by PNB

Q. Which bank has partnered with the PFRDA to launch NPS Vatsalya, a unique pension program designed specifically for minors, allowing parents or guardians to contribute to the pension account until the child reaches the age of 18?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ ICICI Bank partners with PFRDA to launch NPS Vatsalya, a pension account for minors
- ✓ ICICI Bank has launched the NPS Vatsalya, a pension program targeted at protecting children's financial future, at its service location in BKC, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ The Union Budget 2024-2025 suggested a new pension program that will be overseen by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ✓ It permits parents/guardians to contribute to the minor until they reach adulthood. When the individual reaches the age of 18, they can turn it into a regular NPS account.
- ✓ ICICI Bank marked the start of the scheme by creating accounts for a few children under NPS Vatsalya. They were also given a symbolic Permanent Retirement Account Number (PRAN) card for their NPS Vatsalya account.

Q. What is the duration of the PM Vishwakarma scheme?

- A) five years
B) three years
C) four years
D) two years

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the National PM Vishwakarma Program held in Wardha, Maharashtra, on 20 September 2024 to celebrate the first anniversary of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Central Sector Scheme “PM Vishwakarma” on 17 September 2023 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also distributed Vishwakarma certificates and loans to the scheme's beneficiaries.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also launched the Maharashtra Government's Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Scheme and the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme on this occasion.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone of PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park at Amravati, Maharashtra.
- ✓ **PM Vishwakarma Scheme**
- ✓ The PM Vishwakarma scheme is a five-year central sector scheme that aims to support 18 traditional crafts done traditionally by families using hands and tools.
- ✓ The central government has allocated Rs.13,000 crore for the scheme from 2023-24 to 2027-28.
- ✓ Features of the Scheme
- ✓ Traditional artisans, called Vishwakarma, are provided loans and training to upskill their crafts and produce better-quality products for the national and international markets. They are also provided marketing support to sell their products in the domestic and international markets.
- ✓ The trained artisans are given a PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.
- ✓ They are provided loans at the rate of 5 per cent.
- ✓ They are eligible for loans up to Rs one lakh in the first installment and up to Rs two lakh in the second installment.
- ✓ Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Scheme
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also launched the Maharashtra Government's Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Scheme at Wardha.
- ✓ The Acharya Chanakya Skill Development scheme focuses on skilling the state's youth between the ages of 15 and 45 to become self-reliant and find better employment opportunities.
- ✓ The state government will set up skill development training centres in prestigious colleges across the state.
- ✓ The state government aims to train around 1.5 lakh youth per year free of cost.
- ✓ Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi launched the Maharashtra Government's Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme at Wardha.
- ✓ The Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme of the state government aims to support women-led startups.
- ✓ The women-led startups in the early stage will be provided loans up to Rs 25 lakhs.
- ✓ Twenty-five per cent of the funding will be reserved for startups founded by women belonging to economically weaker sections and backward classes.
- ✓ PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Textiles has approved the setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in the states of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ✓ These integrated textile parks are being set up to make India the hub of the textile sector in the world and enhance the industry's competitiveness through economies of scale.
- ✓ These Parks will create a world-class industrial infrastructure that will attract large-scale investment, including foreign direct investment (FDI), and encourage innovation and job creation within the sector.

Q. How many traditional crafts have been included in the PM Vishwakarma scheme?

- A) 18
- B) 23
- C) 16
- D) 10

Answer : A

- ✓ PM Vishwakarma scheme is a five-year central sector scheme that aims to support 18 traditional crafts done traditionally by families using hands and tools.

Q. How many states will the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks be set up?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Textiles has approved the setting up of 7 PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks in the states of Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Q. Which company has collaborated with Metro Bank, a UK-based community bank, to drive the digital transformation of its operations?

- A) Wipro
- B) Infosys
- C) HCL
- D) IBM

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian IT giant Infosys has collaborated with Metro Bank, a UK-based community bank, to drive the digital transformation of its operations.
- ✓ The collaboration will utilise Infosys Topaz, the firm's AI-first offerings, to enhance Metro Bank's digital capabilities, improve automation, refine data, and embed further AI capabilities.
- ✓ The bank expects to deliver 80 million pounds of annualised cost savings this year across multiple initiatives, as it progresses towards the target of reaching mid-to-high teen return on tangible equity by 2027.

Q. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved Rs 530 Crore to boost drinking water supply in 12 cities of which state?

- A) Nagaland
- B) Assam
- C) Tripura
- D) Meghalaya

Answer : D

- ✓ ADB approves Rs 530 Crore to boost drinking water supply in 12 cities of Tripura
- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) would provide financial assistance of Rs 530 crore to the Tripura government to upgrade the drinking water supply in the state's 12 cities benefiting around four lakh people.
- ✓ 12 cities, where the ADB-funded ambitious scheme would be implemented include, Udaipur, Amarpur, Belonia, Melaghar, Bishramganj, Khowai, Ranir Bazar, Mohanpur, Dharmanagar, Kailashhar, Kumarghat and Ambassa. Of the 12 cities, seven are district headquarters — Udaipur, Belonia, Bishramganj, Khowai, Dharmanagar, Kailashhar and Ambassa.

Q. With reference to Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), consider the following statements:

1. DRTs are specialized judicial bodies established under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act).
2. A DRT is presided by a judicial officer appointed by the central government who is qualified to be a District Judge.
3. DRTs can take cases from banks for disputed loans above Rs 20 Lakh.

D) None

- ✓ The Finance Ministry recently asked banks to put in place effective monitoring and oversight mechanisms for efficient management of pending cases in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs).
- ✓ **About Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs):**
- ✓ DRTs are specialized judicial bodies established under the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act).
- ✓ RTs play a crucial role in enforcing creditor rights and expediting debt recovery processes under Indian law.
- ✓ **Types of Cases Handled:**
- ✓ Their primary mandate is to adjudicate and resolve disputes concerning debt recovery from banks, financial institutions and other specified entities.
- ✓ DRTs can take cases from banks for disputed loans above Rs 20 Lakh.
- ✓ The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act) provides access to banks and financial institutions covered under the Act for recovery of secured debts from the borrowers without the intervention of the Courts at the first stage.
- ✓ Securitisation Appeals (SAs) can be filed with the DRTs by those aggrieved against action taken by secured creditors under the SARFAESI Act.
- ✓ The DRT has the following structure:
- ✓ President: A judicial officer appointed by the central government who is qualified to be a District Judge.
- ✓ Members: Administrative and technical members appointed by the central government
- ✓ Under section 22(2) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.
- ✓ Jurisdiction: Each DRT is established for a specified territorial jurisdiction, and its jurisdiction extends to cases involving the recovery of debts due to banks and financial institutions within that jurisdiction.
- ✓ Appeals and Enforcement: Parties aggrieved by DRT orders have the right to appeal against the decision before the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT).
- ✓ At present, 39 DRTs and 5 DRATs are functioning across the country. Each DRT and DRAT are headed by a Presiding Officer and a Chairperson, respectively

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ Food Import Rejection Alerts (FIRA)- portal was launched during the second edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 hosted by FSSAI at Bharat Mandapam.
- ✓ It is an online portal for notification of food import rejections at Indian borders.
- ✓ It has been developed by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ✓ It is designed to notify the public and relevant food safety authorities about food import rejections at Indian borders.
- ✓ **Features**

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the SPICED Scheme:

1. It is aimed at enhancing the export of spices and value-added spice products.
2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's 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

- ✓ Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has approved a Spices Board scheme, 'Sustainability in spice sector through progressive, innovative and collaborative interventions for export development' (SPICED) scheme.
- ✓ It is aimed at significantly enhancing the export of spices and value-added spice products as well as improving the productivity of cardamoms and upgrading the post-harvest quality of spices across India for export.
- ✓ It is implemented during the remaining term of the 15th Finance Commission, up to 2025-26.
- ✓ Key highlights of the Scheme
- ✓ It is expected to facilitate value addition and to drive innovation and sustainability in the spice sector by introducing new sub-components/programs like the Mission Value Addition, Mission Clean and Safe Spices, promotion of GI spices, support for entrepreneurship through Spice Incubation Centres, etc.
- ✓ The scheme gives thrust on farmers groups / FPOS / Farmers Clusters identified under ODOP and DEH, SC/ST community, Exporters from NE region, and SMEs.
- ✓ While exporters with a valid Certificate of Registration as Exporter of Spices (CRES) are eligible for assistance under these programs, preference will be given to first-time applicants, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), etc.
- ✓ The programs under the components such as Improving the productivity of cardamom and Post-harvest quality upgradation of spices are specifically designed to empower farmer groups, including Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs), and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in key spice-growing regions.
- ✓ These groups will be prioritized for post-harvest improvement of spices, with targeted assistance provided to enhance the creation of an exportable surplus of spices, in compliance with the applicable food safety and quality standards.
- ✓ Scheme activities will be geo-tagged and fund availability, status of applications under different components, list of beneficiaries, etc. will be published on the Board's website for better transparency.

Q. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$50 million loan to improve water resources management, access to water, and community resilience to the effects of climate change in which state of India?

- A) Meghalaya
- B) Mizoram
- C) Manipur
- D) Maharashtra

Answer : A

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$50 million loan to improve water resources management, access to water, and community resilience to the effects of climate change in the state of Meghalaya, India.

- ✓ The project supports the Meghalaya State Water Policy 2019 which aims to achieve sustainable development, management, and use of the state's water resources through a participatory approach; reduce vulnerability; and promote integrated water resource management.
- ✓ The project will strengthen the capacity of districts in Meghalaya to manage water resources and introduce water storage structures that will ensure water security while building climate-resilience of communities.

Q. Which bank has recently launched the Ashva & Mayura Credit Card?

- A) Canara Bank
B) ICICI Bank
C) IDFC FIRST Bank
D) HDFC Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ IDFC FIRST Bank has launched the Ashva Credit Card. This new metal credit card, powered by Visa, combines India's rich cultural heritage with modern sophistication.
- ✓ The Ashva Credit Card offers benefits and features for those who frequently travel and seek luxury experiences. It is crafted from high-quality metal and includes exclusive perks designed for those who appreciate both style and substance.
- ✓ IDFC FIRST Bank has also launched the Mayura Credit Card, adding to its premium metal card range.
- ✓ This new card combines modern travel benefits with a design inspired by Indian heritage, specifically the peacock, or "Mayura."
- ✓ About IDFC First Bank
- ✓ Founded : 2015
- ✓ Headquarters : Mumbai
- ✓ MD & CEO : V. Vaidyanathan

Q. Consider the following:

1. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)
2. Worker Population Ratio (WPR)
3. Unemployment Rate (UR)
4. Current Weekly Status (CWS)

How many of the above are indicators of the Periodic Labour Force Survey?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for the period between July 2023 and June 2024, was released by the Labour Bureau.
- ✓ **Key Findings:**
- ✓ Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for persons of age 15 years and above was 60.1%. The same for male and female was 78.8% and 41.7% respectively.
- ✓ Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for persons of age 15 years and above was 58.2%. The same for male and female was 76.3% and 40.3% respectively.
- ✓ Unemployment Rate (UR) was 3.2% for both male and female of age 15 years and above.
- ✓ Unemployment Rate for male has shown a marginal decline from 3.3% during July 2022 – June 2023 to 3.2% during July 2023 – June 2024, among female it has increased from 2.9% to 3.2% during the same time span.
- ✓ **About Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS):**

- ✓ Currently, the platform integrates with 37 systems from 10 ministries via 118 APIs, covering over 1800 data fields.
- ✓ It was launched by the Prime Minister as part of the 'National Logistics Policy (NLP)' on September 17, 2022.
- ✓ **objectives:**
- ✓ To create a nationwide single-window logistics platform for end-to-end visibility.
- ✓ To develop a logistics gateway by integrating information available with various Govt. agencies across the value chain.
- ✓ To provide visibility for optimal usage of various modes of transportation.
- ✓ To provide data which can be utilized by the stakeholders for simplification of complicated processes like compliance, document filing, certifications, and approvals.
- ✓ To offer a platform for data exchange among government and private entities that are directly or indirectly involved in the Indian Logistics ecosystem.
- ✓ **Benefits:**
- ✓ It will give direct and indirect benefits to all logistics stakeholders like verification of drivers and vehicles details, tracking & tracing of consignment, Route Optimization Planning and timely updates on the destination of the consignment etc.
- ✓ It will enable structured planning by helping in decision-making on the optimum use of modes of logistics thereby saving cost and time.

Q. Tata Steel commissioned India's largest blast furnace with a volume of 5,870 square metres, as part of its Rs 27,000 crore Phase II expansion, at which of the following places?

A) Jamnagar, Gujarat	B) Kalinganagar, Odisha
C) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Answer : B

- ✓ Tata Steel Ltd had commissioned 'India's largest blast furnace' at Kalinganagar, Odisha as part of the Phase II expansion its plant.
- ✓ With a total investment of Rs 27,000 crore, the Phase II expansion at Kalinganagar will take the total capacity at the site from 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 8 MTPA.
- ✓ The new facility was inaugurated by T. V. Narendran, CEO and Managing Director, of Tata Steel.
- ✓ With the Phase II expansion, Odisha has emerged as the largest investment destination in India for Tata Steel, with a total cumulated investment of over Rs 100,000 crore in the last 10 years.
- ✓ The new blast furnace, with a volume of 5,870 m³, is equipped with state-of-the-art features for long campaign life and an eco-friendly design to optimise the steelmaking process.

Q. Which startup has been ranked first in LinkedIn Top Startups India List 2024 — an annual ranking of emerging companies where professionals want to work?

A) Rapido	B) Zepto
C) Sprinto	D) Lucidity

Answer : C

- ✓ Zepto retains first place in LinkedIn's 2024 list of India's Top Startups
- ✓ Quick commerce platform Zepto, for the 2nd consecutive year, has been ranked first in LinkedIn Top Startups India List 2024 — an annual ranking of emerging companies where professionals want to work.
- ✓ The list draws insights from data based on the actions of more than 1 billion LinkedIn members globally. It measures startups based on four pillars: employment growth, engagement, job interest and attraction of top talent.
- ✓ Zepto was followed by compliance firm Sprinto and cloud storage management platform Lucidity.

- ✓ E-commerce platform GoKwik, conversation intelligence platform Convin, biofuel supply chain platform BiofuelCircle, and, mental health platform MindPeers are also featured in the list.
- ✓ 14 startups (out of 20) are new entrants in this year's list and several first-time categories like biofuel, compliance and mental health point to the diversity of career opportunities for professionals eyeing the world of startups.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Bioethanol:

1. It is an agricultural by-product which is obtained from the processing of sugar from sugarcane.
2. It is used is an important industrial chemical as well as an additive to automotive gasoline.

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 Food and Public Distribution Minister said that India has become the World's third largest Producer and Consumer of Ethanol.
- ✓ Bioethanol is an agricultural by-product which is mainly obtained from the processing of sugar from sugarcane, but also from other sources such as rice husk or maize.
- ✓ It appears as a clear colorless liquid with a characteristic vinous odor and pungent taste.
- ✓ Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, it is also considered as renewable fuel.
- ✓ In India, it is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process.
- ✓ Ethanol blending is the process of combining ethanol and petrol to use less fossil fuel while driving a vehicle.
- ✓ Applications: Ethanol is an important industrial chemical; it is used as a solvent, in the synthesis of other organic chemicals, and as an additive to automotive gasoline.
- ✓ By blending ethanol with petrol, India aims to cut its oil import bill, which could widen to USD 101-104 billion in the current fiscal from USD 96.1 billion in 2023-24.
- ✓ The government's target of 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26 could potentially save the country USD 4 billion annually in foreign exchange.
- ✓ This infrastructure gap could lead to inefficiencies, increased costs, and potential supply disruptions, challenging the feasibility of meeting the 20% blending target by 2025-26.

Q. The “GST Compensation Cess” is levied by the Central Government primarily to:

- A) promote economic growth through tax incentives
- B) compensate states for revenue loss due to GST implementation
- C) increase central government revenue
- D) fund central infrastructure projects

Answer : B

- ✓ The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council recently set up a 10-member GoM to decide on the taxation of luxury, sin, and demerit goods once the compensation cess ends in March 2026.
- ✓ About GST Compensation Cess:
- ✓ It is levied under Section 8 of the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to State) Act, 2017.
- ✓ **Why is GST Cess Levied?**
- ✓ As GST is a consumption-based tax, the state in which the consumption of goods and supply happen would be eligible for the indirect tax revenue.

- ✓ Hence, after GST comes into effect, some states that are net exporters of goods and/or services are expected to experience a decrease in indirect tax revenue.
- ✓ To compensate the States for the loss in tax revenue, the GST Compensation Cess has been declared by the Central Government.
- ✓ **Usage of GST Cess:**
- ✓ All the proceeds received from the GST compensation cess would be credited to a non-lapsable fund known as the GST Compensation Fund.
- ✓ The funds would then be used for compensating tax revenue loss to States on account of GST implementation.
- ✓ If any funds are unutilized, then at the end of the transition period, it would be shared in half by the Central Government and all State Governments.
- ✓ The State government's share would be distributed in the ratio of their total revenues from the State tax or the Union territory goods and services tax, in the last year of the transition period.
- ✓ **Applicability:**
- ✓ GST Cess would be applicable to both the supply of goods or services that have been notified by the Central Government.
- ✓ Also, both intrastate supplies of goods or services and interstate supplies of goods or services would attract GST cess.
- ✓ In the GST regime, compensation cess at varied rates is levied on luxury, sin, and demerit goods (cigarettes, pan masala, gutkha, and other tobacco products, soft drinks, cars, etc.).
- ✓ In 2022, the GST Council decided to extend the levy till March 2026 to repay the interest and the principle amount of the Rs 2.69 lakh crore worth of loans taken in the 2021 and 2022 fiscal years to make good states' revenue loss during Covid years.

Q. Which bank has collaborated with EaseMyTrip.com to introduce an EaseMyTrip Co-branded Travel Debit Card, targeting frequent travellers and those spending on entertainment and lifestyle?

A) Bank of Baroda	B) Bank of Maharashtra
C) Indian Bank	D) Axis Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Bank of Baroda Unveils Co-Branded Travel Debit Card in Collaboration with EaseMyTrip
- ✓ Bank of Baroda, in collaboration with EaseMyTrip.com, has introduced a 'Bank of Baroda EaseMyTrip Co-branded Travel Debit Card', targeting frequent travellers and those spending on entertainment and lifestyle.
- ✓ This is the first co-branded travel debit card to be launched by a public sector bank.
- ✓ The card offers an array of exclusive benefits across travel bookings, hotel stays, OTT streaming platforms, and popular e-commerce sites, ensuring that users enjoy year-round savings with no minimum order value.

Q. Which bank has launched NPS Vatsalya, a unique program under the National Pension System (NPS) designed to provide minors with a secure and flexible retirement planning solution, ensuring long-term wealth building through compounding, with a minimum annual contribution of Rs. 1,000, offering diverse investment options across asset classes?

A) Federal Bank	B) ICICI Bank
C) State Bank of India	D) Canara Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ Federal Bank, one of India's leading banks has unveiled NPS Vatsalya, a pioneering program inside the National Pension System (NPS) designed exclusively for minors.
- ✓ The Government of India launched NPS Vatsalya to provide a secure and flexible retirement planning solution for children while assuring long-term wealth building, through the power of compounding.

- ✓ With a minimal annual contribution of Rs. 1,000, this initiative is accessible to families from all socioeconomic backgrounds, encouraging financial inclusion and early financial planning.
- ✓ NPS Vatsalya provides diverse investment alternatives, allowing guardians to choose between active and passive investments across multiple asset classes.
- ✓ The scheme is managed by reputed fund managers that are registered with the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), ensuring skilled investment management. Subscribers can also benefit from tax deductions under Sections 80 CCD (1) and 80 CCD (1B) of the Income Tax Act, making it a tax-effective investment alternative.
- ✓ About Federal Bank
- ✓ Founded : 23 April 1931
- ✓ Founder : K.P Hormis
- ✓ Headquarters : Kochi, Kerala.
- ✓ MD & CEO : KVS Manian

Q. Which bank has launched new updates to its SmartWealth app, introducing features aimed at making investments simpler?

A) IDBI Bank	B) State Bank of India
C) Axis Bank	D) HDFC Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ HDFC Bank launches instant SIP via SmartWealth app
- ✓ HDFC Bank has launched updates to its SmartWealth app. One of the key additions is the Instant SIP, which allows users to invest in mutual funds on the same day they identify an opportunity.
- ✓ This feature enables users to capitalise on favorable market conditions immediately. It caters to those who wish to respond quickly to market changes.
- ✓ Alongside the Instant SIP, the Unified Dashboard has received a makeover. It now provides a consolidated view of all investments, including mutual funds, demat accounts, and fixed deposits.

Q. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank?

A) Parveen Kumar Gupta	B) KVS Manian
C) Vincent Menachery Devassy	D) Muthuswamy Iyer

Answer : A

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has approved the reappointment of Parveen Kumar Gupta as Non-Executive Chairman of Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
- ✓ Gupta retired as a Managing Director of State Bank of India, after working for 38 years in India and abroad.
- ✓ He was also associated with Bank of Baroda as a senior advisor post-retirement

Q. Which bank has unveiled its Corporate Credit Card Suite designed specifically for start-ups within the New Economy Group (NEG)?

A) ICICI Bank	B) IDBI Bank
C) State Bank of India	D) Axis Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ Axis Bank has unveiled its Corporate Credit Card Suite designed specifically for start-ups within the New Economy Group (NEG).
- ✓ This innovative offering is tailored to streamline various financial processes for start-ups, including travel, expenses, and vendor payments.

- ✓ The suite consists of two distinct cards: the Executive Corporate Credit Card, catering to founders, and the Purchase Reward Credit Card, focused on expense management.

Q. Which e-Commerce giant has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to leverage the National Career Service (NCS) portal which aimed at enhancing job accessibility by allowing Amazon and its staffing agencies to post open job positions on the NCS platform?

- A) Flipkart
- B) Meesho
- C) Amazon
- D) Snapdeal

Answer : C

- ✓ Ecommerce giant Amazon's India unit Amazon India has signed an MoU with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to leverage the National Career Service (NCS) portal.
- ✓ The partnership is aimed at enhancing job accessibility by allowing Amazon and its staffing agencies to post open job positions on the NCS platform. The MoU initially set for two years.
- ✓ Notably, Amazon is the first e-commerce company to collaborate with the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the NCS portal.
- ✓ The initiative will enable job seekers from across the country to apply for various roles at Amazon and its affiliated agencies.
- ✓ AMAZON
- ✓ Founded : 1994 (Online bookstore)
- ✓ Founder : Jeff Bezos
- ✓ Headquarters : Seattle, Washington DC
- ✓ CEO : Andy Jessy

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Smart Precision Horticulture Programme:

1. It is an initiative under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.
2. It uses smart technology like the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, drones and data analytics to boost production.

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 Agriculture is planning a Smart Precision Horticulture Programme under the existing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.
- ✓ It uses smart technology such as the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, drones and data analytics to boost production through maximal use of resources while minimising environmental impact.
- ✓ It will cover 15,000 acres of land in five years from 2024-25 to 2028-29 and is expected to benefit about 60,000 farmers.
- ✓ At present, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), launched during Covid-19, has provisions for financing infrastructure projects for smart and precision agriculture.
- ✓ Apart from offering financial support, the Centre is also considering collaborating with the Netherlands and Israel, where tech-based modern farming solutions are being used, through Centres of Excellences (CoEs).

- ✓ Apart from offering financial support, the Centre is also considering collaborating with the Netherlands and Israel, where tech-based modern farming solutions are being used, through Centres of Excellences (CoEs).
- ✓ The Centre has also set up 22 Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDCs) across the country to test new technologies and modify them according to local needs.

Q. Which financial institution, in collaboration with Digital India's Common Service Centres (CSCs), disbursed approximately Rs. 100 crore in loans aimed at expanding access to formal credit for underserved individuals and MSMEs?

- A) Life Insurance Company B) Piramal Finance
C) HDFC Bank D) State Bank of India

Answer : B

- ✓ Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. (Piramal Finance), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Ltd., has collaborated with Digital India's Common Service Centres (CSCs) to satisfy Bharat's lending needs by expanding access to formal credit for underserved persons and MSMEs.
- ✓ This agreement successfully disbursed approximately Rs. 100 crore in August 2024 to increase credit availability in semi-urban areas, offering vital financial products such as house and business loans.
- ✓ Using CSC's wide network of over 6 lakh centres, this project intends to assist budget clients in tier 2 and tier 3 cities, successfully addressing the financial requirements of underserved regions and expanding financial inclusion.
- ✓ Piramal Finance will increase its loan offers via CSCs, focussing on underserved areas to better serve individuals and MSMEs in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

Q. With reference to Windfall Tax, consider the following statements:

1. It is a higher tax imposed on specific industries when they make unusual and above-average profits.
2. Windfall profits are directly attributed to any expansion or investment strategy of a business.
3. It is used as a supplementary revenue stream for the government.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The government recently slashed the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to 'nil' per tonne.
- ✓ **About Windfall Tax:**
- ✓ It is a higher tax imposed on specific industries when they make unusual and above-average profits.
- ✓ The term "windfall" refers to an unexpected rise in profits, and the tax on windfall gains is known as the windfall tax.
- ✓ The increase in profits is not attributed to any expansion or investment strategy of a business but to a favourable external factor for which the business is not responsible.
- ✓ A windfall tax is levied on industries or businesses that make disproportionate profits during unexpected situations like commodity shortages, wars, pandemics, changes in government policy, etc.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) services:

1. It is provided through the medium of the internet without having any physical interface.
2. The service providers need not pay Goods and Service Tax on their services in India.

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ According to a report by the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), many providers of Online Information and Database Access or Retrieval (OIDAR) services based abroad represent a “relatively untapped” sector with “tremendous” revenue potential.
- ✓ It is a category of services provided through the medium of the internet and received by the recipient online without having any physical interface with the supplier of such services.
- ✓ OIDAR services, delivered over the internet or electronic networks, are highly dependent on information technology and include offerings such as cloud services, digital content, online gaming, and online advertising.
- ✓ When such services are provided by an offshore entity to a non-taxable recipient, the supplier becomes liable for obtaining registration and discharging GST on the same.
- ✓ Criteria to determine an OIDAR Service
- ✓ These are the services whose delivery is mediated by information technology over the internet/electronic network and Services are automated and impossible to ensure in the absence of internet technology.
- ✓ Currently, as many as 574 offshore entities providing OIDAR Services have registered themselves with the GST department, and annual revenue from this sector has increased from Rs 80 crore for the FY 2017-18 to Rs 2,675 crore for 2023-24 fiscal.
- ✓ According to DGGI in its annual report noted that since the OIDAR service providers are located abroad it becomes a challenge in GST enforcement and hence the sector remains relatively untapped and holds tremendous revenue potential

D) Project Roshini

- ✓ HDFC Bank's Parivartan initiative aims to uplift rural communities with sustainable development programmes
- ✓ The HDFC Bank is set to increase the income of 5 lakh marginal farmers earning less than ₹60,000 annually by 2025, scaling up further its over ₹5,000 crore investments in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in the last decade.
- ✓ The bank's focus on rural development reflects our continued commitment to fostering sustainable growth and uplifting vulnerable communities. Since its inception in 2014, Parivartan has grown into one of India's largest CSR programmes, active in 28 States and 8 Union Territories.
- ✓ Though following 2013, corporates invested 2 per cent of net profit in the CSR initiative as it has become mandatory due to Section 135 of the Companies Act, Bharucha said his bank started the sustainable livelihood initiative (SLI) way back in 2008, giving affordable credit to people.
- ✓ By way of Parivartan, one of the largest CSR initiatives by a corporate entity in the country, HDFC Bank Deputy Managing Director (DMD) Kaizad M Bharucha said, they have been able to touch over 10 crore lives directly and indirectly in ten years and fostered self-reliance and empowerment in the communities they work with.
- ✓ In the CSR activities, which first began in Varanasi, the Bank said it spent ₹945.31 crore in FY24, which was up from ₹820.89 crore in FY23 and ₹736.01 crore in FY22

Q. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has selected IT major __ to develop its NextGen digital platform.

- A) Infosys
B) Wipro
C) HCL
D) TCS

Answer : A

- ✓ The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has selected IT major Infosys to develop its NextGen digital platform.
- ✓ It will be an integrated end-to-end digital insurance solution providing “excellent services to customers, business lifecycle management and operational activities for sales intermediaries and digital front-end platform for branch employees”.
- ✓ The digital platform will be modular, flexible, cloud-native and have platform driven architecture capable of quickly adopting innovative technologies, new products and features.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Nidhi Companies:

1. These companies operate in the Non-Banking Financing Sector of India.
2. These are recognized under the Banking Regulation Act 1949 of 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 Registrar of Companies (RoC) under the corporate affairs ministry has penalised over two dozen Nidhi companies in about a fortnight for alleged violations of Companies Act provisions.
- ✓ A NIDHI Company is recognised under Section 406 of the Companies Act 2013 and typically operates in the Non-Banking Financing Sector of India.
- ✓ It is formed to borrow and lend money to its members. It inculcates the habit of saving among its members and works on the principle of mutual benefit.
- ✓ It isn't required to receive the license from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as these are registered with the companies act.
- ✓ Members: Minimum of seven members is required to start a Nidhi Company out of which three members must be the directors of the company.
- ✓ **Activities Prohibited in a Nidhi Company**
- ✓ It can't deal with chit funds, hire-purchase finance, leasing finance, insurance or securities business.
- ✓ It is strictly prohibited from accepting deposits from or lending funds to, any other person except members.
- ✓ Nidhi companies should not issue preference shares, debentures or any other debt instrument in any manner, name or form.
- ✓ Nidhi companies should not open current accounts with their members

Q. Which insurance company has joined hands with Policybazaar to launch 'SUPER STAR', a personalized long-term health insurance plan designed to provide more client value?

- A) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance B) Bharti AXA General Insurance
C) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance D) Star Health and Allied Insurance

Answer : D

A) Only one (1)

B) Only two (1,3)

C) All three (1,2,3)

D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Cabinet recently approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for modification of the scheme of budgetary support for the cost of Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP) with a total outlay of Rs.12461 crore.
- ✓ About Scheme of budgetary support for the cost of Enabling Infrastructure for Hydro Electric Projects (HEP):
- ✓ This scheme, set to run from FY 2024-25 to FY 2031-32, aims to enhance infrastructure and support the development of hydro power in India.
- ✓ The scheme addresses major challenges such as remote locations and inadequate infrastructure by broadening its scope to cover additional costs.
- ✓ This includes funding for the construction of transmission lines, upgrading pooling substations, and developing ropeways, railway sidings, and communication infrastructure.
- ✓ It also supports the strengthening of existing roads and bridges leading to project sites.
- ✓ The scheme is set to support hydro power projects with a cumulative generation capacity of approximately 31,350 MW.
- ✓ It applies to all hydro projects over 25 MW, including private sector projects, and Pumped Storage Projects (PSPs).
- ✓ Budgetary support limits have been revised to Rs. 1 crore per MW for projects up to 200 MW, and Rs. 200 crores plus Rs. 0.75 crore per MW for projects above 200 MW, with potential increases up to Rs. 1.5 crore per MW in exceptional cases.
- ✓ The scheme also incorporates a rigorous approval process, where budgetary support will be granted following cost appraisals by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIB) and Public Investment Board (PIB), and subsequent approval by the Competent Authority.
- ✓ The projects whose Letter of Award of the first major package is issued by June 30, 2028, will be eligible under the scheme.

Q. Which Indian bank became the first major to sign the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF), aligning itself with global climate risk management efforts and aiming to measure and manage its financed emissions?

A) State Bank of India

B) Punjab National Bank

C) Canara Bank

D) Union Bank of India

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Bank of India announced its decision to become a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF).
- ✓ This step aligns with the growing global emphasis on climate risk management and the recent draft guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on climate risk disclosures.
- ✓ PCAF is a global partnership of financial institutions working to develop and implement a harmonized approach to assess and disclose greenhouse gas emissions associated with loans and investments.
- ✓ By joining PCAF, Union Bank of India demonstrates its commitment to measuring and managing its financed emissions, a crucial aspect of climate risk management for banks.

Q. Who has been appointed as MD & CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited?

A) Nehal Vora

B) Rama Mohan Rao

C) Subrata Mondal

D) Subhasri

Answer : C

- ✓ IFFCO Tokio General Insurance Company Limited (IFFCO Tokio) has appointed Subrata Mondal as its new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- ✓ Mondal, who has been associated with the company since 2001, brings over 36 years of experience in the insurance industry to his new leadership role.
- ✓ IFFCO-Tokio General is a 51:49 joint venture between the Indian Farmers Fertilisers Co-operative (IFFCO) and Tokio Marine Group – one of the world's largest insurance companies based in Japan.

Q. Which bank has launched three new offerin to ease Payments For Commuters?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ SBI Launches 3 New Offerings To Ease Payments For Commuters.
- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) has launched three new offerings namely MTS RuPay NCMC prepaid card, the OneView mobile Application (App), and an advanced design for the SBI FASTag to enhance convenience, security, and efficiency for the daily commuters.
- ✓ These offerings are designed to simplify payment processes and contribute to India's overall goal of digital Financial Inclusion (FI).
- ✓ MTS RuPay NCMC prepaid card:
- ✓ MTS RuPay NCMC prepaid card, India's first of its kind, was created to provide a seamless, offline payment solution for National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) – enabled transport systems, including metro rails, buses, ferries, tolls, and parking.
- ✓ OneView mobile App:
- ✓ OneView mobile App is designed to handle SBI's NCMC Prepaid Cards, allowing customers to top-up, track, and manage their cards from a single platform.
- ✓ SBI FASTag:
- ✓ The SBI has introduced an advanced design for its FASTag in the Vehicle Class (VC-04) category such as Car, Jeep, Van, etc.

Q. The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties of __ on Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd. for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'non-banking financial company—housing finance company' in September 2024.

- A) Rs 3.5 lakh
- B) Rs 4.5 lakh
- C) Rs 5.5 lakh
- D) Rs 6.5 lakh

Answer : A

- ✓ The Reserve Bank has imposed penalties on three entities, including Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd, for non-compliance with certain provisions of directions on 'non-banking financial company – housing finance company'.
- ✓ A penalty of Rs 3.5 lakh has been imposed on Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited.
- ✓ RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Godrej Housing.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India has also imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

- Q.** Which among the following has launched an online tool Daava Soochak for depositors to track their claim status?
- A) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC)
 - B) Bharatiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited (BRBNMPL)
 - C) Reserve Bank Information Technology Private Limited (ReBIT)
 - D) Indian Financial Technology and Allied Services (IFTAS)

Answer : A

- ✓ The Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has launched an online tool Daava Soochak for depositors to track their claim status.
- ✓ The DICGC's mandate since its inception has been the reimbursement of insured amounts to depositors of failed banks.
- ✓ Daava Soochak, a user-friendly online tool, is part of DICGC's ongoing commitment to improving the services provided for depositors.
- ✓ Depositors can now track the status of their claims by entering their mobile number (registered with their bank) on the DICGC website.
- ✓ To begin with, depositors can view the status of their claims for banks placed under All Inclusive Directions (AID) post-April 01, 2024.
- ✓ The corporation ensures that all categories of deposits with banks except institutional deposits. The deposit insurance coverage limit has been enhanced six times since 1962, from Rs 1,500 per depositor held in the same right and same capacity at all the branches of the insured bank to Rs 5,00,000 on February 04, 2020.
- ✓ At present, 97.8 per cent of the total deposit accounts are fully protected. Of the remaining 2.2 per cent of accounts, deposits are insured up to the limit of Rs 5 lakh.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the VisioNxt Initiative:

1. It focuses on delivering trend insights and forecasting for the Indian fashion and retail market.
2. It is supported by the Union Ministry of Textiles.

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 union Minister of Textiles launched the 'VisioNxt Fashion Forecasting Initiative' of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).
- ✓ It is India's first ever trend insights and forecasting Initiative.
- ✓ It was conceived and established at NIFT Delhi (Creative Lab) and NIFT Chennai (Insights Lab) with the support of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, in 2018.
- ✓ The initiative, now centralized in Chennai, focuses on delivering trend insights and forecasting for the Indian fashion and retail market.
- ✓ It also offers various trend related consultancy services, academic courses, workshops etc.
- ✓ Its mission is to identify, map, and analyse geo-specific trends, reflecting the positive plurality, cultural diversity, and socio-economic nuances of India while collating comprehensive trends and insights. To support weavers, manufacturers, retailers, domestic businesses, homegrown designers, and fashion brands, this report is available in Hindi and English through the VisioNxt portal.

- ✓ The initiative empowers users to design, produce, and launch consumer-focused, targeted collections for this diverse nation 'Paridhi' will mark the launch of the first inclusive fashion trend forecast by VisioNxt, along with a web portal to disseminate India-specific fashion trends.
- ✓ VisioNxt has achieved this through the development of a unique prediction model known as "DeepVision," designed to decode patterns and interpret fashion trends in India.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Technical Textiles:

1. They are used primarily for their aesthetic or decorative characteristics.
2. They are manufactured using natural as well as man-made fibres.

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

- ✓ Annual exports of technical textiles will cross \$10 billion by 2030, Union Minister for Textiles said recently.
- ✓ About Technical Textiles:
- ✓ Technical textiles are defined as textile materials and products used primarily for their technical performance and functional properties rather than their aesthetic or decorative characteristics.
- ✓ Other terms used for defining technical textiles include industrial textiles, functional textiles, performance textiles, engineering textiles, invisible textiles, and hi-tech textiles.
- ✓ They are manufactured using natural as well as man-made fibres.
- ✓ They are classified into 12 major groups based on their application areas, namely: Agrotech, Geotech, Buildtech, Mobiltech, Hometech, Clothtech, Indutech, Meditech, Sportstech, Protech, Packtech, and Oekotech

Q. Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant, recently seen in the news, is located in which country?

- A) Iran
B) Saudi Arabia
C) United Arab Emirates
D) Ukraine

Answer : C

- ✓ United Arab Emirates has successfully completed the Arab world's first nuclear power plant, the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.
- ✓ About Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant:
- ✓ It is situated in Al Dhafra, within the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, UAE, on the Arabian Gulf, about 53 km west-southwest of the city of Ruwais.
- ✓ It is the first nuclear energy plant in the Arab World.
- ✓ Construction of the plant commenced in July 2012. It started operations in 2020 when the first of its four reactors went into service.
- ✓ The plant consists of four nuclear reactors, which once fully operational will prevent the release of up to 21 million tonnes of carbon emissions every year.
- ✓ It will produce 40 terawatt-hours (TWh) of electricity annually.
- ✓ It is expected to provide up to 25% of the electricity needs of the UAE, nearly the equivalent of New Zealand's annual consumption.
- ✓ The station will power companies, including the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), one of the world's biggest oil producers, Emirates Steel, and Emirates Global Aluminium.

Q. According to a new report from Counterpoint Research, India has emerged as the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones overtaking the US. Which among the following countries has the largest market for 5G smartphones?

- A) China
B) USA
C) Japan
D) South Korea

Answer : A

- ✓ According to a new report from Counterpoint Research, India has emerged as the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones, trailing only behind China. 5G smartphones are becoming increasingly prominent across various price ranges in India.
- ✓ India became the second-biggest 5G handset market during the first half, overtaking the US.
- ✓ The strong shipments from Xiaomi, Vivo, Samsung, and other brands in the budget segment were the main reasons for this trend. China maintains the leading position with a 32 per cent share of the global 5G smartphone market, while India holds 13 per cent.

Q. Which Small Finance Bank has partnered with state-owned United India Insurance Company (UIIC) to distribute general insurance solutions to the bank's customers?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ AU Small Finance Bank has partnered with state-owned United India Insurance Company (UIIC) to distribute general insurance solutions to the bank's customers.
- ✓ It includes motor insurance, personal accident insurance, crop insurance, property insurance, shopkeeper insurance, cyber incident insurance, and more.
- ✓ This collaboration positions AU SFB as a preferred choice for its diverse customer base across 21 states and 4 union territories, offering reliable and affordable general insurance solutions.
- ✓ The partnership leverages UIIC's vast network of branches in over 1,000 tier 2 and tier 3 locations, aligning with AU SFB's expanding infrastructure and growing customer portfolio.

Q. Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Max Life) has partnered with which bank to boost insurance reach and market growth, aligning with their strategic goals?

- A) DSB Bank
B) CSB Bank
C) Citi Bank
D) Yes Bank

Answer : B

- ✓ Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Max Life) has entered into a bancassurance partnership with CSB Bank (CSB), a private sector bank in India.
- ✓ The partnership plans to incorporate Max Life's insurance products into CSB Bank's channels, giving customers easy access to insurance alongside banking services.
- ✓ CSB Bank is one of Kerala's oldest private banks, with 801 branches in the country. This collaboration uses the strengths of both Max Life and CSB Bank to boost insurance reach and market growth, aligning with their strategic goals.

Q. Krishnan Venkat Subramanian has been appointed as MD and CEO of which bank for three years?

- A) RBL Bank
B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
C) Federal Bank
D) DBS India

Answer : C

- ✓ C&AG assists the committee during the course of the investigation.
- ✓ The main function of the committee is to ascertain whether the money granted by parliament has been spent by the government within the scope of the demand.
- ✓ Membership:
- ✓ PAC consists of not more than twenty-two members, fifteen elected by Lok Sabha, and not more than seven members of Rajya Sabha.
- ✓ The term of office of the members is one year.
- ✓ The Chairperson of the Committee is appointed by the Speaker from amongst the members of the Committee from Lok Sabha.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF):

1. It aims to provide financial support to regions suffering both economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change.
2. It encourages voluntary contributions from developed 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

- ✓ A crucial conversation has recently emerged around whether subnational entities can seek compensation through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Loss and Damage Fund (LDF).
- ✓ About Loss and Damage Fund (LDF):
- ✓ LDF was established at the 2022 UNFCCC Conference (COP27) in Egypt.
- ✓ Purpose: To provide financial support to regions suffering both economic and non-economic losses caused by climate change.
- ✓ Economic loss and damage are negative impacts that one can assign a monetary value to. These are things such as the costs of rebuilding infrastructure that has been damaged due to a flood, or the loss of revenue from agricultural crops that were destroyed due to drought.
- ✓ Non-economic loss and damage are negative impacts where it is difficult or infeasible to assign a monetary value.
- ✓ It was designed to provide crucial support to vulnerable nations facing the brunt of climate-related challenges.
- ✓ The LDF is overseen by a Governing Board that determines how the fund's resources are disbursed, with the World Bank serving as the interim trustee tasked with hosting the fund for four years.
- ✓ Financial support will be provided in the form of grants, concessional financing that can be utilized by any eligible country.
- ✓ The fund encourages voluntary contributions from developed countries but invites developing countries to contribute to it too

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Centralized Pension Payment System:

1. It allows a national-level centralized system allowing pension payouts through any bank or branch in India.
2. A person eligible to avail the benefit of this system should be a member of Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

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 Labour and Employment along with the Chairperson, Central Board of Trustees, EPF has approved the proposal for a Centralized Pension Payment System (CPPS) for Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.
- ✓ It provides a national-level centralized system allowing pension payouts through any bank or branch in India.
- ✓ This replaces the current decentralized pension disbursement system, where each EPFO Zonal/Regional Office maintains individual arrangements with just three to four banks.
- ✓ Who is eligible for pension?
- ✓ Individuals have to fulfill the following criteria to be eligible for availing benefits under the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS).
- ✓ Should be a member of EPFO
- ✓ Should have completed 10 years of service
- ✓ Has reached the age of 58
- ✓ They can also withdraw the EPS at a reduced rate from the age of 50 years, and can also defer the pension for two years (up to 60 years of age) after which they will get a pension at an additional rate of 4% for each year.
- ✓ This facility will be launched as part of EPFO's ongoing IT modernization project Centralized IT Enabled System (CITES 2.01) from 1st January 2025.
- ✓ Benefits: The CPPS would also ensure disbursement of pension throughout India without any need for transfer of Pension Payment Orders (PPO) from one office to another even when the Pensioner moves from one location to another or changes his bank or branch.
- ✓ It is estimated to benefit more than 78 lakh EPFO EPS pensioners, and will particularly benefit retirees who relocate to their hometown after retirement

Q. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved seven schemes to improve farmers' lives and increase their incomes at a total outlay of ____.

- A) Rs 12,235.30 Crore B) Rs 13,235.30 Crore
C) Rs 14,235.30 Crore D) Rs 15,235.30 Crore

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi approved seven schemes to improve farmers' lives and increase their incomes at a total outlay of Rs 14,235.30 Crore.
- 1. Digital Agriculture Mission: based on the structure of Digital Public Infrastructure, Digital Agriculture Mission will use technology to improve farmers' lives. The Mission has a total outlay of Rs 2,817 crores.
- 2. Crop science for food and nutritional security: with a total outlay of Rs 3,979 crore. The initiative will prepare farmers for climate resilience and provide for food security by 2047.
- 3. Strengthening Agricultural Education, Management, and Social Sciences: with a total outlay of Rs 2,291 Crore the measure will prepare agriculture students and researchers for current challenges.
- 4. Sustainable livestock health and production: with a total outlay of Rs 1,702 crore, the decision aims to Increase farmers' income from livestock and dairy.
- 5. Sustainable development of Horticulture: with a total outlay of Rs 1129.30 crore, the measure aims to increase farmers' income from horticulture plants.
- 6. Strengthening Krishi Vigyan Kendra with an outlay of Rs 1,202 crore.
- 7. Natural Resource Management with an outlay of Rs 1,115 crore.

Q. According to the World Bank, which country is the fastest-growing economy among the major economies in the world?

- A) Japan B) China
C) India D) Singapore

Answer : C

- ✓ The World Bank expects the Indian economy to grow at a good pace despite the challenging global economic situation.
- ✓ The World Bank expects India to remain the fastest-growing major economy in the world in the current financial year.
- ✓ The Indian economy grew by 8.2 per cent in 2023-24 and was the fastest-growing major economy in the world.
- ✓ It expects the Indian economy to grow by 6.7 per cent in 2025-26 and 2026-27.
- ✓ It highlighted the importance of trade in the country's economic growth and suggested that India diversify its export basket and become part of the global value chain.
- ✓ The report suggests India should also focus on the textiles, apparel, footwear, electronics, and green technology products sectors to diversify its export basket.
- ✓ According to the World Bank, India is globally competitive in Information Technology, business services, and pharmaceutical sector exports.
- ✓ The continuing growth and a decline in inflation will help India reduce poverty

Q. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), a head-hunter for State-owned financial services entities, has recommended Rama Mohan Rao Amara for the position of MD of which bank?

- A) Canara Bank
B) Axis Bank
C) State bank of India
D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), a head-hunter for State-owned financial services entities, has recommended Rama Mohan Rao Amara for the position of Managing Director of State Bank of India, the country's largest commercial bank.
- ✓ Amara is currently Deputy Managing Director at SBI.
- ✓ Amara is expected to fill the vacancy created due to elevation of C S Setty as Chairman of SBI.

Q. Which company has collaborated with Gramophone, a leading agritech platform, to enable 2 million smallholder farmers on the Community Pass platform in India to have access to agri inputs?

- A) VISA
B) SBI Card
C) Rupay
D) Mastercard

Answer : D

- ✓ Mastercard has collaborated with Gramophone, a leading agritech platform, to enable 2 million smallholder farmers on the Mastercard Community Pass platform in India with access to agri inputs.
- ✓ The two entities will work towards powering offline payments for farmers in rural and remote areas through the Community Pass financial inclusion card.
- ✓ Gramophone is also expected to enable their existing five lakh farmers with offline payments and credit.

Q. Who launched the innovative Point-of-Sale (POS) software ‘DigiPOS,’ designed to elevate in-store payment experiences across Apple Premium Reseller outlets in India by leveraging iOS devices such as iPhones and iPads?

- A) PhonePe B) Paytm
C) GooglePay D) Razorpay

Answer : D

- ✓ Razorpay has launched the innovative Point-of-Sale (POS) software, 'Razorpay DigiPOS'.

- ✓ This industry-first solution is set to revolutionize in-store payments across Apple Premium Reseller outlets in India by leveraging iOS devices such as iPhones and iPads.
- ✓ The integration of DigiPOS ensures a seamless, intuitive, and efficient payment experience, eliminating the need for traditional Android devices and enhancing the overall customer experience.
- ✓ For the first time, Apple Premium Reseller stores can now process payments using their iPads and iPhones, whether for card transactions, no-cost EMIs, or UPI payments

Q. Which company has launched India's first Android-based Cash Recycling Machine (CRM), HPDx-BU01, which serves as a Digital Banking Unit offering a variety of services including QR-based UPI cash withdrawal and deposit, account opening, and credit card issuance?

- A) Razorpay Software Private Limited
- B) Intellect Design Arena
- C) Pine Labs
- D) Hitachi Payment Services

Answer : D

- ✓ Hitachi Payment launches Country's First Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine
- ✓ Hitachi Payment Services, India's leading provider of payments and commerce solutions, announced India's first Android-based cash recycling machine, which also serves as a Digital Banking Unit, providing one-stop services in a modern digital banking environment.
- ✓ The Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine, HPDx-BU01, is a big step towards improving customer convenience and experience while boosting operational and cost efficiency in banks.
- ✓ The Android-Based Cash Recycling Machine was presented at GFF with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ✓ Its complete range of capabilities, which combine the benefits of traditional Cash Recycling Machines (CRMs) with the agility and flexibility of the Android platform, may be adapted to various financial needs.

Q. Which Fintech startup has launched India's first multi-brand co-branded credit card, 'YEB BANK POP-CLUB RuPay Credit Card' which was developed in partnership with RuPay and Yes Bank ?

- A) Paytm
- B) PhonePe
- C) Pine Labs
- D) POPtech Growth Private Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ POP Launches India's First Multi-Brand Co-Branded Credit Card in Partnership with RuPay & Yes Bank.
- ✓ POPtech Growth Private Limited (POP), a Fintech startup has launched India's first multi-brand co-branded credit card, 'YEB BANK POP-CLUB RuPay Credit Card' which was developed in partnership with RuPay and Yes Bank Limited.
- ✓ It was launched at 2024 Global Fintech Festival (GFF), Mumbai(Maharashtra) in the presence of Amit Sinha, Head of Yes Bank's credit card sales and partnerships, and Nalin Bansal, Chief of Corporate and Fintech Relationships at National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Q. The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a fine of Rs 2.68 crore on which bank for violating certain provisions?

- A) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- B) Indian Overseas Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) UCO Bank

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI Imposes 2.68 Cr Penalty on UCO BANK
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.68 crore on UCO Bank for contravention of certain provisions, including on opening of current accounts, interest rate on deposits and frauds classification.
- ✓ The RBI has also imposed a penalty of Rs 2.1 lakh on Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd for non-compliance with certain provisions of Know Your Customer (KYC) directions

Q. Which bank has launched the DigiPassBook feature on its SmartWealth app?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ HDFC Bank has launched the DigiPassBook feature on its SmartWealth app.
- ✓ This will revolutionise how users manage their investments, the lender said in a statement.
- ✓ This new feature integrates all equity investments, ETFs, and demat accounts into one platform.
- ✓ DigiPassBook allows users to consolidate their financial information with a single consent.
- ✓ It aggregates equity investments, ETF holdings, and transactions from various depository participants.
- ✓ The feature also combines bank account balances, reducing the need to switch between multiple apps.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Dispute Resolution Scheme:

1. It covers the disputed amount of Rs. 10 lakh and the taxpayer's income for the relevant year below Rs. 1 crore rupees.
2. It aims to reduce litigation and provide a faster and more cost-effective resolution for taxpayers.

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 Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has introduced the Dispute Resolution Scheme (e-DRS), 2022, as a streamlined and efficient platform for taxpayers to resolve their income tax disputes.
- ✓ The scheme aims to reduce litigation and provide a faster and more cost-effective resolution for taxpayers.
- ✓ This initiative, established under section 245MA of the Income-tax Act, 1961, will allow taxpayers to resolve disputes electronically through Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs).
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ Taxpayers who meet certain conditions specified in section 245MA can apply for dispute resolution.
- ✓ This includes cases where the disputed amount does not exceed Rs. 10 lakh and the taxpayer's income for the relevant year is below Rs. 50 lakh.
- ✓ The dispute must not involve information from searches or international agreements.
- ✓ The DRC, established in all 18 regions across the country, can modify orders, reduce penalties, or waive prosecution. They are required to decide within six months of receiving the application.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the World Gold Council:

1. It aims to maximize the industry's potential growth by monitoring and defending existing gold consumption.
2. It is headquartered in India and is the creator of the first gold exchange-traded 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 : A

- ✓ The World Gold Council (WGC) has raised its projection for India's gold consumption in 2024 to 850 tonnes from 750 tonnes.
- ✓ It is the market development organisation for the gold industry.
- ✓ It is a nonprofit association formed in 1987 whose members comprise the world's leading and most forward-thinking gold mining companies.
- ✓ The WGC was established to promote the use of and demand for gold through marketing, research, and lobbying.
- ✓ Headquartered in London, with operations in India, China, Singapore, and the USA, the WGC covers the markets which comprise about three-quarters of the world's annual gold consumption.
- ✓ The WGC is also the global authority on gold, and they offer comprehensive analyses of the industry.

Q. The Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, signed an MoU with which digital payments company for a three-year partnership valued at up to USD 1 million, aims to train youth across 10 States?

A) American Express

B) VISA

C) Mastercard

D) RuPay

Answer : B

- ✓ Visa and the Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council inked a 3-year partnership of up to \$1 million USD
- ✓ The Tourism & Hospitality Skill Council (THSC) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Visa (NYSE: V), a global leader in digital payments, for a three-year partnership valued at up to \$1 million USD.
- ✓ This initiative, designed to up skill at least 20,000 Indian youth in tourism-relevant skills, was formalized in the presence of Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and Minister of State, Ministry of Education Government of India.

Q. Which of the following companies launched its Payment Passkey Service, marking a significant step forward in secure online transactions, this innovative service aims to make online shopping more secure and convenient, with India chosen as the debut market for its pilot program?

A) American Express

B) VISA

C) Mastercard

D) RuPay

Answer : C

- ✓ Mastercard launches Global Payment Passkey Service in India
- ✓ US-based multinational payment card services corporation Mastercard has launched its Payment Passkey Service, with plans to first introduce it to India. It Payment Passkey Service, marking a significant step forward in secure online transactions.
- ✓ Unveiled at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, this innovative service aims to make online shopping more secure and convenient, with India chosen as the debut market for its pilot program.

Q. India's energy major, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has launched a co-branded credit card XTRA in partnership with which bank in Global Fintech Fest (GFF), Mumbai?

A) RBL Bank

B) ICICI Bank

C) Axis Bank

D) HDFC Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ India's energy major, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has launched a co-branded credit card XTRA in partnership with RBL Bank in Global Fintech Fest (GFF), Mumbai
- ✓ This strategic collaboration aims to provide cardholders with attractive rewards and benefits, enabling them to earn upto 250 litres of free petrol annually.
- ✓ RBL Bank is one of India's leading private sector banks with an expanding presence across the country. The Bank offers specialized services under five business verticals namely: Corporate Banking, Commercial Banking, Branch Banking & Retail Liabilities, Retail Assets and Treasury & Financial Markets Operations.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):

1. It is a specialized and independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation.
2. It has all the administrative and financial powers and is tasked with the responsibility of catalysing the India Semiconductor ecosystem.

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 gave the green light to Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd for establishing a new semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat, which is the fifth semiconductor unit to be approved under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- ✓ About India Semiconductor Mission (ISM):
- ✓ ISM is a specialized and independent Business Division within the Digital India Corporation.
- ✓ It aims to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem to enable India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design.
- ✓ ISM has all the administrative and financial powers and is tasked with the responsibility of catalysing the India Semiconductor ecosystem in manufacturing, packaging, and design.
- ✓ ISM has an advisory board consisting of some of the leading global experts in the field of semiconductors.
- ✓ ISM has been working as a nodal agency for the schemes approved under the Semicon India Programme.
- ✓ Key Facts about Semicon India Programme:
- ✓ The ISM was launched in 2021 with a total financial outlay of Rs. 76,000 crores under the aegis of the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), Government of India.
- ✓ It is part of the comprehensive program for the development of sustainable semiconductor and display ecosystems in the country.
- ✓ The programme aims to provide financial support to companies investing in semiconductors, display manufacturing, and design ecosystem.
- ✓ It also promotes and facilitates indigenous Intellectual Property (IP) generation and encourages, enables, and incentivizes the Transfer of Technologies (ToT).
- ✓ The following four schemes have been introduced under the aforesaid programme:
- ✓ Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs in India.
- ✓ Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs in India.
- ✓ Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/ Sensors Fab and Semiconductor Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP)/OSAT facilities in India.
- ✓ Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme.

Q.

1. It is conceived as an umbrella scheme to support digital agriculture initiatives.
2. Its main components include AgriStack and Krishi Decision Support System.
3. It will link geographic information on land records with their physical locations.

How many of the above given statements are correct?

- A) One Only B) Two only
C) All three D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Cabinet Committee chaired by the Prime Minister of India approved the Digital Agriculture Mission with an outlay of Rs. 2817 Crore, including the central share of Rs. 1940 Crore.
- ✓ It is conceived as an umbrella scheme to support digital agriculture initiatives, such as creating Digital Public Infrastructure, implementing the Digital General Crop Estimation Survey (DGCES), and taking up other IT initiatives by the Central Government, State Governments, and Academic and Research Institutions.
- ✓ Three major components of DPI are envisaged under the Digital Agriculture Mission: AgriStack, Krishi Decision Support System (DSS), and Soil Profile Maps.
- ✓ Each of these DPI components will provide solutions that will allow farmers to access and avail of various services.
- ✓ AgriStack: The farmer-centric DPI AgriStack consists of three foundational agri-sector registries or databases: Farmers' Registry, Geo-referenced Village Maps, and Crop Sown Registry, all of which will be created and maintained by state/ UT governments.
- ✓ Farmers' Registry: It will be given a digital identity ('Farmer ID') similar to Aadhaar, which will be linked dynamically to records of land, ownership of livestock, crops sown, demographic details, family details, schemes and benefits availed, etc.
- ✓ Pilots projects for the creation of Farmer IDs have been carried out in six districts — Farrukhabad (Uttar Pradesh), Gandhinagar (Gujarat), Beed (Maharashtra), Yamuna Nagar (Haryana), Fatehgarh Sahib (Punjab), and Virudhunagar (Tamil Nadu).

A) World Bank
B) ADB
C) AIIB
D) IMF

- ✓ ADB to give \$200 mn loan to India for solid waste management in 100 cities
- ✓ Asian Development Bank and the Government of India recently signed a \$ 200 million (about Rs 1,700 crore) loan to improve solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across eight states in the country.
- ✓ The signatories to the loan agreement for the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 -Comprehensive Municipal Waste Management in Indian Cities Program were Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Finance Ministry, and Mio Oka, Country Director for Asian Development Bank (ADB) – India Resident Mission.
- ✓ The objectives of the government's Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission – Urban 2.0 by enhancing sanitation and solid waste management infrastructure, including waste segregation, collection and disposal

A) Only 1&2
B) Only 1&3
C) All three
D) None

- ✓ 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).
- ✓ **Who are eligible?**
- ✓ Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS)
- ✓ Marketing Cooperative Societies
- ✓ Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs)
- ✓ Farmers
- ✓ Self Help Group (SHG)
- ✓ Joint Liability Groups (JLG)
- ✓ Multipurpose Cooperative Societies

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. 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.
- ✓ Switch option: Employees who joined after 2004, including retirees, have the option to switch from NPS to UPS, which is expected to be beneficial for approximately 99% of NPS members.

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

Answer : A

- ✓ 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.

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 : C

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India recently issued a framework to recognise self-regulatory organisations in the financial markets.
- ✓ The Framework acknowledges that as Regulated Entities grow in number and size, there's a lack of adequate industry standards for self-regulation.
- ✓ To address this, instead of increasing the burden on regulators like RBI and SEBI, the framework promotes self-regulation among industry members.
- ✓ SROs can develop, promote, and enforce industry standards and best practices, enhancing self-regulation in 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.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ Set up as a not-for-profit company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- ✓ The applicant must have a minimum net- worth of INR 10 crore.
- ✓ Responsibilities: Inform the RBI about the developments in the sector on a regular basis; Carry out any work assigned to it by RBI, Submit an Annual Report to the RBI, etc.

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%

- ✓ **GDP growth forecast for 2024-25**
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Policy Initiatives Announced by the RBI Governor
- ✓ In order to strengthen and develop the banking sector in India, the Governor announced a number of initiatives.
- ✓ RBI will launch a Public Repository of Digital Lending Apps deployed by banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) regulated by RBI.
- ✓ The lenders will provide the credit-related information of their borrowers to the Credit Information Companies every fortnight or at shorter intervals. (At present, it is given monthly or at shorter intervals.)
- ✓ The maximum amount limit for paying taxes through the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) has been increased from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction. For normal transactions, the maximum limit for UPI is Rs 1 lakh per day.
- ✓ The Cheque Truncation System (CTS) will adopt continuous clearing with on-realisation-settlement, which will enable cheque clearing in a few hours. At present, CTS operates in a batch system, which takes around two working days to clear cheques

Q.

- A) 3.35 % B) 4.50 %
C) 6.75% D) 6.25%

Answer : B

Q.

1. It is designed and developed by the World Food Programme India.
2. It is an automated multi-commodity dispensing solution that provides fast and precise access to commodities.

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's first round-the-clock grain ATM was opened at Mancheswar in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ✓ It is known as Annapurta Grain ATM which is designed and developed by the World Food Programme India.
- ✓ The Annapurta 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.

- A) To physically transport cheques from one bank to another.
B) To store physical cheques for future use.
C) To capture cheque images and transmit them electronically for clearing.
D) To destroy cheques after they are processed

Answer : C

- ✓ For expeditious clearance of cheques, the RBI recently announced measures on Continuous Clearing of Cheques under Cheque Truncation System (CTS).
- ✓ About Cheque Truncation System (CTS):
- ✓ What is Cheque Truncation? Truncation is the process of stopping the flow of the physical cheque issued by a drawer at some point by the presenting bank en-route to the paying bank branch.
- ✓ What is CTS? It is an online image-based cheque clearing system where cheque images and Magnetic Ink Character Recognition (MICR) data are captured at the collecting bank branch and transmitted electronically, eliminating the actual cheque movement.
- ✓ Security: CTS is protected by a comprehensive PKI-based security architecture which incorporates basic security and authentication controls such as dual access control, user ID, and passwords with cryptobox and smart card interfaces
- ✓ CTS-2010 standards contain certain benchmarks towards achieving standardization of cheques issued by banks across the country.

- Q.** How many times RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated A+ by the Central Banker Report Card for his performance?

B) twice

D) five

- ✓ 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.

✓ Global Recognition for Shaktikanta Das's Performance

- ✓ 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.

B) State Bank of India (SBI)

D) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)

- ✓ 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.

- 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

- ✓ 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

- Answer : D

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✓ **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

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.

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.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:

1. The applicant should be an Indian citizen between 18 and 59 years old to open a Jan Dhan Account.
2. The government has recently decided to close the scheme as almost 100% of Indians have got banking access.

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

- ✓ 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:

- ✓ 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. 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. Which bank has entered into a co-lending partnership with Newtap Finance Private Limited to provide personalised financing solutions for creditworthy individuals on payments platform CRED?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ YES Bank inks pact with Newtap Finance to offer financing solutions
- ✓ YES Bank has entered into a co-lending partnership with Newtap Finance Private Limited to provide personalised financing solutions for creditworthy individuals on payments platform CRED.
- ✓ Dreamplug Technologies Private Limited (DTPL), which operates CRED, will serve as the Lending Service Provider (LSP) for YES BANK and Newtap Finance in this partnership.
- ✓ The collaboration aligns YES BANK's financing expertise with CRED's affluent member base, where in recognition of their demonstrated financial responsibility, CRED members will benefit from competitive rates and a superior, digital-first experience, designed to be intuitive and frictionless.

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

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. 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. 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).

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- 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. Who chaired the review meeting of the 9 Regional Rural Banks of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra held in Udaipur in August 2024?

- 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 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.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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.

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

Answer : D

- ✓ 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 crore 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. 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:
- ✓ It is an initiative of the Ministry of Textiles, Textile Trade Bodies, and Industry with the objective of creating 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 Block-chain based software platform will provide end-to-end traceability and transaction certificates.
- ✓ In this regard, Microsites with QR code verification and Blockchain technology have been developed.
- ✓ The Kasturi Cotton Bharat programme is operational at the national level, and its promotion is being made at national and international platforms. Hence, the allocation of funds is not at state level.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Overnight Index Swap:

1. It is a derivative instrument where returns under a fixed rate asset are swapped against a predetermined rate.
2. It allows financial institutions to swap the interest rates by changing the terms of their existing loan.

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

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ It is a derivative instrument where returns under a fixed rate asset are swapped against a predetermined 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.
- ✓ An overnight index swap rate 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.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Nandini Sahakar Scheme:

1. It is aimed at assisting women cooperatives under the purview of the National Cooperative Development Corporation.
2. Under this maximum financial assistance of 25 lakh rupees is provided to women cooperatives.

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

- ✓ Minister of Cooperation informed the Rajya Sabha about the Nandini Sahakar Scheme.
- ✓ 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 a 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 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 infrastructure term loan.
- ✓ Women cooperatives are those which are registered as women cooperatives under any State / Central Act or those cooperatives which have minimum 50% women as primary members.
- ✓ Significance
- ✓ The scheme is a framework of assistance to improve socio-economic status of women.

Q. According to the World Trade Organisation, what is the position of India in the list of exporters of agricultural products?

- A) 4th
- B) 6th
- C) 8th
- D) 10th

Answer : C

- ✓ 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.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS):

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

- Answer : A

- Q.** Rapido becomes unicorn with \$120 million fresh funding from ?

- Answer : C

- Q.** Which insurance company launched the 'Sampoorna Raksha Promise' term insurance product, featuring an instant ₹3 lakh payout on death claim intimation, and offers coverage up to the age of 100 with options like Life Promise and Life Promise Plus?

- 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.
- ✓ Nambiar, now president-designate at Nasscom, will replace Debjani Ghosh, who has been the industry body's president since 2018. Ghosh will serve in her position till her tenure ends in November this year

Q. Which bank has launched an Avni Saving Account for women customers?

- A) Bandhan Bank
B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
C) Indian Overseas Bank
D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : A

- ✓ 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: Aapka Bhala. Sabki Bhalai

Q. Which bank has launched a special “Vijay Fixed Deposits” plan to commemorate India’s 78th year of independence?

A) Axis Bank	B) Yes Bank
C) RBL Bank	D) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ RBL Bank has launched a special “Vijay Fixed Deposits” edition to commemorate India’s 78th year of independence.
- ✓ 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

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.

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.

- ✓ 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 to 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.** 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

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. 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 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

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- A) Bharti AXA Capital
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D) Universal Sompo Capital

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- ✓ 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 Koppaarthi 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. 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. With reference to the Project Nexus, consider the following statements:

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

- ✓ 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.

1. It offers institutional credit to individuals pursuing skill development courses conducted by training institutes following the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).
2. The guarantee cover will be for a maximum of 75% of the outstanding loan amount.
3. The scheme does not allow for collateral to be charged from the beneficiary.

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

- ✓ 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).

- ✓ 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. 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.

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. What is the new limit set by SEBI for Basic Service Demat Accounts (BSDAs) effective from September 1, 2024?

- A) 1 lakh
- B) 2 lakh
- C) 4 lakh
- D) 10 lakh

Answer : D

- ✓ SEBI Raised Basic Service Demat Account (BSDA) Limit to Rs 10 Lakh.
- ✓ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) increased the limit for Basic Service Demat Accounts (BSDAs) to ₹10 lakh from ₹2 lakh to encourage more retail investors to participate in the stock market. This change will be effective from September 1, 2024.
- ✓ Here's a detail of the new BSDA limits:
- ✓ Increased Threshold: The total value of securities you can hold in a BSDA has increased to ₹10 lakh.
- ✓ Lower Charges: There's no annual maintenance charge for a BSDA if your portfolio value is up to ₹4 lakh. A small ₹100 annual fee applies if your portfolio value is between ₹4 lakh and ₹10 lakh.
- ✓ Automatic Conversion: If your portfolio exceeds ₹10 lakh, your BSDA will automatically convert to a regular demat account, which may have different fee structures.
- ✓ This move by SEBI aims to make the stock market more accessible to small investors by reducing costs and simplifying the process

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.

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.

A) 1 only

B) 2 only

C) Both 1 and 2

D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer : C

- ✓ The central government said that the Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme (EMPS) 2024 will provide further impetus to the green mobility and development of the electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing ecosystem in the country.
- ✓ Government extends duration of EMPS 2024 by two months i.e. upto 30th September, 2024 with enhancement of outlay to Rs. 778 crore.
- ✓ 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 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 eco-system in the country.
- ✓ Scheme duration: The Scheme duration is 4 months i.e. April 01, 2024, till July 31, 2024.
- ✓ The scheme has been extended by two more months i.e. upto September 30th, 2024. Additionally, the scheme's outlay has been enhanced to Rs. 778 crore.
- ✓ Eligible Electric Vehicle categories
- ✓ Two Wheelers (electric) (e-2W)
- ✓ Three-wheeler (electric) including registered e-rickshaws & e-carts and L5 (e-3W)
- ✓ The scheme will be applicable mainly to those e-2W and e-3Ws registered for commercial purposes. Further, in addition to commercial use, privately or corporate-owned registered e-2W will also be eligible under the scheme.
- ✓ The EVs eligible for incentivization under the EMPS 2024 scheme must be manufactured and registered within the validity period of the EMPS -2024 certificate.
- ✓ Components
- ✓ 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. 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 Bhuvan was 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.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- Answer : C

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the Modified Interest Subvention scheme:

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

- Answer : C

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the Upper Karnali Hydro-Electric Power Project:

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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.

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.

- 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.
- ✓ The New Fund Offer (NFO) for the scheme will be open for subscription on 8th July, 2024 till 19th July, 2024.

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

Answer : C

- ✓ 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

Q.

2. Remittances can be made only for permissible current account transactions.

3. The remittances can be made in any freely convertible foreign currency.

- A) Only one

B) Only two

- C) All three

Q.

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).

- A) 1 only

B) 2 only

- C) Both 1 and 2

- ✓ 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. Consider the following statements with reference to the SEHER Programme:

1. It is designed to enhance financial literacy and business skills among women entrepreneurs.
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. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS):

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 IFCI.
- ✓ 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.

Q. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has named which company as its official principal sponsor for four years, starting with the Paris Olympics till the 2028 Los Angeles Games?

A) Dream 11	B) Reliance Jio
C) Steel Authority of India Limited	D) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ IOA ropes in BPCL as principal sponsor for four years
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has named Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) as its official principal sponsor for four years, starting with the Paris Olympics till the 2028 Los Angeles Games.
- ✓ The collaboration between BPCL, a Maharatna company, and IOA will also encompass the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, Summer Youth Olympics, Winter Olympics, and Winter Youth Olympics

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.
- ✓ With our continued emphasis on expanding the space economy, by 5 times in the next 10 years, a venture capital fund of Rs 1,000 crore will be set up.
- ✓ This is the government's vision is to increase India's share in the global commercial space economy to 10% by 2030.
- ✓ Despite being a major spacefaring nation, India currently accounts for only 2 per cent of the global space market.
- ✓ Sitharaman also reiterated the government's commitment of setting up a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore to provide long-term, interest-free loan to encourage research and development by private sector. The Anusandhan National Research Fund will support research and prototype development.
- ✓ Among other feats, India now aims to set up 'Bharatiya Antariksha Station' by 2035, and send the first Indian to the Moon by 2040.

Q. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to expand metro rail corridors and improve transport connectivity in which Indian city?

A) Nagpur	B) Surat
C) Pune	D) Ghaziabad

Answer : A

- ✓ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to expand metro rail corridors and improve transport connectivity in Nagpur, India.
- ✓ The Nagpur Metro Urban Mobility Project will improve transport connectivity within and to Nagpur's new and growing urban areas. The project will finance the extension of four metro rail corridors in Nagpur.
- ✓ The project will construct 43.8 kilometers of elevated metro rail corridors with 32 stations.

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. Which bank 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?

A) Indian Overseas Bank	B) Kotak Mahindra Bank
C) Bank of Baroda	D) Punjab National Bank

Answer : C

- ✓ BoB launches Generative AI-powered virtual relationship manager and credit line on UPI
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ NPS contribution limit for employer in private sector raised from 10% to 14% of the employee's basic salary.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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

- ✓ 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.

- 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

- ✓ 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.

- 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.

- 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 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. Consider the following statements regarding World Bank Group (WBG) guarantee platform:

1. It is located at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).
2. It aims to boost WBG annual guarantee issuance to \$200 billion 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 : 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. Which bank unveiled a new distribution structure, integrating the physical branch network, digital branch channel (encompassing mobile banking and net banking platforms), and voice channel?

- A) Axis Bank
B) ICICI Bank
C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
D) Yes 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

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 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 Multitranche 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. 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
- ✓ CEO : Rajiv Bajaj
- ✓ Parent : Bajaj Group

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

Answer : B

- ✓ 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'.

Q. Which insurance company has launched the 'Jeevan Samarth' initiative, an initiative aimed at transforming the agency ecosystem?

- A) Bharti AXA General Insurance B) Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance
C) Go Digit General Insurance D) Life Insurance Corporation

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.

LIC IN NEWS 2024

- 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.

- Q.** Which bank has partnered with Piramal Capital and Housing Finance Limited under the co-lending business to assess the credit profile of borrowers?

B) Yes Bank

D) IndusInd Bank

- ✓ 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.

B) Navin Sharma

D) Sunil Menon

- ✓ 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

B) Dilip Singh

D) Raju Ahmed

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Automated Operations: The entire loan lifecycle, including closure on the due date, is managed automatically through a machine learning-powered system.

Q. Which bank has launched a facility for online collection of direct taxes, enabling its customers and others to pay taxes seamlessly across India?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Bandhan Bank

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

Q. Which bank has received Atal Pension Yojana Annual Award for FY2023-24 by PFRDA?

- A) Indian Overseas Bank B) Bank of India
C) Karnataka Bank D) Karur Vyasya Bank

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 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

- ✓ **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. 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.

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.

- 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

- ✓ 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.

- Answer : D

- ✓ India receives highest FDI from Singapore in 2023-24; Mauritius second biggest investor.
- ✓ India received the highest foreign direct investment (FDI) from Singapore in 2023-24 even as overseas capital inflows into the country contracted by about 3.5% due to global economic uncertainties, according to the latest government data.
- ✓ Though FDI from Singapore has dipped by 31.55% to \$11.77 billion in 2023-24, India has attracted the maximum inflows from that country, the data showed. FDI from Mauritius dipped to USD 7.97 billion in the last fiscal from USD 6.13 billion in 2022-23. The US is the third largest investor in India in 2023-24 with USD 4.99 billion foreign investments, though it is down from USD 6 billion in 2022-23.
- ✓ It was followed by the Netherlands (USD 4.93 billion), Japan (USD 3.17 billion), the UAE (USD 2.9 billion), UK (USD 1.2 billion), Cyprus (USD 806 million), Germany (USD 505 million), and Cayman Islands (USD 342 million).

- Answer : C

- ✓ SEBI launches saaṙṙṙṙṙṙ 2.0 personal finance app for investors
- ✓ Capital markets regulator SEBI launched mobile app 'Saaṙṙṙṙṙṙ 2.0' on personal finance for investors with comprehensive tools aimed at simplifying complex financial concepts. The updated 'Saathi' app introduces a user-friendly interface with comprehensive tools aimed at simplifying complex financial concepts.
- ✓ 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

Q. RIL and Tata Group have been included in which category of the Times Magazine Global 100 Most Influential Companies list in 2024?

- A) Titans
B) Disrupters
C) Innovators
D) Leaders

Answer : A

- ✓ 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. 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. A minimum net worth of Rs 2 crore within a year of recognition.
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 : C

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently introduced the Framework for Recognizing Self-Regulatory Organization for the FinTech Sector (SRO-FT) to enhance self-governance and compliance in the industry.
- ✓ SRO-FT Framework:
- ✓ Definition of Fintech:
- ✓ Fintech entities provide technological solutions for delivering financial products and services to businesses and consumers. They may also collaborate with traditional financial institutions for regulatory compliance.
- ✓ Role of SRO-FT:
- ✓ The industry-led SRO-FT will establish and enforce regulatory standards, promote ethical conduct, ensure market integrity, resolve disputes, and promote transparency among its members.
- ✓ Applicant Eligibility:
- ✓ Applicants must be set up as not-for-profit companies with diversified shareholding.
- ✓ No single entity or acting group should hold 10% or more of the paid-up share capital.
- ✓ Financial Requirements:
- ✓ Applicants must have a minimum net worth of ₹2 crore within one year of recognition or before commencing operations, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Board Composition:
- ✓ At least one-third of board members, including the chairperson, must be independent and without active association with a fintech entity.
- ✓ The majority of non-independent directors should represent currently unregulated FinTechs.
- ✓ Infrastructure and Capabilities:
- ✓ Applicants should demonstrate the ability to establish the necessary infrastructure to effectively and consistently act as an SRO-FT.
- ✓ User Harm Management:
- ✓ The SRO must implement systems to manage instances of user harm, including fraud, mis-selling, and unauthorized transactions.
- ✓ International Outreach:
- ✓ While SROs cannot open branches outside India, FinTechs domiciled outside India can become members of an SRO.
- 1. Recognition Process:
- ✓ The number of recognized SRO-FTs will depend on the received applications, and the RBI reserves the right to grant or deny recognition.
- ✓ RBI's Oversight: RBI can nominate or depute observers on the SRO-FT's board if deemed necessary.
- ✓ SRO-FT Responsibilities:
- ✓ Regulatory Oversight:

- ✓ SRO-FTs should operate objectively under RBI's oversight and contribute to the healthy development of the FinTech sector.
- ✓ Code of Conduct and Standards:
- ✓ Develop a code of conduct for members, set industry benchmarks, baseline technology standards, standardized documents, and an accreditation mechanism.
- ✓ Disciplinary Powers:
- ✓ SRO-FTs should possess adequate powers to investigate and take disciplinary action against members for non-compliance with codes, standards, and rules.

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.
- ✓ The International Finance Corporation (IFC) has provided \$ 500 million loan to HDFC Bank to provide loans to the women microfinance borrowers

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. 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. 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.

- ✓ 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 : Gohar Ali Khan (Pakistan)
- ✓ 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 SBIPay 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. 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. 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 kutcha 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 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.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the increase in oil supplies from Russia has coincided with a year-on-year decline in imports from traditional suppliers in the Gulf region. Iraq was the second-largest source of crude oil for India in December, supplying \$2.54 billion worth of the commodity, 5% higher year-on-year.

Q. Which country was the highest source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2023-24?

A) United States	B) United Kingdom
C) Japan	D) Singapore

Answer : D

- ✓ India receives highest FDI from Singapore in 2023-24; Mauritius second biggest investor.
- ✓ India received the highest foreign direct investment (FDI) from Singapore in 2023-24 even as overseas capital inflows into the country contracted by about 3.5% due to global economic uncertainties, according to the latest government data.
- ✓ Though FDI from Singapore has dipped by 31.55% to \$11.77 billion in 2023-24, India has attracted the maximum inflows from that country, the data showed. FDI from Mauritius dipped to USD 7.97 billion in the last fiscal from USD 6.13 billion in 2022-23. The US is the third largest investor in India in 2023-24 with USD 4.99 billion foreign investments, though it is down from USD 6 billion in 2022-23.
- ✓ It was followed by the Netherlands (USD 4.93 billion), Japan (USD 3.17 billion), the UAE (USD 2.9 billion), UK (USD 1.2 billion), Cyprus (USD 806 million), Germany (USD 505 million), and Cayman Islands (USD 342 million).

Q. What was the growth rate of the Indian economy in 2023-24, according to the National Statistical Office (NSO) released on 31 May 2024?

A) 7.9%	B) 8.1%
C) 6.8%	D) 8.2%

Answer : D

- ✓ 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

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. 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.

- 0,000 crore
- the World Investment Report 2024 report of the UNCTAD ,what was the rank of India receiving FDI in 2023?
- A) 8
- B) 12
- C) 15
- D) 20
- India's FDI inflows dropped 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 states that all 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 inflows in France, Australia, the United States of America.
- Under merger and acquisitions of companies fell by 46 percent. Merger and acquisition is the main source of FDI for developing countries like India.
- The FDI to developing countries fell by 7 per cent to \$867 billion. The FDI to developed countries fell to \$621 billion.
- There was a decline in FDI to China. The FDI also fell in India, West Asia and Central Asia during 2023.
- According to the UNCTAD report the total FDI in India in 2023 was \$28 billion as compared to \$40 billion in 2022.
- India was no longer on as the top recipient of the global FDI fell from 8th in 2022 to 15th in 2023. India was ranked among the Top five countries of the world in attracting FDI in greenfield projects and project finance deals.
- India ranked the fourth-largest recipient of FDI announcements in greenfield projects. In 2022, India ranked the second rank in the world for FDI in international projects deals.
- When FDI outflows are concerned, India was ranked 20th in the world. India was ranked 20th in outflow refers to the investment made by Indian companies outside India.
- 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) \$40 billion
- C) \$50 billion
- D) \$60 billion

A) 10
B) 12
C) 15
D) 20

- ✓ 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.

A) \$28 billion
B) \$62 billion
C) \$44 billion
D) \$76 billion

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. 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

- Q.** Consider the following statements with reference to the Gas Flaring:
1. It is the process of burning of the natural gas associated with oil extraction.
 2. It releases nitrogen oxides which impacts air quality.
- 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 per the World Bank's Global Gas Flaring Tracker Report, in 2023, the amount of gas flared worldwide rose by nine billion cubic meters (bcm) to 148 bcm, its highest level since 2019 .
- ✓ It is the burning of the natural gas associated with oil extraction.
- ✓ The practice has persisted from the beginning of oil production over 160 years ago.
- ✓ It takes place due to a range of issues, from market and economic constraints, to a lack of appropriate regulation and political will.
- ✓ Flaring and venting are a waste of a valuable natural resource that should either be used for productive purposes, such as generating power, or conserved

- Q.** The second edition of the global conference on financial resilience has organized by the College of Supervisors (CoS) of RBI in which city?
- A) Chennai
B) Kolkata
C) Hyderabad
D) Mumbai

Answer : D

- ✓ RBI Governor addresses second edition of Global Conference on Financial Resilience

- ✓ RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the transformative potential of advanced and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), and big data analytics in financial institutions.
- ✓ The second edition of the global conference on financial resilience was organized by the College of Supervisors (CoS) of RBI in Mumbai.
- ✓ Governor Das highlighted the importance of the financial sector adopting an adaptive and forward-looking approach to navigate emerging challenges.

Q. Who is the chairman of the seven-member committee set up by the government of India to review and suggest reform in the examination process and of the National Testing Agency?

- A) Koppillil Radhakrishnan B) Subodh Kumar Singh
C) Pradeep Singh Kharola D) Pankaj Bansal

Answer : A

- ✓ Dr Radhakrishnan to head government committee on restructuring NTA.
- ✓ The 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.
- ✓ The government has taken this step after the controversy over a paper leak at the undergraduate National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) exam 2024 and the postponement of NET-UGC exams.
- ✓ Chairman and members of the Committee
- ✓ The committee consists of seven eminent people. It will be headed by former ISRO chairman Koppillil Radhakrishnan.
- ✓ The other members of the committee are Professor BJ Rao, Professor Ramamurthy K,
- ✓ Dr Randeep Guleria, Pankaj Bansal, Professor Aditya Mittal and Govind Jaiswal, Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Education.
- ✓ **The expert panel has been formed to review and make recommendations on:**
- ✓ Reform in the mechanism of the examination process,
- ✓ Analyse the whole examination process and suggest measures to improve the efficiency of the system and to stop any possible breaches,
- ✓ It will also conduct a thorough review of the National Testing Agency's (NTA) Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)/Protocols.
- ✓ The government of India has sacked the Director General of the National Testing Agency, Subodh Kumar Singh.
- ✓ The government has appointed Pradeep Singh Kharola, Chairman and Managing Director of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, as the Director General of the NTA.
- ✓ **About the National Testing Agency**
- ✓ The National Testing Agency was established as an autonomous body by the Indian government under the Union Ministry of Education in November 2017.
- ✓ The NTA conducts entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in the central government's various higher educational institutions.
- ✓ Union Minister for Education: Dharmendra Pradhan

Q. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has received the national award for significant enrolment under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). Which of the following bank is currently sponsoring Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank?

- A) Canara Bank B) Bank of Maharashtra
C) UCO Bank D) State Bank of India

Answer : A

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 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 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.

- ✓ 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.

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- 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 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 as 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. 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) Urjit 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. For the first time, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the auction of 10-year green bonds because traders refused to pay _

- A) A higher interest rate B) A greenium
C) A service fee D) A transaction tax

Answer : B

- ✓ Reserve Bank of India cancels 10-year green bond auction for first time.
- ✓ In a first, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the auction of 10-year green bonds as traders refused to pay greenium, said dealers. Greenium signifies the premium investors are willing to pay for green bonds because of their sustainability impact.
- ✓ Diverging from the pattern of issuing green bonds in the latter half, the government plans to issue green bonds worth Rs 12,000 crore in the first half of the current financial year. The green bonds were planned to be issued in two tranches of Rs 6,000 crore each for a period of 10 years.

- ✓ Funds generated via the sale of green bonds will be allocated to public-sector projects aimed at decreasing the carbon footprint of the economy

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 Samriddhi Yojana (MKSJ)?

- 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 (MKSJ): Financial Support for Food and Agro-Based Industries.
- ✓ Bank of Maharashtra has launched Maha Krishi Samriddhi Yojana (MKSJ), which provides financial assistance for agri-infrastructure projects involved in food and agro-based industries, processing activities and development of agricultural infrastructure facilities.
- ✓ MKSJ 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.
- 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. 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.

Q.

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:

Q. With reference to nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), consider the following statements:

1. INS Vikrant	2. INS Arihant
3. INS Shivalik	4. INS Arighaat
5. INS Aridhaman	

How many of the above are India's SSBNs?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ India quietly launched its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) at the Ship Building Center (SBC) in Visakhapatnam, enhancing its nuclear deterrence capabilities.
- ✓ About India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN):
- ✓ The fourth SSBN is codenamed S4*.
- ✓ It boasts nearly 75 percent Indigenous content and is equipped with K-4 ballistic missiles, which have a range of 3,500 km and are fired through vertical launching systems.
- ✓ While the first of its class, INS Arihant carries 750 km range K-15 nuclear missiles, its successors, INS Arighaat and INS Aridhaman, are all upgrades of the previous ones and carry only K-4 ballistic missiles.
- ✓ The launch of S4* follows the commissioning of INS Arighaat in August 2024, and the INS Aridhaman is set for commissioning next year. Both INS Arihant and INS Arighaat are already on deep-sea patrols.
- ✓ Naming: Since national security planners named India's first leased nuclear attack submarine INS Chakra as S1, INS Arihant was named S2, INS Arighaat S3, INS Aridhaman S4 and hence the newly launched one is the last of its class, S4* with the formal name yet to be given.

INS IN NEWS 2024.

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd delivered INS Nirdeshak to the Indian Navy. It is the second in a series of four Survey Vessels (Large) being built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers.
- 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. In which district of UP a new airport was inaugurated under the UDAN scheme?

- A) Hapur
B) Saharanpur
C) Barabanki
D) Jaunpur

Answer : B

- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated airports in Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh) and Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh) under the UDAN scheme.
- ✓ The government has recently extended the Udan scheme for 10 years.
- ✓ The aim of this initiative is to enhance regional connectivity.

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 won the sole medal for India at the 2024 Archery World Cup Final?

- A) Jyothi Surekha Vennam
B) Yang Xiaolei
C) Li Jiaman
D) Deepika Kumari

Answer : D

- ✓ Deepika Kumari wins a Silver at the Archery World Cup Final 2024

- ✓ Four-time Olympian Deepika Kumari won a silver medal on 20 October 2024 in the women's recurve event at the 2024 Archery World Cup Final held in Tlaxcala, Mexico.
- ✓ She lost to the Chinese archer Li Jiaman 6-0 in the final.
- ✓ Li Jiaman was part of the Chinese women's archery team that won the silver medal in Paris 2024.
- ✓ The 18th Archery World Cup Final was organised by World Archery and hosted by Mexico on 19 and 20 October 2024 at Tlaxcala, Mexico
- ✓ Sixth medal for Deepika in the Archery World Cup Finals
- ✓ The silver medal at the Archery World Cup Final 2024 was Deepika's sixth medal in the Archery World Cup Finals. Thirty-year-old Deepika Kumari won silver medals in the 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, and 2024 editions, while she won a bronze medal in the 2018 edition.
- ✓ In Tlaxcala, Mexico, Deepika defeated Chinese Yang Xiaolei in the quarter-final in straight sets 6-0, while in the semi-finals, she defeated Mexico's Alejandra Valencia 6-4.
- ✓ Five Indian archers, including Asian Games champion Jyothi Surekha Vennam, competed at the 2024 Archery World Cup Final. However, except for Deepika, none were able to win a medal.
- ✓ About World Archery
- ✓ World Archery is the governing body of Archery sport in the world.
- ✓ It was founded in 1931.
- ✓ Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- ✓ Members: 168 Countries
- ✓ President : Dr Ugur Erdener of Turkiye

Q. Which Indian table tennis player has achieved the highest rank in the world in singles?

A) Manika Batra	B) Sreeja Akula
C) Sutirtha Mukherjee	D) Ankita Das

Answer : B

- ✓ Sreeja Akula becomes highest ranked Indian Table Tennis player in world.
- ✓ Indian women's table tennis player Sreeja Akula became the highest-ranked Indian player in the world after her strong performance in the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ In the latest ranking released by the International Table Tennis Federation, she is ranked World No.22 in the women's singles.
- ✓ Her previous best was the world no. 24 rank achieved after her victory in the WTT Contender Lagos in June.
- ✓ She broke the record of Manika Batra, who achieved her career-best World No. 24 rank in the singles event.
- ✓ Only two Indian table tennis players, Sreeja Akula and Manika Batra, have ever reached the top 25 world rankings in the singles event.
- ✓ Performance in the Paris Olympics
- ✓ Before the Paris Olympics, Sreeja Akula was ranked world no. 25. During the Paris Olympics, Akula and Manika Batra became the first Indian players to reach the round of 16 at the Olympics in individual events.
- ✓ Akula lost to World No.1 Chinese player Yingsha Sun in the round of 16.
- ✓ Manika Batra also improved her rank to 25th in the world. In the round of 16, she lost to Japanese player Miu Hirano 4-1.
- ✓ The India women's table tennis team of Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, and Archana Kamath is still in the medal hunt. They defeated the European Games champion Romania to reach the quarterfinal. They will take on Germany in the quarterfinal match on 7 August 2024.
- ✓ This is the first time that any Indian team has reached the quarterfinal in the table tennis team event at the Olympics.
- ✓ Sharath Kamal, who was India's flag bearer at the opening ceremony, lost his opening match in the Paris Olympics. He is the highest-ranked Indian men's table tennis player at 41st. Manav Thakkar is

the next best Indian men's singles player at world No. 59, followed by Sathiyan Gnanasearan at 64th. Harmeet Desai is 87th.

- ✓ International Table Tennis Federation
- ✓ The International Table Tennis Federation is the world governing body of men's and women's table tennis.
- ✓ Founded: 1926
- ✓ Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland
- ✓ President: Petra Sorling

Q. Manika Batra, who was in the news recently, belongs to which field?

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

Answer : A

Q. In which Indian state does Vedanta plan to invest over ₹1 lakh crore?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Tamil Nadu
- D) Rajasthan

Answer : D

- ✓ Vedanta has announced an investment of over ₹1 lakh crore in Rajasthan, targeting sectors such as zinc, oil and gas, and renewable energy.
- ✓ Hindustan Zinc will contribute ₹30,000 crore to double its zinc production capacity and build a fertilizer plant, while Cairn Oil & Gas will invest ₹35,000 crore to boost oil and gas production.
- ✓ This investment is expected to generate around 200,000 jobs and foster the growth of over 500 downstream industries, marking a significant boost to the state's economy

Q. Who is the author of the book titled "Mountain Mammals of the World"?

- A) M.K. Ranjitsinh
- B) Valmik Thapar
- C) Bittu Sahgal
- D) Radhika Raje Gaekwad

Answer : A

- ✓ M.K. Ranjitsinh, a renowned conservationist from India, authored the book "Mountain Mammals of the World," published by Penguin Random House.
- ✓ With a career spanning decades, Ranjitsinh has been instrumental in shaping India's wildlife conservation efforts, including his role in Project Tiger and protecting endangered species like the barasingha.
- ✓ His book offers a comprehensive guide to 62 species and 78 subspecies of large mammals found in some of the world's most remote mountain ranges.
- ✓ Through his literary work, he shares scientific insights, personal stories, and stunning visuals from his conservation journey.

Q. Luong Quong has been elected as the new President of which country?

- A) Vietnam
- B) China
- C) Thailand
- D) Malaysia

Answer : A

- ✓ Luong Cuong has been appointed the new President of Vietnam.

- ✓ Luong Cuong, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) Central Committee and permanent member of the CPV Central Committee Secretariat, has been elected as Vietnam's President.
- ✓ The ongoing 8th session of the 15th-tenure National Assembly (NA) elected Cuong as President yesterday for the tenure until 2026

NEWLY PRESIDENT IN NEWS 2024

- Luong Cuong : Vietnam
- Kais Saied : Tunisia
- Claudia Sheinbaum : Mexico (First woman president)
- 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. How long has the Kartarpur Corridor agreement between India and Pakistan been extended?

- A) five years
B) six years
C) ten years
D) seven years

Answer : A

- ✓ India Pakistan extends Kartarpur Corridor agreement till 2029.
- ✓ The governments of India and Pakistan have agreed to extend the validity of the Agreement on Sri Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for five years until 24 October 2029.
- ✓ The initial agreement was to lapse on 24 October 2024.
- ✓ The latest agreement between the countries was announced by the Ministry of External Affairs on 22 October 2024.
- ✓ The agreement between the two countries comes in the background of the Minister for External Affairs, Dr S Jaishankar's visit to Pakistan for the 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations (SCO) Council of Heads of Government, held in Islamabad on 15 & 16 October 2024.
- ✓ In Islamabad, Dr Jaishankar met the Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif and the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.
- ✓ It was the first direct talk between the foreign ministers of both countries since the 2015 visit of the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to Pakistan to attend the Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad.
- ✓ About the Kartarpur Corridor
- ✓ India and Pakistan signed an agreement in 2019 to facilitate Indian pilgrims' visits to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan for five years. This agreement established a corridor between the

two countries through which the Indian pilgrims were to visit Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan and return to the country. This corridor is popularly called the Kartarpur Corridor.

- ✓ Indian pilgrims can visit Pakistan through the Kartarpur Corridor without a visa, but they must pay a \$20 per person fee.
- ✓ About the Kartarpur Corridor
- ✓ India and Pakistan signed an agreement in 2019 to facilitate Indian pilgrims' visits to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan for five years. This agreement established a corridor between the two countries through which the Indian pilgrims were to visit Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in Pakistan and return to the country. This corridor is popularly called the Kartarpur Corridor.
- ✓ Indian pilgrims can visit Pakistan through the Kartarpur Corridor without a visa, but they must pay a \$20 per person fee.
- ✓ What is the Kartarpur Corridor
- ✓ The Kartarpur Corridor is a 4.1 km long road that starts in Dera Baba Nanak town in Gurdaspur district, Punjab and ends at the Gurdwara Sri Kartarpur Sahib in the Narowal district of Pakistani Punjab province.
- ✓ Kartarpur is located in Pakistani Punjab along the west bank of the Ravi River. It is a holy pilgrimage place for the Sikhs, where the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev Ji, spent the last 18 years of his life.

Q. Which country was recently declared malaria free by the World Health Organization?

- A) Kenya
- B) Egypt
- C) South Africa
- D) Morocco

- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently certified it officially malaria-free.
- ✓ Egypt became the second country globally to achieve this status this year after Cabo Verde.
- ✓ Egypt is the third country in the Eastern Mediterranean region to be included in this list, after Morocco in 2010 and the United Arab Emirates in 2007.

Q. Who will be the Official Global Technology Partner of FIFA, covering FIFA World Cup 26 and FIFA Women's World Cup 2027?

- A) Byju's
- B) Lenovo
- C) TATA Group
- D) VIVO

Answer : B

- ✓ Lenovo to be FIFA's technology partner for 2026 WC and 2027 Women's WC.
- ✓ Lenovo has signed on to be the official technology partner for FIFA, which includes the 2026 World Cup in the United States, Canada and Mexico as well as the 2027 Women's World Cup in Brazil.
- ✓ The 2026 World Cup will take place from June 11 through July 19 in 16 cities throughout North America. It will also see the tournament expand from 32 to 48 teams.
- ✓ The 2027 Women's World Cup will feature 32 teams, but the dates and host cities in Brazil have not been finalized
- ✓ Lenovo Group Limited
- ✓ Founded : 1 November 1984
- ✓ Founder : Liu Chuanzhi & Danny Lui
- ✓ Headquarters : Hong Kong
- ✓ Operational headquarters : Beijing, China
- ✓ Operational headquarters : Morrisville, North Carolina, United States

SPONSOR IN NEWS 2024

- Lenovo has been named as FIFA's official technology partner for the 2026 men's World Cup and the 2027 women's World Cup

Q. Which Indian recently received the IAF World Space Award for the Chandrayaan-3 mission?

A) Manoj Govil

B) S. Somnath

C) P K Mishra

D) Pawan Kumar Goenka

Answer : B

- ✓ Dr. S. Somanath, ISRO Chairman, was honored with the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award for the success of Chandrayaan-3.
- ✓ The award was presented in Milan, Italy, recognizing India's achievements in space exploration.
- ✓ Chandrayaan-3 made a historic landing near the Moon's South Pole on August 23, 2023.
- ✓ India became the first nation to land near the Moon's South Pole and joined an elite group capable of lunar landings.
- ✓ This award highlighted India's growing role in the global space community.

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.

Answer : A

- ✓ The government of India launched the Gram Panchayat-Level Weather Forecasting in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ✓ The initiative is developed in collaboration between the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) and the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- ✓ It is aimed at “empowering rural communities and enhancing disaster preparedness at the grassroots, and will benefit farmers and villagers across the country”.
- ✓ The initiative will provide Gram Panchayats with a five-day weather forecast and hourly updates, enabling rural communities to better plan agricultural activities and prepare for weather-related risks.
- ✓ It will deliver weather updates via e-GramSwaraj, the Meri Panchayat app, and Gram Manchitra portals. e-GramSwaraj is already operational.
- ✓ Users can see data on the current temperature, wind speed, cloud cover (in percentage), rainfall, and relative humidity at the level of gram panchayats; five-day forecasts of minimum and maximum temperatures, rainfall, cloud cover, wind direction, and wind speed, and an overall weather forecast.
- ✓ Significance: It will “strengthen grassroots governance and promote sustainable agricultural practices, making rural populations more climate-resilient and better equipped to tackle environmental challenges”.

Q. “Exercise SIMBEX”, is conducted between India and:

- A) Russia
- B) South Korea
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Singapore

Answer : D

- ✓ The 31st edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is scheduled from 23 to 29 Oct 2024, in the Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam.
- ✓ It is an annual bilateral Naval exercise between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- ✓ It has been conducted since 1994.
- ✓ SIMBEX, which began as 'Exercise Lion King' in 1994, has since evolved into one of the most significant bilateral maritime collaborations between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- ✓ It holds the distinction of being the longest continuous naval exercise that the Indian Navy has conducted with any other country.
- ✓ The exercise will be conducted in two phases - the Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam and the Sea Phase in the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ This year's edition aims to further strengthen the strategic partnership between India and Singapore by enhancing interoperability, improving maritime domain awareness, and fostering cooperation to address common maritime challenges.
- ✓ The Harbour Phase will include Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEEs), cross-deck visits, sports fixtures, and pre-sail briefings between personnel from both navies.
- ✓ The Sea Phase will witness advanced naval drills, including live weapon firings, anti-submarine warfare (ASW) training, anti-surface and anti-air operations, seamanship evolutions, and tactical manoeuvres.

EXERCISE IN NEWS 2024

- India -Kazakhstan joint military exercise 8th edition of KAZIND-2024 commenced at the mountainous Surya Foreign Training node in Auli, Uttarakhand, on 30 September 2024.
- Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman conduct a bilateral maritime exercise called Naseem Al Bahr, or Sea Breeze Exercise.
- The 13th edition of the Naseem Al Bahr exercise was held off the coast of Oman from November 19 to 24, 2024

- The seventh edition of the bilateral military exercise Exercise Eastern Bridge between the Indian Air Force and the Royal Oman Air Force commenced at the Air Force Base Masirah, Oman, on 11th September 2024.
- The 5th edition of the bilateral military exercise Al NAJAH between the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman will be held from September 13th to 26th at the Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman
- The 20th edition of the annual India-US Joint military exercise code-named Yudh Abhyas 2024 commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan
- 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. Which country has been nominated as the "Country of Focus" by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting at the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) to be held in Goa from 20 November to 28 November 2024?

A) Japan	B) Australia
C) USA	D) Singapore

Answer : B

- ✓ The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has announced that Australia has been nominated as the “Country of Focus” at the 55th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), to be held in Goa from 20th November to 28th November 2024.
- ✓ This special recognition aims to celebrate the dynamic contributions of Australian cinema to the global film industry, highlighting its rich storytelling traditions, vibrant film culture and innovative cinematic techniques.
- ✓ India & Australia are already parties to an Audio Visual Co-production Treaty.
- ✓ Founded in 1952, the International Film Festival of India is one of Asia’s most significant film festivals, serving as a platform for filmmakers worldwide to present their works.
- ✓ Held annually in Goa, IFFI attracts directors, producers, actors, and film enthusiasts to celebrate the finest in world cinema.
- ✓ Country of Focus at IFFI
- ✓ The “Country of Focus” segment is a key feature of IFFI, offering a dedicated showcase of a nation’s best contemporary films.
- ✓ Australia’s diverse cultural background and globally acclaimed filmmakers have had a lasting impact on cinema, making it a fitting selection for this year. This inclusion reflects the strengthening collaboration between the Indian and Australian film industries.

Q. United Nations Day is celebrated every year on which day?

A) 23 October	B) 24 October
C) 25 October	D) 26 October

Answer : B

- ✓ United Nations Day is celebrated every year on October 24 to mark the anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter in 1945, which followed the end of World War II.
- ✓ This day offers an opportunity to reflect on the global body’s efforts to maintain peace, promote human rights, and foster social and economic development across the world.
- ✓ As a founding member of the United Nations, India has played a vital role in supporting the UN’s mission and continues to contribute to its various initiative.
- ✓ The UN was established by 51 countries after the Second World War. The UN’s six official languages are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish
- ✓ UNITED NATIONS (UN)
- ✓ Founded : 24 October 1945
- ✓ Headquarteres : New York, US
- ✓ Official languages : Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian & Spanish
- ✓ Membership : 193 member states & 2 observer states
- ✓ 1st Secretary General : Trygve Halvdan Lie (Norway)
- ✓ 7th Secretary General : Kofi Annan (Ghana)
- ✓ 8th Secretary General : Ban Ki-moon (South Korea)
- ✓ 9th Secretary-General : António Guterres (Portugal)
- ✓ Deputy Secretary-General : Amina J. Mohammed (Nigeria)
- ✓ United Nations Day is celebrated on October 24 every year.

Q. Who has been appointed as the next Chief Justice of India?

A) Justice Sanjiv Khanna	B) Justice Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai
C) Justice Suryakant	D) Justice Bela Trivedi

Answer : A

- ✓ The Central Government has notified the appointment of Justice Sanjiv Khanna as the next Chief Justice of India.

- ✓ Justice Khanna will take over as the 51st Chief Justice of India on November 11 and will have a tenure of about seven months till May 13, 2025.
- ✓ Current CJI DY Chandrachud had written a letter to the Centre recommending the name of second senior Justice Khanna
- ✓ The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
- ✓ Next 8 Chief Justices of India.
- ✓ Justice Sanjiv Khanna will assume office as the CJI on November 11th, 2024 for a term of 6 months till his retirement on May 13th, 2025.
- ✓ Justice B.R. Gavai is set to become the CJI on May 14th, 2025 for a term of little over 6 months till November 23rd, 2025.
- ✓ Justice Surya Kant will serve as the CJI for 1.2 years from November 24th, 2025 to his retirement on February 9th, 2027.
- ✓ Justice Vikram Nath will occupy the office of the Chief Justice from February 7th, 2027 to September 23rd, 2027. His tenure will span nearly 8 months.
- ✓ Justice B.V. Nagarathna will be the first woman Chief Justice of India. However, her tenure will span only 36 days from September 24th, 2027 to October 29th, 2027.
- ✓ Justice P.S.Narasimha will be the 3rd SC Judge directly elevated from the Bar to become the Chief Justice, after CJIs S.M. Sikri and U.U. Lalit.
- ✓ Justice Pardiwala will assume office of the Chief Justice on May 3rd, 2028. He will serve a tenure of 2 years and 3 months as CJI till August 11th, 2030. He is the 4th Parsi Judge of the SC.
- ✓ Justice K.V. Viswanathan will be the 4th SC judge directly elevated from the Bar to become the CJI in August, 2030. He will serve as CJI for close to 10 months till his retirement on 25th May, 2031.

Q. What is the rank of India in the first Global Nature Conservation Index?

- A) 176
- B) 144
- C) 156
- D) 168

Answer : A

- ✓ India ranked 176 in the first Global Nature Conservation Index, 2024.
- ✓ India has been ranked as one of the five worst performer countries in the recently released first Global Nature Conservation Index, 2024.
- ✓ India was ranked 176th among 180 countries in terms of their commitment to nature conservation.
- ✓ The tiny European country of Luxembourg was ranked as the top-ranked country. In contrast, the Pacific island country of Kiribati was ranked at the bottom of the Global Nature Conservation Index.
- ✓ Goldman Sonnenfeldt School of Sustainability and Climate Change, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and the non-profit website BioDB com have jointly prepared and released the first Global Nature Conservation Nature Index.
- ✓ The first Global Nature Conservation Nature Index was released in October 2024.
- ✓ About the Global Nature Conservation Index
- ✓ The Nature Conservation Index shows how countries are protecting their environments and natural resources. While ranking countries, the index evaluates a range of factors, such as the number of plant and animal species at risk in the country, the size and quality of the protected areas, the health of habitats, and the effectiveness of the country's conservation programs.
- ✓ The countries were ranked on four key pillars;
- ✓ Land Management,
- ✓ Threats to Biodiversity
- ✓ Capacity and Governance, and
- ✓ Future Trends.
- ✓ These pillars were assessed using 25 performance indicators. The data for the Index has been from the World Bank and the IUCN(International Union for Conservation of Nature).
- ✓ Status of India

- ✓ India, with a combined score of 45.5 out of 100, was ranked 176th among the 180 countries.. India has been ranked low due to its inefficient land management and rising threats to biodiversity.
- ✓ India, with a score of 42, has been ranked 154 in the Land Management category,
- ✓ 177 in the Threat to Biodiversity category, with a score of 54. India has been ranked 115 in the Capacity and Governance category with a score of 60 and a rank of 133 in the Future Trends with a score of 35.
- ✓ Best Performing Countries
 1. Luxembourg -score of 70.8
 2. Estonia-70.5
 3. Denmark- 69
 4. Finland-66.9
 5. United Kingdom- 66.6
 6. Zimbabwe-65.9
 7. Australia-65.8
 8. Switzerland-64.7
 9. Romania-64.6
 10. Costa Rica-64.4
- ✓ Worst performing countries on the Index
- ✓ 180. Kiribati- score of 41.2
- ✓ Luxembourg is the top-ranked and Kiribati is at the 180th rank.

Q. Where was the 16th Summit meeting of BRICS countries held in 2024?

A) Kazan, Russia	B) Johannesburg, South Africa
C) Beijing, China	D) Fortaleza, Brazil

Answer : A

Q. Which country will host the next 17th BRICS summit meeting in 2025?

A) Brazil	B) South Africa
C) China	D) Russia

Answer : A

- ✓ 16th BRICS Summit and first BRICS Outreach Dialogue in Kazan, Russia.
- ✓ Russia hosted the 16th BRICS summit meeting and the first BRICS Outreach/BRICS plus summit meeting at Kazan from 22 to 24 October 2024.
- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin hosted the meeting, which was attended by the bloc's leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ Brazil will host the next 17th BRICS summit meeting in 2025.
- ✓ About BRICS and BRICS Plus
- ✓ The acronym BRIC was coined by Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill in 2001 when he said that Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) will drive the global growth in the coming decade.
- ✓ As per his prediction, the share of these four countries in the global output increased from 8 per cent in 2000 to 11 per cent in 2011.
- ✓ The first foreign minister meeting of the BRIC was held in New York in 2006 on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting.
- ✓ The first summit meeting of the four countries' leaders was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.
- ✓ South Africa joined the group in 2011 during the third summit meeting held in Sanya, China. The name of the group was changed to BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- ✓ At the 15th BRICS summit held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 22-24 August 2024, six countries were invited to become a member of the BRICS.

- ✓ Iran, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Ethiopia joined the group on 1 January 2024. However, Argentina declined to join the BRICS after Javier Milei's government came into power in the country..
- ✓ BRIC plus refers to the newly added five members of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates and the original BRICS member. The first BRICS summit meeting with the extended membership was held in Kazan.
- ✓ Theme of the BRICS Summit meeting
- ✓ The theme of the 16th BRICS summit meeting was Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global Development and Security,”
- ✓ BRICS Outreach/BRICS Plus Dialogue
- ✓ The BRICS Outreach/BRICS Plus dialogue was held on 24 October 2024 at Kazan, Russia. The BRICS Outreach refers to the countries which are not members of the BRICS but are interested in joining it in the future.
- ✓ The theme of the BRICS Outreach/BRIC Plus dialogue was "BRICS and Global South: Building a Better World Together.
- ✓ 36 countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America attended the BRICS Outreach meeting. 22 countries were represented by their head of state and others by their foreign ministers.
- ✓ The Indian side was led by the External Affairs Minister, Dr S Jaishankar.
- ✓ The BRICS Outreach meeting was hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ✓ BRICS Partner Country
- ✓ At the Kazan summit ,13 countries were made the partner countries of the BRICS,however they are not full members of the BRICS. These countries are Algeria, Uganda,Nigeria from Africa. Belarus and Turkiye from Europe, Latin American countries of Bolivia, Cuba and the Asian countries of Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.
- ✓ Kazan Declaration
- ✓ At the end of the BRICS Summit meeting a joint declaration was issued called the Kazan Declaration Strengthening Multilateralism For Just Global Development And Security".
- ✓ The main points of the joint declaration are:
- ✓ The BRICS countries will be encouraged to use local currencies to settle financial transactions between the member countries.
- ✓ Discussing to be held to set up an independent cross-border settlement and depository infrastructure, BRICS Clear.
- ✓ They welcomed the Russian initiative to establish BRICS Gairn Exchange. It is a grain trading platform which will be expanded to include other agricultural commodities.

Q. Which country has been given the name Dana Cyclone?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Oman
- C) Qatar
- D) Maldives

Answer : C

- ✓ Cyclone Dana struck Coastal Odisha & West Bengal with minimum casualty.
- ✓ Severe tropical cyclone 'Dana' struck the eastern coast of India, triggering torrential rain and high-speed winds up to 100-120 km per hour. It caused significant damage to the infrastructure and crops in the coastal districts of Odisha and West Bengal.
- ✓ Due to the preparedness of the central and the state governments, no loss of life was reported from Odisha, while two people lost their lives in West Bengal.
- ✓ This is the third tropical cyclone to hit India in the 2024 season.
- ✓ The first cyclone of the 2024 season to form in the Bay of Bengal was 'Remal, 'which hit coastal areas of West Bengal and Bangladesh in May 2024. Oman suggested the name Remal, which in Arabic means sand.
- ✓ According to the Indian Meteorological Department, Cyclone Dana made landfall on the night of 24 October 2024 between Odisha's Puri and West Bengal's Sagar Island.

- ✓ Karnataka's energy department partners with University of South Wales to boost clean energy initiatives.
- ✓ Karnataka Renewable Energy Development Limited (KREDL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the University of South Wales (UNSW) in Australia to build capacity and support emerging technology start-ups that aim to accelerate transition to clean energy.

Q. Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has bagged a 'significant' order from global body ITER Organization for the deployment of advanced welding technologies at its nuclear fusion project in which country?

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

Answer : A

- ✓ L&T bags 'significant' order for global nuclear fusion project.
- ✓ Infrastructure major Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has bagged a 'significant' order from global body ITER Organization for the deployment of advanced welding technologies at its nuclear fusion project in France.
- ✓ The company classifies a 'significant order' as orders valued between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 2,500 crore.

Q. What is the total outlay for the 21st Livestock Census being conducted in the country?

- A) Rs 300 crore
B) Rs 200 crore
C) Rs 100 crore
D) Rs 500 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ 21st Livestock Census launched to count 16 species of livestock.
- ✓ The central government launched the centrally sponsored 21st Livestock Census operation on 25 October 2024. Simultaneously, the government launched a \$25 million Pandemic Fund Project to strengthen the country's animal health infrastructure.
- ✓ The Livestock census operation and the Pandemic Fund Project were launched by the Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 21st Livestock census operation will be conducted nationwide from October 2024 to February 2025.
- ✓ The 21st Livestock Census is conducted by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying in partnership with the respective state government/Union Territories Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department.
- ✓ Interval of the Livestock Census
- ✓ The first livestock census in the country was held between 1919 and 1920, and since then, it has been held every five years. The 20th Livestock Census was held across the country in 2019
- ✓ Feature of the 21st Livestock Census
- ✓ The basic unit for the livestock stock census enumeration is the household.
- ✓ The Livestock Census will be conducted in all the districts of all States and Union Territories of the country, including all rural and urban households, non-households, enterprises, and Institutions.
- ✓ All defence, para-military forces and state police establishments will be covered under the census.
- ✓ The 21st Livestock Census will also include the sex-wise number of stray cattle.
- ✓ The field staff of the State Department of Animal Husbandry is used for the Livestock Census.
- ✓ The census is 100 per cent funded by the central government, and the total outlay for the 21st Livestock Census is Rs 200 crore.
- ✓ The census will focus on 219 indigenous breeds of 16 species.
- ✓ 15 species of livestock-- Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun, Yak, Sheep, Goat, Pig, Camel, Horse, Ponies, Mule, Donkey, Dog, Rabbit and Elephant will be counted.
- ✓ The census will also count the poultry birds-Fowl, Duck, Turkey, Geese, Quail, Gini Fowl, Ostrich and Emu.

Q. Which ministry of the government of India conducts the Livestock Census?

- A) Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying
- B) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- C) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D) Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Answer : A

- ✓ The 21st Livestock Census is conducted by the Union Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying in partnership with the respective state government/Union Territories Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department.

Q. How many species of livestock will be counted during the 21st Livestock census?

- A) 12 species
- B) 31 species
- C) 23 species
- D) 16 species

Answer : D

- ✓ The census is 100 per cent funded by the central government, and the total outlay for the 21st Livestock Census is Rs 200 crore.
- ✓ The census will focus on 219 indigenous breeds of 16 species.

Q. Rani Rampal, who recently announced her retirement, belongs to which sport?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Queen of Indian Hockey Rani Rampal retires from the Game
- ✓ The 30-year-old former Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, also known as the queen of Indian hockey, announced her retirement from the game on 24 October 2024.
- ✓ The hockey governing body in India, Hockey India, has decided to retire the No.28 jersey as an honour to Rani Rampal. Rani used to wear jersey no.28 while playing for India.
- ✓ Rani Rampal is the first Indian women's hockey player in the country where a stadium has been named after.
- ✓ The Raebareli stadium of the Indian railway's Modern Coach Factory has been renamed as Rani's Girls Hockey Turf.
- ✓ Rani Rampal played 254 international matches and scored 120 goals for India.
- ✓ Rani Rampal's Career Record and Achievements
- ✓ Rani Rampal who belongs to Haryana made her debut for India at the age of 14 years in the Olympic qualifiers in Kazan, Russia in 2008.
- ✓ Just at the age of 15 years she represented India at the 12th Women's Hockey World Cup held in Argentina 2010. She scored 5 out of the 7 goals scored by the Indian team in the tournament.
- ✓ Her brilliant performance earned her the 'Young Player of the Tournament Award.
- ✓ Rani Rampal was part of the Indian team that bagged a silver medal at the Asia Cup in 2009 and the bronze medal-winning India team at the 2014 Incheon, South Korea, Asian Games.
- ✓ In 2018 Rani was named the captain of the Indian women hockey team. Under her leadership, the Indian team won a silver medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, and made it to the quarter-finals of the 2018 World Cup held in London, United Kingdom.
- ✓ In the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, she led India to a historic fourth-place position.
- ✓ Queen of India Hockey

- ✓ Rani Rampal is also called the queen of Indian women's hockey. After her retirement from hockey, she took up a coaching assignment.
- ✓ In 2023, she was named the coach of India's under-17 team.
- ✓ She has also been named coach and mentor of the Soorma Hockey Club in the Hockey India League.

Q. Who represented India at the 23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting 2024 in Pakistan?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Amit Shah
C) Jagat Prakash Nadda
D) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Answer : D

- ✓ External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar represented India at the 23rd Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisations (SCO) Council of Heads of Government, held in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 16 October 2024.
- ✓ The two-day meeting, held on 15&16 October 2024, was hosted by the Pakistani Prime Minister, Shahbaz Sharif.
- ✓ This was the first visit of an Indian minister to Pakistan after the 2015 visit of the then External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. Sushma Swaraj visited Islamabad, Pakistan, in December 2015 to attend the Heart of Asia Conference.
- ✓ India refuses to support the China Belt and Road Initiative
- ✓ India refused to endorse China's Belt and Road Initiative, of which the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is a part. The CPEC is a trade and connectivity project that seeks to connect the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of China with the Gwadar Port in Baluchistan and Karachi in Pakistan. It passes through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and India has consistently opposed the project as it violates its sovereignty. India claims Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as its integral part.
- ✓ Hence, India refused to endorse the BRI project mentioned in the joint communique issued at the end of the meeting in Islamabad.
- ✓ Dr Jaishankar also said SCO, formed to promote trade and connectivity in the region, faces the challenge of three evils: terrorism, extremism, and separatism. In a veiled reference to Pakistan, Dr Jaishankar said that support for cross-border terrorism and extremism hinders trade, energy flows, and connectivity.
- ✓ Pakistan did not invite Afghanistan, as its observer status in the SCO has been suspended since 2021. No country of the SCO recognises the Taliban government in Afghanistan.
- ✓ About the SCO Council of Heads of Government
- ✓ The SCO has two main bodies- SCO Heads of State Council and SCO Heads of Government Council. The chairmanship of the SCO Heads of State Council and SCO Heads of Government Council is rotated annually amongst the member countries as per the Russian alphabet.
- ✓ The SCO Heads of State Council is the supreme decision-making body of the SCO. It deals with political issues such as the organisation's objective and functioning, its relationship with other States and international organisations, and its position on various international issues.
- ✓ The SCO Heads of State Council meeting is held annually, and the Indian Prime Minister attends it.
- ✓ The 24th SCO Heads of State Council meeting was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, on 4 July 2024, and the 25th SCO Heads of State Council meeting will be held in China in 2025.
- ✓ About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- ✓ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a permanent inter-governmental organisation that was set up in 2001.
- ✓ China and Russia are the main promoters of the SCO, which was initially focused on promoting trade and connectivity in the Central Asian region.
- ✓ Now, SCO is seen as primarily an anti-western organisation led by China and Russia.
- ✓ Headquarters: Beijing, China
- ✓ Permanent Members of SCO (10 Countries): Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.

- ✓ Observer Members: Mongolia (Afghanistan observer status has been suspended since 2021)
- ✓ Belarus admitted as the 10th Member of SCO.
- ✓ The Chinese city of Qingdao has been appointed as the SCO's tourism and cultural capital for 2024-2025.

Q. Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for the __ consecutive time.

- A) 3rd
C) 4th
- B) 2nd
D) 5th

Answer : B

- ✓ Nayab Singh Saini sworn in as CM of Haryana for 2nd time in Panchkula.
- ✓ Nayab Singh Saini of the Bharatiya Janata Party was sworn in as the chief minister of Haryana for the second consecutive time on 17 October 2024.
- ✓ Nayab Singh Saini is the 11th chief minister of Haryana.
- ✓ The state governor, Bandaru Dattatreya, administered the oath of Office to Nayab Singh Saini and his 13 ministers at a ceremony in Panchkula, Haryana.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, 13 chief ministers, and 16 deputy chief ministers from the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) attended the swearing-in ceremony.
- ✓ The chief ministers of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Nagaland, and Meghalaya are from political parties that are allies of the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- ✓ Nayab Singh Saini became the chief minister of Haryana for the first time on 12 March 2024 after Manohar Lal Khattar's resignation. Manohar Lal Khattar was the first-ever chief minister of Haryana from the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- ✓ Nayab Singh Saini led his party to a historic third consecutive victory in the recently concluded Haryana legislative assembly poll. The Bharatiya Janata party won 48 seats in the 90-member Haryana assembly.
- ✓ According to the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act 2003, the maximum number of the council of ministers, including the chief minister in a state, shall not be more than 15 % of the total number of members of the legislative assembly of that State.
- ✓ It also provides that the minimum number of the council of ministers, including the chief minister in a state, shall not be less than 12.
- ✓ The total number of members of the Haryana legislative assembly is 90.
- ✓ Thus, in Haryana, the maximum number of council of ministers, including the chief minister, is 14.
- ✓ The state of Haryana was formed on 1st November 1966 after the enactment of the Punjab Reorganisation Act 1966. There have been 11 chief ministers in the state, with Bhagwat Dayal Sharma being the first.
- ✓ Om Prakash Chautala has the distinction of having the shortest term as the chief minister of Haryana, which is five days.
- ✓ Bhajan Lal is the longest-serving chief minister of Haryana. He was chief minister for 11 years and 10 months.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly:

1. It is the apex decision-making body of the International Solar Alliance.
2. It meets annually and India is the President of this assembly.

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 curtain raiser for the Seventh Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Assembly was hosted in New Delhi.
- ✓ It is the apex decision-making body of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), representing each Member Country.
- ✓ This body makes decisions concerning the implementation of the ISA's Framework Agreement and coordinated actions to be taken to achieve its objective.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ The Assembly deliberates matters of substance, such as the selection of the Director General, the functioning of ISA, approval of the operating budget, etc.
- ✓ It meets annually at the ministerial level at the ISA's seat.
- ✓ It assesses the aggregate effect of the programmes and other activities in terms of deployment of solar energy, performance, reliability, cost and scale of finance.
- ✓ Members:
- ✓ 120 countries are signatories to the ISA Framework Agreement, of which 102 countries have submitted the necessary instruments of ratification to become full members of the ISA.
- ✓ India holds the office of the President of the ISA Assembly, with the Government of the French Republic as the co-president.
- ✓ The Seventh Session of the ISA Assembly will deliberate on initiatives of ISA that impact energy access, security, and transitions with a focus on:
 - ✓ Empowering Member Countries to adopt solar energy as the energy source of choice
 - ✓ Make energy access universal by supporting solar entrepreneurs to scale up local solutions
 - ✓ Mobilise finance to speed up solar deployment.
- ✓ What is International Solar Alliance?
- ✓ It was formed at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.
- ✓ It is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies.
- ✓ Headquarters: National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram, India.

ISA IN NEWS 2024

- Nepal has become the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the first International Solar Festival, which was being held in New Delhi
- 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. Which among the following best describes INS Samarthak, recently seen in the news?

- A) It is a stealth destroyer. B) It is a Shivalik-class stealth multi-role frigate.
C) It is a diesel-electric submarine. D) It is a Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV)

Answer : D

- ✓ Larsen and Toubro recently launched the INS 'Samarthak', a multi-purpose vessel for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ About INS Samarthak:
 - ✓ It is the first of two Multi-Purpose Vessels (MPVs) for the Indian Navy.
 - ✓ The vessel was designed and constructed in-house by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Shipyard at Kattupalli, aligning to the Centre's 'Make in India' initiative and 'Atmanirbhar Vision'.
 - ✓ It is a highly specialised, multi-role platform designed to support the development and testing of next-generation weapons and sensors for the Indian Navy.
 - ✓ It will also perform a variety of other functions, including maritime surveillance, patrolling, launching and recovering surface and aerial targets, providing humanitarian assistance, and combating sea pollution.
 - ✓ It measures 107 meters in length, 18.6 meters in width, and has a displacement of over 3,750 tonnes.
 - ✓ The vessel can achieve a maximum speed of 15 knots.

Q. Where was the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held?

- A) Geneva, Switzerland
B) Paris, France
C) Berlin, Germany
D) London, United Kingdom

Answer : A

- ✓ Om Birla addresses the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Geneva.
- ✓ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and emphasised the need for multilateralism in the world.
- ✓ He also said that dialogue and cooperation amongst Parliaments in science, technology, and innovation were important for the common good.
- ✓ The 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was held at the IPU's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, from 13 to 17 October 2024.
- ✓ The IPU is the global organisation of the National Parliaments.
- ✓ The Indian delegation led by Om Birla included Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Singh, the Secretary General of both Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha and various other Members of Parliament.
- ✓ About the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- ✓ The Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is an annual meeting in which all the members of the IPU and its various committees, including the Forum of Women Parliamentarians and the Forum of Young MPs, participate.
- ✓ The Assembly provides a platform for delegates to deliberate, exchange views and galvanise parliamentary action.
- ✓ Theme of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- ✓ The theme of the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union was Harnessing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for a more peaceful and sustainable future
- ✓ Jamaica rejoins the IPU as 181st Member
- ✓ At the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, the Parliament of Jamaica rejoined the IPU as its 181st Member Parliament. Jamaica had previously been a member of the IPU from 1983 to 1996.
- ✓ The IPU comprises 181 national Member Parliaments and 15 regional parliamentary bodies

O. Which country's Parliament has become the 181st member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union?

- A) Tanzania
B) Algeria
C) Namibia
D) Jamaica

Answer : D

- ✓ Jamaica rejoins the IPU as 181st Member
- ✓ At the 149th IPU Assembly in Geneva, the Parliament of Jamaica rejoined the IPU as its 181st Member Parliament. Jamaica had previously been a member of the IPU from 1983 to 1996.
- ✓ The IPU comprises 181 national Member Parliaments and 15 regional parliamentary bodies

Q. Which international institution is considered the world's first permanent political organisation?

- A) WTO
B) WEF
C) World Bank
D) Inter-Parliamentary Union

Answer : D

- ✓ About the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- ✓ The Inter-Parliamentary Union was set up as the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on 30 June 1889 in Paris, France.
- ✓ In 1899, the name was changed to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- ✓ The main aim of the IPU was to bring together the world's parliamentarians and promote arbitration and mediation as a means of solving disputes between nations.
- ✓ The credit for setting up the IPU is given to the first Nobel Peace Prize winner, Fredric Passey of France, and the Englishman William Randal Cremer.
- ✓ The IPU is the world's first permanent international political organisation.
- ✓ In modern times, the IPU empowers parliaments and parliamentarians so as to promote peace, democracy, human rights and sustainable development around the world.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

Q. Who inaugurated the first International Conference on Advancements of Research & Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda - AROHA-2024?

- A) Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar B) Raj Nath Singh
C) Narendra Modi D) Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud

Answer : D

- ✓ CJI DY Chandrachud inaugurated the AROHA 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Chief Justice of India, Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud, inaugurated the first International Conference on Advancements of Research & Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda -AROHA-2024 at New Delhi on 17 October 2024.
- ✓ Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Ayush and Health & Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, Dr. Shyama Kuruvilla, Director (ad interim) of the Global Traditional Medicine Centre, WHO, Jamnagar, Gujarat, and other distinguished guests were present on the occasion.
- ✓ The three-day AROHA-2024 is being held in New Delhi from 17-19 October 2024.
- ✓ AROHA 2024 has been organised by the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi, an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Ayush
- ✓ Theme of the AROHA 2024
- ✓ The theme of the AROHA 2024 is Advancements in Research and Global Opportunities for Holistic Ayurveda.
- ✓ Participants of AROHA 2024
- ✓ Both national and international scholars, industry leaders, and Ayurveda experts are participating in the AROHA 2024 through virtual medium or in person. Amongst the foreign countries, delegates from Japan, Colombia, Australia, Germany, Sri Lanka, and Argentina are participating
- ✓ Aim of the AROHA

- ✓ The aim of the AROHA 2024 is to popularise and project Ayurveda as one of the key pillars of global health and wellness. The conference will explore how to integrate traditional Ayurvedic practices with modern scientific advancements.
- ✓ The conference will cover a wide variety of agendas, including Ayurveda, ethnomedicine, quality control, standardisation, diagnosis, drug delivery, evidence-based understanding, and globalisation.
- ✓ All India Institute of Ayurveda
- ✓ The All India Institute of Ayurveda has been set up as an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Ayush. It is the apex of the Ayurveda Institute in India.
- ✓ The main campus of the All India Institute of Ayurveda is in New Delhi
- ✓ In order to promote Ayurveda and promote academic and scientific collaborations in the world, the All India Institute of Ayurveda has tied up with leading institutions in over 17 countries.
- ✓ Director : Professor Tanuja Manoj Nesari

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the World Energy Outlook report:

1. It is an annual report published by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).
2. It identifies and explores the biggest trends in energy demand and supply, as well as what they mean for energy security, emissions, and economic development.

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 is poised to face a higher increase in energy demand than any other country over the next decade, according to the World Energy Outlook 2024.
- ✓ About World Energy Outlook 2024:
 - ✓ It is an annual report published by the International Energy Agency (IEA).
 - ✓ It is the most authoritative global source of energy analysis and projections.
 - ✓ It identifies and explores the biggest trends in energy demand and supply, as well as what they mean for energy security, emissions, and economic development.
- ✓ Highlights of 2024 Report:
 - ✓ Projections based on current policy settings indicate that the world is entering a new energy context, marked by persistent geopolitical hazards but also an abundance of various fuels and technologies.
 - ✓ This includes a surplus of oil and Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) expected in the second half of the 2020s, alongside a significant increase in manufacturing capacity for key clean energy technologies.
 - ✓ The report finds that low-emissions energy sources are set to generate more than half of the world's electricity by 2030.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, demand for coal, oil, and gas is expected to peak by the end of this decade.
 - ✓ Global electricity demand growth is projected to accelerate further, adding the equivalent of Japan's annual electricity consumption to global use each year.
- ✓ Highlights Related to India:
 - ✓ India is poised to face a higher increase in energy demand than any other country over the next decade, mainly because of its size and the scale of rising demand from all sectors.
 - ✓ According to the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS), India is on track to add over 12,000 cars daily to its roads over the period to 2035.
 - ✓ Built-up space is set to increase by over 1 billion square metres annually. This is larger than the total built space in South Africa
 - ✓ By 2035, iron and steel production are on track to grow by 70%. The cement output is set to rise by nearly 55%.
 - ✓ The stock of air conditioners is projected to grow by over 4.5 times, resulting in electricity demand from air conditioners in 2035 more than Mexico's total expected consumption that year.

- ✓ The total energy demand in India is set to increase by nearly 35% by 2035, and electricity generation capacity nearly triple to 1400 GW.
- ✓ Coal is set to retain a strong position in the energy mix in India over the next decades, with the country projected to add about 60 gigawatts of new coal-fired power capacity by 2030.
- ✓ Coal-based electricity generation is projected to increase by over 15 per cent.
- ✓ Coal provided 40 percent of the energy used in industries like steel, cement, and manufacturing in 2023. By 2035, coal use in industry is expected to grow by 50 percent.

Q. The Battle of Walong was a part of which of the following wars?

- A) Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 B) Kargil War of 1999
C) Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 D) Sino-Indian War of 1962

Answer : D

- ✓ To mark the 62nd anniversary of the iconic battle of Walong during the 1962 war with China, the Army is planning a month-long series of commemorative events.
- ✓ About Battle of Walong:
- ✓ Set during the 1962 Sino-Indian War, it occurred at the easternmost tip of Arunachal Pradesh, near the tri-junction of India, China, and Myanmar.
- ✓ As Chinese forces launched a full-scale offensive, Indian troops were tasked with defending Walong, the only advanced landing ground in the region, a vital supply route that connected remote border posts.
- ✓ After Tawang, Walong was China's main offensive in the eastern sector during the war.
- ✓ The Chinese had overwhelming numbers on their side—an estimated 15,000 soldiers to India's 2,500, accompanied by superior weaponry and artillery.
- ✓ The Indian Army units involved included battalions from the Kumaon Regiment, Sikh Regiment, Gorkha Rifles, Assam Rifles, and Dogra Regiment.

Q. Mera Hou Chongba festival is celebrated in:

- A) Haryana B) Rajasthan
C) Assam D) Manipur

Answer : D

- ✓ Recently, people in Manipur celebrated Mera Hou Chongba festival symbolizing unity amongst the indigenous people.
- ✓ It is an annual festival observed in order to strengthen the cordial bond between the indigenous communities living in hills and valley people.
- ✓ It is only a festival wherein both hills and valley indigenous communities are observed together in the State
- ✓ This festival has been celebrated right from the time of Nongda Lairen Pakhangba in the first Century C.E.
- ✓ Every year, in the month of Mera, which falls in September/October, this festival is celebrated, in which all the village Chiefs or Khullakpas and peoples from the surrounding hill areas fully take part
- ✓ The royal palace officials share the same dias as the multiple village chiefs from communities such as the Mao, Kabui, Zeme, Kom, Liangmei, and many more

FESTIVAL IN NEWS 2024

- Mera Hou Chongba festival : Manipur
- 25th Hombill Festival : Nagaland
- Naga King Chilli festival : Nagaland
- 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
- Dhillio festival : Goa
- Longte Festival : Arunachal Pradesh

Q. Yars Missile, recently seen in the news, is developed by:

- A) Iran
- B) North Korea
- C) United States
- D) Russia

Answer : D

- ✓ Russia is testing the combat readiness of a unit equipped with Yars intercontinental ballistic missiles in a region northwest of Moscow.
- ✓ About Yars Missile:
- ✓ The Yars RS-24 (NATO designation SS-29) is a Russian-made mobile nuclear intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that can be mounted on truck carriers or deployed in silos.
- ✓ The first production of Yars began in 2004. It is believed to have entered into service in February 2010.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ The missile is estimated to be 22.5 meters in length and 2 meters in diameter.
- ✓ It is a three-stage, solid propellant, MIRV-capable (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicles) ICBM.
- ✓ The total launch weight of the RS-24 is assessed to be 49,000 kg.
- ✓ It is expected to have a minimum range of 2,000 km and a maximum range of 10,500 km.
- ✓ The missile uses a guidance upgraded system of the inertial and Glonass systems.
- ✓ The missile can be armed with up to 10 MIRVs, each containing a thermonuclear warhead weighing 300 kilotons.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV):

1. They are heavily armed war vessels being built for the Indian Navy.
2. They are being built by the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

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

- ✓ American engine manufacturer General Electric recently announced that its LM2500 marine engines have been chosen to power Indian Navy's Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV).
- ✓ About Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV):

- ✓ It was initiated in 1993, symbolising the long-term strategic relationship between the two countries.
- ✓ Oman is the first country in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) which has been conducting bilateral exercises with India jointly.
- ✓ The exercise was conducted in two phases: with the harbour phase followed by the sea phase.

Q. Which ministry of the government of India organises the National Lighthouse Festival?

- A) Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- D) Ministry of Culture

Answer : A

- ✓ 2nd National Lighthouse Festival held across Nation's 75 Lighthouse
- ✓ The 2nd National Lighthouse Festival will be observed across the country's 75 historic Lighthouses on 19 and 20 October 2024.
- ✓ To mark the start of the Festival, a Lighthouse Tourism Conclave 2024 was held in Puri, Odisha, on 19 October 2024.
- ✓ The first National Lighthouse Festival was held from September 23 to 25, 2023, at 75 historic lighthouses across the country.
- ✓ The Lighthouse Tourism Conclave 2024 was inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Shantanu Thakur, on 19 October 2024.
- ✓ During the inaugural session, the Minister of State for Petroleum, Natural Gas & Tourism, Suresh Gopi, and Odisha Deputy Chief Minister, Mrs Pravati Parida, were also present.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways organise the 'National Lighthouse Festival'
- ✓ What is the aim of the National Lighthouse Festival?
- ✓ The main aim of the National Lighthouse Festival is to:
- ✓ To transform 75 historic lighthouses in the country into a tourist site with modern amenities such as museums, amphitheatres, children's parks, etc.
- ✓ Promote the conservation and preservation of these historic maritime Lighthouses.
- ✓ Generation of local employment and boosting the local economy.
- ✓ According to the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships, around Rs 65 crore has been invested in 75 iconic lighthouses in 9 coastal states and 1 Union Territory.
- ✓ About Lighthouse
- ✓ Lighthouses are permanent structures built on sea shore, rocks, or on the seabed. The Lighthouse has a beacon on the top of its structure. The beacon emits a focussed light, which is used to warn ships approaching the dangerous areas of the sea. Many of the lighthouses are also equipped with fog horns that sound high pitch warnings to passing ships in dangerous areas of the sea in dense fog.
- ✓ Lighthouses are also used to navigate the ships in or out of the harbours safely.

Q. Where was the second edition of the 'Sagar Kavach 2024 exercise held?

- A) Gujarat and Daman & Diu
- B) Goa and Puducherry
- C) Kerala and Lakshadweep
- D) Maharashtra and Daman & Diu

Answer : A

- ✓ 2nd edition of 'Sagar Kavach' exercise 2024 held by Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard successfully conducted its 2nd edition of the coastal security exercise 'Sagar Kavach' of the year on 16-17 October 2024 across Gujarat and the Union Territory of Daman & Diu coasts.
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard held its first 'Sagar Kavach' exercise of 2024 on 11 and 12 July 2024 along the coast of Andhra Pradesh.

- ✓ India plans to build its first privately managed strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) by 2029-30.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared India's plan to establish its own space station by 2035.
- ✓ National Strategic Plan & Roadmap for Leprosy (2023-27) to achieve zero transmission of leprosy by 2027.
- ✓ India self-reliant in pulses by December 2027
- ✓ Indian Consumer Tech To Touch \$300 Bn By 2027.
- ✓ India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as the third largest economy in the world by 2027.
- ✓ Members of the Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA) collectively have set an "aspirational target" of 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.
- ✓ India to push developed nations to become carbon-negative before 2050.
- ✓ This 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' event will help the country to achieve its commitment of becoming a global drone hub by 2030.
- ✓ Vaccine manufacturer Indian Immunologicals Limited (IIL) expects to commercially launch its dengue fever vaccine by early 2026.
- ✓ Group Chief Economic Advisor at the State Bank of India (SBI), Soumya Kanti Ghoshon has reiterated that India is likely to become the third-largest economy by 2027.
- ✓ The Ministry of Coal has set a target to gasify 100 million tonnes of coal by FY 2030.
- ✓ According to the report of Goldman Sachs Research, by the year 2075, India will become the second largest economy in the world after China leaving behind not only Japan and Germany but also America.
- ✓ UNEP suggests measures to reduce 80% of world's plastic pollution by 2040.
- ✓ India aims to become one trillion dollar tourism economy by 2047.
- ✓ The government announced a plan to add 250 GW of renewable energy capacity in the next five years to achieve its target of 500 GW of clean energy by 2030.
- ✓ India has set targets for half of its installed electricity capacity to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 and for the country to attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.
- ✓ 2023 foreign trade policy has the vision to take India's goods and services exports to \$2 trillion by 2030.
- ✓ India to get 9% of Electricity from Nuclear Sources by 2047.
- ✓ India sets target to become 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by 2030
- ✓ Indian Railways to become Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030.
- ✓ India to produce 5 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2030.
- ✓ India has set a target to replace the use of diesel by renewable energy in the agriculture sector by 2024.
- ✓ Indian Government has set a target to eliminate TB in India by 2025.
- ✓ India targets ₹25,000-cr worth defence exports by 2024.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India's 2023 monetary policy objective is to hold inflation within the mandated tolerance band and guide it towards the medium-term target of 4% by 2024.

Q. What is the name of the exercise recently conducted by the Sudarshan Chakra Corps at Jhansi?

A) Swavlamban Shakti	B) Vayu Shakti
C) Vijay Prahar	D) Sudarshan Shakti

Answer : A

- ✓ The Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps is conducting a major exercise called "Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI" at the Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi.
- ✓ This exercise, which runs until October 22, aims to improve the Army's combat abilities by using new and advanced technologies
- ✓ The main goal of this exercise is to incorporate New Technology Equipment (NTEs) into the Army's attack strategies. By doing this, the Army is preparing itself for future warfare scenarios, ensuring it has modern tools and techniques for effective military operations.

- ✓ Around 1,800 soldiers are taking part in the exercise, supported by 210 armoured vehicles (such as tanks), 50 special-purpose vehicles, and aircraft. This large number of participants and equipment shows how important these modern technologies are for preparing the Army.

O. Who is the author of the book titled The Golden Road How Ancient India Transformed the World?

- A) William Dalrymple B) Markus Zusak
C) Paulo Coelho D) Jane Austen

Answer : A

- ✓ The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World is a 2024 history book by William Dalrymple.
- ✓ It discusses the ways in which India's ideas and influences spread throughout and shaped Eurasia

Q. Who has been appointed as the 9th chairperson of the National Commission for Women by the government of India?

- A) Kamla Beniwal
B) Jayashree Banerjee
C) Ranjana Baghel
D) Vijaya Rahatkar

Answer : D

- ✓ 9th Chairperson of National Commission for Women: Vijaya Rahatkar.
- ✓ The Government of India appointed Mrs Vijaya Rahatkar as the 9th chairperson of the National Commission for Women on 19 October 2024.
- ✓ The post was vacant after the term of Rekha Sharma ended on 6 August 2024.
- ✓ Vijaya Rahatkar will take over as the chairperson of the National Commission for Women with immediate effect.
- ✓ Mrs. Vijaya Rahatkar has previously served as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Commission for Women from 2016 to 2021.
- ✓ The central government has also appointed Dr Archana Majumdar as a member of the National Commission for Women.
- ✓ Currently, Ms Delina Khongdup and Mrs Mamta Kumari are the other members of the Commission
- ✓ Terms of the Chairperson and the Member
- ✓ Mrs Vijaya Rahatkar and Dr Archana Majumdar have been appointed for a three-year term.
- ✓ As per the provisions of the National Commission for Women Act 1990, the Government of India has the power to frame rules and regulations regarding the tenure of the Chairperson and Members of the Commission.
- ✓ The government has framed the National Commission for Women (Salaries and Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and Members) Rules, 1992, which provides that the maximum age of the chairperson or the member of the National Commission for Women shall be 65 years and a term of three years, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ The central government can dismiss the chairperson or member under certain terms and conditions mentioned in the National Commission for Women Act 1990.
- ✓ The chairperson or the member can resign from their office by writing a letter addressed to the central government.
- ✓ The chairperson and the members of the Commission are eligible for reappointment.
- ✓ About the National Commission for Women
- ✓ The National Commission for Women is a statutory body, setup by the government of India in January 1992 under the provision of the National Commission for Women Act 1990.
- ✓ The body is under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ✓ Its head office is in New Delhi.

- ✓ National Commission for Women (NCW) was formed by the Government of India on 31st January 1992.
- ✓ Mrs. Jayanti Patnaik was the first Chairperson.
- ✓ Function of the National Commission for Women
- ✓ The Jurisdiction of the National Commission for Women extends to all parts of India.
- ✓ According to the National Commission for Women Act 1990, the functions of the body is
- ✓ review the provisions for the safeguards for women in the constitution and other statutory acts;
- ✓ Suggest measures to make new laws;
- ✓ Work for the redressal of grievances related to women and
- ✓ advise the Government on all policy matters relating to women.
- ✓ Members of the National Commission for Women
- ✓ The National Commission for Women consists of a chairperson, five members and a member secretary.
- ✓ One member of the Commission shall be from Scheduled Caste and one member from Scheduled Tribes.
- ✓ There is one Member Secretary of the National Commission for Women who is an expert in the field of management, organisational structure or sociological movement or is an officer who is a member of a civil service of the central government or All India Services.

Q. Where was the first Group of Seven (G-7) defence ministers meeting held?

- A) Naples, Italy
- B) Paris, France
- C) Beijing, China
- D) Brussels, Belgium

Answer : A

- ✓ First G-7 Defence Ministers meeting hosted by Italy in Naples.
- ✓ For the first time in Group of Seven (G-7) history, the defence ministers of the G7 countries met in Naples, Italy, on 19 October 2024.
- ✓ Italian defence minister Guido Crosetto hosted the meeting. Italy holds the rotating presidency of the G-7 for 2024.
- ✓ The G7 Defence Ministers meeting was held in the background of the Israeli announcement that it has killed the Palestinian militant group Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar.
- ✓ The Israelis have accused Yayha Sinwar as the mastermind of the October 7, 2023, attacks on Israel, in which 1,200 people were killed and around 240 people were taken hostage by Hamas.
- ✓ Since then, Israel has attacked Gaza, the base of Hamas.
- ✓ Who attended the first G-7 Defence Minister meeting
- ✓ The G-7 Defence Ministers meeting was attended by the United States Secretary of Defence, Lloyd Austin, and the defence ministers of the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Germany, and Japan.
- ✓ It was hosted by the Italian defence minister. The meeting was also attended by the representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the European Union, and Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov.
- ✓ The G-7 is a group of advanced industrialised western countries: Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Japan, Canada, and the United States.
- ✓ G7 Calls for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.
- ✓ In a joint declaration issued after the meeting, the G-7 defence ministers called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas,
- ✓ It supported Ukraine's membership in the western military alliance, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation). However, they did not mention the timetable for Ukraine's membership of NATO as it is likely to provoke Russia, which has been at war with Ukraine for over two years.
- ✓ During the meeting, the European Union's chief diplomat(Foreign Minister), Josep Borrell, said that the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, also known as UNIFIL(United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon), needs to be made more effective by the United Nations Security Council.
- ✓ Attack on UNIFIL Troops

- ✓ Since October 2023, the Iranian-backed militant Islamic group Hezbollah has been firing rockets at Israel and attacking with drones to express support to the Palestinian militant group Hamas. Hezbollah, which means 'Party of God', is a political and military force in Lebanon, backed by Iran. It is considered to be a state within a state in war-torn Lebanon. Hezbollah is a violent anti-Israeli and anti-western countries group and has been engaged in hostility with Israel since its creation in the 1980s.
- ✓ To stop the continuous rocket and drone attacks of Hezbollah on Israel, the Israeli forces have attacked Hezbollah bases in Southern Lebanon and killed its leader, Hassan Nasrallah.
- ✓ Israel Defence Force (IDF) has also launched a ground offensive in South Lebanon to destroy the Hezbollah bases being used to attack Israel. It was during one of these attacks by Israel in Lebanon that five UNIFIL peacekeepers were injured
- ✓ The UNIFIL was established by the United Nations Security Council in 1978 to monitor the withdrawal of Israeli troops from South Lebanon and to restore peace and security in Lebanon.
- ✓ UNIFIL's force consists of 10,058 United Nations peacekeepers from 50 contributing countries deployed along the 120km Blue Line.
- ✓ The Blue Line demarcates the border between Israel and Lebanon. Around 903 Indian troops, mainly from the Assam Regiment, are part of the UNIFIL peacekeeping force.

Q. Which country hosted the first India-ASEAN Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue?

- A) India
- B) Singapore
- C) Vietnam
- D) Thailand

Answer : B

- ✓ MoS Pabitra Margherita attends Prabowo Subianto Swearing in Ceremony.
- ✓ The Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, represented the government of India at the swearing-in ceremony of the Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 October 2024.
- ✓ The Indonesian Vice President Gibran Rakabuming was also sworn in along with President Subianto.
- ✓ Pabitra Margherita was on a two-day visit to Indonesia on 19-20 October 2024.
- ✓ India and Indonesia are celebrating 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relationships in 2024.
- ✓ President Prabowo Subianto, the 8th President of Indonesia, replaced Joko Widodo.
- ✓ The term of the President of Indonesia is five years, and a person can be president for two terms only.
- ✓ President Prabowo Subianto was elected President of Indonesia in the presidential election held on 14 February 2024. He was the defence minister in the previous Joko Widodo administration.
- ✓ Gibran Rakabuming Raka, who was sworn in as the Vice President of Indonesia, is the son of Joko Widodo. The term of the vice president of Indonesia is five years.
- ✓ Indonesia
- ✓ Capital: Jakarta
- ✓ Currency: Rupiah
- ✓ President : Prabowo Subianto.
- ✓ First ASEAN-India Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue.
- ✓ First India -ASEAN (Association of Southeast Nations)Track 1 Cyber Policy Dialogue was held in Singapore on 16 October 2024.
- ✓ The Cyber Policy Dialogue was held as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi visited Vientiane on 10-11 October 2024 to attend the 21st India -ASEAN Summit meeting.
- ✓ During his speech at the summit meeting, Prime Minister Modi announced a 10-point agenda to strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between ASEAN and India.
- ✓ Conducting regular India-ASEAN Cyber dialogue so as to strengthen Digital and Cyber Resilience between the two was part of the 10 points enunciated by Prime Minister Modi.

- ✓ Amit Shukla, Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs, co-chaired the meeting with Jeffrey Ian Dy of the Philippines. The Philippines is currently the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-India dialogue relations.
- ✓ India and Singapore also conducted their first Cyber Policy Dialogue in Singapore on 17 October 2024.

Q. Who has been sworn in as the 8th President of Indonesia?

- A) Amran Sulaiman
- B) Siti Nurbaya Bakar
- C) Budi Karya Sumadi
- D) Prabowo Subianto

Answer : D

- ✓ President Prabowo Subianto, the 8th President of Indonesia, replaced Joko Widodo. The term of the President of Indonesia is five years, and a person can be president for two terms only.

Q. Which country of ASEAN is the country coordinator for ASEAN-India dialogue relations?

- A) Philippines
- B) Thailand
- C) Vietnam
- D) Singapore

Answer : A

- ✓ Philippines is currently the Country Coordinator for ASEAN-India dialogue relations.
- ✓ India and Singapore also conducted their first Cyber Policy Dialogue in Singapore on 17 October 2024.

Q. Who was the captain of New Zealand's women's cricket team, which won the 9th ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup 2024?

- A) Amelia Kerr
- B) Sophie Devine
- C) Suzie Bates
- D) Eden Carson

Answer : B

- ✓ New Zealand wins Maiden ICC Women's T20 World Cup.
- ✓ The New Zealand women's cricket team won their first ICC Women's T20 World Cup by defeating South Africa in the final, played at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 20 October 2024.
- ✓ This was the first major title for the New Zealand Women's team, nicknamed 'White Ferns' since their triumph in the ICC Women's One Day International Cricket World Cup on home soil in 2000.
- ✓ The 9th ICC Women's T20 Cricket World Cup was originally allotted to Bangladesh, but due to political instability in the country, it was shifted to the United Arab Emirates. Bangladesh shared the hosting rights with the UAE, and the matches were played in Dubai and Sharjah in the UAE from October 3-20, 2024.
- ✓ Ten teams: India, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, South Africa, England, West Indies and Scotland participated in the world cup.
- ✓ New Zealand was playing its third final in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. It lost to England in the inaugural edition held in 2009 and again to Australia in 2000.
- ✓ The South African women's cricket team, nicknamed 'Proteas,' was playing its second consecutive final, having lost to Australia in the 8th edition held in South Africa in 2023.
- ✓ The Proteas captain, Laura Wolvaardt, won the toss and asked New Zealand to bat first.
- ✓ The White Ferns scored 158 runs in their allotted 20 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Veteran all-rounder Amelia Kerr top-scored for New Zealand with 43 runs.
- ✓ In reply, the Proteas could manage only 126 runs for the loss of 9 wickets. Thus, the White Ferns, led by Sophie Devine, won the final match with 32 runs and emerged as champions.
- ✓ All-rounder Amelia Kerr of New Zealand was declared the Player of the Final as well as the Player of the Tournament for her all-around performance of 135 runs and 15 wickets.

Answer : C

- ✓ Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh was crowned Femina Miss India World 2024, earning the opportunity to represent India at the Miss World pageant.
- ✓ The prestigious event, which marked its 60th edition, also saw Rekha Pandey from Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Aayushi Dholakia from Gujarat named as the 1st and 2nd runners-up, respectively.
- ✓ The event featured a celebrity jury that included Sangeeta Bijlani, Anees Bazmee, and Madhur Bhandarkar, further adding to the glamour of the occasion.

Q. Coal India Limited has set up a Joint Venture with which company to establish a coal-to-synthetic natural gas plant in West Bengal?

- A) GAIL India Limited (GAIL)
- B) Oil India Ltd (OIL)
- C) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)
- D) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

Answer : A

- ✓ GAIL & CIL Joint Venture for Coal to Synthetic Natural Gas Plant in WB .
- ✓ In a boost to the National Coal Gasification Mission, the two Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) Coal India Limited (CIL) and GAIL (India) Limited (GAIL) have set up a joint venture to establish a Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas plant.
- ✓ The agreement was signed between the two CPSEs in the presence of M. Nagaraju, Additional Secretary, Coal in New Delhi.
- ✓ India is the second-largest coal producer in the world after China, and it has an estimated coal reserve of 361411.46 million tonnes.
- ✓ Recently, Eastern Coalfields Limited launched a pilot project for in situ underground coal gasification at the Kasta coal block in Jamtara District, Jharkhand.
- ✓ The Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas plant will be built in the Raniganj coal field area of West Bengal.
- ✓ The Raniganj coalfield is India's first and oldest commercial coal field, which started production in 1774. The Raniganj coalfield is under Eastern Coalfields Limited, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited.
- ✓ The plant will produce 80000 Nm³ per hour of Synthetic Natural Gas, with an annual production capacity of 633.6 Million Nm³ per hour.
- ✓ The plant is expected to consume 1.9 million tonnes of coal. Coal India Limited will provide the coal, while GAIL will operate the technology and the plant.
- ✓ National Coal Gasification Mission
- ✓ The government of India launched the National Coal Gasification Mission in 2020.
- ✓ It aims to convert 100 million tonnes of coal into natural gas by 2030.
- ✓ The mission is part of the government of India's plan to achieve energy independence by 2027.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the eShram One-Stop Solution:

1. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
2. It provides seamless access to different Social Security Schemes to the registered unorganised workers.

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

- ✓ Union Minister of Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports launched the eShram One Stop Solution in New Delhi.
- ✓ It will provide seamless access to different Social Security Schemes to the unorganised workers registered on the eShram portal.
- ✓ Purpose: The primary purpose of the eShram One Stop Solution is to simplify the registration process for unorganised workers and facilitate their access to government welfare schemes.
- ✓ This platform will act as a bridge, connecting the workers to the numerous benefits offered by the government and making the registration process easier and more transparent".
- ✓ It entails consolidating and integrating data from various Central Ministries/Departments into a single repository.
- ✓ Key welfare schemes such as the One Nation One Ration Card, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, National Social Assistance Programme, National Career Service, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan etc. have been integrated with eShram.
- ✓ What is eShram 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.
- ✓ The registration in the portal is fully Aadhaar verified and Aadhaar seeded. Any unorganised worker can register himself or herself on the portal on a self-declaration basis.
- ✓ It allows an unorganised worker to register himself or herself on the portal on a self-declaration basis, under 400 occupations in 30 broad occupation sectors.

Q. Who was recently named the National Brand Ambassador of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre?

A) Anushka Sharma	B) Kriti Sanon
C) Virat Kohli	D) Rashmika Mandanna

Answer : D

- ✓ Actress Rashmika Mandanna has recently been named the national brand ambassador of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Let us tell you that Rashmika also became a victim of a deepfake video last year.
- ✓ This will help in increasing awareness about cybersecurity including deepfakes, cyberbullying and financial fraud.

LATEST BRAND AMBASSADOR IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ Sachin Tendulkar : Bank of Baroda
- ✓ Mahendra Singh Dhoni : Brand ambassador for Jharkhand election by the Election Commission,
- ✓ Rashmika Mandanna : Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)
- ✓ Rahul Dravid : Shriram Finance Limited
- ✓ Manu Bhaker: Brand Ambassador of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterway
- ✓ 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 is the rank of India in the recently released Global Hunger Index 2024?

A) 107th

B) 110th

C) 105th

D) 109th

Answer : C

✓ India ranks 105th in the Global Hunger Index 2024 with a score of 27.3.

✓ About Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024

✓ The Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2024 is a comprehensive tool designed to measure and track hunger levels across 127 countries.

✓ The GHI is an annual report. It was established in 2006 to raise awareness about hunger and compare hunger levels between different countries and regions.

✓ Initially published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Welthungerhilfe, it later included Concern Worldwide as a co-publisher.

✓ The GHI focuses on multiple dimensions of hunger, including undernourishment, child mortality, and stunted growth in children to rank countries on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 means no hunger and 100 means the worst hunger possible.

✓ The GHI focuses on multiple dimensions of hunger, including undernourishment, child mortality, and stunted growth in children to rank countries on a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 means no hunger and 100 means the worst hunger possible

How the GHI Is Calculated

Each country's GHI score is calculated based on a formula that combines four indicators that together capture the multidimensional nature of hunger:



Undernourishment: the share of the population whose caloric intake is insufficient;



Child stunting: the share of children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition;



Child wasting: the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition; and



Child mortality: the share of children who die before their fifth birthday, reflecting in part the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments.

✓ Globally, around 733 million people don't have enough food daily, and 2.8 billion people can't afford healthy food.

- ✓ The worst hunger situations are found in African countries like Sudan and Gaza, where wars have made food shortages even worse. Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali, and Syria are also struggling with food crises due to conflicts and political instability.
- ✓ The GHI report warns that hunger is still a major problem worldwide, especially in poor countries. Even though governments and organizations have been working hard to fix this, progress is slow. This means the goal of ending hunger by 2030 (part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals) is looking very hard to achieve.
- ✓ Mozambique and Nepal made significant strides in reducing hunger and improving their GHI scores since 2016
- ✓ Key Findings about India
- ✓ India ranked 105th out of 127 countries, placing it in the "serious" category in the GHI 2024 report.
- ✓ 13.7% of people are not getting adequate food to meet their daily calorie needs.
- ✓ 35.5% of children under five are too short for their age; a sign of chronic undernutrition.
- ✓ 18.7% of children under five are too thin for their height; which shows acute undernutrition.
- ✓ 2.9% of children die before their fifth birthday; due to lack of proper nutrition and unhealthy living conditions.
- ✓ These numbers are worrying because they show that many people in India, especially young children, aren't getting the food and nutrients they need to grow and stay healthy.
- ✓ India is one of the 42 countries in the "serious" category, along with neighbours like Pakistan and Afghanistan. Other South Asian countries like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka are doing better, landing in the "moderate" category of hunger levels..
- ✓ Initiatives to address hunger and improve food security in India
- ✓ National Nutrition Mission (or POSHAN Abhiyaan) was launched to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anaemia, and low birth weight in children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- ✓ The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched to increase the production of rice, wheat, pulses, and other crops.
- ✓ The Zero Hunger Programme was started to integrate agriculture, health, and nutrition to achieve zero hunger.
- ✓ Government promoting the fortification of staple foods like rice, wheat flour, and edible oils with essential vitamins and minerals to manage micronutrient deficiencies.
- ✓ The Public Distribution System (PDS) distributes subsidized food grains to the poor to ensure that no one goes hungry by providing access to essential food items at affordable prices.
- ✓ The Mid-Day Meal Scheme provides free lunches to school children on working days to improve nutritional levels among children and encourage school attendance.
- ✓ Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) provides food, preschool education, and primary healthcare to children under 6 years of age and their mothers to combat malnutrition and promote early childhood development.
- ✓ Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) was launched during the COVID-19 pandemic to provide free food grains to the poor to ensure food security.
- ✓ The National Food Security Act (NFSA) was enacted in 2013 to provide subsidized food grains to about two-thirds of India's population. It legally entitles eligible households to receive food grains at highly subsidized prices.

Q. Which of the following is/are the indicators used by IFPRI to compute the Global Hunger Index Report?

1. Undernourishment	2. Child stunting
3. Child mortality	4. Child Wasting

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

A) 1 and 4 only	B) 2 and 3 only
C) 1, 2, 3 and 4	D) 1 and 3 only

Answer : C

- Q.** The Global Hunger Index published by
- A) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - B) Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
 - C) World Food Council (WFC)
 - D) United Nations Development Programme

Answer : B

- ✓ In the recently released Global Hunger Index (GHI), 2024, India is ranked 105th among 127 countries.
- ✓ India was ranked 111th among 125 countries in the year 2023 and 107th among 121 countries in the year 2022.
- ✓ In this index of the year 2024, Nepal is at number 68, Sri Lanka at 56 and Bangladesh at 84. That is, the condition of these countries is better than us.
- ✓ Pakistan's ranking is 109.
- ✓ 22 countries including China, UAE and Kuwait are ranked first in this index.
- ✓ India's score in the Hunger Index of the year 2024 is 27.3, which remains serious.
- ✓ Theme: The theme for the 2024 Global Hunger Index (GHI) is "How gender justice can advance climate resilience and zero hunger".
- ✓ Difficulties in achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger by 2030): The GHI 2024 reveals that 42 countries face alarming or serious hunger levels, marking a stagnation in the fight against hunger despite decades of progress.
- ✓ India's score on all parameters in the 2024 index:



- ✓ Global Hunger Index (GHI):
- ✓ It gives information about the situation of hunger in the countries.
- ✓ Its list is prepared every year by a European NGO called Concern Worldwide and World Hunger Help (Welthungerhilfe in Germany).
- ✓ It is prepared after assessing 4 parameters in different countries around the world.
- ✓ In this index, countries which have a low GHI score also have a low ranking, which means people there are less hungry.
- ✓ How is the GHI score calculated?
- ✓ The GHI score of each country is calculated on 4 parameters of 3 dimensions.
- ✓ Undernourishment (1)
- ✓ Infant mortality rate (2)
- ✓ Child undernutrition
- ✓ Child wasting (3)
- ✓ Child stunting (4)

- ✓ All these three dimensions are given a standard score of 100 points.
- ✓ In this score, Undernourishment, infant mortality rate and child undernutrition account for one-third each.
- ✓ On the score scale, 0 is the best score, while 100 is the worst

Q. Where was India's first airport-based self-operated indoor air quality monitoring facility launched?

Answer : B

Answer : D

Answer : A

- IndiaFirst Life has become the first Indian life insurer to commence operations in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City).
- India launches world's first mobile-launched hybrid rocket, RHUMI-I.
- 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

- 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.

Answer : D

President Droupadi Murmu IN NEWS 2024

- President Droupadi Murmu was conferred the Degree of Honorary Doctorate in Political Science in Algeria on 15 November 2024.
- President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with Fiji's highest civilian award- Companion of the Order of Fiji.
- Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered a new variety of sea slug mollusk off the coasts of Odisha and Bengal. It is named after the President Droupadi Murmu.
- President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the National Festival of Folk and Tribal Expressions of India called "Utkarsh" and the International Literature Festival known as "Unmesh" in Bhopal.
- President Droupadi Murmu has approved the formation of the 23rd Law Commission of India for a three-year term, effective from 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2027.
- President Droupadi Murmu became the first Indian to be honoured with the Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star, the highest civilian award in Suriname
- On March 12, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu was conferred with the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law by the University of Mauritius
- Draupadi Murmu belongs to the Santhal Tribe of India.
- Draupadi Murmu has been elected as the 15th President of India.
- She was also the first female governor of Jharkhand

Q. Where was the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting held?

- A) Mumbai
B) Chennai
C) New Delhi
D) Hyderabad

Answer : C

- ✓ India host the 19th ICDRA meeting for the first time in New Delhi
- ✓ India is hosting the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) meeting in New Delhi from 14 to 18 October 2024.
- ✓ India was to host the event in 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed and is now being held in 2024.
- ✓ India is hosting the ICDRA meeting for the first time.
- ✓ The 18th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting was held in Dublin, Ireland in 2018.
- ✓ The meeting will bring together drug authorities from World Health Organisation (WHO) member countries to strengthen collaboration and develop international consensus on regulatory priorities.
- ✓ The 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities is hosted by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO). The CDSO comes under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ✓ Smart Regulation: Delivering Quality Assured Medical Products for All is the theme of the 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting.
- ✓ The 19th International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Parkash Nadda.
- ✓ About the International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities
- ✓ The World Health Organisation organised the first International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities in 1980 in Annapolis, the United States of America.
- ✓ The meeting aimed to bring together the drug regulatory authorities of WHO member countries, discuss ways to harmonise drug regulatory information and promote collaboration.
- ✓ Since then, the International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities meeting is normally held every two years.
- ✓ Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)
- ✓ The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is a regulatory body under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- ✓ The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, as amended from time to time, assigns certain functions to the central and state governments.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ World Health Organisation (WHO)
- ✓ World Health Organisation is an agency of the United Nations. It was set up on 7 April 1948.
- ✓ Its headquarters is in Geneva. Switzerland has 194 member countries.
- ✓ Director General of WHO: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

Q. Who has been sworn in as the first chief minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir?

- A) Omar Abdullah
B) Syed Zafar
C) Syed Shahnawaz Hussain
D) Murli Manohar Joshi

Answer : A

- ✓ Omar Abdullah Sworn in as the first CM of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Omar Abdullah of the National Conference party was sworn in as the first chief minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir on 16 October 2024.
- ✓ Along with Omar Abdullah, five ministers, four from the National Conference Party and one independent, were also sworn in.
- ✓ Surinder Kumar Choudhary, the National Conference MLA from the Jammu region, was sworn in as deputy chief minister.
- ✓ Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, administered the oath of office to the chief minister and his council of ministers at a ceremony held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar on 16 October 2024.
- ✓ Jammu and Kashmir have been under the president's rule since the fall of the PDP-BJP coalition government in 2018. The President's rule was revoked after 6 years by the President on 13 October 2024.
- ✓ Omar Abdullah has been sworn in as the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir for the second time. He became the chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir for the first time in January 2009 and remained till 8th January 2014.
- ✓ The National Conference, in alliance with the Congress party, fought the recently held legislative assembly election in the Union Territory. The National Conference emerged as the largest party, with 42 seats, while the Congress won 6 seats. However, the Congress Party has declined to join the Omar Abdullah government.
- ✓ However, Rahul Gandhi, the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, and party general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were present at the oath-taking ceremony.
- ✓ Bharatiya Janata Party is the main opposition party in the legislative assembly with 26 members.

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. With which country did India sign the Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement in October 2024?

- A) Colombia
B) Malaysia
C) Philippines
D) Maldives

Answer : A

- ✓ India & Colombia sign agreement to boost Film Industry Partnership.
- ✓ India and Columbia have signed an Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement to boost the partnership between the film industry in both countries. Colombia is the 17th country with which India has signed such an agreement.
- ✓ The agreement between India and Columbia is expected to benefit producers from both countries by pooling their creative, artistic, technical, financial, and marketing resources for co-production.
- ✓ The India -Colombia Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement was signed by Dr. L. Murugan, the Union Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, and Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia.
- ✓ The agreement was signed in New Delhi on 15 October 2024.
- ✓ Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez is on an official visit to India. He also participated in the 10th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Colombia, held in New Delhi on 15 October 2024.
- ✓ India has signed the Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement with 17 countries in the world. An agreement was signed with Italy and the United Kingdom in 2005, Germany in 2007, Brazil in 2007, France in 2010, New Zealand in 2011, Poland and Spain in 2012, Canada and China in 2014, South Korea in 2015, Bangladesh in 2016, Portugal in 2017, Israel in 2018, Russia in 2019, Australia in 2023 and Colombia in 2024.
- ✓ About Colombia
- ✓ Colombia is a South American country whose name is derived from Christopher Columbus, the discoverer of the Americas.
- ✓ Colombia was a colony of Spain, and Spanish is the country's national language.
- ✓ Capital: Bogota
- ✓ Currency: Peso
- ✓ President: Gustavo Petro

SIGNS MoU IN NEWS 2024

- India & Colombia sign agreement to boost Film Industry Partnership
- 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

Q.

2. It is an initiative of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation.

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 operationalised Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) initiated the Mission for Advancement in High-Impact Areas -Electric Vehicle (MAHA- EV) Mission.
- ✓ It focuses on the development of key EV technologies to reduce dependency on imports, promote domestic innovation, and position India as a global leader in the EV sector.
- ✓ It is part of ANRF's Advancement in High-Impact Areas (MAHA) program designed to catalyze multi-institutional, multi-disciplinary, and multi-investigator collaboration to tackle critical scientific challenges.
- ✓ It aims to accelerate technological advancement in key sectors that have a high impact on the nation's future growth to create a global standing in the area.
- ✓ It is concentrating on three critical technology verticals-- Tropical EV Batteries and Battery Cells, Power Electronics, Machines, and Drives (PEMD) and Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.
- ✓ Significance
- ✓ The mission will enhance domestic capabilities in the design and development of essential EV components.
- ✓ It will strengthen competitiveness and position India as a hub for EV component development, driving global competitiveness and innovation.
- ✓ By accelerating the shift towards electric mobility, it will contribute to a greener and sustainable future.

Q.

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

Answer : D

- ✓ As Israel intensifies its military operation against Hezbollah militants in Lebanon, the United States announced it will deploy a missile defence system, the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) battery, to Israel.
- ✓ It is a missile defense system that can engage and destroy short-, medium-, and intermediate-range ballistic missiles during their terminal phase of flight.
- ✓ Key features
- ✓ It has a “hit to kill” approach which blasts missiles as they enter their target zone during their descent.
- ✓ Target range: It can cover a wide area, engaging targets at distances between 150-200 kilometers (93-124 miles).
- ✓ Development of THAAD
- ✓ It was developed by the US after their experience of Iraq's Scud missile attacks during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.
- ✓ In 2008, the US deployed an early missile warning radar, a part of the THAAD system to Israel. Similar deployments were also made in 2012 and 2019, aiding Israel's ability to emerge as a military power.

Q. Thachath Viswanath Narendran has been elected as the chairman of the World Steel Association. He is the second Indian to be elected to the post after?

- A) Nikesh Arora
- B) Punit Renjen
- C) Dinesh Paliwal
- D) Sajjan Jindal

Answer : D

- ✓ TV Narendran elected as world steel Chairman; second Indian to head global body.
- ✓ Thachath Viswanath Narendran, MD and CEO of Tata Steel, has been elected as the chairman of the World Steel Association.
- ✓ He is the second Indian to hold this position, following JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal.
- ✓ The association also elected Ugur Dalbeler and Leon Topalian as Vice Chairs.
- ✓ World Steel Association
- ✓ Formation : 1967
- ✓ Headquarters : Brussels, Belgium
- ✓ Chairman : TV Narendran (Indian)
- ✓ It is a non-profit organisation with its headquarters in Brussels, Belgium and a second office in Beijing, China.

Q. India's first indigenous bullet train set to roll by which year?

- A) 2030
- B) 2027
- C) 2026
- D) 2028

Answer : C

- ✓ India's first bullet train to roll out by 2026.
- ✓ BEML has been contracted to design, manufacture, and commission India's first indigenous bullet trains, each with eight cars.
- ✓ The trains will offer modern amenities as part of India's high-speed rail initiative and are set to roll out by late 2026.
- ✓ India is advancing its high-speed rail ambitions by developing indigenously built bullet trains.
- ✓ The first bullet train is expected to be manufactured in Bengaluru, featuring a design speed of 280 kilometers per hour (kmph) and an operational speed of 250 kmph.
- ✓ This train is slated for rollout by December 2026.
- ✓ State-owned BEML has secured a contract worth Rs 866.87 crore to design, manufacture, and commission India's first indigenously built bullet trains.
- ✓ BEML announced it will supply two high-speed trainsets, each comprising eight coaches, under an order placed by Indian Railways' Integral Coach Factory (ICF).
- ✓ It is not immediately clear if the trains BEML develops would be for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor.

Q. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2024 was awarded jointly to Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun for:

- A) Discovery of molecular mechanisms controlling the circadian rhythm
- B) Determining how cells sense and adapt to oxygen availability
- C) Cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation
- D) Discovery of microRNA and its role in post-transcriptional gene regulation

Answer : D

- ✓ Mutations in genes coding for microRNAs have been found in humans, causing conditions such as congenital hearing loss, eye and skeletal disorders.
- ✓ Significance of microRNA discovery
- ✓ The discovery of microRNAs has provided scientists with new tools to investigate gene regulation and has significantly expanded our understanding of how genetic information is processed and utilized in living organisms

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Unified Genomic Chip:

1. It helps farmers identify high-quality cattle early and enhance dairy farming efficiency in India.
2. It is developed by the National Dairy Development Board 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

- ✓ Prime Minister of India launched two programs of the Animal Husbandry Department for the benefit of the livestock - 'Indigenous Sex Sorted Semen' and 'Unified Genomic Chip'.
- ✓ It aimed at helping farmers identify high-quality cattle early and enhance dairy farming efficiency in India.
- ✓ The chip comes in two versions
- ✓ The 'Gau Chip' for cattle and the 'Mahish Chip' for buffalo.
- ✓ It is developed by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), under the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries.
- ✓ Purpose: The purpose of this chip is to help the farmers to make informed decisions on animal selection by identifying young, high-quality bulls at an early age.
- ✓ Benefit: The chip is tailored for Indian cattle breeds and will help improve the quality of cattle and enhance the dairy farming sector.
- ✓ Key points about the Sex Sorted Semen Technology
- ✓ Sex Sorted Semen is the 'gender selected' semen used by Artificial Insemination (AI) for cattle and buffaloes to produce more than 90% selected gender (females).
- ✓ It is very effective in breed improvement and till now it was manufactured by multinational companies.
- ✓ The National Dairy Development Board under the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, has developed the indigenous technology of sex-sorted semen worth Rs. 250.
- ✓ Technology used: IVF technology (commonly known as test tube baby technology) is also being used for this purpose.
- ✓ DAHD target: It has now planned to produce a minimum of 10 lakh sexed semen doses annually for the ongoing artificial insemination (AI) programme.

Q. Which one of the following organizations publishes the annual "State of Global Water Resources Report"?

- A) World Health Organization (WHO)
B) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
C) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
D) International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Answer : C

- ✓ According to the State of Global Water Resource report 2023, the year 2023 marked the driest year for global rivers in over three decades.

Answer : C

- ✓ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has launched a state government initiative, 'Sankalp', to tackle drug trafficking and support the rehabilitation of drug addicts in the state.
- ✓ The Sankalp initiative was announced by the chief minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, at an event organised by Divya Jyoti Jagriti Sansthan in the state capital, Shimla, on 6 October 2024
- ✓ About the Sankalp Initiative
- ✓ The state government will set up a state-level model of de-addiction and rehabilitation center under the Sankalp initiative at Kotla Barog in the Pachhad subdivision of the Sirmaur district.
- ✓ The model center will assist drug addicts in de-addiction and help them reintegrate into mainstream society.
- ✓ Other Announcement made by Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu
- ✓ Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced that the state government has set a goal of making Himachal Pradesh a Green Energy State by 31 March 2026.
- ✓ A green hydrogen plant with a capacity of one megawatt is being set up in Nalagarh, which is expected to be operational by July 2025.
- ✓ The state government is also setting up a Center of Excellence at Kandaghat in Solan district to provide higher education to 9,000 specially-abled children in the state.
- ✓ Under the Ekal Nari scheme of the state government, free education is being provided to 23,000 children of widows and single women.
- ✓ In August 2024, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana' to provide nutritious foods to schoolchildren. He also launched a scheme to provide free Tablets to primary school teachers to boost digitalisation in the state educational and administrative system

Q. The Himachal Pradesh government has set a target to make Himachal Pradesh a Green Energy State by which year?

- A) 2027
B) 2026
C) 2030
D) 2029

Answer : B

- ✓ Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu announced that the state government has set a goal of making Himachal Pradesh a Green Energy State by 31 March 2026

Q. Which state government has launched the Ekal Nari scheme, where free education is provided to children of widows and single women?

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

Answer : D

Q. Who has won the 2024-25 season Irani Cup?

- A) Mumbai
B) Rest of India
C) Gujarat
D) West Bengal

Answer : A

- ✓ Mumbai wins the 2024-25 Irani Trophy by virtue of first innings lead.
- ✓ Mumbai won the 2024-25 season Irani Cup under its first-innings lead over the Rest of India. Mumbai won the trophy after 27 years, having won it in the 1997/98 season. This was the 16th Irani Cup title for the current Ranji Champion, Mumbai. The Irani Cup is a first-class domestic cricket tournament held at the Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee Eakana Stadium in Lucknow from 1-5 October 2024.

- ✓ The tragedy occurred when people started leaving the area after the end of the show. Due to its narrow exit route, a stampede occurred, which led to the death of five people.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has announced a compensation of Rs 5 Lakhs to the families of the person killed during the stampede.

Q. Which day of the year is marked as the Air Force Day in India?

- A) 7 October
- B) 8 October
- C) 6 October
- D) 5 October

Answer : B

- ✓ The Indian Air Force celebrated its 92nd foundation day on 8 October 2024 with a grand show at Marina Beach in Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Q. In 2024, India is celebrating which edition of the Air Force Day

- A) 85
- B) 88
- C) 82
- D) 92

Answer : D

- ✓ INDIAN AIR FORCE (IAF)
- ✓ Founded : 8 October 1932
- ✓ HQ : New Delhi
- ✓ 1st Chief : Subroto Mukerjee
- ✓ 28th Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) : Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh
- ✓ Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) : Sujeet Pushpakar Dharkar
- ✓ Indian Air Force to celebrate its 92nd anniversary on October 8, 2024
- ✓ IAF is the 4th largest air force in the world.
- ✓ On 26 January 2002, Arjan Singh became the first and so far, only five-star rank officer of the IAF.
- ✓ Commander-in-Chief: President Droupadi Murmu
- ✓ Motto: "Touch the sky with Glory"

Q. Dipa Karmakar, who announced her retirement, belongs to which sport?

- A) Shooting
- B) Gymnastic
- C) Wrestling
- D) Hockey

Answer : B

- ✓ Olympian Gymnast Dipa Karmakar retires from sport.
- ✓ Olympian and Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Dipa Karmakar has announced her retirement from Gymnastics. Dipa Karmakar, nicknamed 'Small Wonder,' was the first female Indian gymnast to establish India's name at the international level in the sport.
- ✓ Born in Agartala, Tripura, Dipa Karmakar has flat feet, which is considered a big disadvantage in gymnastics. However, with sheer determination and talent, Dipa became the most successful Indian gymnast.
- ✓ First Indian female Gymnast to participate in Olympics
- ✓ Dipa Karmakar is the first Indian female gymnast to compete in a Summer Olympics. She narrowly missed a medal at the vault event at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- ✓ She is amongst the few gymnasts in the world who have successfully landed the famous Produnova vault, which she performed at the 2016 Rio Olympics.
- ✓ She also has the distinction of being the first Indian woman to win a gymnastics medal at the Commonwealth Games. She won a bronze medal at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

- ✓ Dipa Karmakar is the first Indian to win a gold medal at an international gymnastics event. She won a gold medal in the women's vault at the 2018 Artistic Gymnastics World Cup in Mersin, Turkiye.
- ✓ In 2018, she also won a bronze medal at the World Cup in Cottbus, Germany.
- ✓ Dipa Karmakar became the first indian women gymnast to win a gold medal in the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships. She won a gold medal in the Vault event at the 2024 Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships, held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
- ✓ Awards and Biography
- ✓ Dipa Karmakar was honoured with India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 2017.
- ✓ In 2016, she was awarded the country's highest sports award, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (then the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award).
- ✓ In 2015 ,Dipa Karmakar was awarded the Arjuna Award.
- ✓ Biography of Dipa Karmakar
- ✓ Dipa Karmakar: The Small Wonder", co-authored by Digvijay Singh Deo, Vimal Mohan and Dipa Karmakar Coach, Bishweshwar Nandi.

Q. Who among the following is an Indian gymnast who received the prestigious Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2016 by the Government of India?

A) Dipa Karnakar	B) Koneru Hampy
C) Sakshi Malik	D) PV Sindhu

Answer : A

- ✓ Dipa Karmakar was honoured with India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri in 2017.
- ✓ In 2016, she was awarded the country's highest sports award, the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award (then the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award).
- ✓ In 2015 ,Dipa Karmakar was awarded the Arjuna Award.

Q. Gymnast Dipa Karmakar belonged to which state of India?

A) Chhattisgarh	B) Tripura
C) Mizoram	D) Manipur

Answer : B

Q. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi release the 18th installment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana?

A) Aurangabad, Maharashtra	B) Washim, Maharashtra
C) Rajgir, Bihar	D) Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ Banjara Virasat Museum in Washim, Maharashtra inaugurated by PM Modi
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Banjara Museum in Washim, Maharashtra, on 5 October 2024. During his visit to Maharashtra on 5 October 2024, he visited Washim and Thane.
- ✓ At Washim, the Prime Minister launched several initiatives related to the agricultural and farming sector worth Rs 23,300 crore. During his visit to Thane, he inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various infrastructure projects.
- ✓ Initiatives/schemes launched by Prime Minister Modi at Washim are as follows.
- ✓ Inauguration of Banjara Virasat Museum
- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated the Banjara Virasat Museum in Poharadevi at Washim in Maharashtra. The four-storey museum displays the rich heritage of the Banjara community and their legacies. It tells the story of the Banjara community's history and legacies through the portraits of Banjara leaders and the Banjara movement.

- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also paid floral tribute to the memorials of Banjara leaders Sant Sevalal Maharaj and Sant Ramrao Maharaj.
- ✓ He also played the Nangara, a key musical instrument of the Banjara culture.
- ✓ Released 18th Installment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi
- ✓ The Prime Minister released the 18th Installment of the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi, worth about Rs 20,000 crore, directly into the bank accounts of around 9.5 crore farmers nationwide.
- ✓ The PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme is a central government scheme launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, on 24 February 2019.
- ✓ Eligible farmers are paid Rs 6000 per year in three installments in their bank accounts
- ✓ 5th installment of NaMo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana Released by PM
- ✓ The Prime Minister also released the 5th installment of the NaMo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana at Washim.
- ✓ The NaMo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana of the Maharashtra government was launched by Prime Minister Modi at Shirdi, Maharashtra, on 26 October 2023.
- ✓ It is a state government scheme under which eligible farmers get Rs 6000 per year in three installments.
- ✓ The state government transfers the funds directly into the farmer's bank account.
- ✓ Launch of Unified Genomic Chip for Cattle and Buffaloes
- ✓ The Prime Minister also launched the Unified Genomic Chip for cattle and Indigenous sex-sorted semen technology.
- ✓ Indigenously developed Unified Genomic Chip, GAUCHIP for cattle and MAHISHCHIP for buffaloes have been developed along with genotyping services. With the implementation of genomic selection.
- ✓ It will be easier to identify young, high-quality bulls at an early age.
- ✓ This initiative will increase the availability of sex-sorted semen at affordable prices to farmers and reduce the cost by around Rs 200 per dose.
- ✓ Dedication of five solar park
- ✓ The Prime Minister dedicated five solar parks to the nations. These five solar parks, with a cumulative capacity of 19 MW across Maharashtra, were built under the state government's Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana—2.0 scheme.
- ✓ The Prime Minister in Thane inaugurated various infrastructure projects. Some of them are as follows;
- ✓ Inaugurated the Rs 14,120 crore BKC to Aarey JVLR section of Mumbai Metro Line - 3.
- ✓ Laid, the foundation stone of the 29 km Thane Integral Ring Metro Rail Project, to be constructed at the cost of around Rs 12,200 crore.
- ✓ Laid the foundation stone of Rs 3310 crore Elevated Eastern Freeway Extension from Chheda Nagar to Anand Nagar,
- ✓ Laid the foundation stone of Phase-1 of the Navi Mumbai Airport Influence Notified Area (NAINA) project worth around Rs 2,550 crore.

Q. During his visit to Maharashtra, Prime Minister Narendra Modi played a traditional Banjara musical instrument. What is the name of the musical instrument?

A) Harp	B) Nangara
C) Trumpet	D) Clarinet

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also paid floral tribute to the memorials of Banjara leaders Sant Sevalal Maharaj and Sant Ramrao Maharaj.
- ✓ He also played the Nangara, a key musical instrument of the Banjara culture.

Q. Which state government has launched the NaMo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana?

A) Uttar Pradesh	B) Chhattisgarh
C) Gujarat	D) Maharashtra

Answer : D

- ✓ The Prime Minister also released the 5th installment of the NaMo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana at Washim.
- ✓ The NaMo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi Yojana of the Maharashtra government was launched by Prime Minister Modi at Shirdi, Maharashtra, on 26 October 2023.
- ✓ It is a state government scheme under which eligible farmers get Rs 6000 per year in three installments.

Q. What is the name of the indigenously developed Unified Genomic Chip for cattle?

- A) GAUCHIP
- B) MAHISHCHIP
- C) NIYACHIP
- D) DIXXCHIP

Answer : A

- ✓ The Prime Minister also launched the Unified Genomic Chip for cattle and Indigenous sex-sorted semen technology.
- ✓ Indigenously developed Unified Genomic Chip, GAUCHIP for cattle and MAHISHCHIP for buffaloes have been developed along with genotyping services. With the implementation of genomic selection.

Q. Where did Prime Minister Modi inaugurate the Banjara Virasat Museum?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ PM Modi inaugurated the Banjara Virasat Museum in Poharadevi at Washim in Maharashtra.

Q. Which state government has instituted the Adi Gaurav Samman award to honour the scheduled tribes or institutions working for the welfare of the scheduled tribes of the state?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Haryana
- D) Bihar

Answer : A

- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu presided over the Rajasthan government's first Adi Gaurav Samman Samaroh at Mangarh Dham, Banswara, Rajasthan, on 4 October 2024.
- ✓ The Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagade, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, state government ministers and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.
- ✓ President Murmu visited Rajasthan on 3 and 4 October 2024, where she presided over the convocation ceremony of Mohanlal Sukhadia University and attended the Global Summit on Spirituality for Clean and Healthy Society in Mount Abu.
- ✓ About the Adi Gaurav Samman
- ✓ The Tribal Regional Development Department of the government of Rajasthan has instituted the Adi Gaurav Samman.
- ✓ The Samman has been divided into three categories: Aadiratna Gaurav Samman, Adi Seva Gaurav Samman and Aadi Grammotthan Gaurav Samman.
- ✓ Aadiratna Gaurav Samman
- ✓ Aadiratna Gaurav Samman is given to a Scheduled Tribe of the state that has excelled in sports, education, literature, culture, science, technology, livelihood, etc. The winner gets a cash prize of Rs 20,000, a citation, and a trophy. In every field, two people, one male and one female, will be honoured.
- ✓ Adi Seva Gaurav Samman

- ✓ Adi Seva Gaurav Samman is given to individuals, Panchayati Raj institutions, non-governmental organisations(NGO), voluntary organisations, community-based groups, and organisations for their exemplary service for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the state..
- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of Rs 25,000, a citation, and a trophy.
- ✓ The award recipients can be Individuals, institutions, or NGOs from any category.
- ✓ Aadi Grammotthan Gaurav Samman
- ✓ This award is given to a Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti or Zilla Parishad who have significantly contributed to improving the socio-economic condition of the Scheduled Tribes. In this category, Gram Panchayat is given Rs 1 lakh, Panchayat Samiti Rs 2 lakh, Zilla Parishad Rs 5 lakh cash awards, a citation, and a trophy.
- ✓ This prize money will be used to create community assets that are beneficial to the Scheduled Tribes communities in the state.
- ✓ 32nd convocation ceremony of the Mohanlal Sukhadia University
- ✓ President Murmu presided over the 32nd convocation ceremony of the Mohanlal Sukhadia University at Udaipur on October 3, 2024.
- ✓ Mohanlal Sukhadia University, earlier known as Udaipur University, is a State University established by an Act in 1962 to cater to higher education needs in southern Rajasthan. The University is located in the Aravalli Hill Area, largely dominated by tribal populations.
- ✓ Global Summit on Spirituality for Clean and Healthy Society
- ✓ President Murmu also attended the Global Summit on 'Spirituality for Clean and Healthy Society', organised by Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at Mount Abu, Rajasthan, on 4 October 2024.

Q. Which one of the following organizations publishes the annual "State of Global Water Resources Report"?

- A) World Health Organization (WHO)
- B) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- C) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- D) International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

Answer : C

- ✓ According to the State of Global Water Resource report 2023, the year 2023 marked the driest year for global rivers in over three decades.
- ✓ About State of Global Water Resource Report:
- ✓ It is an annual report published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) since 2021.
- ✓ It offers a comprehensive and consistent overview of water resources worldwide.
- ✓ It is based on input from dozens of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other organizations and experts.
- ✓ Highlights of the 2023 Report:
- ✓ The year 2023 marked the driest year for global rivers in 33 years.
- ✓ The last five consecutive years have recorded widespread below-normal conditions for river flows, with reservoir inflows following a similar pattern.
- ✓ It notes that 2023 was also the second consecutive year in which all regions in the world with glaciers reported ice loss, the year in which "glaciers suffered the largest mass loss ever registered in 50 years."
- ✓ More than 600 gigatons (Gt) of water were lost across all glaciated regions of the world.
- ✓ The report says 3.6 billion people currently face inadequate access to water at least one month a year, and this is expected to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050.
- ✓ The world is far off-track with Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly:

1. It is one of the three world conferences organized by the International Telecommunication Union.
2. It is held once in every four years and plays a pivotal role in setting global telecommunication standards.

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 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) of International Telecommunication Union (ITU) will be held in New Delhi from October 14 to 24, 2024.
- ✓ It has been held every four years since 2002.
- ✓ It serves as the governing conference of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Standardisation Sector (ITU-T).
- ✓ It is one of the three world conferences organized by the International Telecommunication Union.
- ✓ It define the work program, working methods, and structure of study groups” for ITU’s Telecommunication Standardization Sector
- ✓ This event plays a pivotal role in setting global telecommunication standards, making India’s hosting of the WTSA a significant milestone.
- ✓ WTSA 2024 will be preceded by the Global Standards Symposium (GSS) on October 14, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.
- ✓ The GSS is a high-level forum for policy debates on ICT standardization, addressing its evolving dynamics and technical implications.
- ✓ Key facts about International Telecommunication Union
- ✓ It is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies.
- ✓ It was established in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union.
- ✓ In 1947 the ITU became a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- ✓ It is an intergovernmental organization that coordinates between governments and private sector bodies with respect to global telecommunication and information communication technology (ICT) services.
- ✓ Member countries: It has a membership of 193 countries and more than 1000 companies, universities and international and regional organizations.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ allocate global radio spectrum and satellite orbits;
- ✓ coordination and setting of technical standards related to telecommunication/ICT;
- ✓ work to improve access to ICTs in underserved communities worldwide;
- ✓ India and ITU: India has been an active member of the ITU since 1869 and has been a regular member of the ITU Council since 1952.
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

Q. With reference to Indian Wild Ass, consider the following statements:

1. It is mainly found in the Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
2. It is placed under Schedule- IV of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).
3. It helps in seed dispersal and promotion of vegetation growth in its habitat.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The population of wild asses in Gujarat has been estimated at 7,672, as per the 10th Wild Ass Population Estimation (WAPE) conducted by the Gujarat government earlier this year.
- ✓ It is a sub-species of Asian Wild Ass (*Equus hemionus*).
- ✓ It is locally called as khur in Gujarat region.
- ✓ It possesses remarkable characteristics, such as its ability to survive in the extreme conditions of Gujarat's Wild Ass Sanctuary.
- ✓ The primary food source for these animals is the grass that grows on the islands in the desert.
- ✓ Appearance: It is characterized by distinctive white markings on the anterior part of the rump and on the posterior part of the shoulder and a stripe down the back that is bordered by white.
- ✓ Distribution: The khur was formerly widespread in the arid zone of northwestern India and Pakistan, westwards through much of central Asia. It is now limited to the Little Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
- ✓ Habitat: Desert and grassland ecosystems.
- ✓ Conservation Status:
- ✓ IUCN: Near threatened.
- ✓ CITES: Appendix II
- ✓ Wildlife Protection Act (1972): Schedule-I
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q. The 2024, Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded jointly to a American John Hopfield and British-Canadian Geoffrey Hinton for their research in?

- A) Spectroscopy
B) Machine learning with artificial neural networks
C) Quantum Physics
D) Astrophysics

Answer : B

- ✓ The Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Stockholm, Sweden, has chosen John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton for the Nobel Prize in Physics for the year 2024.
- ✓ American John Hopfield and British-Canadian Geoffrey Hinton were chosen for their pioneering work in the development of artificial intelligence (AI). They have been honoured for their discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks.
- ✓ Both the winners will share the prize money of 11 million Swedish kroner, and they will be conferred the prize on 10 December 2024 in Stockholm.
- ✓ About the Work of the Nobel Prize winner
- ✓ John Hopfield was honoured with his invention of a network that uses a specific method for saving and recreating patterns.
- ✓ Geoffrey Hinton, also known as the godfather of artificial Intelligence, developed a new type of network using the Hopfield network, which revolutionised machine learning.
- ✓ Machine learning is a branch of computer science that uses data and algorithms to enable artificial intelligence to mimic the way humans learn and continuously improve its accuracy.
- ✓ Artificial intelligence is a technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem-solving, decision-making, creativity, and autonomy.
- ✓ Indian/Indian origin scientists to win Physics Nobel Prize
- ✓ The first Indian who won the Nobel Prize in Physics was Sir Chandrashekhara Venkata Raman (C.V. Raman) in 1930.
- ✓ In 1983, Indian -American Subhramanayam Chandrashekhara got the Nobel Prize for Physics.
- ✓ Nobel Prize in Physics
- ✓ The first person to receive the Prize was Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen of Germany in 1901. Rontgen discovered electromagnetic rays, which he named X-rays. These revolutionised diagnostic medicine.
- ✓ John Bardeen of the United States of America is the only person to have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics twice, in 1956 and 1972.

- ✓ In 2023, Pierre Agostini (France), Ferenc Krausz (Hungarian-Austrian) and Anne L'Huillier(France) were awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize.

Q. Who has won the Nobel Prize in Physics for 2024?

- A) John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton
- B) Charles Wilson and Murray Gell-Mann
- C) Willans Richardson and Murray Gell-Mann
- D) Jean Baptiste Perrin and Charles Wilson

Answer : A

- ✓ 🏆 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS 2024
- ✓ 🔵 John Hopfield (USA)
- ✓ 🔵 Geoffrey Hinton (UK)
- ✓ 🔴 for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks
- ✓ 🟢 Nobel Prize in Physics
- ✓ 🟠 First awarded : 1901
- ✓ 🟠 Reward : 11 million Swedish crowns (around \$1.1 million)
- ✓ 🟠 Presented By : Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- ✓ 🔴 Wilhelm Röntgen first recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics 1901 for discovery of X-rays
- ✓ 🔴 CV Raman - India's first physicist to win a Nobel Physics Prize in 1930 "for his work on the scattering of light and for the discovery of the effect named after him"
- ✓ 🔴 Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1983
- ✓ 🔵 John Bardeen (American) is the only laureate who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics twice, in 1956 and 1972

Q. Geoffrey Hinton, who got the 2024 Nobel Prize for Physics, belongs to which country?

- A) British-Canadian
- B) British-American
- C) British-irish
- D) British-iranian

Answer : A

- ✓ American John Hopfield and British-Canadian Geoffrey Hinton were chosen for their pioneering work in the development of artificial intelligence (AI).

Q. Who is known as the Godfather of Artificial Intelligence?

- A) Charles Babbage
- B) Dennis Ritchie
- C) Geoffrey Hinton
- D) Tim Patterson

Answer : C

- ✓ Geoffrey Hinton, also known as the godfather of artificial Intelligence, developed a new type of network using the Hopfield network, which revolutionised machine learning.
- ✓ John McCarthy is considered as the father of Artificial Intelligence

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Machine Learning (ML):

1. It is a branch of Artificial Intelligence (AI) focused on building computer systems that learn from data.
2. Using historical data as input, these algorithms can make predictions, classify information, and generate new content.

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 2024 Nobel Prize in physics has been awarded to John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton for foundational discoveries and inventions that enable machine learning with artificial neural networks.
- ✓ About Machine Learning (ML):
- ✓ ML is a branch of artificial intelligence (AI) focused on building computer systems that learn from data.
- ✓ ML allows computer systems to continuously adjust and enhance themselves as they accrue more “experiences.”
- ✓ ML algorithms are trained to find relationships and patterns in data.
- ✓ Using historical data as input, these algorithms can make predictions, classify information, cluster data points, reduce dimensionality and even generate new content.
- ✓ Examples of the latter, known as generative AI, include OpenAI's ChatGPT, Anthropic's Claude, and GitHub Copilot.
- ✓ Training ML algorithms often demands large amounts of high-quality data to produce accurate results.
- ✓ Applications:
- ✓ ML is widely applicable across many industries. For example, e-commerce, social media and news organizations use recommendation engines to suggest content based on a customer's past behavior.
- ✓ In self-driving cars, ML algorithms and computer vision play a critical role in safe road navigation.
- ✓ In healthcare, ML can aid in diagnosis and suggest treatment plans.
- ✓ Other common ML use cases include fraud detection, spam filtering, malware threat detection, predictive maintenance, and business process automation.

Q. Who has been recently re-elected as the President of Tunisia?

- A) Kais Saied B) Sonia Dahmani
C) Kamel Madouri D) Najla Bouden

Answer : A

- ✓ Kais Saied reelected President of Tunisia for a second five year term.
- ✓ Tunisian President Kais Saied has been reelected for the second time for a five-year term.
- ✓ The Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia (ISIE) announced the election result on 7 October 2024, with President Saied securing 90.7 per cent of the votes polled. The election to elect a new President was held on 6 October 2024.
- ✓ About Tunisia
- ✓ Tunisia is an African country with Arabian civilisation roots. It is part of the Maghreb region of North Africa and gained its independence from France in 1956.
- ✓ The people elect the President for a five-year term. The all-powerful President appoints the Prime Minister and the council of ministers.
- ✓ Capital of Tunisia: Tunis
- ✓ Currency: Dinar
- ✓ President: Kais Saied

Q. Where is the National Maritime Museum Complex being set up?

- A) Lothal, Gujarat
- B) Dholavira, Gujarat
- C) Surkotada, Gujarat
- D) Hisar, Haryana

Answer : A

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, in a meeting held on 9 October 2024 and chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat. The Heritage Complex to be developed at the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation site of Lothal will be developed in two phases.
- ✓ The National Maritime Heritage Complex is being developed as an international tourist destination. It would display India's maritime heritage from ancient to modern times and raise public awareness about it.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is developing the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in collaboration with the Gujarat state government under its Sagarmala scheme.
- ✓ It is being built on around 400 acres of land in the Bhavnagar district of Gujarat at a cost of around Rs 4500 crore. Work on the complex started in March 2022.
- ✓ About Lothal
- ✓ Lothal is the only known port town of the Indus Valley Civilization.
- ✓ The 4500-year-old archaeological site is located along the Bhogava river, which is the tributary of Sabarmati river.
- ✓ Lothal is considered to be one of the oldest port towns with an operating dock system in the world.
- ✓ The Lothal in Gujarati means 'mound of the dead'.
- ✓ It was discovered in 1952 by archaeologist SR Rao of the Archaeological Survey of India

Q. Which ministry of the government of India has launched the Humsafar Policy?

- A) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- B) Ministry of Heavy Industries
- C) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- D) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the Humsafar Policy in New Delhi on 7 October 2024.
- ✓ Nitin Gadkari launched the policy at a function in the presence of the Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, Ajay Tamta, Chairman of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), Santosh Kumar Yadav and senior officers of the ministry and the NHAI.
- ✓ Humsafar Policy
- ✓ The Humsafar Policy aims to enhance the convenience of travelling on National Highways and Expressways and accelerate the development of Wayside Amenities.
- ✓ The policy aims to establish world-class facilities for the use of the National Highways and Expressways.
- ✓ The Policy provides a framework for service providers, such as Eateries, Fuel Stations, and Trauma Centres, along the National Highways and Expressways.
- ✓ The commuters will get standardised, well-maintained and hygienic facilities along the National Highways and the Expressways.
- ✓ Commuters will be able to find details of relevant service providers near their location instantly on the NHAI's 'Rajmarg Yatra app'

- Q.** Who has launched the Rajmarg Yatra app?
- A) National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)
 - B) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)
 - C) Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)
 - D) Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)

Answer : A

- ✓ National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes a significant stride towards improving the highway user experience with the launch of 'Rajmargyatra,' a citizen-centric unified mobile application.
- ✓ Key Features of 'Rajmargyatra' App:
 - 1. Comprehensive Highway Information.
 - 2. Hassle-Free Complaint Redressal
 - 3. Seamless FASTag Services
 - 4. Over-speeding notifications and voice-assistance to encourage responsible and safe driving behavior.
- ✓ With these improvements, 'Rajmargyatra' aims to create a seamless, user-friendly experience for highway users, fostering a safer and more enjoyable journey on Indian National Highways.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory:

- 1. It aims to study supernovae, black holes, and gamma-ray bursts.
- 2. It is indigenously built by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ MACE Observatory has been inaugurated by the Secretary DAE & Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, at Hanle, Ladakh.
- ✓ The Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory is the largest imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia.
- ✓ Location: It is located at an altitude of ~4,300 m, at Hanle, Ladakh.
- ✓ It is Asia's Largest and World's Highest Imaging Cherenkov Observatory.
- ✓ The MACE project aims to foster international collaborations, advancing India's contributions to space research and bolstering India's position in the global scientific community.
- ✓ The MACE project aims to foster international collaborations, advancing India's contributions to space research and bolstering India's position in the global scientific community.
- ✓ It is indigenously built by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) with support from Electronics Corporation of India (ECIL), Hyderabad, and other Indian industry partners.
- ✓ It will help the scientific community enhance its understanding in the fields of astrophysics, fundamental physics, and particle acceleration mechanisms.
- ✓ The MACE telescope will observe high-energy gamma rays, contributing to global efforts to understand the most energetic phenomena in the universe, such as supernovae, black holes, and gamma-ray bursts.
- ✓ It plays a significant role not only in advancing scientific research but also in supporting the socio-economic development of Ladakh.

Q. David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John M. Jumper, who have been chosen for the 2024 Nobel Prize for Chemistry, Demis Hassabis belong to which country?

- A) USA
B) UK
C) France
D) Germany

Answer : B

- ✓ 2024 Nobel Chemistry Prize to David Baker, Demis Hassabis & John Jumper.
- ✓ The Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Stockholm, has chosen David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John M. Jumper for the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- ✓ American David Baker was honoured for his work on 'computational protein design'. British Demis Hassabis and American John M. Jumper were honoured for their work in predicting protein structures from their amino acid sequences.
- ✓ The cash prize of 11 million kroner will be shared among the three winners. Half of the prize will go to David Baker, and the other half will be equally shared between Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper.
- ✓ The award will be conferred to them in a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on 10 December 2024.
- ✓ The Nobel Prize is awarded by the Nobel Foundation, which gives prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace, and Economics.
- ✓ The Nobel Foundation was set up as per the will of the Philanthropist and inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel.
- ✓ Work of the Three Nobel Prize-Winning Scientists
- ✓ Proteins, made of amino acids, are the building blocks of life. They control and drive all chemical reactions in human beings and function as hormones, antibodies, and signal substances. Proteins normally consist of 20 different types of amino acids called life-building blocks.
- ✓ In 2013, David Baker succeeded in designing a new type of protein that was unlike any other protein.
- ✓ In 2020, Demis Hassabis and John Jumper developed an AI (artificial intelligence) model called AlphaFold2, which predicts the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins known to humans.
- ✓ Their work has many scientific applications, such as a better understanding of antibiotic resistance and the creation of images of enzymes that can decompose plastic.
- ✓ Indian/Indian origin scientists to win Chemistry Nobel Prize
- ✓ The Indian-born Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, who holds dual nationality of Britain and the United States, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2009.
- ✓ Nobel Prize in Chemistry
- ✓ The Nobel Prize in Chemistry was instituted by the Nobel Foundation in 1900 and was first awarded in 1901.
- ✓ The first person to receive the prize was Jacobus Henricus van 't Hoff of the Netherlands in 1901.
- ✓ The Chemistry Nobel Prize has been awarded twice to two persons. Frederick Sanger of England was awarded the prize in 1958 and 1980, and Barry Sharpless of the United States of America was awarded it in 2001 and 2022.
- ✓ Madame Marie Curie was the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911 for discovering polonium and radium.

Q. John M. Jumper and Demis Hassabis were awarded half of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their predictions of protein structures. John M. Jumper currently serves as director of which organisation?

- A) Google DeepMind
B) Anthropic
C) AssemblyAI
D) Astria AI

Answer : A

- ✓ John Michael Jumper is an American chemist and computer scientist. He currently serves as director at Google DeepMind. Jumper and his colleagues created AlphaFold, an artificial intelligence (AI) model to predict protein structures from their amino acid sequence with high accuracy.

Q. Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper were awarded half of the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for development of AlphaFold, a program for protein structure prediction. Demis Hassabis is the chief executive officer and co-founder of ?

- A) OpenAI
- B) DeepL
- C) Labelf AI
- D) Google DeepMind

Answer : D

- ✓ Sir Demis Hassabis is a British Nobel laureate, computer scientist, artificial intelligence researcher, entrepreneur, and chess player.
- ✓ In his early career, he was a video game AI programmer and designer, and an expert board games player.
- ✓ He is the chief executive officer and co-founder of Google DeepMind and Isomorphic Labs, and a UK Government AI Adviser.
- ✓ David Baker is an American biochemist and computational biologist who has pioneered methods to design proteins and predict their three-dimensional structures.
- ✓ He is the Henrietta and Aubrey Davis Endowed Professor in Biochemistry, an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.
- ✓ Artificial intelligence programs developed by Baker and others have now largely solved the problem of protein structure prediction.
- ✓ Baker is a member of the United States National Academy of Sciences and the director of the University of Washington's Institute for Protein Design.
- ✓ He has co-founded more than a dozen biotechnology companies and was included in Time magazine's inaugural list of the 100 Most Influential People in health in 2024.

Q. IBSAMAR Exercise, recently in news, is conducted between:

- A) India, Brazil and South Africa
- B) India, Brazil South Korea
- C) India, Brunei and South Africa
- D) Israel, Brazil and South Africa

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy's frontline stealth frigate, INS Talwar arrived at Simon's Town, South Africa to participate in the eighth edition of exercise IBSAMAR.
- ✓ It is a joint multinational maritime exercise among Indian, Brazilian, and South African Navy.
- ✓ The exercise aims to enhance interoperability and strengthen cohesion between the three navies. The broad concept is based on Blue Water Naval Warfare, encompassing the dimensions of Surface and Anti-Air Warfare.
- ✓ The harbour phase of IBSAMAR VIII will include professional exchanges, Damage Control & Firefighting drills, Visit, Board, Search, and Seizure drills, cross-boarding, aviation safety lectures, joint diving operations, an Ocean Governance seminar, sports interactions, cross-decks visits, and interaction among Special Forces and Junior Officers.
- ✓ Significance: Multi-lateral interactions are crucial bridges of friendship that increase mutual trust and enhance interoperability among navies of like-minded littoral nations towards the common goal of a peaceful maritime domain and positive maritime environment.
- ✓ INS Talwar:
- ✓ It was commissioned on 18 June 2003 and is a part of the Indian Navy's Western Fleet, based in Mumbai under the Western Naval Command.
- ✓ The visit of INS Talwar aims to further strengthen the ties and reaffirm India's commitment to constructive collaboration and mutual growth.

Q. When was Ratan Tata conferred with Padma Vibushan by the government of India?

A) 2010

B) 2008

C) 2012

D) 2005

Answer : B

- ✓ Padma Vibhushan Business Tycoon Ratan Naval Tata Passes Away
- ✓ One of the icons of Indian business in the modern era, Ratan Naval Tata, passed away on 9 October 2024 at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✓ Ratan Naval Tata was 86 years old, suffering from age-related medical complications and was in a critical condition.
- ✓ The Maharashtra government has declared a day of mourning.
- ✓ Ratan Tata's last rites will be performed in Mumbai on 10 October 2024, according to the Parsi tradition, with full state protocol. Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to attend the last rites of Ratan Tata.
- ✓ About Ratan Tata
- ✓ Ratan Naval Tata was born December 28, 1937 to Soono and Naval Tata. He attended school in Mumbai and, in 1955, went to Cornell University in the United States to study architecture and structural engineering. He returned to India in 1962 and joined the Tata group as an assistant in Tata Industries.
- ✓ Made Tata Group a Multinational company
- ✓ Jamsetji Tata founded the Tata Group by establishing a cotton mill in Maharashtra. The Tata Group is a diversified business group operating in Steel, cement, textiles, hydroelectric power, agricultural equipment, trucks, locomotives, software, the hospitality sector, etc.
- ✓ Tata Sons control the Tata group of companies.
- ✓ In 1991, Ratan Tata was appointed the chairman of the Tata Sons after Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata (JRD Tata) death.
- ✓ 1991 also saw the introduction of a new economic policy in the country, which encouraged the private sector and promoted the globalisation of the Indian economy.
- ✓ Under Ratan Tata, the Tata Group expanded its business and aimed to become a multinational company.
- ✓ During his tenure, the Tata Group acquired London-based Tetley Tea (2000), the Anglo-Dutch steel manufacturer Corus Group (2007), and elite British car brands Jaguar and Land Rover from the American Ford Motor Company in 2008.
- ✓ The Tata Nano car was launched during his tenure, priced at Rs one lakh.
- ✓ In 2012, Ratan Tata stepped down as Chairman of Tata Sons and was made Chairman Emeritus.
- ✓ Awards and Honours
- ✓ Ratan Tata was honoured with various awards and citations during his illustrious lifespan. Some of the important awards/honours are as follows:
- ✓ Padma Vibhushan (India's 2nd highest civilian award)- in 2008
- ✓ Padma Bhushan (India's 3rd highest civilian award)- 2000
- ✓ Udyog Ratna of Maharashtra - 2023
- ✓ Assam Baibhav of Assam Government- 2021
- ✓ Foreign Award
- ✓ Honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (by the United Kingdom)- 2009
- ✓ Commander of the Legion of Honour (Government of France)- 2016
- ✓ Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun (Japan Government)-2012
- ✓ Honorary Officer of the Order of Australia (Australian Government)-2023
- ✓ Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic (Italy) in 2009.
- ✓ Medal of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay (Uruguay Government)-2004

Q. Who was the chairman of the Tata Group when they bought the British car brands Jaguar and Land Rover from the American Ford Motor Company in 2008?

- A) Jamsetji Tata
- B) Ratan Tata
- C) Maneckbai
- D) Virbaiji

Answer : B

- ✓ Tata Group acquired London-based Tetley Tea (2000), the Anglo-Dutch steel manufacturer Corus Group (2007), and elite British car brands Jaguar and Land Rover from the American Ford Motor Company in 2008.

Q. Ratan Tata, who died recently, belonged to which religion?

- A) Parsi
- B) Sikhs
- C) Christians
- D) Hindu

Answer : A

Q. INS Niradeshak, recently in news, is a:

- A) Submarine
- B) Aircraft carrier
- C) Guided Missile Destroyer
- D) Survey Vessel

Answer : D

- ✓ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd delivered INS Niradeshak to the Indian Navy.
- ✓ It is the second in a series of four Survey Vessels (Large) being built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It displaces about 3400 tons and overall length is 110 meters. It can achieve speeds in excess of 18 knots.
- ✓ It is propelled by two marine diesel engines combined with fixed-pitch propellers.
- ✓ It was built using 'Integrated Construction' technology. This was in compliance with applicable provisions and regulations of the Classification Society (IRS).
- ✓ It is fitted with state-of-the art hydrographic equipment such as data acquisition and processing system, autonomous underwater vehicle, remotely operated vehicle, DGPS long range positioning systems, digital side scan sonar, etc.
- ✓ It has an indigenous content of over 80% by cost.
- ✓ Significance: The delivery of Niradeshak is a tribute to the collaborative efforts of a large number of stakeholders, MSMEs and the Indian industry in enhancing the maritime prowess of the nation in the Indian Ocean Region.

Q. Which country is hosting the 28th edition of the Malabar Naval Exercise in 2024?

- A) India
- B) Australia
- C) United States
- D) Japan

Answer : A

- ✓ Multinational Malabar Naval Exercise 2024 Start in the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ The 28th edition of the multi-national Malabar Naval exercise, hosted by the Indian Navy, commenced in the Bay of Bengal on 8 November 2024. The exercise will be held from 8 to 18 October 2024. The Opening ceremony of the Malabar Naval exercise was held onboard the Indian Naval Ship Satpura at Visakhapatnam on 9 October 2024.

- ✓ The Royal Australian Navy hosted the 27th edition of the Malabar Naval exercise in August 2023 near Sydney.
- ✓ Malabar Exercise is now a Quad Naval Exercise
- ✓ The Malabar Exercise started as a bilateral exercise between the Indian and United States Navy in 1992. Japan joined the Malabar exercise in 2015 and has been participating regularly.
- ✓ Australia joined the Malabar exercise in 2007 and, since 2020, has regularly participated in the exercise.
- ✓ The 28th edition of the Malabar exercise is the fifth time that all four nations have participated in the collective planning, integration, and employment of advanced warfare tactics between participating nations.
- ✓ These four countries—India, Japan, Australia, and the United States—are members of the Quad group. The 6th Summit meeting of the Quad countries was held in the United States in September 2024 and attended by the leaders of the four countries.
- ✓ Quad's prime objective is to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific region for navigation and security. The Indo-Pacific region includes the entire Indian Ocean and the Western Pacific Ocean.
- ✓ Naval Ship Participation
- ✓ The Malabar exercise will be held in two phases- Sea and Harbour. The sea exercise is a combat exercise, while the Harbour exercise aims to promote fraternity among the participating countries' naval personnel.
- ✓ This year, around Eight Naval ships and 12 aircraft have been deployed by the four Navies.
- ✓ The Indian Navy has deployed its guided-missile destroyer INS Delhi and four other support ships. It has also deployed long-range maritime patrol aircraft, P-8I Poseidon.
- ✓ The United States Navy has deployed its P-8 Poseidon aircraft and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey.
- ✓ The Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force is represented by the Murasame-class destroyer JS Ariake.
- ✓ The Royal Australian Navy has deployed its Anzac-class frigate HMAS Stuart and a P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft.

Q. Which tennis player is also known as the King of Clay?

A) Roger Federer	B) Rafael Nadal
C) Novak Djokovic	D) Daniil Medvedev

Answer : B

- ✓ King of Clay 'Rafael Nadal' announces retirement from Tennis.
- ✓ One of the greatest men's tennis players in the open era, Rafael Nadal, has announced his retirement from professional tennis.
- ✓ The upcoming Davis Cup Final in Spain will be his last tournament as a professional player.
- ✓ The 2024 Davis Cup Final will take place from 19 to 24 November 2024 in Malaga, Spain.
- ✓ Rafael Nadal will be part of the Spanish team that will take on the Netherlands in the quarter-finals on 19 November 2024.
- ✓ Rafael Nadal made the announcement about his retirement on his social media channel on 10th October 2024.
- ✓ Rafael Nadal also has an Indian connection.
- ✓ In 2010, he opened the Rafael Nadal Tennis School at Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The school teaches sports, mathematics, English, and Information Technology to dropout students and also provides good health care and nutrition support to 150 students every year.
- ✓ One of the Modern Greats of Tennis
- ✓ Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer, and Novak Djokovic were the famous “big three” in professional tennis, and they had dominated the sport for over two decades.
- ✓ Spanish-born Rafael Nadal turned professional in 2001 at the age of 15 and became the youngest male player to win a match in the professional tennis circuit.

- one of the top male tennis players in the world hails from which European country?
- A) Spain
B) Switzerland
C) France
D) Austria
11. Who announced his retirement, belongs to which sport?
- A) Cricket
B) Tennis
C) Badminton
D) Football
12. Which of the following statements regarding the Kinzhal Missile, recently seen in the news:
1. It is a hypersonic ballistic missile developed by Russia.
2. It has a reported range of over 15,000 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

A) Spain
B) Switzerland
C) Serbia
D) Austria

Q. Rafael Nadal, who announced his retirement, belongs to which sport?

- Answer : B

1. It is a hypersonic ballistic missile developed by Russia.
2. It has a reported range of over 15,000 km.

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

- ✓ The Russian Defence Ministry recently claimed a group strike using Kinzhal missiles on Ukraine.
- ✓ About Kinzhal Missile:
- ✓ The Kh-47M2 Kinzhal (Dagger) is a Russian nuclear capable, hypersonic air-launched ballistic missile system that entered service in December 2017.
- ✓ It was one of six “next generation” weapons unveiled by Russian President Putin during a speech in March 2018.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It can reach speeds of up to Mach 10 (12,350 km/hr).
- ✓ The high speed of the Kinzhal gives it better target penetration than lighter, slower cruise missiles.
- ✓ It has a reported range of 1,500-2,000 km while carrying a nuclear or conventional payload of 480 kg.
- ✓ It is designed to be launched from MiG-31 fighter jets at altitudes of about 18 km (59,000 ft).
- ✓ It has been deployed on various aircraft, including the MiG-31K, Tu-160M, Tu-22M3M, and reportedly the Su-34.
- ✓ This missile maneuvers during all stages of its flight to overcome hostile air defense systems.
- ✓ It can reportedly hit both static targets and mobile ones such as aircraft carriers.

Q.

1. It is a United Nations specialized agency set up under the Treaty of Bern.
2. It sets the rules for international mail exchanges.
3. A non-member country of the United Nations can't become member of this organization.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Recently, on the occasion of World Post Day, the Department of Posts, Government of India, unveiled a special set of commemorative postage stamps celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).
- ✓ It is a United Nations specialized agency and the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.
- ✓ It was established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874. It is the second oldest international organization worldwide.
- ✓ Functions:
- ✓ It coordinates postal policies among member nations in addition to the worldwide postal system.
- ✓ It sets the rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations to stimulate growth in mail, parcel and financial services volumes and improve the quality of service for customers.
- ✓ It fulfils an advisory, mediating and liaison role and provides technical assistance where needed.
- ✓ Member countries:
- ✓ Any member country of the United Nations may become a member of the UPU.
- ✓ The UPU now has 192 member countries.
- ✓ Structure: It consists of four bodies,
- ✓ The Congress: It is the supreme authority of the UPU and meets every four years.
- ✓ The Council of Administration: It ensures the continuity of the UPU's work between Congresses, supervises its activities and studies regulatory, administrative, legislative and legal issues.
- ✓ The Postal Operations Council: It is the technical and operational mind of the UPU and consists of 48 member countries elected during Congress.
- ✓ The International Bureau: Fulfilling a secretariat function, the International Bureau provides logistical and technical support to the UPU's bodies.
- ✓ Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q.

- A) Russian
B) Chinese
C) French
D) Korean

Answer : D

- ✓ 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature to South Korean Han Kang.
- ✓ The Swedish Academy has selected South Korean novelist Han Kang for the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature.
- ✓ Han Kang is the first Asian woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- ✓ She is the second South Korean to win the Nobel Prize after former President Kim Dae-Jung.
- ✓ President Kim Dae-Jung was conferred the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000.
- ✓ Han Kang will receive her 11 million Kroner prize at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on 10 December 2024, Alfred Nobel's death anniversary

- ✓ About the Nobel Prize winner Han Kang
- ✓ The 2016 International Booker Prize-winning novelist Han Kang was selected by the Swedish Academy "for her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."
- ✓ 53-year-old Han Kang, who writes in Korean, published her first poems in a magazine in 1993 and her first short story collection in 1995.
- ✓ Her novel 'The Vegetarian' brought her international recognition and the 2016 International Booker Prize.
- ✓ Her important works include Your Cold Hands, Greek Lessons, Human Acts, The White Book, etc
- ✓ Han Kang is the 18th Woman to be honoured with the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- ✓ The first woman to win the Literature Prize was Selma Lagerlof of Sweden in 1909.
- ✓ Nobel Prize in Literature
- ✓ The Nobel Foundation instituted the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1900, as per Alfred Nobel's will, and the first prize was given in 1901.
- ✓ The first person to be honoured with the prize was Sully Prudhomme of France in 1901.
- ✓ The 2023 prize was awarded to Jon Olav Fosse of Norway.
- ✓ Between 1901 to 2024, the Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded 117 times to 121 persons.
- ✓ Indian Nobel Prize Winner in Literature
- ✓ Rabindranath Tagore was the first Asian and Indian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature (1913). He is the only Indian to receive the prize.

Q. Who is the first Asian woman to get the Nobel Prize in Literature?

- A) Han Sang
- B) Selma Lagerlof
- C) Pearl Buck
- D) Alice Munro

Answer : A

- ✓ Han Kang is the first Asian woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- ✓ She is the second South Korean to win the Nobel Prize after former President Kim Dae-Jung. President Kim Dae-Jung was conferred the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000

Q. Who is the author of the 2016 International Booker Prize-winning novel 'The Vegetarian'?

- A) Elfriede Jelinek
- B) Han Sang
- C) Sigrid Undset
- D) Toni Morrison

Answer : B

- ✓ 53-year-old Han Kang, who writes in Korean, published her first poems in a magazine in 1993 and her first short story collection in 1995.
- ✓ Her novel 'The Vegetarian' brought her international recognition and the 2016 International Booker Prize.

Q. Who is the first Asian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature?

- A) Carlos Filipe
- B) Rabindranath Tagore
- C) Aung San Suu Kyi
- D) Eisaku Satō

Answer : B

- ✓ Rabindranath Tagore was the first Asian and Indian to receive the Nobel Prize in Literature (1913). He is the only Indian to receive the prize.

Q.

1. It is primarily an herbivorous and indicator species.
2. In India, the majority of this species is found in the Eastern Himalayan region.

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 Red Panda Program of Darjeeling's Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has been selected as a finalist for the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) Conservation Award 2024.
- ✓ It is primarily an herbivorous, shy, solitary and arboreal animal.
- ✓ It is considered an indicator species for ecological change.
- ✓ It uses its long, bushy tails for balance and to cover them in winter, presumably for warmth.
- ✓ Appearance: It is the size of a house cat, the red panda is famous for its cute face and adorable defense stance.
- ✓ Distribution: It lives in the mountainous forests of Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, and Nepal. Almost 50% of their habitat is in the Eastern Himalayas.
- ✓ Conservation status
- ✓ IUCN Red list: Endangered
- ✓ CITES: Appendix I
- ✓ Wildlife Protection Act 1972: Schedule I
- ✓ Threats: The loss of nesting trees and bamboo in the Eastern Himalayas—the location of almost 50% of the red panda's habitat—is causing a decline in red panda populations across much of their range.

Q.

1. It is a joint mission of ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
2. It aims to explore the planet Mars atmosphere and availability of water on its surface.

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 Space Commission, India's apex body on space missions, cleared the fifth lunar mission, the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission.
- ✓ Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX) is a collaborative mission between ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- ✓ Objective: 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 drive on its own to search for areas where water is likely to be present and sample the soil by digging into the ground with a drill.
- ✓ The plan is to acquire data by analyzing the collected samples in detail with observation equipment mounted on 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).
- ✓ The mission is scheduled to launch in 2025.

SPACE MISSION IN NEWS 2024

- Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX) is a collaborative mission between ISRO and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- 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. Chaukhamba Peak, recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following states?

A) Uttarakhand	B) Odisha
C) Arunachal Pradesh	D) Kerala

Answer : A

- ✓ The two foreign women mountaineers who were stranded at an altitude of over 6,000 metres for three days during the expedition to Chaukhamba-3 peak were successfully rescued by the Indian Air Force (IAF) teams using choppers recently.
- ✓ The two mountaineers were identified as Michelle Theresa Dvorak from the United States and Fay Jane Manners from the United Kingdom
- ✓ About Chaukhamba Peak:
- ✓ It is a four-pillar shaped enormous peak located in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, west of the Hindu holy town of Badrinath.
- ✓ It is a mountain massif that has four summits, along a northeast-southwest trending ridge situated in the Gangotri group of the Garhwal Himalayas.
- ✓ Being named as Chaukhamba Peak I, II, III, and IV, all of them have different elevations that lie between 7,138 m and 6,854 m.
- ✓ Chaukhamba peak I remain the tallest of all the four summits, i.e., 7,138 m above sea level.
- ✓ It towers above the Gangotri glacier, forming the eastern anchor of the group

Q. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve lies in which one of the following states?

A) West Bengal	B) Odisha
C) Tamil Nadu	D) Maharashtra

Answer : D

- ✓ Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is preparing to introduce a captivating addition to its offerings for the first time – a thrilling ropeway safari.
- ✓ About Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve:
- ✓ Location: It is located in the Chandrapur district in Maharashtra.
- ✓ It is the largest and oldest Tiger Reserve of Maharashtra.
- ✓ The origin of the name "Tadoba" lies with the name of the god "Tadoba" or "Taru", worshipped by the tribes that live in the dense forests of the Tadoba and Andhari regions. "Andhari" refers to the Andhari River that meanders through the forest.

Q. Which countries were involved in the development of the Taurus Missile?

- A) United States of America and France
- B) United States of America and Israel
- C) Germany and Sweden
- D) Russia and India

Answer : C

- ✓ As Ukraine begs for Taurus missiles to counter the Russian military, the South Korean Air Force fired the German-origin Taurus missile in a live fire drill.
- ✓ About Taurus Missile:
- ✓ It is a German-origin precision-guided, long-range air-to-surface cruise missile.
- ✓ This missile was developed in the mid-1990s as a joint effort between the German company LFK (now MBDA Deutschland) and the Swedish company Saab Bofors Dynamics.
- ✓ It is capable of precision strikes on stationary and semi-stationary targets.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Weighing in at 1,400 kg and measuring approximately 5.1 meters in length, this versatile missile can be deployed from a variety of platforms.
- ✓ Powered by a turbofan engine, the missile achieves subsonic speeds with impressive fuel efficiency.
- ✓ It features a dual-stage warhead known as MEPHISTO, which is specifically designed to penetrate hardened bunkers and underground facilities before detonation.
- ✓ It flies at an altitude of only 35 meters, which makes it almost impossible for radar systems to detect.
- ✓ Range: 500 km
- ✓ The missile's guidance system merges GPS, INS (Inertial Navigation System), and TERCOM (Terrain Contour Matching) technologies, guaranteeing unerring precision even in GPS-denied environments.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Brahmi Script:

1. It is the earliest writing system developed in India.
2. In India, traces of Brahmi script were found in both Indo-Gangetic Plain and Deccan plateau region.

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, a Brahmi inscription was found in Dharanikota village at Amaravathi mandal in Palnadu district. The script on the inscription is written in Prakrit language and Brahmi characters of 2nd century C.E.
- ✓ The Brahmi script is the earliest writing system developed in India after the Indus script.
- ✓ It is one of the most influential writing systems; all modern Indian scripts and several hundred scripts found in Southeast and East Asia are derived from Brahmi.

- ✓ Most examples of Brahmi found in North and Central India represent the Prakrit language.
- ✓ The earliest known Brahmi inscriptions are from the edicts of Ashoka, the third Mauryan emperor of Magadha who ruled most of the sub-continent between 268 and 232 BCE.
- ✓ Traces of the script have been discovered not just in the Gangetic plains but also in excavated sites in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Sri Lanka, mostly on pottery shards.
- ✓ Among the many descendant scripts of Brahmi are those of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, such as Devanagari and the Bengali and Gujarati scripts; those of the Deccan region, including the scripts for Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Kannada;

Q. Consider the following statements regarding AstroSat:

1. It is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory.
2. It aims to study high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes.

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's AstroSat and NASA's space observatories have captured dramatic eruptions from stellar wreckage around a massive black hole.
- ✓ It is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical, and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
- ✓ It was launched by the Indian launch vehicle PSLV from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on September 28, 2015.
- ✓ The spacecraft control center at Mission Operations Complex (MOX) of ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru, manages the satellite during its entire mission life.
- ✓ The minimum useful life of the AstroSat mission is around 5 years.
- ✓ It carries a total of five scientific payloads enabling imaging and studying the temporal and spectral properties of galactic and extra- galactic cosmic sources in a wide range of wavelengths on a common platform.
- ✓ Objectives:
 - ✓ To understand high energy processes in binary star systems containing neutron stars and black holes.
 - ✓ Estimate magnetic fields of neutron stars.
 - ✓ Study star birth regions and high energy processes in star systems lying beyond our galaxy.
 - ✓ Detect new briefly bright X-ray sources in the sky.
 - ✓ Perform a limited deep-field survey of the Universe in the Ultraviolet region.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding MLA Local Area Development Fund:

1. It is a one time grant given to MLAs for local development such as repairing roads, and streetlights
2. Each MLA does not directly receive the funds but they can recommend projects for 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 : B

- ✓ Delhi cabinet approved a 50% hike in MLA-LAD (local area development) funds, increasing the annual allocation to legislators from the current ₹10 crore to ₹15 crore.
- ✓ It is modelled on a similar programme for MPs, providing funding for each constituency directly from the government.
- ✓ While MLAs and MPs do not directly receive the funds, they can recommend projects for the scheme.
- ✓ Both MLALAD and MPLAD have their own sets of guidelines but the projects funded by them are usually restricted to “durable infrastructure work”, from repairing roads to building community centres.
- ✓ Under the scheme, each MLA has the choice to suggest to the Deputy Commissioner of his/her district, to the extent of allocations given from year to year, to be taken up by his/her constituency.
- ✓ MLALAD funds are issued every year to MLAs for local development such as repairing roads, and streetlights, developing parks, and laying sewer lines in colonies.
- ✓ The type of work under this scheme should be developmental in nature based on locally felt.
- ✓ The work should be such that it can be completed within one financial year and lead to the creation of durable assets.
- ✓ The work should be such that it can be completed within one financial year and lead to the creation of durable assets.
- ✓ The amount provided under MLALAD Scheme is released in the form of Grant-in-aid for utilisation by the districts

Q. What is the primary objective of the Humsafar Policy, recently seen in the news?

- A) To promote eco-friendly tourism in coastal regions.
- B) To promote telemedicine services in remote locations.
- C) To promote digital banking in rural areas.
- D) To enhance facilities along national highways.

Answer : D

- ✓ Aimed at providing wayside amenities along national highways, Union Road Transport Minister recently launched 'Humsafar Policy'.
- ✓ About Humsafar Policy:
- ✓ It is a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing facilities along India's national highways.
- ✓ The policy seeks to improve the convenience, safety, and comfort of highway travelers by providing a wide range of services at key locations along the road network.
- ✓ Under this policy, rest stops equipped with essential amenities like clean washrooms, food courts, parking spaces, and first-aid services will be developed across major highways.
- ✓ Dedicated rooms for baby care, equipped with changing tables and other essentials, will be provided for families travelling with young children.
- ✓ It includes provisions for creating multi-utility spaces at regular intervals to cater to the diverse needs of travelers.
- ✓ These spaces will feature fuel stations, electric vehicle (EV) charging points, convenience stores, and other roadside services that are expected to reduce driver fatigue and improve overall road safety.
- ✓ Dormitories will be introduced at fuel stations to provide short-term accommodation for truck drivers, travellers, and those requiring a rest break during long-distance travel.
- ✓ These spaces will feature fuel stations, electric vehicle (EV) charging points, convenience stores, and other roadside services that are expected to reduce driver fatigue and improve overall road safety.
- ✓ Dormitories will be introduced at fuel stations to provide short-term accommodation for truck drivers, travellers, and those requiring a rest break during long-distance travel.
- ✓ Accessibility will be a key focus, with wheelchair provisions made available for differently-abled travellers.
- ✓ The initiative also aims to promote sustainability by incorporating green technologies, such as solar-powered facilities and EV infrastructure, contributing to India's environmental goals.

Q. Where was the 21st ASEAN-India summit meeting held?

- A) Indonesia
- B) Malaysia
- C) Vietnam
- D) Lao

Answer : D

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi concludes his visit to Lao PDR.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded his two-day official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) on 11 October 2024.
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi was in Lao PDR on 10 and 11 October 2024 to participate in the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia Summit meeting.
- ✓ Lao PDR, being the chairman of the 10-member ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), hosted the 44th & 45th ASEAN Summit meeting, the 27th ASEAN Plus Three Summit (ASEAN-China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea), and the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia Summit meeting.
- ✓ All these meetings were held in the Lao PDR capital city of Vientiane.
- ✓ The Lao PDR Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone invited Prime Minister Modi to visit Lao PDR and attend the relevant summit meeting.
- ✓ PM Modi's witness Lao's Ramayana Phra Lak Phra Ram
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi attended Lao's version of Ramanaya, enacted by the prestigious Royal Theatre of Luang Prabang in Vientiane.
- ✓ Ramayana in Lao is called as Phalak Phalam or Phra Lak Phra Ram.
- ✓ Indian culture strongly influences Southeast Asian countries, and the Ramayana is part of local culture in Indonesia and Malaysia
- ✓ India & Lao PDR to Strengthen Bilateral Relations
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi met with Lao PDR Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone and held bilateral talks. Both leaders agreed to strengthen their bilateral relationships, and a number of agreements/MoUs were signed between India and the Lao PDR to strengthen these relationships.
- ✓ India will provide USD 1 million to Lao PDR through the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to improve nutrition security in Lao PDR through food fortification.
- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the two countries to promote Defence Cooperation.
- ✓ MoU between Prasar Bharti and Lao National Television,
- ✓ An agreement was signed between the two countries to promote Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between the two countries.
- ✓ Agreement on Preservation of the heritage of performing art of Phalak-Phalam.
- ✓ Renovation of Wat Phakea Temple in Luang Prabang Province of Lao PDR.
- ✓ Preservation of Shadow Puppet Theater's Performance in Champasak Province of Lao PDR.

Q. Where was the 44th and 45th Summit Meeting of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) held?

- A) Singapore
- B) Myanmar
- C) Lao
- D) Brunei

Answer : C

- ✓ Lao PDR, being the chairman of the 10-member ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), hosted the 44th & 45th ASEAN Summit meeting, the 27th ASEAN Plus Three Summit (ASEAN-China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea), and the 21st ASEAN-India and the 19th East Asia Summit meeting.
- ✓ All these meetings were held in the Lao PDR capital city of Vientiane.

Q. Where was the 19th East Asia Summit Meeting held?

- A) Vientiane, Lao People Democratic Republic
- B) Jakarta, Indonesia
- C) Bangkok, Thailand
- D) Manila, Philippines

Answer : A

- ✓ 21st ASEAN-India Summit Meeting at Vientiane
- ✓ The 21st ASEAN-India Summit meeting was held in Vientiane on October 10, 2024.
- ✓ The summit meeting also marked the 10th year of the Modi government's Act East Policy. The meeting was attended by the leaders of the 10 ASEAN countries and the ASEAN observer country, Timor Leste.
- ✓ The first India-ASEAN summit meeting was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in 2022, and since then, it has been held every year.
- ✓ The theme of the meeting was 'Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience.'
- ✓ During the meeting, the leaders agreed on a new ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2026-2030) that will guide both sides in realising the full potential of the ASEAN-India partnership.
- ✓ The relationships between India and ASEAN were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership level.
- ✓ During his speech, the Prime Minister announced a 10-point plan to further the relationship between the ASEAN and India. Some of the important ones are:
- ✓ Celebrate 2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, for which India will contribute USD 5 million.
- ✓ Number of scholarships for ASEAN students to study at Nalanda University, Bihar to be doubled.
- ✓ India will offer scholarships for ASEAN students at Indian Agricultural Universities.
- ✓ India will provide USD 5 million to enhance disaster resilience in the ASEAN countries.
- ✓ India -ASEAN to start a regular mechanism of ASEAN-India Cyber Policy Dialogue to strengthen Digital and Cyber Resilience.
- ✓ 19th East Asia Summit Meeting
- ✓ The 19th East Asia Summit (EAS) Meeting was held in Vientiane on 11 October 2024. It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leaders of the 18 members of the East Asian Summit group. The United States was represented by the Secretary of State Anthony Blinken.
- ✓ EAS members are the 10 member countries of ASEAN and the partner countries of Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the United States of America.
- ✓ The East Asia Summit was established by ASEAN in 2005 to further strategic and economic cooperation between ASEAN, the regional power, and the resident power—the United States of America and Russia.
- ✓ India- ASEAN Relation
- ✓ The Narasimha Rao government initiated the Look East Policy in 1992, which sought to increase trade and investment with ASEAN countries.
- ✓ In 2014, Prime Minister Modi's government launched the Act East Policy, which expanded the scope of the previous Look East Policy.
- ✓ The Act East Policy focused on the entire Indo-Pacific area, with ASEAN at its centre. It aims to enhance commerce, culture, and connectivity with the region.
- ✓ Since 1992, the India-ASEAN relationship has evolved from being ASEAN's sectoral partner to ASEAN's dialogue partner in 1996.
- ✓ In 1996, India was made a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
- ✓ The relationship was further upgraded to the Summit level in 2002, and in 2012, it was upgraded to a Strategic Partnership.
- ✓ In 2024, the relationship was upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

- ✓ In 2010, India became a founding member of the ADMM(ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting) Plus Forum.

Q. Which country will host the 2025 ASEAN(Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit meeting?

- A) Thailand
- B) Vietnam
- C) Malaysia
- D) Singapore

Answer : C

- ✓ Malaysia,it took over the ASEAN chairmanship from the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
- ✓ Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN)
- ✓ The Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN), along with the European Union, is considered one of the most successful regional organisations in the world.
- ✓ It consists of 10 members of the Southeast Asian nations and was founded in 1967.
- ✓ Members: Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam and Singapore.
- ✓ Observer Status- Timor Leste
- ✓ Headquarters: Jakarta, Indonesia
- ✓ Trick to Remember Countries of ASEAN
- ✓ Trick : TV CLIP of MBBS
- ✓ T - Thailand
- ✓ V - Vietnam
- ✓ C - Cambodia
- ✓ L- Laos
- ✓ I - Indonesia
- ✓ P - Philippines of silent
- ✓ M - Malaysia
- ✓ B - Burma (Myanmar)
- ✓ B - Brunei
- ✓ S - Singapore

Q. Where will the 2025 World Table Tennis Championships be held?

- A) Qatar
- B) UAE
- C) China
- D) India

Answer : A

- ✓ The Astana event is also a qualifying event for the 2025 World Table Tennis Championships, which will be held in Doha, Qatar.

Q. Which state will host the 38th National Games?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Haryana
- D) Uttarakhand

Answer : D

- ✓ Uttarakhand to host next Summer and Winter National Games.
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association has chosen Uttarakhand to host the 38th Summer National Games. The state will also hold the next Winter Games.
- ✓ The 37th National Games was held in Goa from 25 September -9 November 2023.
- ✓ The Winter Games will be held outside Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for the first time.
- ✓ According to the Indian Olympic Association, Uttarakhand will hold the 38th National Games from 28 January -14 February 2025.

- ✓ The details of the Game's venue, events, and other schedules are expected to be finalised during the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) General Assembly meeting on October 25, 2024.
- ✓ About the National Games
- ✓ The National Games are organised by the Indian Olympic Association and hosted by the state government. Their main aim is to identify talents in the country who can represent India at the Summer Olympics.
- ✓ The National Games are held on the Olympic model and were initially supposed to be held every two years. Until the 24th National Games, they were held every two years, but since then, they have been held irregularly.
- ✓ The first National Games, held in 1924 at Lahore (now in Pakistan), was called the All-India Olympic Games. The name was changed to National Games at the 9th edition in Bombay(now Mumbai) in 1940

Q. Which state will host the next National Winter Games?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association has chosen Uttarakhand to host the 38th Summer National Games.
- ✓ The state will also hold the next Winter Games.
- ✓ The 37th National Games was held in Goa from 25 September -9 November 2023.
- ✓ The Winter Games will be held outside Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for the first time.

Q. Which country does the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize-winning organisation Nihon Hidankyo belong to?

- A) South Korea B) United States
C) Canada D) Japan

Answer : D

- ✓ Japan's anti-N- weapon group Nihon Hidankyo win 2024 Nobel Peace Prize
- ✓ The Norwegian Nobel Committee Norway has chosen the anti-nuclear weapon Japanese organisation Nihon Hidankyo for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize.
- ✓ The Norwegian Committee chose the Nihon Hidankyo organisation for its efforts to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and demonstrate through victims of nuclear weapons testimony that nuclear weapons must never be used again.
- ✓ Representatives of the Nihon Hidankyo organisation will receive their 11 million Kroner prize at a ceremony in Oslo, Norway, on 10 December 2024.
- ✓ The Nobel Prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Economics are awarded at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ✓ At the same time, the Nobel Peace Prize winner is felicitated in Oslo, Norway.
- ✓ About the Nobel Prize-winning Organisation Nihon Hidankyo
- ✓ During the Second World War, the United States Air Force dropped two atomic bombs on Japan. A Uranium-enriched atom bomb codenamed "Little Boy" was dropped on Hiroshima on 8 August 1945, and the second plutonium-based bomb codenamed 'Fat Man' was dropped on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945.
- ✓ More than 2 lakh people were killed in the attack, and the survivors suffered the effects of radiation.
- ✓ A powerful local grassroots anti-nuclear weapon movement emerged in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, popularly called Hibakusha (a combination of Hiroshima and Nagasaki).
- ✓ In 1956, the local Hibakusha association, along with victims of nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific, formed the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organisations.
- ✓ Nihon Hidankyo is the shortened Japanese name of the Japan Confederation of A- and H-Bomb Sufferers Organisations. They are the largest and most influential Hibakusha organisation in Japan.

- ✓ Nihon is the Japanese name of Japan.
- ✓ The victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were at the forefront of the movement, where they shared their own experiences and the horrors of the aftereffects of nuclear weapons. They tirelessly worked to stigmatise the use of nuclear weapons as morally unacceptable. This norm later became known as “the nuclear taboo”.
- ✓ Nobel Peace Prize
- ✓ The Nobel Foundation instituted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1900, as per Alfred Nobel's will, and the first prize was given in 1901.
- ✓ The first Prize was jointly shared by Jean Henry Dunnat of Switzerland and Frédéric Passy of France.
- ✓ Between 1901 and 2024, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded 105 times to 142 laureates – 111 individuals and 31 organisations. It was not awarded on 19 occasions: in 1914-1916, 1918, 1923, 1924, 1928, 1932, 1939-1943, 1948, 1955-1956, 1966-1967, and 1972, as no person or institution was found suitable.
- ✓ The only institution to win the prize thrice was the International Committee of the Red Cross(ICRC) in 1917, 1944 and 1963.
- ✓ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize twice, in 1954 and 1981.
- ✓ Baroness Bertha Sophie Felicita von Suttner of Austria was the first female to be honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905.
- ✓ In 2023, the prize was awarded to the Iranian peace activist Narges Mohammadi.
- ✓ Indian Nobel Peace Prize Winners
- ✓ Albanian-born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa, was the first Indian citizen to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She started her organisation, "The Missionaries of Charity," to look after the poor and destitute in Kolkata(then Calcutta).
- ✓ In 2014, Kailash Satyaarthi shared the prize with Pakistan's Mala Yousafzai. Kailash is the founder of the Save the Childhood Movement, which works for the abolition of child labour in India and rescues children from child labour

Q. Where is the Nobel Prize winner conferred the prize?

A) Oslo, Norway	B) Stockholm, Sweden
C) Paris, France	D) London, United Kingdom

Answer : A

- ✓ The Nobel Prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Economics are awarded at a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ✓ At the same time, the Nobel Peace Prize winner is felicitated in Oslo, Norway

Q. Who was the first Indian to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?

A) Dr C V Raman	B) V S Naipaul
C) Mother Teresa	D) Rabindra Nath Tagore

Answer : C

- ✓ Albanian-born Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu, also known as Mother Teresa, was the first Indian citizen to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.
- ✓ She started her organisation, "The Missionaries of Charity," to look after the poor and destitute in Kolkata(then Calcutta).
- ✓ In 2014, Kailash Satyaarthi shared the prize with Pakistan's Mala Yousafzai.
- ✓ Kailash is the founder of the Save the Childhood Movement, which works for the abolition of child labour in India and rescues children from child labour

Q. Which country, along with India, has been declared by the World Health Organisation as trachoma-free?

- A) Nepal and Myanmar B) Bhutan and Nepal
C) Afghanistan and Pakistan D) Maldives and Bangladesh

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has certified India, Nepal, and Myanmar as having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem.
- ✓ India joins 19 other countries in the world that have successfully eliminated trachoma as a public health problem.
- ✓ According to the WHO, trachoma is still a major public health problem in 39 countries in the world and causes blindness in around 19 lakh people worldwide.
- ✓ WHO has attributed the success to the government's National Trachoma Control Program. Jal Jeevan Mission and Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ✓ What is Trachoma?
- ✓ Trachoma is an eye disease caused by Chlamydia trachomatis bacteria. It is a highly infectious disease that spreads from one infected person to another through; contaminated fingers, fomites (objects or materials likely to carry infection, such as clothes, utensils, and furniture), Coming into contact with flies that have come into contact with discharge from the eyes or nose of an infected person.
- ✓ Poor hygienic conditions, overcrowded households, and inadequate access to water and sanitation facilities.
- ✓ Repeated infection with trachoma leads to scarring of the inner side of the upper eyelids. This scarring causes the eyelid margin to turn inward, and the person's eyelashes touch the eyeball. This painful condition is known as trachomatous trichiasis, and if left untreated, it can result in visual impairment and blindness.
- ✓ Government's effort to deal with Trachoma
- ✓ To address the problem of trachoma, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a National Trachoma Control Program in 1963 with the help of WHO and UNICEF.
- ✓ In 1976, the central government launched the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCBVI), and the National Trachoma Control Program was merged with it.
- ✓ The NPCBVI programme incorporated the WHO's SAFE strategy.
- ✓ Success against Trachoma
- ✓ According to the government of India, during the 50s and 60s, trachoma was widespread in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, and the Nicobar Islands, with over 50 per cent of their population infected by the eye disease. In 1971, trachoma was responsible for 5% of all blindness cases in the country.
- ✓ However, due to the successful implementation of the National Trachoma Control Program, the incidence of trachoma-induced blindness was brought down to 4% of all cases of blindness in India. By 2018, it was down to 0.008%.
- ✓ Trachoma Free Countries
- ✓ According to the World Health Organisation, 19 countries have successfully eliminated trachoma as a public health problem. These are Benin, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Gambia, Ghana, Iran, Iraq, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mexico, Morocco, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Saudi Arabia, Togo, and Vanuatu.

Q. Trachoma is a disease that affects which part of the human body?

- A) heart B) kidney
C) lung D) eyes

Answer : D

- ✓ Eyes, it is caused by Chlamydia trachomatis bacteria.

Q. Who has won the 2024 ATP Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament singles title?

- A) Jannik Sinner
B) Alexander Zverev
C) Carlos Alcaraz
D) Novak Djokovic

Answer : A

- ✓ Jannik Sinner wins the ATP Shanghai Masters 1000 singles title.
- ✓ World Number One male tennis player Jannik Sinner of Italy defeated 24 Grand Slam winner Novak Djokovic of Serbia in the final to win the ATP Shanghai Masters 1000 singles title.
- ✓ The ATP Shanghai Master 1000 was held in the Chinese city of Shanghai from 2 to 13 October 2024.
- ✓ The Shanghai Master is played on a hard court
- ✓ Jannik Sinner denies 100th career singles title win for Novak Djokovic
- ✓ In the final of the Shanghai Masters, played on 13 October 2024 in Shanghai, Jannik Sinner defeated Novak Djokovic 7-6 (7/4), 6-3. The defeat also ended Djokovic's quest to win his 100 ATP titles.
- ✓ Only Jimmy Connors (109 titles) of the United States and Switzerland's Roger Federer (103 titles) have won over 100 ATP titles.
- ✓ Both Jimmy Connors and Rafael Nadal have retired from tennis, but Djokovic still has a chance to win his 100th ATP singles title. So far, Djokovic has won 99 ATP singles titles.
- ✓ Shanghai Masters was the fourth ATP Masters title for Jannik Sinner. Sinner also became the first player to win three ATP Masters 1000 titles in one season since Rafael Nadal in 2018.
- ✓ Jannik Sinner's win over Tomas Machac in the semi-final also confirmed him as the number-one ATP-ranked player for the 2024 season.
- ✓ The pair of Wesley Koolhof of the Netherlands and Nikola Mektic of Croatia defeated the Argentinian pair of Maximo Gonzales and Andres Molteni 6-4,6-4 to win the doubles title of the Shanghai Masters tennis championships.
- ✓ The 2024 ATP finals will be played in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, from 18-22 December 2024.

Q. Which tennis player has been confirmed as the world's number-one player for the 2024 ATP season?

- A) Casper Ruud
B) Stefanos Tsitsipas
C) Andrey Rublev
D) Jannik Sinner

Answer : D

TENNIS TOURNAMENT IN NEWS 2024

- Jannik Sinner of Italy and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the men's and women's singles titles of the 2024 US Open Grand Slam Tennis tournament, respectively.
- 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 Krejčíková 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 Świątek 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.
- Sumit Nagpal defeated Alexander Ritschard of Switzerland .
- Rohan Bopanna from India and Matthew Ebden from Australia won the Men's Doubles Title at the Miami Open, a prestigious ATP Masters tennis tournament.
- Sumit Nagal became the first Indian man to win a match in a Masters 1000 tournament on clay. The top-ranked Indian singles player defeated Matteo Arnaldi of Italy.

- Indian tennis star Rohan Bopanna has etched his name in the history books by becoming the oldest player to claim the No. 1 spot in the men's doubles rankings at the age of 43 at the 2024 Australian Open.
- World number two ranked men's tennis player Carlos Alcaraz and world number one ranked women's tennis player Iga Swiatek won the Indian Wells 1000 men's and women's titles, respectively
- Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti won the 2024 BMW Open tennis tournament 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

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest tiger reserve in the country.
2. It is located in the Nallamala hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh.
3. The river Krishna traverses through this reserve.

The above statements correctly describe which one of the following Tiger Reserves?

- A) Indravati Tiger Reserve B) Simlipal Tiger Reserve
C) Nagarjunsagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve D) Amrabad Tiger Reserve

Answer : C

- ✓ According to the recently released 'EnviStats India-2024' report, the Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR) has been ranked first among India's 55 tiger reserves for its leopard population, with an estimated 360 leopards.
- ✓ About Nagarjunsagar-Srisaillam Tiger Reserve (NSTR):
- ✓ Location: It is located in the Nallamala hill ranges (an offshoot of the Eastern Ghats) of Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ This is the largest tiger reserve in the country, spreading over an area of 5937 sq. km.
- ✓ It hosts the largest tiger population in the Eastern Ghat landscape.
- ✓ It is named after two major dams in the area, Nagarjuna Sagar Dam and Srisaillam Dam.
- ✓ Two wildlife sanctuaries, namely Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary (GBM), constitute the NSTR.
- ✓ The river Krishna traverses through this reserve for a linear distance of around 270 kilometers.

Q. Who was recently appointed as the additional CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM)?

- A) Arun Puri B) Ramesh Sinha
C) Ravi Shankar Prasad D) L Satya Srinivas

Answer : D

- ✓ The Central Government has recently appointed L Satya Srinivas as the additional CEO of Government e Marketplace (GeM).
- ✓ He is at present posted as Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce.
- ✓ He will replace the previous CEO P K Singh who has recently been appointed as Secretary, Ministry of Renewable Energy.
- ✓ India's 'Government e-Market' (GeM) portal is the world's third largest e-commerce platform for public procurement after Korea's On-Line e-Procurement System (KONEPS) and Singapore's GeBIZ.
- ✓ About Government e-Market (GeM) Portal:
- ✓ GeM was launched in the year 2016 to facilitate procurement of goods and services by many government departments and organizations. It is an online platform launched by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

- ✓ GeM is open to all government departments, public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies and other organizations.
- ✓ Currently South Korea's KONEPS is the world's largest online platform. GeM is at third place after Singapore's GeBIZ

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of Tata Trusts?

- A) Lia Tata
B) Maya Tata
C) Noel Tata
D) N Chandrasekaran

Answer : C

- ✓ Noel Tata has been appointed as the Chairman of Tata Trusts, he is the half-brother of Ratan Tata and has deep involvement in the Tata Group.
- ✓ He is a board member of several Tata companies including Titan.
- ✓ At the same time, the command of Tata Sons is in the hands of Natarajan Chandrasekaran, who has been the chairman since 2017
- ✓ Sir Ratan Tata Trust (SRTT) was founded in 1919 with a sum of Indian currency ₹8 million.
- ✓ It was under the ownership of Ratan Tata until his death.
- ✓ Noel Tata was appointed as the Chairman of the Tata Trusts on 11 October 2024, post the demise of Ratan Tata.
- ✓ Established in accordance with the will of Sir Ratanji Tata, the Trust is now one of the oldest grant bestowing foundations in India.
- ✓ SRTT is part of Tata Trusts which is headed by the CEO Siddharth Sharma.
- ✓ The grants offered by the Trust can be broadly classified as:
 - ✓ Institutional grants
 - ✓ Endowment grants
 - ✓ Small grants
 - ✓ Individual grants

Q. In which district of Bihar will the state's second Tiger Reserve be established?

- A) Kaimur B) Muzaffarpur
C) Gaya D) Bhagalpur

Answer : A

- ✓ The Central Government granted in-principle approval for Bihar's second tiger reserve in Kaimur district.
- ✓ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) at its 12th technical committee meeting approved the proposal to develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) into a tiger reserve.
- ✓ After the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, Bihar is set to get a second tiger reserve in Kaimur district by the end of the year or early 2024.
- ✓ Key Developments in Tiger Conservation in Bihar
- ✓ Population Management: The existing Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) has reached its maximum capacity with 54 tigers, exceeding its capacity of 45 tigers. The new reserve will help manage this growing population effectively while maintaining ecological balance.
- ✓ The Status of Tigers Report 2022, prepared by the NTCA and the Wildlife Institute of India, highlighted the growth in VTR's tiger population, which was recorded at 31 in 2018.
- ✓ Kaimur's forests, covering an area of 1,134 square kilometres, boast the highest green cover in Bihar at 34%
- ✓ Tiger Reserves of India
- ✓ Tiger Reserves (TR) are areas that are notified for the protection of the tiger and its prey and are governed by Project Tiger which was launched in 1973.

- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) merged Project Tiger and Project Elephant to create Project Tiger and Elephant (PTE) in April 2023.
- ✓ Starting from 9 reserves in 1973, the number of tiger reserves has grown to 55 in 2023, falling in 18 states, covering approximately 2.39% (78,735.5966 sq km) of India's landmass.
- ✓ The latest three additions are:
- ✓ 53rd TR – Ranipur Tiger Reserve (4th in UP)
- ✓ 54th TR – Veerangana Durgavati TR (7th TR in Madhya Pradesh)
- ✓ 55th TR – Dholpur- Karauli TR (5th TR in Rajasthan)

Q. International Energy Agency has collaborated with which IIT for clean energy?

A) IIT Varanasi	B) IIT Mumbai
C) IIT Delhi	D) IIT Kharagpur

Answer : C

- ✓ IIT Delhi and International Energy Agency (IEA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for clean energy transition.
- ✓ The MoU aims to exchange information on policy analysis, energy technology trends.
- ✓ The International Energy Agency is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in 1974.
- ✓ International Energy Agency (IEA)
- ✓ Established : 1974
- ✓ Headquarters : Paris, France
- ✓ Membership : 31 member countries
- ✓ Executive Directors of the International Energy Agency : Fatih Birol (Turkey)

Q. Which Indian Naval Ship, part of the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy, arrived at Port Mina Rashid, Dubai, UAE, on October 12, 2024?

A) INS Shardul	B) INS Arihant
C) INS Kolkata	D) INS Vikramaditya

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Naval Ship Shardul arrives in UAE.
- ✓ The Indian Naval Ship Shardul, part of the First Training Squadron of the Indian Navy, arrived at Port Mina Rashid, Dubai, UAE, on October 12, 2024, as part of its Long Range Training Deployment.
- ✓ This visit marks a significant milestone in strengthening maritime cooperation and fostering mutual understanding between India and UAE
- ✓ Shardul is scheduled to engage in various activities designed to enhance maritime security and interoperability. These include harbour interactions and joint exercises including visit to the Naval Officers Training Academy and UAE Naval Ship.
- ✓ The visit is a celebration of the friendship, shared aspirations, and unwavering commitment to peace and security of India and UAE

Q. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has virtually dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of Rs?

A) Rs 1,236 crore	B) Rs 3,236 crore
C) Rs 4,236 crore	D) Rs 2,236 crore

Answer : D

- ✓ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh virtually dedicates to the nation 75 BRO infrastructure projects, worth Rs 2,236 crore, across 11 States/UTs.

- ✓ Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, on October 12, 2024, virtually dedicated to the nation 75 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at a cost of Rs 2,236 crore.
- ✓ These projects - 22 roads, 51 bridges & two others - are spread across 11 States/Union Territories. Nineteen (19) are in Jammu & Kashmir, 18 in Arunachal Pradesh, 11 in Ladakh, nine in Uttarakhand, six in Sikkim, five in Himachal Pradesh, two each in West Bengal & Rajasthan and one each in Nagaland, Mizoram and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ Raksha Mantri inaugurated the projects from the Headquarters, Trishakti Corps in Sukna, West Bengal.
- ✓ One of the main highlights was the inauguration of the Kupup-Sherathang Road in Sikkim which serves as a crucial link between Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg and Zuluk axis.
- ✓ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat by 2047' can be realised through such infrastructure projects
- ✓ With the inauguration of these 75 projects, BRO has completed a total of 111 infrastructure projects in 2024 at an overall cost of Rs 3,751 crore. This includes 36 projects worth Rs 1,508 crore, such as the state-of-the-art Sela Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, inaugurated by the Prime Minister earlier this year. Last year, 125 infrastructure projects of BRO were dedicated to the nation at a cost of Rs 3,611 crore.
- ✓ Referring to the increased allocation of Rs 6,500 crore for BRO in Union Budget 2024-25, he expressed hope that it would not only contribute to strategic infrastructure development, but will also prove helpful in socio-economic progress in the border areas, including the North East region.
- ✓ Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- ✓ Formation : 7 May 1960
- ✓ Headquarters : Seema Sadak Bhawan, New Delhi
- ✓ Director General : Lt. Gen. Raghu Srinivasan
- ✓ BRO is a statutory body under the ownership of the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India.
- ✓ BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries.
- ✓ This includes infrastructure operations in 19 states and three union territories (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka

Q. Who has won the Singapore Open Billiards Championship 2024?

- A) Jaden Ong
- B) Pankaj Advani
- C) Geet Sethi
- D) Sourav Kothari

Answer : B

- ✓ 38-year-old ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani defeated local boy Jaden Ong to win the Singapore Open Billiards title.
- ✓ Pankaj Advani, the only player in the world to win world titles in all the formats of Billiards and Snooker, defeated Jaden Ong in 5-1 frames to lift the Singapore Open title.
- ✓ In a close quarter-final match, Pankaj Advani defeated former IBSF world snooker champion Dechawat Poomjaeng of Thailand 4-3.
- ✓ Pankaj Advani was inducted into the Billiards Hall of Fame at the World Billiards Museum in Shangrao City, China in March 2024.
- ✓ Pankaj has won 26 world titles:
- ✓ Pankaj Advani has won 26 world titles in snooker and billiards combined. In which Pankaj has 18 billiards and 8 snooker world titles.
- ✓ The 38-year-old cue star Pankaj has won 18 Billiards World Titles, 17 IBSF World Billiards Championships and one World Team Billiards Championship.
- ✓ In snooker, Pankaj has won the IBSF World Snooker Championship three times.
- ✓ He has won the IBSF World Six-Red Championship twice.
- ✓ Pankaj has won the IBSF World Team Cup and IBSF World Team Championship once each.
- ✓ About sports life of Pankaj Advani:
- ✓ Pankaj Advani became a snooker professional in the year 2012-2013.

- ✓ Pankaj made his debut in billiards in the year 1999.
- ✓ Pankaj won the first world title of billiards in the year 2005.
- ✓ Pankaj's 26th world title:
- ✓ Indian star Pankaj Advani won the World Billiards Championship for the 26th time last year in November 2023.
- ✓ Pankaj had won the long format title in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. In this final match, Pankaj had defeated Saurav Kothari of his own country by 1000-416.
- ✓ Pankaj received four Indian honors:
- ✓ Pankaj Advani has received many honors for his sports achievements in the country and abroad. In this sequence, in honor of Pankaj's achievements, the Government of India has honored him with many awards. These are as follows:
- ✓ Arjuna Award in 2004
- ✓ Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2006
- ✓ Padma Shri in 2009
- ✓ Padma Bhushan in 2018

Q. Who has won the women's singles title of the WTA Wuhan Open 1000 tennis tournament?

A) Anna Danilina	B) Aryna Sabalenka
C) Irina Khromacheva	D) Zheng Qinwen

Answer : B

- ✓ Aryna Sabalenka wins the WTA Wuhan 1000 singles title.
- ✓ World No.2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus defeated World No.7 Zheng Qinwen of China to win her third consecutive WTA Wuhan 1000 singles title.
- ✓ The WTA Wuhan 1000 Tennis tournament was held in the Chinese city of Wuhan from 7-13 October 2024. Wuhan Open is played at the Hard Court.
- ✓ Third Wuhan 1000 Title for Aryna Sabalenka
- ✓ Aryna Sabalenka defeated the local favourite Zheng Qinwen 6-3, 5-7, 6-3 in the final played on 13 October 2024 at Wuhan. This was Aryna Sabalenka's third title at Wuhan, having won it in 2018 and 2019.
- ✓ This is the 17th WTA Tour title for Aryna Sabalenka and her fifth on Chinese soil.
- ✓ The pair of Anna Danilina of Kazakhstan and Irina Khromacheva of Russia defeated the American pair of Asia Muhammad and Jessica Pegula 6-3, 7-6(6) in the final of the Wuhan Open. This was the first WTA 1000 title for the pair of Anna Danilina and Irina Khromacheva.
- ✓ The Women's Tennis Association, or WTA, was established in 1973 by Billie Jean King of the United States to promote professional women's tennis. Each year, the WTA organises a number of tournaments under the WTA Tour.
- ✓ WTA 1000 is the highest-ranked WTA Tournament. The WTA organises the season's ending WTA final, where the top-ranked singles and doubles player participates.
- ✓ The 2024 WTA finals will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from 2-9 November 2024.
- ✓ 21-year-old Tanya Hemanth of India won the 2024 Bendigo International badminton tournament women's singles final. She defeated Tung Ciou-tong of Chinese Taipei in the final at Bendigo, Australia, on 13 October 2024 in straight sets 21-17, 21-17.

Q. Which country will host the ISSF Junior World Cup 2025?

A) Malaysia	B) India
C) South Korea	D) China

Answer : B

- ✓ ISSF Junior World Cup 2025 will be held in India.
- ✓ The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) has announced this.

- ✓ The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) is the apex body of shooting in India.

Q. The 2024 Nobel Prize in Economics was awarded to Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and James A. Robinson for which study?

- A) Models of economic development B) How institutions are formed and affect prosperity
- C) Analysis of financial markets D) Climate change and economy

Answer : B

- ✓ Acemoglu, S Johnson & James Robinson wins 2024 Economics Nobel Prize.
- ✓ The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden, has selected Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson for the 2024 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- ✓ These three economists were chosen for their groundbreaking studies showing how the political and economic systems introduced by colonisers can determine whether a country is rich or poor today.
- ✓ The three economists will share the 11 million kroner prize at a ceremony to be held in Stockholm, Sweden on 10 December 2024. 10 December is the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel in whose name the prize has been instituted.
- ✓ Work of the Nobel Prize winner
- ✓ Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson and J (https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economic-sciences/2024/robinson/facts/) James Robinson researched the role of European colonisation in making a country rich or poor.
- ✓ The Nobel Prize-winning economist found that societies with a weak rule of law and having state institutions that exploit the population failed to prosper.
- ✓ The European colonists introduced political and economic institutions into these colonies.
- ✓ The countries where the European coloniser introduced an exploitative system and exploited the Indigenous population and resources for their own benefit experienced low growth after independence.
- ✓ Slavery and serfdom are some examples of exploitative systems introduced by the colonisers where the powers were concentrated in a few hands.
- ✓ In colonies, where the colonists introduced inclusive institutions, those countries prospered.
- ✓ An inclusive system means that the colonisers introduced the rule of law, modern education systems, progressive social policies, etc.
- ✓ About the Nobel Prize winners
- ✓ All three winners of the Nobel Prize are America-based economists.
- ✓ Daron Acemoglu is a Turkish-born American citizen who presently teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the United States of America.
- ✓ Simon Johnson is a British economist who teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and James Robinson is a British-American economist who teaches at the University of Chicago, United States of America.
- ✓ About Nobel Prize in Economic Science
- ✓ The Nobel Prize in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Peace and Literature was instituted by the Nobel Foundation in 1900 as per the will of Alfred Nobel. These prizes were given for the first time in 1901.
- ✓ In 1968, the Swedish central bank, the Sveriges Riksbank, established the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.
- ✓ The prize, popularly called the Nobel Prize in Economics, was first given in 1969.
- ✓ The Sveriges Riksbank donated money to the Nobel Foundation in 1968, and from that donation, prize money was given to the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics.
- ✓ The Nobel Prize in Economics has been given 56 times to 96 economists.
- ✓ The first winner was Ragnar Frisch of Norway and Jan Tinbergen of the Netherlands in 1969.
- ✓ Only three women have been awarded the prize, and the first woman was Elinor Ostrom of the United States in 2009.
- ✓ 2023 prize winner -Claudia Goldin of the United States

- ✓ Indian Prize winner
- ✓ Only one Indian has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics. Amartya Sen got the prize in 1998 for his contribution to welfare economics
- ✓ 🏆 MOST IMPORTANT SURPRISE FACTS NOBEL PRIZE
- ✓ ♦ Established : 1901
- ✓ ♦ First awarded : 1901
- ✓ ♦ The prizes are given in 6 categories which are - Economic Sciences, Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics and Physiology or Medicine.
- ✓ ♦ Country : Sweden (all prizes except the Peace Prize); Norway (Peace Prize only)
- ✓ ♦ Memory of Sir Alfred Nobel (Sweden) founder of the Nobel Prize (invention of dynamite)
- ✓ ♦ Economic Science Nobel Prize established : 1969
- ✓ ♦ Malala Yousafzai is the youngest Nobel Laureates who got the Peace Prize in 2014 at the age of just 17 years with Kailash Satyarthi.
- ✓ ♦ John B. Goodenough is the oldest person to receive a Nobel Prize, winning the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry at the age of 97.
- ✓ ♦ John Bardeen is the only Nobel Laureate who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics twice, in 1956 and 1972.
- ✓ ♦ Marie Curie is the only one woman who has been honoured twice, with the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics and the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
- ✓ ♦ Frederick Sanger is the only Nobel Laureate who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry twice, in 1958 and 1980
- ✓ ♦ Switzerland-based International Committee of the Red Cross is the only 3-time recipient of the Nobel Prize, being conferred with Peace Prize in 1917, 1944, and 1963.
- ✓ ♦ The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize two times (in 1954 and 1981).
- ✓ ♦ Rabindra Nath Tagore was the first Indian to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for his poetry collection Gitanjali.
- ✓ ♦ Noble Prize categories are physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, peace and economics, the last being introduced in 1968.
- ✓ ♦ Linus Pauling is the only person to have been awarded two unshared Nobel Prizes – the 1954 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and the 1962 Nobel Peace Prize
- ✓ ♦ The Swedish Academy of Sciences awards the prizes for physics and chemistry.
- ✓ ♦ Physiological or medical achievements by the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.
- ✓ ♦ Literature by the Swedish Academy in Stockholm
- ✓ ♦ Peace Prize by a committee of the Norwegian Storting (Parliament of Norway)
- ✓ ♦ The Swedish Central Bank "Sveriges Riksbank" awarded the Prize in Economic Science in memory of Alfred Nobel in 1967. The first Prize was given in 1969
- ✓ ♦ The names of the winners are generally announced in the month of October, and the prizes are conferred on the death anniversary of Alfred Nobel, i.e. 10 December, every year.
- ✓ ♦ All the winners receive their prizes in a ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, while the Peace Prize is conferred in Oslo, Norway.
- ✓ 🌟 Indian Nobel Prize Winners
- ✓ ♦ Rabindranath Tagore in 1913 for Literature. He was the first Asian to get a Nobel prize
- ✓ ♦ C.V.Raman in 1930 for Physics
- ✓ ♦ Mother Teresa for Peace in 1979
- ✓ ♦ Amartya Sen for Economic Science in 1998
- ✓ ♦ Kailash Satyarthi for Peace in 2014
- ✓ 🌟 Indian born person to get the Prize

- ✓ The International Telecommunication Union was set up in 1865.
- ✓ In 1948, it was made a specialised agency of the United Nations for information and communication technologies (ICTs)
- ✓ Members: 194 countries
- ✓ Headquarters: Geneva. Switzerland
- ✓ Secretary General: Doreen Bogdan-Martin

Q. Who inaugurated the 2024 World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly of the International Telecommunication Union?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Draupadi Murmu
C) Amit Shah
D) Rajnath Singh

Answer : A

Q. What was the theme of the 8th Indian Mobile Congress?

- A) Future is Unpredictable B) Future is Now
C) Future is Uncertain D) Future is Dark

Answer : B

- ✓ The 8th Indian Mobile Congress has been organised by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the Union Ministry of Communication and the Cellular Operator Association of India (COAI).
- ✓ It is being held in New Delhi from 15-18 October 2024.
- ✓ The first Indian Mobile Congress was held in 2017, and since then, it has been held annually.
- ✓ Theme of the 8th India Mobile Congress
- ✓ 'Future is Now' is the theme of the 8th India Mobile Congress.
- ✓ About the Indian Mobile Congress
- ✓ The Indian Mobile Congress is Asia's largest digital technology forum, which brings together the industry, government, academia, and others to discuss, deliberate, demonstrate, and display the latest trends in Telecom, Media, and Technology (TMT) and ICT.
- ✓ At the 8th Indian Mobile Congress, participants from 120 countries will showcase the latest technology and discuss future trends in mobile telecommunications. Over 400 exhibitors and around 900 startups will also participate in the Congress.

Q. Which state has bagged the best state award at the 5th National Water Awards 2023?

- A) Odisha
B) Meghalaya
C) Assam
D) Manipur

Answer : A

- ✓ Odisha bags the Best state award in the 5th National Water Award 2023
- ✓ Odisha has bagged the best state award in the 5th National Water Awards 2023, which was announced by the Union Minister for Jal Shakti Chandrakant Raghunath Paatil on 14 October 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The winner of the awards in various categories will be conferred in a function to be held on 22 October 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The award functions will be presided over by President Droupadi Murmu.
- ✓ About the National Water Awards
- ✓ The National Water Awards was instituted by the Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. The award was instituted to create awareness among the people about the importance of water and to adopt the best water usage practices.
- ✓ The first Prize was given in 2018, and thereafter, it was given in 2019, 2020 and 2022.
- ✓ 5th National Water Award Winners 2023

- ✓ The award is given in 9 categories, and 38 winners have been selected for the 2023 edition.
- ✓ Best State Category
 1. Odisha
 2. Uttar Pradesh
 3. Puducherry and Gujarat
- ✓ Best District Category
 - ✓ South Zone - Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh),
 - ✓ North East Zone-Dhalai (Tripura),
 - ✓ North Zone- Ganderbal (Jammu and Kashmir), Banda (Uttar Pradesh)
 - ✓ West Zone- Indore(Madhya Pradesh),
 - ✓ East Zone -Bolangir(Odisha)
- ✓ Best Village Panchayat Category
 - ✓ Pullampara(Thiruvananthapuram), Kerala
 - ✓ Masulpani, (Kanker), Chhattisgarh,
 - ✓ Hampapuram (Anantapur), Andhra Pradesh and Khliehrangnah (West Jaintia Hills), Meghalaya
- ✓ Best Urban Local Body Category
 - ✓ Surat,(Gujarat)
 - ✓ Puri,(Odisha)
 - ✓ Pune, (Maharashtra)
- ✓ Best School or College Category
 - ✓ Government Upper Primary School, (Jethwan ka Bas), Sikar, Rajasthan
 - ✓ Government Sarvodya Kanya Vidyalaya, (Paschim Vihar), New Delhi
 - ✓ Khairbani Ashram School, (Baisinga), Mayurbhanj, Odisha
- ✓ Best Industry Category
 - ✓ Aravali Power Company Private Limited, (Jhajjar), Haryana
 - ✓ Apollo Tyres Limited, (Kanchipuram), Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ Raymond Uco Denim Pvt Ltd, (Yavatmal), Maharashtra
- ✓ Best Water User Association Category
 - ✓ Pentakli Project Union of Water User Association,(Buldhana), Maharashtra
 - ✓ Water User Cooperative Society, Kagekodamagge, (Shivamogga), Karnataka
 - ✓ Parambur Big Tank Water User Association, (Pudukkottai), Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Best Institution (other than School/College)
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ Koner Lakshmaiah Education Foundation, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
 - ✓ Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Sri Tirumala Nagar Resident Welfare Association, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh (jointly)
- ✓ Best Civil Society Category
 - ✓ BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune
 - ✓ Yuva Mitra, Mitrangan Campus, Nashik, Maharashtra
 - ✓ Gramin Vikas Trust, Kanchan Kunj, Dahod, Gujarat

Q. Who has been appointed the 26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard?

A) Rakesh Pal	B) Paramesh Sivamani
C) Rajwinder Singh Bhatti	D) Prakash Mishra

Answer : B

- ✓ DG Paramesh Sivamani appointed 26th D G of Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ DG Paramesh Sivamani has taken over as the 26th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ Before his elevation as the Director General, DG Paramesh Sivamani was given the additional charge of Director General of the Coast Guard in August 2024 after the death of the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal, on 18 August 2024 in Chennai.
- ✓ About DG Paramesh Sivamani

- ✓ DG Paramesh Sivamani is an alumnus of the National Defence College, New Delhi and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ He is considered a specialist in Navigation & Direction and commanded all the major vessels of the Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ About the Indian Coast Guard
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard was established on 1 February 1977 on the recommendation of the K.F. Rustamji committee.
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard comes under the Union Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ The Coast Guard is responsible for preventing smuggling on high seas, preventing and controlling marine pollution, preserving and protecting the marine environment, and enforcing maritime laws, among other things.
- ✓ The first Director General of the Indian Coast Guard was Vice-Admiral V.A. Kamath.
- ✓ The headquarters of the Indian Coast Guard is in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Indian Coast Guard has five Regional Command Centers.
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard Motto: "Vayam Rakshamah"
- ✓ Indian Coast Guard Foundation Day- 1st February

NEW UPDATED LIST OF CHIEF AND DIRECTOR GENERAL

- Paramesh Sivamani : Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- Amrit Mohan Prasad : Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- 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 Marshal Amar Preet Singh : 28th 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)
- Lieutenant General Gurbirpal Singh : National Cadet Corps (NCC)

Q. At which place in Uttar Pradesh will the country's first Hindi literature museum be set up?

- A) Jhansi B) Sitapur
C) Mirzapur D) Varanasi

Answer : D

- ✓ Hindi Language Museum to be set up in Kashi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government of Yogi Adityanath will set up the country's first museum of Hindi literature in Kashi (Varanasi).
- ✓ The museum will be the country's first museum dedicated to a language.
- ✓ There is a literary museum in Kolkata dedicated to Rabindranath Tagore, but the proposed museum in Kashi will be the first language-based museum in the country.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has allocated Rs 25 crore for the project.
- ✓ The museum will conserve and display the works of all the eminent Hindi scholars' old manuscripts and books. Along with the work of famous Hindi litterateurs, their photographs, important documents, and related literature will also be available in the museum.
- ✓ The museum will also have statues of the Hindi scholars, an amphitheatre and an auditorium.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has released Rs 163.151 crore as compensation to farmers of the state whose crops have been damaged due to recent floods.
- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh the state government provides compensation to the farmers for crop losses exceeding 33 percent due to unseasonal rains, hailstorms, and floods.

Q. Which country hosts the inaugural Kho Kho World Cup in 2025?

- A) India
B) Nepal
C) Bhutan
D) China

Answer : A

- ✓ The inaugural Kho Kho World Cup will be held in India in 2025, announced by the Kho Kho Federation of India and the International Kho Kho Federation.
- ✓ The event will feature 24 countries from 6 continents, with 16 teams for both men and women.
- ✓ To promote the sport, the KKFI plans to introduce Kho Kho in 200 schools across 10 cities and aims to register at least 50 lakh players.
- ✓ The tournament will include a week of matches with top athletes worldwide, aiming to elevate Kho Kho to an international level.
- ✓ Kho Kho, rooted in India, has a global presence, with 54 countries participating in the sport

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 state government has partnered with Wales for 25th edition of the Hornbill Festival?

- A) Assam
B) Mizoram
C) Nagaland
D) Manipur

Answer : C

- ✓ Nagaland signed Wales as a Country Partner for the 25th Hornbill Festival.
- ✓ Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, during his visit to Wales, announced the agreement with the Welsh Government, British Council, and Wales Arts International.
- ✓ The partnership concludes the "Wales in India 2024" celebration and aims to strengthen bilateral ties, enhance people-to-people contact, and create opportunities for youth.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the EnviStats India 2024:

1. It is compiled in accordance with the System of Environmental- Economic Accounting.
2. It is compiled and released 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 Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) compiled and released the 7th consecutive issue of the publication “EnviStats India 2024: Environment Accounts”.
- ✓ It is compiled in accordance with the SEEA (System of Environmental- Economic Accounting)
- ✓ The current publication which is seventh in series covers Energy Accounts, Ocean Accounts, Soil Nutrient Index and Biodiversity.
- ✓ Highlights EnviStats India 2024
- ✓ There has been around 72% increase in the number and around 16% increase in area for the Total Protected Area during the period 2000 to 2023.
- ✓ The coverage of Mangroves, which is an important sub ecosystem of the ocean ecosystem, has increased around 8% over the years 2013 to 2021.
- ✓ The report also includes the taxonomic faunal and floral diversity of India, the status of the Leopard and Snow leopard, information on Genetic Conservation using data from the stakeholder Ministries/agencies.
- ✓ Also, the Species Richness of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened species by taxonomic groups has been compiled using spatial datasets from IUCN.

Q. Bodo Napham and Bodo Ondla', which have received Geographical Indications tag, are from:

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has granted the GI tag to eight products from the Assam region, including traditional food items and several unique varieties of rice beer.
- ✓ Unique varieties of rice beer
- ✓ 'Bodo Jou Gwran': It has the highest percentage of alcohol (about 16.11%) when compared with other varieties of rice beer made by the Bodo community.
- ✓ 'Maibra Jou Bidwi': It is known locally as 'Maibra Jwu Bidwi' or 'Maibra Zwu Bidwi', is revered and served as a welcome drink by most Bodo tribes. It's prepared by fermenting half-cooked rice (mairong) with less water, and adding a little 'amao' (a potential source of yeast) to it.
- ✓ Bodo Jou Gishi': It is also a traditionally fermented rice-based alcoholic beverage.
- ✓ Traditional Food Products
- ✓ Bodo Napham': It is an important and favourite dish of fermented fish prepared anaerobically in a tightly sealed container in a process that requires about two-three months.
- ✓ Bodo Ondla': A rice powder curry flavoured with garlic, ginger, salt, and alkali.
- ✓ Bodo Gwkha': It is locally also known as 'Gwka Gwkhi', it's prepared during the Bwisagu festival.
- ✓ 'Bodo Narzi': It is a semi-fermented food prepared with jute leaves (*Corchorus capsularis*), a rich source of Omega 3 fatty acids, vitamins and essential minerals, including calcium and magnesium.
- ✓ Bodo Aronai': It is a small, beautiful cloth (1.5-2.5 meters long and 0.5 meter wide)

GI TAG IN NEWS 2024

- ✓ Marble mined in Gujarat's Ambaji has recently been awarded the Geographical Indication, or GI tag, by the Central Government.
- ✓ The famous silver filigree (Rupa Tarakasi) of the millennium Cuttack city in Odisha recently received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ Tripura's traditional tribal attire 'risa' gets received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag recently.
- ✓ Kachchhi Kharek, the indigenous variety of dates of Kutch, has become the second fruit of Gujarat to get a geographical indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ On December 4, 2023, Uttarakhand became the 1st state in the country to get GI certificates for a maximum of 18 products in a single day.
- ✓ Till now, a total of 27 products of Uttarakhand have received GI tag.

- ✓ West Bengal achieves Geographical Indication tags for distinctive products, including 'Mouban' honey from Sunderbans, 'Prince of Rice' Black Nunia rice, and traditional Tangail, Gorod, etc.
- 1. Recognition of Sunderbans Honey – 'Mouban'
- 2. Black Nunia Rice – 'Prince of Rice'
- 3. Distinctive Sarees – Tangail, Gorod, and Kadiyal.
- ✓ As a part of the National GI Drive Mission, 'Kadiyal Sarees' of West Bengal have been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ Ladakh secures 4th GI tag for Sea Buckthorn.
- ✓ The famous Kadaknath chicken meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh has now got a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ Goan cashew (Fruit and Nut) was recently granted the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ Basohli Pashmina, a more than 100-year-old traditional craft from Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, has got the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's Salem Sago gets GI tag.
- ✓ Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey of Doda and Ramban districts of Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.
- ✓ Chokuwa rice of Assam recently earned a GI (Geographical Indication) tag for its exquisiteness.
- ✓ The Matti banana variety, native to Kanniyakumari district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ Mushkbadji 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. Consider the following statements regarding Akashteer Systems:

1. It is an advanced Air Defence Control and Reporting Systems which safeguards the country from aerial threats.
2. It is developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

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

- ✓ Amid heightened global security concerns, the Indian Army has significantly enhanced its air defence capabilities with the acquisition of 100 Akashteer air defence systems.
- ✓ These are advanced Air Defence Control and Reporting Systems (ADCRS) which will serve as a critical asset in safeguarding the country from aerial threats, including missile and rocket attacks.
- ✓ It is a sophisticated, integrated control and reporting system designed to neutralize enemy threats swiftly.
- ✓ The system is capable of managing all aspects of air defence for the Army, integrating multiple radar systems, sensors, and communication technologies into a single operational framework.
- ✓ It provides a real-time battlefield view, allowing military personnel to detect, track, and engage aerial threats such as incoming missiles or enemy aircraft.

- ✓ It brings together various surveillance assets, radar systems, and communication nodes, enabling precise coordination of air defence operations.
- ✓ It is suitable for a wide range of operational environments.
- ✓ It is developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ✓ Significance: This enhances the Indian Army's ability to monitor airspace and deliver timely responses to any imminent threats.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF):

1. It is an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government agency.
2. It reviews the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom internationally and makes policy recommendations.

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 has strongly rejected a report by the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), which flagged "increasing abuses" against religious minorities in the country.
- ✓ About United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF):
- ✓ It is an independent, bipartisan U.S. federal government agency.
- ✓ It was created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), as amended.
- ✓ Functions: USCIRF reviews the facts and circumstances of violations of religious freedom internationally and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress.
- ✓ Composition:
- ✓ USCIRF's nine Commissioners are appointed by either the President or Congressional leaders of each political party.
- ✓ Their work is supported by a professional, nonpartisan staff.
- ✓ USCIRF issues an annual report that assesses the US government's implementation of IRFA, highlights "Countries of Particular Concern" engaging in severe religious freedom violations, documents the conditions of religious freedom in many countries, and provides policy recommendations.
- ✓ It uses international standards to monitor religious freedom violations globally.
- ✓ Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that:
- ✓ "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance."

Q. With reference to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), consider the following statements:

1. It works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. It leads the world's most extensive data collection on HIV epidemiology, programme coverage and finance.
3. It publishes the most authoritative and up-to-date information on the HIV epidemic—vital for an effective AIDS response.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

A) Only one

B) Only two

C) All three

D) None

Answer : C

- ✓ Without India doing a large part of the heavy lifting, it is unlikely that the world will meet the Sustainable Development Goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, UNAIDS director for the Asia Pacific said recently.
- ✓ About Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS):
- ✓ It is an innovative joint venture of the United Nations family established in 1994.
- ✓ It leads and inspires the world to achieve its shared vision of zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths.
- ✓ UNAIDS unites the efforts of 11 UN organizations—UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UN Women, ILO, UNESCO, WHO, and the World Bank—and works closely with global and national partners towards ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- ✓ UNAIDS fulfils its mission by:
- ✓ Uniting the efforts of the United Nations system, civil society, national governments, the private sector, global institutions and people living with and most affected by HIV;
- ✓ Speaking out in solidarity with the people most affected by HIV in defense of human dignity, human rights, and gender equality;
- ✓ Mobilizing political, technical, scientific, and financial resources and holding ourselves and others accountable for results;
- ✓ Empowering agents of change with strategic information and evidence to influence and ensure that resources are targeted where they deliver the greatest impact and bring about a prevention revolution; and
- ✓ Supporting inclusive country leadership for sustainable responses that are integral to and integrated with national health and development efforts.
- ✓ It leads the world's most extensive data collection on HIV epidemiology, programme coverage and finance and publishes the most authoritative and up-to-date information on the HIV epidemic—vital for an effective AIDS response.
- ✓ The Joint Programme is coordinated by the UNAIDS Secretariat, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland

Q. Consider the following:

1. Cattle

2. Coffee

3. Cotton

3. Wheat

How many of the above commodities are targeted by the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)?

A) Only two

B) Only three

C) Only four

D) None

Answer : A

- ✓ Giving relief to exporters of certain products, the European Commission has proposed to extend the implementation of its deforestation regulation by one year.
- ✓ About European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR):
- ✓ It was scheduled to commence on 30 December 2024.
- ✓ It has been introduced to limit the EU market's impact on global deforestation/forest degradation and biodiversity loss, promote deforestation-free supply chains, reduce the EU's contribution to greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions, and protect human rights and the rights of indigenous people.

- ✓ India will participate in IMDRF Open Sessions to have information exchange on technical topics with other regulators, discussion on latest medical device regulatory strategies and trends, provide feedback on India's experience and perspectives.

Q. Consider the following languages:

1. Marathi
2. Kannada
3. Gujarati

How many of the above have been declared as 'Classical Language/Languages' by the Government of India?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved to confer the status of Classical Language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali languages.
- ✓ The recognition of a classical language is based on criteria established by a Linguistic Experts Committee.
- ✓ According to the committee, the following revised benchmarks must be met for a language to be considered "classical":
- ✓ High antiquity of (its) is early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500- 2000 years.
- ✓ A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
- ✓ Knowledge texts, especially prose texts in addition to poetry, epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.
- ✓ The Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from its current form or could be discontinuous with later forms of its offshoots.
- ✓ Other Recognised Classical Languages are: Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu(2008), Kannada (2008), Malayalam(2013) and Odia (2014).
- ✓ Benefits of Classical Language Status
- ✓ Once a language is designated as classical, the Ministry of Education provides various benefits to promote it, including:
- ✓ Two major international awards annually for scholars of eminence in the language.
- ✓ Establishment of a Centre of Excellence for Studies in the Classical Language.
- ✓ Requesting the University Grants Commission (UGC) to create Professional Chairs in Central Universities dedicated to the classical language.
- ✓ Hence only points 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. Who has won the 2024 WTA China Open Tennis tournament women's singles title?

- A) Coco Gauff
- B) Aryna Sabalenka
- C) Iga Świątek
- D) Elena Rybakina

Answer : A

- ✓ Coco Gauff beats Czech player Karolina Muchova to win the China Open
- ✓ 20-year-old American tennis star Coco Gauff defeated Karolina Muchová of the Czech Republic to win the 2024 WTA China Open Tennis tournament. The China Open was a WTA 1000 event held in Beijing, China. The final was played on 6 October 2024.
- ✓ The Women's Tennis Association (WTA) is the world's governing body of professional women's tennis tournaments. In a calendar year, it organises around 50 tournaments in 30 countries.
- ✓ Coco Gauff, youngest China Open winner
- ✓ The 2023 US Open Champion, Coco Gauff, became the youngest China Open champion in 14 years by defeating the 2023 French Open finalist Karolina Muchova 6-1,6-3 in straight sets.

- ✓ About the MANPADS system
- ✓ MANPADS are considered to be the country's last missile-based air defence system. They can be fired by an individual or a group of people.
- ✓ It is also often called shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles. However, the present VSHORADS being developed by DRDO does not have the capability to shoulder-fire anti-aircraft missiles.
- ✓ The DRDO is working on MANPADS, which can be fired by a single soldier through a launcher.
- ✓ The world-famous Stinger missiles of the United States are a type of MANPADS that can be fired by a single soldier.
- ✓ At present around 30 countries are the major producing countries of the MANPADS system, with the United States, Russia, China, France, Russia, Sweden, the United Kingdom being the leading ones.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS):

1. It is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) developed for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges.
2. It has a range of up to 200 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

- ✓ Researchers recently said Ceres is a very icy object that possibly was once a muddy ocean world.
- ✓ About Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS):
- ✓ VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD) developed for neutralising low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges.
- ✓ It has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and industry partners.
- ✓ The VSHORADS missile incorporates many novel technologies, such as the miniaturised Reaction Control System (RCS) and integrated avionics.
- ✓ It is propelled by a dual-thrust solid motor.
- ✓ It has a range of up to 6 km.
- ✓ The missile system, being man-portable and specifically optimised for lightweight compared to other missile systems, can be deployed quickly in the mountains close to the Line of Actual Control, with China in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh.

DRDO IN NEWS 2024

- DRDO, along with researchers of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has developed Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets named ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat).
- 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. India has agreed to provide a currency swap facility of how much to Maldives?

- A) \$100 million B) \$300 million
C) \$200 million D) \$400 million

Answer : D

- ✓ India to Provide \$400 Million Credit Swap Facility to Maldives.
- ✓ President of Maldives, Dr Mohamed Muizzu, was on his first official bilateral visit to India from 6-10 October 2024.
- ✓ He had earlier visited India in June 2024 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Dr Muizzu first visited New Delhi on 7 October 2024, where he met President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ President Muizzu will visit Mumbai and then Bengaluru to attend business events.
- ✓ Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's visit to India follows the visit of External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar to the Maldives from 9 to 11 August 2024.
- ✓ India has agreed to help Maldives manage its external debt by extending a \$ 400 million credit swap facility.
- ✓ After Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Dr Mohamed Muizzu's meeting, the leaders issued a joint statement titled "India Maldives: A Vision for Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership."
- ✓ Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's commitment to helping the Maldives develop under its 'Neighbourhood First' Policy and Vision SAGAR. President Dr Mohamed Muizzu thanked India for helping prevent the Maldives from defaulting on debt repayment.
- ✓ Both the leaders jointly launched /inaugurated a number of projects in Maldives financed by India.
- ✓ Projects launched/inaugurated by both the leaders
- ✓ Both leaders launched RuPay Cards developed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) in Maldives.
- ✓ Inaugurated the new runway of the Hanimaadhoo International Airport in Maldives.
- ✓ Over 700 social housing units were built in the Maldives under the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM) Bank's Buyers' Credit Facilities
- ✓ Renewal/Signing of 5 MoUs
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India will extend a \$400 million currency swap facility to the Maldives Monetary Authority(Central Bank of Maldives).

- ✓ Rashtriya Raksha University India and the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement of Maldives
- ✓ Indian Central Bureau of Investigation and the Anti-Corruption Commission of Maldives to cooperate in preventing and combating corruption
- ✓ Renewal of MoU between the National Judicial Academy of India and the Judicial Service Commission) of the Maldives on Training and Capacity Building Programs for Maldivian judicial officers
- ✓ Sports and Youth Affairs.
- ✓ Other Highlights of the Visit
- ✓ India will help the Maldives develop a modern commercial port at Thilafushi island to de-congest the Malé port.
- ✓ India will establish a new consulate in Addu City, and the Maldives will open its consulate in Bengaluru.
- ✓ India's Help to Maldives in Avoiding Debt Default
- ✓ India recently provided financial assistance to help Maldives avoid default on its external debt and Sukuk debt. Sukuk debt is a bond issued per Islamic Sharia law and does not carry interest rates.
- ✓ In May 2024, the State Bank of India subscribed to the Maldivian government's \$50 million Treasury Bills (short-term debt instrument) to provide liquidity to the Maldivian government.
- ✓ In September 2024, the Indian government again bought \$50 million Maldivian Treasury Bills at the Maldivian government's request.
- ✓ During Dr Mohamed Muizzu's visit to India, the Indian government extended a \$400 million currency swap facility to the Maldives so that it could repay its external debts.
- ✓ Maldives' external debt is estimated to be 110% of its gross domestic product.
- ✓ China and India are the top two lenders to the Maldives.
- ✓ About Maldives
- ✓ It is an archipelago situated in the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ Capital: Male
- ✓ Currency: Rufiyaa

Q. In which country RuPay cards were launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in October 2024?

- A) Nepal
- B) Afghanistan
- C) Maldives
- D) Thailand

Answer : C

- ✓ Both leaders launched RuPay Cards developed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) in Maldives.

Q. The recently appointed Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba belongs to which political party?

- A) Liberal Democratic Party
- B) Japanese Communist Party
- C) Japan Innovation Party
- D) Japan Democratic Party

Answer : A

- ✓ Shigeru Ishiba appointed as the 102nd Prime Minister of Japan.
- ✓ The Japanese emperor Naruhito appointed Shigeru Ishiba as the new Prime Minister of Japan.
- ✓ Shigeru Ishiba was appointed by the Japanese emperor after the lower house of the Japanese Parliament, the House of Representatives, approved Shigeru Ishiba as the 102nd Prime Minister of Japan.
- ✓ The 67-year-old Shigeru Ishiba replaces Fumio Kishida, who was also from the same political party - the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)
- ✓ The LDP has ruled Japan almost continuously since its formation in 1955.
- ✓ Shigeru Ishiba as the New Prime Minister of Japan

- ✓ Former Prime Minister Fumio Kishida resigned as the Prime Minister of Japan in September this year due to a series of political scandals. In a meeting held on 27 October, the ruling LDP elected former defence minister Shigeru Ishiba as its leader
- ✓ Shigeru Ishiba has appointed Takeshi Iwaya as the new Foreign Minister of Japan. Shigeru Ishiba has also called for a new general election in the country to elect a new House of Representatives on 27 October 2024.
- ✓ Parliament of Japan
- ✓ The Japanese Parliament is known as the Diet. The Diet is bicameral, with the upper house called the House of Councillors and the lower house called the House of Representatives.
- ✓ The Upper House has 250 members, while the House of Representatives consists of 467 members.
- ✓ The Japanese government is responsible to the lower house and if the house passes a no-confidence motion against the government, then the government has to resign.
- ✓ About Japan
- ✓ Japan is an archipelago situated on the east coast of Asia. It mainly consists of four islands -Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu.
- ✓ Mount Fuji is the highest mountain in Japan (3778 meters above sea level), and it is an active volcano.
- ✓ Japanese people call their country Nihon or Nippon.
- ✓ Japan is a developed country that is a member of the G-7 and the OECD(Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development).
- ✓ It is the second-largest economy in Asia after China and the world's fourth-largest economy after the United States, China, and Germany.
- ✓ Capital: Tokyo
- ✓ Currency: Yen
- ✓ Prime Minister: Shigeru Ishiba

NEWLY PRIME MINISTER IN NEWS 2024

- Shigeru Ishiba : 102nd Prime Minister of Japan.
- Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli : Nepal
- Keir Stammer : 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. Fattah-2, recently seen in the news, is a hypersonic ballistic missile, developed by which one of the following countries?

A) Russia	B) North Korea
C) Turkey	D) Iran

Answer : D

- ✓ Iran recently fired more than 180 ballistic missiles, including its hypersonic medium-range Fattah-2, in a major offensive aimed at overwhelming Israel's air defences.

- ✓ About Fattah-2:
- ✓ Fattah, which means conqueror in Farsi, is a hypersonic ballistic missile.
- ✓ It was developed by Iran. It is a new version of its first domestically made hypersonic ballistic missile named 'Fattah'.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It is equipped with a hypersonic glide vehicle (HGV) warhead that can manoeuvre and glide at hypersonic speed.
- ✓ It uses a liquid-fuel rocket propellant. The liquid fuel engine has the ability to adjust the thrust force.
- ✓ The precision-guided two-stage missile can hit targets within a range of 1500 kilometres with a velocity of Mach 15 (fifteen times the speed of sound, i.e 18522 km/hr).
- ✓ Measuring 12 meters in length, it can carry 200 kilograms of explosives.
- ✓ It is capable of significant trajectory changes during flight to evade defence systems.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Global Framework on Chemicals fund:

1. It was established during the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management.
2. It minimizes harm from chemicals and protects the environment and human health.

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

- ✓ Global Framework on Chemicals fund was launched its first project, targeting the safe and sustainable management of chemicals and waste.
- ✓ It was established during the fifth International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) in September 2023.
- ✓ It supports countries in implementing this international agreement that guides countries and stakeholders in jointly addressing the lifecycle of chemicals, including products and waste.
- ✓ The objective of the Fund is
- ✓ To support implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, Small Island Developing States and countries with economies in transition.
- ✓ This will be achieved by financing projects and programmes that will support transformative change to prevent, or where prevention is not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals and waste to protect the environment and human health,
- ✓ The Executive Board takes the operational decisions and oversees the functioning of the Fund. It is composed of:
- ✓ 2 National representatives of each United Nations region
- ✓ Representatives of all donors and contributors.
- ✓ Financing: The Fund provides financial support of 300,000 to 800,000 USD for an implementation period of up to three years.
- ✓ Funding for the GFC Fund is provided through voluntary contributions.
- ✓ What is Global Framework on Chemicals?
- ✓ The framework is based around 28 targets that aim to improve the sound management of chemicals and waste.
- ✓ The multi-sectoral agreement focuses on chemicals and waste and calls for the prevention of illegal trade, the strengthening of national legal frameworks, and the elimination of highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture by 2035.

Q. Where was the “World Green Economy Forum” launched?

- A) Dubai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Paris
- D) London

Answer : A

- ✓ The World Green Economy Forum launched in Dubai, bringing together global leaders to address environmental challenges.
- ✓ Under Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum’s patronage, the theme was “Empowering Global Action: Unlocking Opportunities and Advancing Progress.”
- ✓ Sessions focused on international cooperation for climate mitigation and integrated approaches to meet sustainable development goals.
- ✓ Strategies for decarbonizing energy-intensive industries were discussed, emphasizing public-private partnerships and philanthropists’ roles in climate solutions.
- ✓ The forum highlighted AI’s importance in sustainability and the future of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), along with youth’s critical role in environmental progress.

Q. Which Indian languages have the central government accorded classical language status in October 2024?

- A) Marathi, Meitei , Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali
- B) Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Maithili
- C) Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Kannada, and Bengali
- D) Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali

Answer : D

- ✓ Classical Language status to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, & Bengali.
- ✓ The government of India has accepted the recommendation of the Linguistic Expert Committee and conferred the status of classical language to Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali languages. With the inclusion of these languages, the total number of classical languages in India is now 11.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its approval to accord classical status to these languages on 3 October 2024.
- ✓ Tamil was the first language to be accorded classical language status in India in 2004.
- ✓ Criteria for being Classical Language
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Culture set up a Linguistic Expert Committee under Sahitya Akademi in 2004 to set the criteria for recognising an Indian language as a classical language. The criteria have been revised from time to time, and the present set of criteria are as follows:
- ✓ Antiquity: Language’s early texts/recorded history must be 1500- 2000 years old.
- ✓ Language shall have ancient literature/texts considered a heritage by generations of speakers.
- ✓ Language must include knowledge texts, especially prose texts, poetry, and epigraphical and inscriptional evidence.
- ✓ Classical Languages and literature could be distinct from their current form or discontinuous with later forms of their offshoots.
- ✓ Classical Languages in India
- ✓ Since 2004, the central government has declared eleven languages as classical languages.

- ✓ The 62-year-old climate scientist and former mayor of Mexico City is set to serve a six-year term, ending in 2030.
- ✓ Sheinbaum's inauguration is the culmination of a four-decade rise in Mexican politics, punctuated by her history-making election as the first woman to lead Mexico City.
- ✓ About Mexico
- ✓ Capital : Mexico City
- ✓ Currency : Peso
- ✓ President- Claudia Sheinbaum

FIRST'S FEMALE IN NEWS 2024

- The British multinational bank Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) made history by appointing Pam Kaur as its first female chief financial officer(CFO).
- Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin became the first woman to head the Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS).
- Saleema Imtiaz becomes first Pakistan woman to be nominated as International Umpire
- 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. Who is the first woman to be appointed as the Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services?

A) Arti Sarin	B) Nandini Venkatesh
C) Binsa Basheer	D) Arul Mozhi Mangai

Answer : A

- ✓ Arti Sarin ,first women and 46th DG of Armed Forces Medical Services
- ✓ Surgeon Vice Admiral Arti Sarin became the first woman to head the Director General of the Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS).
- ✓ She assumed her office as the 46th DGAFMS on 1 October 2024, replacing Lt Gen Daljit Singh.
- ✓ Vice Admiral Arti Sarin's appointment is seen as a boost to women's empowerment in the Armed forces.
- ✓ Arti Sarin is also a member of the 14-member National Task Force for the Safety of Medical Professionals, appointed by the Supreme Court.
- ✓ Earlier, Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair became the first woman to be appointed as the Director General of Medical Services (Army).
- ✓ About Vice Admiral Arti Sarin

- ✓ The Award honours an Indian residing either in India or abroad each year for his/her contributions and outstanding achievements of high professional order and excellence in management, public administration, public affairs, education, Institution building, art and culture, and sports.
- ✓ The award is given on 1 October, the eve of the birthday of India's second Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri.
- ✓ About Smt. Rajashree Birla
- ✓ Smt. Rajashree Birla is the chairperson of the non-profit organisation Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development.
- ✓ She has been honoured for her contribution in implementing the Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development initiatives, which has positively impacted the lives of millions living in rural areas.

Q. At which place was the 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah launched in 2024?

- A) Patna, Bihar
B) Gandhinagar Gujarat
C) Nagaur, Rajasthan
D) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Answer : B

- ✓ The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024 ended on 30 September 2024 with an official ceremony in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ✓ The Union Minister for Women and Child Development, Annpurna Devi, presided over the closing ceremony. The Governor of Jharkhand, Santosh Gangwar, and other high-ranking ministers and officials were present on the occasion.
- ✓ The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024 was officially launched on 1 September 2024 by Annpurna Devi and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The Rashtriya Poshan Maah is held annually from 1-30 September 2024.
- ✓ The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah focused on Anaemia, Growth Monitoring, Complementary Feeding, and Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi. It also focused on Technology for better governance and. 'Environmental Sustainability'.
- ✓ The Anganwadi centers across the country were encouraged to plant trees under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam initiative to promote environmental sustainability.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign on 5 June 2024, on the occasion of World Environment Day, to encourage people to plant trees.
- ✓ About the POSHAN Abhiyaan
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the POSHAN (Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) Abhiyan in March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- ✓ The POSHAN Abhiyan aims to advance nutritional outcomes holistically for children under six, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.
- ✓ The Poshan Abhiyaan aims to reduce malnutrition across India and improve the health of children and mothers. Some key targets of the Poshan Abhiyaan include:
 1. Reducing stunting in children aged 0-6 years by 2% annually.
 2. Reducing under-nutrition (underweight prevalence) by 2% annually.
 3. Combating anaemia in children, adolescent girls, and women by 3% annually.
 4. Reduction in low birth weight by 2% annually.
- ✓ Union Ministry for Women and Child Development is the nodal ministry implementing the Poshan Abhiyaan. The ministry implements the Poshan Abhiyaan in collaboration with the state government and the Union Territories

Q. Who has been chosen for the 54th Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award?

- A) Asha Parekh
B) Mithun Chakraborty
C) Khusbhu Sundar
D) Nana Patekar

Answer : B

- ✓ 54th Dadashaeb Phalke Award Winner: Mithun Chakraborty
- ✓ The Union Ministry for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw announced on 30 September 2024 that the jury had selected veteran Hindi and Bengali film actor Mithun Chakraborty as the recipient of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Awards for 2022.
- ✓ Mithun Chakraborty will be the 54th recipient of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award. Last year, Waheeda Rehman received the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Awards for 2021.
- ✓ Mithun Chakraborty will be conferred the award at the 70th National Film Festival award ceremony, which will be held on 8 October 2024.
- ✓ Asha Parekh, Vipul Shah, and Khusbhu Sundar were members of the Jury that selected the Dadasaheb Lifetime Achievement Award winner for 2022.
- ✓ **About Mithun Chakraborty**
- ✓ The three-time National Films Award winner actor Mithun Chakraborty was born as Gourang Chakraborty on June 16, 1950, in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ✓ Alumnus of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, Mithun won the National Film Award for Best Actor in his first film, Mrigayaa (1976).
- ✓ He won the National Film Award for his acting in the films Tahader Katha (1992) and Swami Vivekananda (1998).
- ✓ He was also a successful commercial film star, whose film Disco Dancer(1982) not only popularised disco dance in the country but also made him a household name in india.
- ✓ He has acted in Hindi, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Odia, and Telugu films.
- ✓ He won the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in the Hindi film Agnipath in 1990.
- ✓ In January 2024, Chakraborty was awarded Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian honour by the Government of India.
- ✓ He joined the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- ✓ The television show Dance India Dance, where Chakraborty was the Grand Master, also entered in the Limca Book of Records and the Guinness World Records.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

1. It is presented by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
2. It is India's highest award in the field of cinema.

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

- ✓ Legendary actor Mr. Mithun Chakraborty will be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2022.
- ✓ It is India's highest award in the field of cinema.

- ✓ It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ✓ The recipient is honoured for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema".
- ✓ The award prize consists of a golden lotus, a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a shawl.
- ✓ The award was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema, who is popularly known as and often regarded as "the father of Indian cinema".
- ✓ It was first presented in 1969. The first recipient of the award was actress Devika Rani, "the first lady of Indian cinema".
- ✓ **Who was Dhundiraj Govind 'Dadasaheb' Phalke?**
- ✓ He was born in 1870 at Trimbak in Maharashtra.
- ✓ He studied engineering and sculpture and developed an interest in motion pictures after watching the 1906 silent film The Life of Christ.
- ✓ Before venturing into films, Phalke worked as a photographer, owned a printing press, and had even worked with the famed painter Raja Ravi Varma.
- ✓ In 1913, Phalke wrote, produced, and directed India's first feature film, the silent Raja Harishchandra. A commercial success, it propelled Phalke to make 95 more films and 26 short films in the next 19 years.

Q. How much cash prize is given to the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Awardee?

- A) Rs 25 lakh
- B) Rs 20 lakh
- C) Rs 15 lakh
- D) Rs 10 lakh

Answer : D

- ✓ The award prize consists of a golden lotus, a cash prize of ₹10 lakh and a shawl.

MOST IMPORTANT FLIMFARE AWARD IN NEWS 2024

- Mithun Chakraborty as the recipient of the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Awards for 2022.
- Mithun Chakraborty will be the 54th recipient of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award.
- Hindi comedy film 'Laapataa Ladies', produced by Amir Khan and Kiran Rao and directed by Kiran Rao, has been chosen to be India's official entry for the International Feature Film Category at the 97th Academy Awards 2025 (popularly known as the Oscars).
- The international Feature film category is for the country-selected feature film
- **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. Consider the following statements regarding the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize:

1. It is conferred annually to mathematicians from across the world who are less than 32 years of age.
2. It is awarded by the SASTRA University to a person who is working in an area influenced by the Srinivasa Ramanujan.

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

- ✓ Alexander Dunn has been awarded the prestigious 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.
- ✓ It was instituted in the year 2005.
- ✓ It is awarded every year by the SASTRA University on its campus near Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu, on Ramanujan's birth anniversary, December 22.
- ✓ Eligibility:
- ✓ The prize is conferred annually to mathematicians from across the world who are less than 32 years of age, working in an area influenced by the Srinivasa Ramanujan.
- ✓ The age limit is 32 years to commemorate the fact that Ramanujan accomplished a phenomenal body of work in this short span.
- ✓ Cash prize: It carries a citation and an award of \$10,000.
- ✓ This award has gained global repute ever since it was instituted.
- ✓ Other recipients: Manjul Bhargava and Akshay Venkatesh
- ✓ The 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize will be awarded to Alexander Dunn of the Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S.

- Q.** Global Innovation Index, is published by:
- A) World Intellectual Property Organization
 - B) World Bank
 - C) International Monetary Fund
 - D) World Economic Forum

Answer : A

- ✓ India has moved up to 39th place among 133 global economies in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2024.
- ✓ It is published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.
- ✓ It is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries
- ✓ Key Highlights of the Global Innovation Index 2024
- ✓ India has been ranked first among 10 economies in Central and Southern Asia, further emphasizing its regional dominance in innovation.
- ✓ India has also secured the 4th position in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Science and Technology (S&T) Cluster Ranking.
- ✓ Major cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai are listed among the world's top 100 S&T clusters, which are hubs for research, development, and technological advancements.
- ✓ India has achieved the 7th rank globally in intangible asset intensity, which measures the strength of non-physical assets like patents and trademarks, essential for driving innovation

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat) Bulletproof Jackets.

1. It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organization.
2. It is created from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material.

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

- ✓ Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), along with researchers of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has developed Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets named ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat).
- ✓ ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat) is developed by DRDO and IIT Delhi.
- ✓ These jackets have been created from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic material.
- ✓ The design configuration is based on the characterization of various materials at high strain rate followed by appropriate modelling and simulation.
- ✓ The new jackets are capable of mitigating the highest threat levels and are lighter than the maximum weight limits stipulated for the Army.
- ✓ It will enhance soldier protection and mobility.
- ✓ With a minimum possible weight of 8 kg and 9.3 kg for different BIS levels, these modular-design jackets, featuring front and rear armour, provide 360-degree protection.
- ✓ The jackets have been classified as BIS level 5 and BIS level 6, by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), which issues standards for bullet-resistant jackets and ballistic shields for the Indian Army.
- ✓ The design ensures 360-degree protection through modular armour plates that can be adapted for different mission requirements, providing soldiers with flexibility in various combat scenarios.

Q.

- A) United States

B) China

C) Isreal

D) Russia

Answer : D

- ✓ The Tu-22M3 missile carriers of the Russian Aerospace Forces recently struck Snake Island in the Black Sea with Kh-22 cruise missiles.
- ✓ About KH-22 Cruise Missile:
- ✓ It is a Soviet-era long-range airborne supersonic cruise missile.
- ✓ It is also known by the NATO reporting name AS-4 'Kitchen'.
- ✓ The Kh-22 family was developed in the USSR in the 1960s and specifically designed to be launched from Tupolev-22 bombers.
- ✓ This missile was intended primarily to destroy large naval targets like aircraft carriers, using either conventional or nuclear warheads.
- ✓ It boasts impressive specifications, including a speed of up to Mach 4.6 and a range of approximately 600 kilometers.
- ✓ A total of approximately 3,000 such missiles were produced in the USSR.

Q.

- A) Assam

B) Karnataka

C) Madhya Pradesh

D) Gujarat

Answer : C

- ✓ The Ratapani Sanctuary is stretching its arms to get the status of a tiger reserve, and the government is serious in this regard.
- ✓ About Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary:
- ✓ Location: Situated in Raisen and Sehore districts of Madhya Pradesh, it spreads over 825.90 sq km.
- ✓ This rocky forest with an 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 has Bhimbetika, a group of rock shelters and rock paintings, which is one of the " World Heritage Sites" declared by UNESCO.

Q.

- ## 1. Syria

2. Iraq

3.Saudi Arabia

4. Israel

How many of the above have borders with Jordan?

- A) Only one

B) Only two

C) Only three

D) All four

Answer : D

- ✓ Jordan becomes the first country in the world to eliminate leprosy, receiving official verification from the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ✓ About Jordan:
- ✓ It is an Arab country of Southwest Asia, in the rocky desert of the northern Arabian Peninsula.
- ✓ It is named for the Jordan River, which passes on its western border.
- ✓ It occupies an area of around 91,880 sq. km.

- ✓ **Bordering Countries:** It is bounded to the north by Syria, to the east by Iraq, to the southeast and south by Saudi Arabia, and to the west by Israel and the West Bank.
- ✓ **The capital and largest city** in the country is Amman—named for the Ammonites
- ✓ **The Jordan Valley region** contains the Dead Sea.
- ✓ **Language:** The official language is Arabic.
- ✓ **Currency:** Jordanian dinar

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics and Extended Reality:

1. It is set up under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. It aims at creating a world class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global entertainment 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 : C

- ✓ Union Cabinet recently approved the establishment of a National Centre of Excellence (NCoE) for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) in Mumbai.
- ✓ It will be set up as a Section 8 Company under the Companies Act, 2013 in India.
- ✓ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry represent the industry bodies as partners with the Government of India.
- ✓ It aims at creating a world class talent pool in India to cater to the Indian as well as global entertainment industry.
- ✓ It is provisionally named the Indian Institute for Immersive Creators (IIIC), this center aims to revolutionize the AVGC sector and foster innovation in immersive technologies.
- ✓ It will be modeled after renowned institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Bioethanol:

1. It is an agricultural by-product which is obtained from the processing of sugar from sugarcane.
2. It is used as an important industrial chemical as well as an additive to automotive gasoline.

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 Food and Public Distribution Minister said that India has become the World's third largest Producer and Consumer of Ethanol.
- ✓ Bioethanol is an agricultural by-product which is mainly obtained from the processing of sugar from sugarcane, but also from other sources such as rice husk or maize.
- ✓ It appears as a clear colorless liquid with a characteristic vinous odor and pungent taste.
- ✓ Since ethanol is produced from plants that harness the power of the sun, it is also considered as renewable fuel.
- ✓ In India, it is mainly produced from sugarcane molasses by fermentation process.
- ✓ Ethanol blending is the process of combining ethanol and petrol to use less fossil fuel while driving a vehicle.

- ✓ Applications: Ethanol is an important industrial chemical; it is used as a solvent, in the synthesis of other organic chemicals, and as an additive to automotive gasoline.
- ✓ By blending ethanol with petrol, India aims to cut its oil import bill, which could widen to USD 101-104 billion in the current fiscal from USD 96.1 billion in 2023-24.
- ✓ The government's target of 20% ethanol blending by 2025-26 could potentially save the country USD 4 billion annually in foreign exchange.
- ✓ This infrastructure gap could lead to inefficiencies, increased costs, and potential supply disruptions, challenging the feasibility of meeting the 20% blending target by 2025-26.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi Initiative:

1. It was launched by the Union Ministry of Tourism.
2. It emphasizes on the training of women and youth which enables them to develop new tourism products.

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

- ✓ Ministry of Tourism has launched a national responsible tourism initiative titled Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi.
- ✓ The primary aim of this initiative is to elevate the overall experience for tourists in destinations, by having them meet 'tourist-friendly' people who are proud Ambassadors and Storytellers for their destination.
- ✓ The vision of this initiative is to welcome one and all to experience incredible India through incredible Indians, thereby creating a more welcoming, hospitable, and memorable experience for tourists in India.
- ✓ Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi were piloted in six tourist destinations across India: Orchha (Madhya Pradesh), Gandikota (Andhra Pradesh), Bodhi Gaya (Bihar), Aizawl (Mizoram), Jodhpur (Rajasthan), and Sri Vijaya Puram (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
- ✓ Features
- ✓ Under this special emphasis is being placed on the training of women and youth to enable them to develop new tourism products & experiences like heritage walks, food tours, craft tours, nature treks, homestay experiences and other innovative tourism products based on the potential of the destination.
- ✓ This training is driven by the 'Athithi Devo Bhava' philosophy i.e. treating tourists as honored guests.
- ✓ Tourism-specific training is being followed by general training in digital literacy and digital tools to ensure that the experiences they create are discoverable and visible to tourists, nationally and globally.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat 6G Alliance:

1. It aims to achieve universal and affordable connectivity and deployment of 6G technologies in India.
2. It consist of public and private companies, academia and research institutions.

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 telecom minister has initiated a meeting with the seven working groups of the Bharat 6G Alliance, signaling the future arrival of 6G in India.

- ✓ It is a collaborative platform which aims to achieve universal and affordable connectivity, promote indigenous technology, and establish India as a global leader in the telecom sector.
- ✓ This platform consist of public and private companies, academia, research institutions, and standards development organizations, aims to lead the development and deployment of 6G technology in India.
- ✓ It will forge coalitions and synergies with other 6G Global Alliances, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- ✓ The Alliance will enable India to become a leading global supplier of IP, products and solutions of affordable 5G and 6G and other future telecom solutions,
- ✓ Aim: To bring together Indian startups, companies, and the manufacturing ecosystem to establish consortia that drive the design, development and deployment of 6G technologies in India.

Q. What was India's rank in the 17th Global Innovation Index 2024?

- A) 39
B) 44
C) 57
D) 63

Answer : A

- ✓ India's ranking in the 2024 Global Innovation Index (GII) has improved to 39, up from 40 in the last edition.
- ✓ India's ranking has improved by 42 in the last nine years, from 81st in 2015 to 39 in 2024.
- ✓ Switzerland maintained its position as the top-ranked country, while Angola, an African country, was at the bottom.
- ✓ The World Intellectual Property Organisation released the 17th edition of the Global Innovation Index on 26 September 2024, ranking the countries on their innovation qualities.
- ✓ **About the 17th Global Innovation Index**
- ✓ The Global Innovation Index has been published by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) every year since 2007. In the 17th edition, 133 countries and the world's top 100 science and technology clusters were ranked based on innovation performance.
- ✓ The countries are evaluated using around 80 indicators grouped into four parameters: science and innovation investment, technological progress, technology adoption and the socioeconomic impact of innovation.
- ✓ Performance of India in the 2024 Global Innovation Index
- ✓ India has been ranked 39th in the 2024 Global Innovation Index.
- ✓ India is the top-ranked country amongst the 38 lower-middle-income group economies.
- ✓ Amongst the 10 economies of Central and Southern Asia, India has been ranked 1st.
- ✓ Regarding the Innovations Input criteria, India has improved its ranks to 44th.
- ✓ Similarly, India ranks 33rd in innovation outputs, which is higher than last year.
- ✓ Like last year, four Indian clusters have been included in the top 100 Science and Technology Clusters of the Global Innovation Index.
- ✓ Bengaluru is the highest-ranked Indian cluster at 56th place in the world, followed by Delhi(63), Chennai (82), and Mumbai (84th place).
- ✓ Top 10 Country in the 2024 Global Innovation Index
- ✓ This year also, Switzerland has been ranked number 1 on the Global Innovation index. This is the 14th consecutive year that Switzerland has been ranked no.1 on the Index. Like last year, Sweden and the United States maintained their 2nd and 3rd position, respectively.
- ✓ **Top 10 ranked countries in the 2024 Global Innovation Index.**
- ✓ This year also, Switzerland has been ranked number 1 on the Global Innovation index. This is the 14th consecutive year that Switzerland has been ranked no.1 on the Index. Like last year, Sweden and the United States maintained their 2nd and 3rd position, respectively.
- ✓ Following is the list of the top 10 ranked countries in the 2024 Global Innovation Index.
- 1. Switzerland
- 2. Sweden
- 3. United States

4. United Kingdom
5. Singapore
6. Finland
7. Netherland
8. Germany
9. Denmark
10. South Korea

✓ **About World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**

- ✓ The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) was set up in 1967 as a United Nations special agency.
- ✓ WIPO promotes intellectual property worldwide and helps governments, businesses, and society realise the benefits of intellectual property.
- ✓ Headquarters of WIPO: Geneva, Switzerland
- ✓ Director General of WIPO: Daren Tang
- ✓ Members -193 countries

Q. Which country was ranked number 1 in the 17th Global Innovation Index 2024?

- A) Norway
C) Switzerland
- B) Sweden
D) United States

Answer : C

- ✓ 10 ranked countries in the 2024 Global Innovation Index.
1. Switzerland
 2. Sweden
 3. United States
 4. United Kingdom
 5. Singapore
 6. Finland
 7. Netherland
 8. Germany
 9. Denmark
 10. South Korea

Q. Which country was ranked bottom of the 17th Global Innovation Index 2024?

- A) Afghanistan B) Pakistan
C) Iran D) Angola

Answer : D

Q. Where was the 2nd India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference held?

- A) New Delhi B) Mumbai
C) Chennai D) Hyderabad

Answer : A

- ✓ Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution & New & Renewable Energy, inaugurated the 2nd India Sugar & Bio-Energy Conference on 26 September 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ During the inauguration ceremony, Deepak Ballani, the Director-General of the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA), launched the ISMA Times magazine. The Magazine will provide information about the sugar industry and its future direction.

- ✓ The NCoE for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) will be set up by a company to be set up under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
- ✓ Companies with charitable objectives are set up under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
- ✓ The Company will be a joint venture of the Government of India in partnership with the private sector represented by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ✓ The NCoE for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality (AVGC-XR) will be set up by a company to be set up under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
- ✓ Companies with charitable objectives are set up under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
- ✓ The Company will be a joint venture of the Government of India in partnership with the private sector represented by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry.
- ✓ NCoE AVGC aims to create a world-class talent pool in India to serve the Indian and global entertainment industries.
- ✓ The name of the provisional National Centre of Excellence (CoE) will be the Indian Institute for Immersive Creators (IIIC). The IIIC will be set up on the model of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

Q. The National Centre of Excellence for Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality is being set up based on the recommendation of which Task Force?

- A) Narendra Modi B) Amit Shah
C) Draupadi Murmu D) Apurva Chandra

Answer : D

- ✓ The government of India set up a Task Force on Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics (AVGC) in 2022, headed by the then Secretary of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Apurva Chandra.

Q. The recently inaugurated Bidkin Industrial Area is part of which industrial corridor?

- A) Chennai Mumbai Industrial Corridor
B) Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor
C) Hyderabad Mumbai Industrial Corridor
D) Bengaluru Mumbai Industrial Corridor

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually dedicated the Bidkin Industrial Area in Maharashtra to the nation on 29 September 2024.
- ✓ The Bilkin Industrial Area, situated 20 km south of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, is part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC).
- ✓ The main ceremony was held in Pune, where the Governor of Maharashtra, C.P. Radhakrishnan, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other dignitaries were present.
- ✓ The project is part of the central government's "Make in India, Make for the World" programme, which aims to foster industrial growth, economic prosperity, and sustainable development in the region.
- ✓ The government of India launched the Make in India programme on 25 September 2015, and it has been in operation for 10 years.
- ✓ The Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited has promoted the Bidkin Industrial Area. The Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) that was formed between the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT).

- ✓ The government of India owns the NICDIT.
- ✓ The MIDC holds a 51 per cent stake in the SPV, while the NICDIT holds 49 per cent.
- ✓ The Bidkin Industrial Area covers 7,855 acres and was developed in three phases for Rs 6,414 crore.
- ✓ The project has been developed under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) as part of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.
- ✓ **About the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme**
- ✓ To develop the country's industrial infrastructure and attract investment in the industrial sector, the government of India launched the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP).
- ✓ The NICDP is a central sector program jointly developed by the central government in partnership with the state government.
- ✓ Later, it became part of the National Infrastructure Pipeline project, which the central government launched in 2019.
- ✓ Under NICDP, 11 Industrial Corridors, with 44 industrial nodes/areas/smart cities, are being developed in four phases.
- ✓ The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) Project, approved by the government in 2007, is the first Industrial Corridor.
- ✓ It is being developed with the help of Japan

Q. Who has launched India-specific fashion trend book, “Paridhi 24×25” a bilingual web portal of VisioNxt and the AI Taxonomy e-book?

A) Amit Shah	B) Giriraj Singh
C) Narendra Modi	D) Piyush Goyal

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister of Textiles, Giriraj Singh in the presence of Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles, Pabitra Margherita, launched India-specific fashion trend book, “Paridhi 24×25” a bilingual web portal of VisioNxt and the AI Taxonomy e-book.
- ✓ The event saw participation from more than 150 industry leaders from fashion, textiles and retail as well as notable craftsmen and weavers from various craft clusters.
- ✓ VisioNxt has produced 60+ micro trend reports, 10+ close-to-season trend reports, 3+ research papers, and the first ever AI Taxonomy book of Indian wear categories to date.
- ✓ VisioNxt has positioned India globally among countries that predict fashion trends, increasing the visibility of Indian fashion vocabulary and identity while reducing dependence on international trend agencies.
- ✓ VisioNxt is India's first-ever initiative that combines Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Emotional Intelligence (EI) to generate fashion trend insights and forecasts. It identifies, maps, and analyses geo-specific trends, reflecting the positive plurality, cultural diversity, and socio-economic nuances of India while collating comprehensive trends and insights.

Q. Which state government has launched the CM-SATH scheme to boost the educational prospects of the state's brightest students?

A) Assam	B) Tripura
C) Meghalaya	D) Mizoram

Answer : B

- ✓ Chief Minister of Tripura, Dr. Manik Sahah has launched the CM-SATH scheme to boost the educational prospects of the state's brightest students.
- ✓ The scheme, designed to provide financial support to meritorious students for their higher education, reflects the state government's commitment to quality education.

- ✓ The CM-SATH project has been designed to provide financial support of Rs 60,000 (Rs 5,000 monthly) to 200 students — 100 at Madhyamik level and 100 at Higher Secondary level, based on merit for two and three years respectively, for higher learning.
- ✓ The CM-SATH scheme has been launched to ensure that no student's education is interrupted due to a lack of funds. Rs 1.20 crore would be spent on this project in the first year, Rs 2.40 crore in the second year, and Rs 3 crore from the third year onward

Q. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India assumed chairmanship of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for _.

- A) 2024-2026
B) 2024-2027
C) 2024-2028
D) 2024-2029

Answer : B

- ✓ The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India assumed chairmanship of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) for 2024-2027.
- ✓ CAG of India Girish Chandra Murmu said the 16th Assembly of ASOSAI has expanded to include 48 Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs).
- ✓ The Assembly, which brings together about 200 delegates from 42 countries, including the heads of 22 SAIs, is a significant milestone in regional cooperation in the field of public auditing, with a focus on enhancing transparency, accountability, and good governance.

Q. Which country will host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) from 14 to 24 October 2024?

- A) India
B) Japan
C) USA
D) France

Answer : A

- ✓ India to host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) in Delhi
- ✓ India will host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) in 14 to 24 October 2024, a landmark event in global telecom, marking the first time this critical International Telecommunication Union (ITU) conference will be held in the country.
- ✓ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched a series of WTSA 2024 outreach sessions in major cities, including Delhi, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, to engage students and foster discussions on the future of global communications.
- ✓ This will be the first time such a pivotal ITU standards conference is held in Asia. Over 190 nations will gather to shape the future of global telecom standards, highlighting India's growing influence in the global telecom industry.

Q. When is World Tourism Day celebrated every year?

- A) 26 September
B) 27 September
C) 28 September
D) 29 September

Answer : B

- ✓ The World Tourism Day is observed worldwide on September 27 since 1980.
- ✓ This date was chosen by the United Nations World Tourism Organization as on that day in 1970, the Statutes of the UNWTO were adopted.
- ✓ In 2024 the theme of WTD is “Tourism and Peace”.

- ✓ The purpose of this day is to raise awareness on the role of tourism within the international community and to demonstrate how it affects social, cultural, political and economic values worldwide.
- ✓ World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- ✓ Founded : 1975
- ✓ Headquarters : Madrid, Spain
- ✓ Secretary-General : Zurab Pololikashvili
- ✓ Members : 159
- ✓ Don't confuse
- ✓ National Tourism Day : 25 January
- ✓ World Tourism Day : 27 September

Q. Who won the Miss Universe India 2024 title?

A) Chhavi Verg	B) Anshika Singh
C) Rhea Singha	D) Sushmita Roy

Answer : C

- ✓ Rhea Singha wins Miss Universe India 2024 title
- ✓ Rhea Singha, an 18-year-old from Gujarat, has captured hearts and headlines after being crowned Miss Universe India 2024. Competing against 51 talented finalists, Rhea emerged victorious during the grand finale held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- ✓ Miss Universe India 2015, Urvashi Rautela, who served as a judge at the event, crowned Rhea with a special Taj Mahal crown.
- ✓ Pranjal Priya was named the first runner-up, followed by Chhavi Verg in second place.
- ✓ Sushmita Roy and Ruopfuzhano Whiso secured the third and fourth runner-up positions, respectively, showcasing the diverse talent present at the event.

Q. Which Indian film has been selected as the official entry for the 97th Academy Awards (Oscar) 2025?

A) Madgaon Express	B) Laapataa Ladies
C) 8 A.M. Metro	D) Lantrani

Answer : B

- ✓ The Hindi comedy film 'Laapataa Ladies', produced by Amir Khan and Kiran Rao and directed by Kiran Rao, has been chosen to be India's official entry for the International Feature Film Category at the 97th Academy Awards 2025 (popularly known as the Oscars).
- ✓ The international Feature film category is for the country-selected feature film.
- ✓ The 97th Academy Awards ceremony will be held on 2nd March 2025 in Los Angeles, United States of America.
- ✓ Last year, the superhit Malayalam film " 2018: Everyone's a Hero" was India's official entry for the 96th Oscar Award 2024.
- ✓ **About the film Laapataa Ladies**
- ✓ The film is about two young brides who get switched to their husbands' homes during a train journey. The film is a satire on India's patriarchal system and focuses on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in rural India. The film stars Nitanshi Goel, Pratibha Ranta, Sparsh Shrivastava, Chhaya Kadam, and Ravi Kishan, among others, in key roles.
- ✓ Indian films nominated for Oscar Award
- ✓ 57 Indian films including Laapataa Ladies, have been nominated for the 'International Feature Film Category at the Oscars. Mehboob Khan's directed film Mother India was the first Indian film to be nominated for an Oscar in 1957.
- ✓ Only three Indian films, Mother India (1958), Salaam Bombay (1989), and Lagaaan (2001), have made the final list of Oscar nominees.
- ✓ None of the Indian films has won the Best International Feature Film category award at the Oscars.

- ✓ Oscar Awards won by Indians
- ✓ To date, 10 Indians have won Oscar awards, with Bhanu Athaiya being the first to win the award in 1982 for best costume design category for the film Gandhi. A.R.Rahman has won the Oscar awards twice.

Serial No	Award Winner	Category	Film	Year
1.	Mrs. Bhanu Athaiya	Costume Designing	Gandhi	1982
2	Satyajit Ray	Honourary Academy Award	-	1992
3	Resul Pookuty	Best Sound Mixing	Slumdog Millionaire	2008
4	A R Rahman	Best Original Score	Slumdog Millionaire	2008
5	• Gulzar (Lyricist), • A R Rahman (Music Composer) and	Best Original Song (Jai Ho song)	Slumdog Millionaire	2008
6	• M. M. Keeravani (Music) • Chandrabose (Lyrics)	Best Original Song (Nattu Nattu)	RRR	2023
7	• Kartiki Gonsalves and • Guneet Monga	Best Documentary (Short Subject)	Elephant Whispers	2023

- ✓ **Academy Award or Oscar Award**
- ✓ The Academy Awards, popularly known as the Oscars, was instituted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which is based in California, United States of America.
- ✓ The Oscar Award is considered the most prestigious award in the world of cinema.
- ✓ The first award was presented in 1929.

Q. The 'Laapataa Ladies' film has been made in which language?

- A) Hindi
- B) Assamese
- C) Gujarati
- D) English

Answer : A

Q. Who is the director of the film Laapataa Ladies?

- A) Vishal Bhardwaj
- B) Ashutosh Gowariker
- C) Mani Ratnam
- D) Kiran Rao

Answer : D

Q. Who is the nodal implementing authority of the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement in India?

- A) Ministry of Earth Science
- B) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- C) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
- D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer : A

- ✓ India has officially joined the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement, which seeks to protect marine biodiversity on the high seas.
- ✓ Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, on behalf of the Government of India, signed the BBNJ agreement on 25 September 2024 at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, the United States of America.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the BBNJ agreement in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2 July 2024.
- ✓ The nodal ministry to implement the provisions of the BBNJ agreement will be the Union Ministry of Earth Science.
- ✓ About the BBNJ Agreement
- ✓ The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) agreement, also popularly known as the 'High Seas Treaty', is an international agreement sponsored by the United Nations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of Sea (UNCLOS).
- ✓ It was agreed upon in March 2023 and opened to signature by the member countries.
- ✓ The member countries have until September 2025 to sign the agreement, which will come into force after at least 60 countries ratify it.
- ✓ **Aim of the BBNJ Agreement**
- ✓ The agreement provides a set of mechanisms to protect marine biodiversity in the high seas and to sustainably use marine resources (oil and gas, fish, minerals, etc) through international cooperation.
- ✓ It prohibits any nation from claiming exclusive rights to marine resources on the High seas.
- ✓ The agreement aims to minimise impacts on the marine environment through area-based management tools and by establishing rules for environmental impact assessments.
- ✓ It will also help achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14- Life below water.
- ✓ **What are UNCLOS and High Seas?**
- ✓ The United Nations Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS) was adopted on 10 December 1982 and came into force on 16 November 1994. It lays down the rules and regulations regarding the use of marine resources by a coastal country in the seas.
- ✓ It defines the territorial waters, exclusive economic zones and high seas.
- ✓ High Seas:
- ✓ Areas that lie beyond the territorial water and the exclusive economic zone of a coastal country. The BBNJ agreement seeks to establish the rights of the countries in the high seas so that conflicts can be avoided.

Q. Where was the 9th Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors meeting held?

- A) Beijing, China
- B) Samarkand, Uzbekistan
- C) Astana, Kazakhstan
- D) Manila, Philippines

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister for Finance and Minister for Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman represented India at the 9th Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan.
- ✓ The 9th AIIB Board of Governors meeting was held in Samarkand on 25-26 September 2024.
- ✓ During her visit to Uzbekistan, she also met with Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the AIIB meeting.
- ✓ The theme of the 9th AIIB Board of Governors meeting was: Building Resilient Infrastructure for All.
- ✓ The theme highlights the AIIB's emphasis on developing financial tools that will help member countries withstand climate-induced shocks and increase their resilience to such shocks. In June 2024, the AIIB introduced Climate Policy-Based Financing (CPBF) to mobilise private capital so that member countries can meet their financial needs for achieving their national climate action plans.
- ✓ Speaking on the occasion, Jin Liqun, President of AIIB, said that around 60 percent of AIIB's lending in 2024 will be focused on climate financing.
- ✓ At the meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the Board of Governors approved the tiny Pacific Ocean island nation of Nauru's application to join the AIIB, bringing the total number of members to 110.
- ✓ From India, Nirmala Sitharaman is the Governor, and. Ajay Seth, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, is the alternate Governor from India.
- ✓ About Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- ✓ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral bank that began operating in 2016.
- ✓ China is the largest shareholder of the bank, with a 29.9% stake, and India is the second largest shareholder, with a 7.74% stake.
- ✓ The Bank provides both sovereign and non-sovereign loans. Sovereign loans mean the loan repayment is guaranteed by the government, and non-sovereign means the loans are provided to the private sector.
- ✓ The bank provides loans to projects that build Infrastructure for tomorrow or green infrastructure that are environmentally sound and sustainable and help in development of the country.
- ✓ President of AIIB: Jin Liqun of China
- ✓ Headquarters: Beijing, China

Q. Who represented India at the 2024 Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors meeting?

- A) Shaktikanta Das
- B) TV Somanathan
- C) Rajiv Gauba
- D) Nirmala Sitharaman

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Minister for Finance and Minister for Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman represented India at the 9th Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Q. Which country has been admitted as the 110 members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

- A) Latvia
- B) Slovenia
- C) Nauru
- D) Montenegro

Answer : C

- ✓ Republic of Nauru becomes 110 member of AIIB.

- ✓ At the meeting in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, the Board of Governors approved the tiny Pacific Ocean island nation of Nauru's application to join the AIIB, bringing the total number of members to 110.

Q. Who is Mrs Harini Amarasuriya, who was in the news recently?

- A) Prime Minister of France
- B) Prime Minister of Maldives
- C) Prime Minister of Mauritius
- D) Prime Minister of Sri Lanka

Answer : D

- ✓ Hindu College Alumni Harini Amarasuriya appointed 16th Sri Lankan PM.
- ✓ Mrs Harini Amarasuriya, who graduated from Hindu College, Delhi University, was sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka by President Anura Kumara Disanayake on 24 September 2024. President Anura Kumara Disanayake was sworn in as the 9th President of Sri Lanka on 22 September after he emerged victorious in the recently held Sri Lankan Presidential Poll.
- ✓ Mrs. Harini Amarasuriya succeeds Dinesh Gunawardena, who resigned after the previous President, Ranil Wickremesinghe, lost the Presidential election.
- ✓ According to the 1978 Sri Lankan constitution, the executive power of the government is vested in the President, who is directly elected by the people.
- ✓ The Sri Lankan President appoints the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers.
- ✓ The Prime Minister and the council of ministers must be the members of the Sri Lankan Parliament.
- ✓ **16th Prime Minister of Sri Lanka**
- ✓ Mrs Harini Amarasuriya is Sri Lanka's 16th Prime Minister. She is a member of the ruling National People's Power alliance, led by President Anura Kumara Disanayake.
- ✓ She is also the third woman to be appointed as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka after Sirimavo Bandaranaike and Chandrika Kumaratunga.
- ✓ Sirimavo Bandaranaike, appointed in 1960, was the first female Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the world.
- ✓ Sri Lanka has a 225-member unicameral parliament with a term of five years

Q. According to the Asia Power Index Report, which is the most powerful country in Asia?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Japan
- D) United States

Answer : D

- ✓ **India 3rd most powerful country in Asia: Asia Power Index 2024.**
- ✓ According to the Asian Power Index Report 2024, released recently by the Australian think tank Lowy Institute, India is ranked third most powerful country in Asia after the United States of America and China.
- ✓ Last year, India was ranked the fourth most powerful country in Asia in the 2023 report, but this year, India overtook Japan to be ranked third.
- ✓ **About the Asia Power Index Report 2024**
- ✓ The Lowy Institute released the first annual Asia Power Index in 2018 to rank the countries in Asia based on their resources and influences.
- ✓ The 2024 Asia Power Index Report ranks 27 countries and territories. For the first time, the Southeast Asian country of Timor Leste has been included in the Report.
- ✓ The report evaluates the power of the countries on 131 indicators across eight thematic measures: Military Capability and Defence Networks, Economic Capability and Relationships, Diplomatic and Cultural Influence, as well as Resilience and Future Resources.
- ✓ **Main Highlights of the Asia Power Index 2024**
- ✓ The report highlights the changing dynamics of power in the Asian region. The United States of America and China were the only two countries deemed superpowers in Asia, while India was ranked as a middle power.

✓ **Resilient US**

✓ According to the report, the United States has consolidated its position as the most dominant power in the region. However, China is fast catching up with the US in terms of military capability, though the US is still militarily more powerful than China.

✓ China's plateauing power: China's power is plateauing. It is neither increasing nor declining. It is second behind the US in Asia but is far ahead of other countries in the region.

✓ **Slow Rise of India**

✓ The report mentions that India's power is rising but slowly. Its actual influence in the region is well below its potential. The report finds that India's ability to project power east of the Malacca Strait is limited. However, the report also says that India has the potential to become a major power as it is blessed with a huge young population, landmass and economy. India is the largest economy in the world on the basis of Purchasing Power Parity.

✓ **Decline of Russia**

✓ Russian power and influence in the Asian region have declined due to its resources and focus being diverted to its war in Ukraine.

✓ Emergence of Japan as a Military Power

✓ Japan, facing an aggressive China in its backyard, has stepped up its defence spending to counter China. It is changing from an economic and cultural powerhouse to much more active in defence and security.

Q. India overtook the country to be ranked as the third most powerful country in Asia as per the Asia Power Index Report 2024?

A) China

B) Japan

C) Australia

D) France

Answer : A

✓ According to the Asian Power Index Report 2024, released recently by the Australian think tank Lowy Institute, India is ranked third most powerful country in Asia after the United States of America and China.

✓ **Top 10 Most Powerful Country in Asia**

Rank	Country	Score	Change in Rank as compared to 2023
1	United States	81.7	No Change
2	China	72.7	No Change
3	India	39.1	Increase of one rank
4	Japan	38.9	Decline of one rank
5	Australia	31.9	Increase of one rank
6	Russia	31.1	Decline of one rank
7	South Korea	31.0	No Change
8	Singapore	26.4	No Change
9	Indonesia	22.3	No Change
10	Thailand	19.8	No Change

Q.

- A) Indian B team B) Indian A team
C) Indian C team D) Indian D team

Answer : B

- ✓ India A are the Duleep Trophy season 2024-25 Champion.
- ✓ The Indian A team, led by Mayank Agarwal, claimed the 2024-25 Season Duleep Trophy by beating India C in their last round-robin match. The India A team finished the tournament with 12 points from their three matches to top the points table and was declared the winner of the 61st edition of the prestigious Duleep Trophy.
- ✓ The Duleep Trophy is a four-day premier domestic first-class match organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ✓ Often, players are selected for the Indian men's cricket team for Test matches based on their performance in the Duleep Trophy.
- ✓ Format of the 61st edition of the Duleep Trophy 2024-25
- ✓ The Duleep Trophy was traditionally played in a Zonal format, with teams divided into five or six geographical regions.
- ✓ This year, there were four teams: India A, India B, India C, and India D. Mayank Agarwal captained the India A team. Ruturaj Gaikwad led the India C side, Abhimanyu Easwaran led the India B side, and Shreyas Iyer led the India D side.
- ✓ During the tournament, only one match was played at the M. Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru, and the rest were held in Ananthapur, Andhra Pradesh.

Q.

- A) Australia B) Japan
C) India D) USA

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on an official tour of the United States of America (USA) from September 21 to 23, 2024.
- ✓ During his visit, he attended the sixth Quad Summit meeting and addressed the 'Summit of the Future' conference at the United Nations General Assembly.
- ✓ He also attended the CEO Roundtable meeting in New York with the captains of American technology leaders in semiconductors, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum technology, biotechnology and Life Sciences, computing, IT, and Communication.
- ✓ The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), School of Engineering organised the CEO Roundtable.
- ✓ He also addressed the Indian Diaspora in a public function in New York.
- ✓ During the sixth Quad Summit meeting, it was agreed that India would host the seventh Quad Summit meeting in 2025, and the USA would host the foreign minister's meeting in 2025.
- ✓ Joe Biden Host the 6th Quad Summit in Wilmington, Delaware
- ✓ The USA President Joe Biden hosted the sixth QUAD summit at Wilmington, Delaware, at his home.
- ✓ The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and USA President Joe Biden attended the summit.
- ✓ **India will host the next Quad meeting in 2025**
- ✓ Initially, India was to host the 6th Quad Summit meeting in 2024 in New Delhi and the USA in 2025. However, due to logistics issues, both countries swapped the hosting rights.
- ✓ All four member countries of Quad are participating in the "Summit of the Future" conference organised by the United Nations in New York on 22-23 September 2024.
- ✓ If the Quad meeting had been held in New Delhi, it would have been logistically difficult for the leaders to attend both the Quad Summit on 21 September and the United Nations Conference.

Q. Where was the sixth Quad Summit meeting held?

- A) Wilmington, USA B) Canberra, Australia
C) Mumbai, India D) Tokyo, Japan

Answer : A

- ✓ The USA President Joe Biden hosted the sixth QUAD summit at Wilmington, Delaware, at his home.

Q. Which country will host the Quad foreign ministers meeting in 2025?

- A) Australia
B) Japan
C) India
D) USA

Answer : D

- ✓ During the sixth Quad Summit meeting, it was agreed that India would host the seventh Quad Summit meeting in 2025, and the USA would host the foreign minister's meeting in 2025

Q. Which country will host the first Regional Ports and Transportation Conference under the recently announced Quad Ports of the Future Partnership?

- A) China
B) Japan
C) India
D) Australia

Answer : C

- ✓ The Quad Ports of the Future Partnerships will be launched to support sustainable and resilient port infrastructure development in the Indo-Pacific region in cooperation with partner countries.
- ✓ The first inaugural Regional Ports and Transportation Conference will be held in Mumbai, India in 2025.

Q. Which of the following countries partnered with India to establish its first-ever national security semiconductor fabrication plant, designed to manufacture infrared, gallium nitride, and silicon carbide chips for military hardware and next-generation telecommunications?

- A) USA
B) France
C) Germany
D) Japan

Answer : A

- ✓ India to get first national security semiconductor fabrication plant
- ✓ Under a transformative collaboration with the US, India will get a national security semiconductor fabrication plant that will produce chips for use in military hardware and next-generation telecommunications.
- ✓ The India-US joint project was announced following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Joe Biden in Wilmington.
- ✓ It will be the first-ever India-US semiconductor fabrication partnership. It is the first time the US military has agreed to do a partnership for these highly-value technologies with India and, it is a watershed moment as it is as significant as the civil nuclear deal.
- ✓ The Fab becomes not only India's first, but one of the world's first multi-material fabs for national security.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Chief of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)?

- A) Praveer Ranjan B) Vivek Gogia
C) Amit Garg D) Alok Ranjan

Answer : D

- ✓ Senior IPS officers Alok Ranjan has been appointed as the Chief of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ✓ While, Amit Garg has been appointed as the Chiefs of Hyderabad-based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA).
- ✓ Ranjan, a 1991-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director, NCRB for a tenure up to his superannuation on June 30, 2026.
- ✓ He succeeds his service and batchmate Vivek Gogia, who has been repatriated to the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre

Q. The Centre has constituted a committee to formulate a framework for the Repairability Index in the Mobile and Electronics Sector. Who will chair this committee?

- A) Nidhi Khatri
B) Bharat Kherra
C) Sanjay Agrawal
D) M S Sahoo

Answer : B

- ✓ Centre constitutes committee for formulating framework on Repairability Index in Mobile and Electronics Sector
- ✓ The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA), GoI, has constituted a committee of experts under the chairmanship of Bharat Khera, to recommend a robust framework for Repairability Index and to empower consumers and promote sustainable practices within the tech industry.
- ✓ The proposed repair ecosystem will include several important components:
- ✓ Comprehensive Repair Information: Consumers will have access to repair manuals, diagnostic tools, and lists of necessary tools and parts.
- ✓ Spare Parts Availability: Easier identification and timely availability of spare parts.
- ✓ Affordable Tools: Cost-effective tools that are safe and easily accessible to consumers.
- ✓ Modular Design: Products will feature components that can be independently accessed for easier repairs.
- ✓ Economic Feasibility: The cost of parts and labor will be kept affordable for consumers.
- ✓ The committee will develop policies, guidelines, and regulations to support the Repairability Index and integrate it into existing consumer protection frameworks.
- ✓ The committee is expected to submit its report, along with the proposed framework for the Repairability Index, by November 15, 2024.

Q. Pratyasa Ray was awarded the prestigious 32nd Ekalabya Puraskar for her remarkable achievements. She belongs to which of the following sports?

- A) Football
- B) Archery
- C) Table Tennis
- D) Swimming

Answer : D

- ✓ Pratyasa Ray, a rising star in swimming, was selected for the prestigious Ekalabya Puraskar for 2024.
- ✓ Ray secured six medals— four gold, one silver and a bronze— in the Khelo India University Games in Guwahati in February this year.
- ✓ Ray will be awarded a cash prize of Rs. 7 lakhs—an increase from the previous Rs. 5 lakhs, along with a citation at the Ekalabya Puraskar award ceremony to be held at a later date.
- ✓ Sprinter Dondapati Mrutyam Jayaram and badminton player Tanvi Patri will also be felicitated for their remarkable performances in various international and national-level events in their respective fields.
- ✓ Each of the citation winners will receive a cash prize of ₹1.5 lakh, up from ₹1 lakh, along with citations at the award ceremony.
- ✓ About Ekalabya Puraskar

- ✓ Ekalabya Puraskar was instituted by charitable body IMPaCT in 1993 and managed by IMFA, the leading ferro alloys producer in the country. It is now considered the most prestigious sports award in Odisha.
- ✓ The award is given every year to young sportspersons of Odisha in recognition of their outstanding performance in the preceding two years.

A) IIT Kanpur

C) IIT Kharagpur

Answer : B

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Jivitputrika Festival:

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

C) Both 1 and 2

Answer : B

- ✓ The second day is marked by the rigorous fasting ritual, and the festival concludes on the third day with Paaran, where the fast is broken with a meal.

Q. The Maharashtra government has officially approved the renaming of which airport to 'Tukaram Maharaj Airport' in honour of the revered 17th-century saint?

- A) Sindhudurg Airport B) Juhu Airport
C) Pune Airport D) Nashik Airport

Answer : C

- ✓ Pune airport to be renamed 'Tukaram Maharaj Airport'
- ✓ The Maharashtra government has officially approved the renaming of Pune airport to 'Tukaram Maharaj Airport' in honour of the revered 17th-century saint.
- ✓ This move aims to pay tribute to Sant Tukaram Maharaj, a prominent spiritual figure in Maharashtra's history, known for his devotional poetry and influence on the Bhakti movement.
- ✓ Sant Tukaram was a significant saint and spiritual poet of the Bhakti movement, born in Pune district.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Silk Board:

1. It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
2. Its chairperson is appointed by the Central Government 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 : C

- ✓ Union Minister of Textiles unveiled the Commemorative coin, celebrating the Platinum Jubilee of the Central Silk Board (CSB) at Mysuru.
- ✓ It is a Statutory Body established during 1948, by an act of Parliament.
- ✓ It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India.
- ✓ The Board comprises 39 members appointed as per the powers and provisions conferred by Sub-Section 3 of Section 4 of the CSB Act 1948, for a period of 3 years.
- ✓ The Chairperson of the Board to be appointed by the Central Government.
- ✓ Functions
- ✓ It advises the Central Government on all matters relating to production, supply, distribution, trade and commerce in silk-worm seed, the development of the silk industry and its products including export and import.
- ✓ It has established 6 Regional Offices in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Guwahati.
- ✓ Headquarters: Bengaluru.
- ✓ Silk Production in India
- ✓ India has the unique distinction of being the only country producing all the five known commercial silks, namely, mulberry, tropical tasar, oak tasar, eri and muga.
- ✓ India is the second largest producer of silk in the world.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the GlobE Network:

1. It is a platform where agencies from across the world share best practices and criminal intelligence.
2. India's National Investigation Agency is part of this Network.

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 was elected to the GloBE Network's Steering Committee during the plenary session held in Beijing.
- ✓ The Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GloBE Network) was an initiative of G-20.
- ✓ The GloBE Network was officially launched on June 3, 2021, during a special event at the UN General Assembly Special Session against Corruption.
- ✓ It now has 121 member countries (India is also a member of this Network) and 219 member authorities.
- ✓ It is emerging as a unique platform where agencies from across the world share best practices and criminal intelligence, develop strategies, and support in the common cause of combating corruption.
- ✓ The steering committee, consisting of one chair, one vice-chair, and 13 members, provides leadership and direction for the organisation.
- ✓ India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) are part of the network, with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) acting as the central authority for India.
- ✓ The Network is governed by its members and is supported by the United Nations Office against Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which provides the Network's secretariat.
- ✓ During India's G-20 Presidency in 2023, two high-level principles for combating corruption were adopted which detailed leveraging of the GloBE Network

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Param Rudra Supercomputers:

1. It is designed to tackle complex computational challenges across various scientific and engineering domains.
2. It is indigenously developed under the National Supercomputing 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 : C

- ✓ Prime Minister of India virtually launched three Param Rudra Super Computing Systems and a High-Performance Computing (HPC) system for weather and climate research.
- ✓ It is designed to tackle complex computational challenges across various scientific and engineering domains.
- ✓ Three Param Rudra supercomputers have been developed at Rs 130 crores, indigenously under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- ✓ They have been deployed at three key locations: Delhi, Pune and Kolkata.
- ✓ In Pune, the Giant Metre Radio Telescope (GMRT) will leverage the supercomputer to explore Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) and other astronomical phenomena.
- ✓ In Delhi, Inter-University Accelerator Centre (IUAC) will enhance research in fields like material science and atomic physics.
- ✓ In Kolkata, S N Bose Centre will use supercomputing technology to drive advanced research in areas such as physics, cosmology and earth sciences.
- ✓ **Key facts about the National Supercomputing Mission**
- ✓ It was launched in 2015 to provide the country with supercomputing infrastructure to meet the increasing computational demands of academia, researchers, MSMEs, and startups.
- ✓ It aims to create a network of advanced computing systems across India.

- ✓ It is collaboration between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ✓ It is implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Women in Space Leadership Programme:

1. It is a joint programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the British Council.
2. It fosters women's leadership in space sciences by developing a strategic leadership framework.

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 Women in Space Leadership Programme (WiSLP) was launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with the British Council as part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI).
- ✓ This initiative aims to develop a women's leadership framework to support institutions in strengthening their gender-inclusive practices and policies, specifically around space sciences and allied areas.
- ✓ It fosters women's leadership in space sciences by developing a strategic leadership framework. Under this initiative, Coventry University acts as the delivery partner.
- ✓ To promote a more equitable distribution of leadership opportunities and enable a workplace culture that recognises female leaders, this programme is underpinned by three foundational pillars:
- ✓ Intersectionality or understanding of different aspects of women's identities
- ✓ Collaborative culturally sensitive approaches that respond to opportunities and challenges in India
- ✓ Using leadership theory from both social science and STEM to support female scientists to become more confident about their leadership abilities.
- ✓ **What is UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI)?**
- ✓ It is the UK and India's flagship bilateral collaboration programme on education and research founded in 2006.
- ✓ Objective: By strengthening education and research collaboration between the UK and India, UKIERI helps both countries to achieve their knowledge ambitions.
- ✓ UKIERI has been implemented in three phases from 2006 to 2022. The fourth phase of UKIERI was launched in 2023.
- ✓ UKIERI Phase 4 expects to strengthen the bilateral relationship between the UK and India in the areas of education, research, and innovation while addressing shared global challenges and promoting sustainable development.

Q. Which company signed an MoU with the Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) to enhance research on using Rubber Process Oils in tyre and non-tyre rubber products?

- A) Hindustan Petroleum B) Indian Oil Corporation
- C) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation D) Steel Authority of India Limited

Answer : B

- ✓ The Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) has signed an MoU with Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to enhance research on the use of Rubber Process Oils marketed by IOCL in various tyre and non-tyre rubber products.
- ✓ This collaboration aims to improve product performance and rubber processing across these applications.

- ✓ The partnership reflects a shared commitment to drive innovations in rubber processing while addressing the growing global demand for environmentally sustainable industrial products.

Q. India's Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth, who were seen in the news in September 2024 for achieving a remarkable achievement, are associated with which of the following sport?

- A) Badminton
- B) Chess
- C) Tennis
- D) Basketball

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian tennis duo Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth won the doubles title in the ATP 250 Hangzhou Open 2024.
- ✓ They defeated the German pair of Constantine Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Expo Centre.
- ✓ The Indian duo staged a remarkable comeback to triumph 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 10-7, marking their first ATP title together as a pair.
- ✓ For Jeevan, it ends a seven-year title drought, while for Vijay, this victory represents a career milestone as it is his first-ever ATP title.

Q. Where is the 8th edition of the India-Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND -2024 being held?

- A) Mizoram
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Assam

Answer : B

- ✓ India -Kazakhstan joint military exercise KAZIND -2024 commenced at the mountainous Surya Foreign Training node in Auli, Uttarakhand, on 30 September 2024.
- ✓ The 8th edition of KAZIND-2024 will be held in Auli from 30 September to 13 October 2024.
- ✓ The last edition of the annual bilateral military exercise was held in Otar, Kazakhstan, from 30 October to 11 November 2023. For the first time, the Air Forces of both countries and the Airborne Assault Forces of Kazakhstan participated.
- ✓ About KAZIND Military Exercise
- ✓ The bilateral India-Kazakhstan KAZIND was first held in 2016. It is an annual military exercise held alternately in both countries.
- ✓ The KAZIND exercise is a battalion-level military exercise that includes personnel from both the Army and the Air Force.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Next Generation Launch Vehicle:

1. It will have reusability and modular green propulsion systems.
2. It will be developed to have a maximum payload capability of 300 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit.

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 Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved the development of Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV).
- ✓ It will have 3 times the present payload capability with 1.5 times the cost compared to LVM3, and will also have reusability resulting in low-cost access to space and modular green propulsion systems.

- ✓ The development of the NGLV is taken up which is designed to have a maximum payload capability of 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit, which also has a reusable first stage.
- ✓ This development project will be implemented with maximal participation from the Indian industry, which is also expected to invest in the manufacturing capacity at the outset itself, thereby allowing a seamless transition to the operational phase subsequent to the development.
- ✓ NGLV will be demonstrated with three development flights (D1, D2 & D3) with a target of 96 months (8 years) for the completion of the development phase.
- ✓ The total fund approved is Rs. 8240.00 Crore and includes the development costs, three developmental flights, essential facility establishment, Programme Management and Launch Campaign.
- ✓ Significance
- ✓ It will enable national & commercial missions including launch of human spaceflight missions to Bharatiya Antariksh Station.
- ✓ Lunar/inter-planetary exploration missions along with communication & earth observation satellite constellations to Low Earth Orbit that will benefit the entire space ecosystem in the country.
- ✓ This project will boost the Indian space ecosystem in terms of capability and capacity.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Venus Orbiter Mission:

1. It aims to understand the Venus surface and influence of Sun on its atmosphere.
2. It will be jointly developed by the India Space Research Organisation and NASA.

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 Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister of India has approved the development of Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM).
- ✓ It is envisaged to orbit a scientific spacecraft in the orbit of planet Venus.
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ It is for better understanding of the Venusian surface and subsurface, atmospheric processes and influence of Sun on Venusian atmosphere.
- ✓ The study of the underlying causes of transformation of Venus, which is whispered to be once habitable and quite similar to Earth would be an invaluable aid in understanding the evolution of the sister planets, both Venus and Earth.
- ✓ The Indian Venus mission is expected to answer some of the outstanding scientific questions resulting in various scientific outcomes.
- ✓ India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will be responsible for the development of spacecraft and its launch.
- ✓ The mission is expected to be accomplished on the opportunity available during March 2028. The realization of the spacecraft and launch vehicle is through various industries.
- ✓ Funding: The total fund approved for the VOM is Rs.1236 Cr out of which Rs 824.00 Crore will be spent on the spacecraft.
- ✓ The cost includes development and realization of the spacecraft including its specific payloads and technology elements, global ground station support cost for navigation and network as well as the cost of launch vehicle.
- ✓ Significance: Venus, the closest planet to Earth and believed to have formed in conditions similar to Earth, offers a unique opportunity to understand how planetary environments can evolve very differently.

Q.

- A) Rs 2010 crore

B) Rs1236 crore

C) Rs1507 crore

D) Rs1780 crore

Answer : B

- ✓ The central government has approved the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) 's interplanetary Venus Orbiter Mission (VOM) to study the Venus planet. The Venus Orbiter Mission, also known as the Sukrayaan mission, was approved in a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 18 September 2024.
- ✓ This is ISRO's second interplanetary mission after the Mars Orbiter Mission or Mangalyaan, which was launched on November 5, 2013.
- ✓ India will become the fifth country to send a spacecraft to Venus after the Soviet Union, the United States, the European Union, and Japan
- ✓ **Venus Orbiter Mission or the Sukrayaan -I mission**
- ✓ The total approved budget for the Venus Orbiter Mission or the Sukrayaan mission is Rs.1236 crore, of which Rs. 824.00 crore will be spent on developing the spacecraft.
- ✓ The mission is expected to be launched in March 2028, when the Earth and Venus will be aligned so that the spacecraft will use minimum fuel to enter Venus's orbit.
- ✓ After its launch, the Shukrayaan is expected to finally station itself in Venus's polar orbit for scientific observation of the planet.
- ✓ **Scientific Objective of the Venus Orbiter Mission**
- ✓ The primary science objectives of the Venus Orbiter Mission or the Sukrayaan mission are to map Venus' surface and subsurface while studying the planet's atmospheric chemistry and interaction with the solar wind.
- ✓ It will carry a ground-penetrating radar that will map the Venusian subsurface, helping scientists better understand Venus' geology and evolution.
- ✓ The Shukrayaan mission is expected to carry scientific instruments from foreign countries.
- ✓ **Other Countries Mission to Venus**
- ✓ The first spacecraft to successfully fly by Venus was the Mariner-2 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America. It was launched in 1962 by NASA
- ✓ Recently, Japan successfully launched its Akatsuki mission to Venus in 2010 and entered the Venus Orbit in 2015.
- ✓ NASA plans to send its DAVINCI (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging) probe to Venus in 2029 and VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy) probe in 2031.
- ✓ The European Space Agency plans to launch its EnVision mission in 2031.
- ✓ Russia has announced that it will launch its Venera-D mission to Venus in 2029. The mission will include an orbiter that will circle the planet and a lander that will attempt to land on its surface.
- ✓ **About Planet Venus**
- ✓ Venus is the second planet in our solar system, nearest to the Sun after Mercury.
- ✓ Venus is the nearest planet to Earth, and its size and density are almost similar to Earth. That is why it is also called Earth's twin or Earth's sister.
- ✓ Venus and Uranus are the only two planets in our solar system that rotate clockwise, from east to west. This means the sun rises in the west and sets in the east on Venus and Uranus.

Q.

- A) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

B) Indore, Madhya Pradesh

C) Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh

D) Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Answer : C

Q. Salima Imtiaz became the first woman from which country to be named in the ICC's international panel of development umpires, making her eligible to officiate in women's bilateral international matches and ICC women's events?

- A) Afghanistan B) Bangladesh
C) Pakistan D) Saudi Arabia

Answer : C

- ✓ Saleema Imtiaz became the first Pakistani woman to be nominated to the ICC international panel of development umpires.
- ✓ Imtiaz's nomination on the panel means she is now eligible to officiate in women's bilateral international matches and ICC women's events.
- ✓ Imtiaz joined the PCB's women's umpires panel in 2008 and has officiated in several Asian Cricket Council tournaments over the last three years.
- ✓ Imtiaz's first on-field appointment in a bilateral series will see her officiate the three-match T20 series between Pakistan women and South Africa women which begins at Multan.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?

- A) B Srinivasan B) Tejinder Singh
C) Daljit Singh Chaudhary D) Amrit Mohan Prasad

Answer : D

- ✓ Senior IPS officer Amrit Mohan Prasad has been appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- ✓ Prasad, a 1989-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Odisha cadre, is presently working as Special Director General, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved Prasad's appointment to the post of Director General, SSB for a tenure up to the date of his superannuation on August 31, 2025.
- ✓ The vacancy necessitated after SSB chief Daljit Singh Chaudhary was appointed as the DG of Border Security Force (BSF) on August 28.
- ✓ Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)
- ✓ Founded : 1963
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Motto : Service, Security and Brotherhood
- ✓ Director General : Amrit Mohan Prasad
- ✓ SSB is a border guarding force of India deployed along its border with Nepal and Bhutan.

Q. Who has been appointed the new head coach of the Indian women's football team?

- A) Bhaichung Bhutia B) Poonam Sharma
C) Karthika Angamuthu D) Santosh Kashyap

Answer : D

- ✓ Santosh Kashyap appointed new head coach of Indian women's football team
- ✓ All India Football Federation (AIFF) has appointed Santosh Kashyap as the new head coach of the national senior women's team, replacing former international player Chaoba Devi at the helm of affairs.
- ✓ Kashyap's first assignment will be the SAFF Women's Championships to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from October 17 to 30.
- ✓ A former India international, Kashyap has almost a decade of coaching experience in the I-League, managing clubs like Mohun Bagan, Aizawl FC and Mumbai FC among others.

- ✓ Kashyap will have Priya PV as his assistant coach and Raghuvir Pravin Khanolkar as the goalkeeper coach

Q. World Bamboo Day is observed every year on which day?

- A) 17 September
- B) 18 September
- C) 19 September
- D) 20 September

Answer: B

- ✓ World Bamboo Day is observed every year on 18 September to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Next Generation Bamboo: Solution, Innovation, and Design
- ✓ WBD was officially declared by the World Bamboo Organization on September 18 at the 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009.
- ✓ Giant bamboos are the largest members of the grass family.
- ✓ World Bamboo Organization Headquarters: Antwerp, Belgium.
- ✓ Assam is the largest bamboo producing state in India.
- ✓ India is the second largest producer of bamboo behind China

Q. With reference to White Revolution 2.0, consider the following:

- 1. Enhancing local milk production
- 2. Empowering women farmers
- 3. Strengthening dairy infrastructure
- 4. Boosting dairy exports

How many of the above are key focus areas of White Revolution 2.0?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ The Union Home and Cooperation Minister recently launched the standard operating procedure for 'White Revolution 2.0', stating that milk dairies will aid empowerment of women and the fight against malnutrition.
- ✓ **About White Revolution 2.0:**
- ✓ It is a comprehensive initiative aimed at empowering women farmers and creating job opportunities.
- ✓ The programme focuses on four key areas:
- ✓ Empowering women farmers
- ✓ Enhancing local milk production
- ✓ Strengthening dairy infrastructure
- ✓ Boosting dairy exports.
- ✓ Under White Revolution 2.0, the government aims to increase milk procurement by dairy cooperative societies by 50 percent over the next five years by providing market access to dairy farmers in uncovered villages/panchayats and increasing the share of the organized sector in milk procurement.
- ✓ The plan involves setting up and strengthening 100,000 new and existing district cooperative societies, multi-purpose district cooperative societies, and multi-purpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (M-PACS), which will be linked to milk routes with necessary infrastructure.
- ✓ Providing enabling infrastructure e.g. AMCU (Automatic Milk Collection Unit), DPMCU (Data Processing Milk Collection Units), testing equipment, Bulk Milk Coolers, etc., will be the key component of the initiative for carrying out dairy activities.
- ✓ Initially, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) will fund the initiative from its own resources, providing Rs 40,000 per M-PACS to 1,000 M-PACS.
- ✓ Future funding is expected from the proposed National Programme for Dairy Development 2.0 scheme of the department animal husbandry and dairying (DAHD).

- ✓ The satellite will operate in a sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 761 km, with a local time of 12:30 PM at the equator.
- ✓ This orbit will provide a spatial resolution of 57 meters for land and coastal areas and 1 km for oceanic and polar regions. The mission is designed for a 5-year operational life.
- ✓ Hence only statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Q. Who inaugurated the 2nd Global Food Regulators Summit 2024?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Draupadi Murmu
C) Jagdeep Dhankhar
D) Jagat Prakash Nadda

Answer : D

- ✓ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Jagat Prakash Nadda (JP Nadda), inaugurated the second edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 2nd Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 is organised alongside the 3rd World Food India 2024 on 20-21 September 2024.
- ✓ The valedictory session of the 2nd Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 will be addressed by the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh, also known as Lallan Singh, on 21 September 2024.
- ✓ The first Global Food Regulators Summit 2023 was organised in New Delhi as a co-branded event with the G20 Summit.
- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which is an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the 2nd Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 on 20-21 September 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ Delegates from over 50 countries, including food regulatory bodies, risk assessment authorities, and research institutes, are attending the 2nd Global Food Regulators Summit 2024.
- ✓ The Codex Alimentarius Commission, an intergovernmental body of the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food and Agricultural Organisations (FAO), is also participating in the summit.
- ✓ The Director General of the WHO, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, virtually addressed the inaugural session of the 2nd Global Food Regulators Summit 2024.
- ✓ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- ✓ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is a statutory body which was set up in 2008 under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.
- ✓ FSSAI's mandate is to establish science-based standards for food in the country and regulate its manufacturing, storage, distribution, sale, and import.
- ✓ Its job is to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption in the country.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ Regional Offices: Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin, and Chennai
- ✓ Chief Executive Officer: G. Kamala Vardhana Rao

Q. Which country is the partner country at the 3rd World Food India 2024?

- A) Japan
B) Philippines
C) Indonesia
D) Thailand

Answer : A

- ✓ The 3rd edition of World Food India 2024 is being held in New Delhi from 19-22 September 2024.
- ✓ The event is organised by the government of India to promote domestic and foreign investment in the country's food processing sector and to highlight the country's rich food culture to the world.
- ✓ Along with the 3rd World Food India 2024 the 2nd edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit hosted is also being held.
- ✓ The Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) is organising the Global Food Regulators Summit on 20-21 September 2024 in New Delhi.

- ✓ New Delhi hosted the first World Food India in 2017 and the 2nd edition in 2023.
- ✓ The World Food India is organised by the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat are the partner states in the 3rd edition of World Food.
- ✓ Japan is the partner country for World Food India 2024, and Vietnam and Iran are the focus countries.
- ✓ Participants from 90 countries, 18 Union Ministries, 26 States and Union Territories, and other statutory bodies related to the country's food sector are participating in World Food India 2024
- ✓ The theme of the 3rd World Food India 2024 is Processing for prosperity.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra addressed the World Food India 2024 through a video message.
- ✓ He said that the government is committed to seeing that the country sets global benchmarks for innovation, sustainability and safety in the food sector.
- ✓ He also highlighted that the government has allowed 100 foreign direct investment (FDI) in the food processing sector.

Q. What is the theme of the 3rd edition of the World Food India?

- A) ZeroHunger World B) Processing for prosperity
C) Grow, nourish, sustain D) Food Heroes

Answer : B

- ✓ The theme of the 3rd World Food India 2024 is Processing for prosperity.

Q. With reference to Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental policy-making and standard-setting body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
2. Once a member, a country must endorse and support the most recent FATF recommendations and commit to being evaluated by other members.
3. India and China are not members of the FATF.

How many of the above statements are correct?

- A) Only one (1) B) Only two (1,2)
C) All three (1,2,3) D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ Terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has said India has achieved a high level of technical compliance with its recommendations and taken significant steps to implement measures to tackle illicit finance.
- ✓ **About Financial Action Task Force (FATF):**
- ✓ FATF is an intergovernmental policy-making and standard-setting body dedicated to combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
- ✓ Objective: To establish international standards, and to develop and promote policies, both at national and international levels, to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- ✓ Origin:
- ✓ It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris to develop policies against money laundering.
- ✓ In 2001, its mandate expanded to include terrorism financing.
- ✓ Headquarters: Paris, France.
- ✓ **Members:**
- ✓ To become a member, a country must be considered strategically important (large population, large GDP, developed banking and insurance sector, etc.), must adhere to globally accepted financial standards, and be a participant in other important international organizations.

- ✓ Among the banks, SBI made the largest announcement with Rs 5 trillion of investment undertakings, followed by PNB

Q. Who has been recently appointed by Shriram Finance Limited as its brand ambassador?

- A) Manu Bhaker
- B) Sheetal Devi
- C) Rahul Dravid
- D) Neeraj Chopra

Answer : C

- ✓ Shriram Finance Ltd, announced the onboarding of Rahul Dravid, former captain and head coach of the Indian cricket team, as its brand ambassador.
- ✓ Rahul Dravid's association with Shriram Finance represents a perfect blend of two entities that have consistently demonstrated trust, reliability, and excellence in their respective fields.

Q. Exercise AIKYA, recently in the news, was conducted by:

- A) National Disaster Management Authority
- B) Indian Navy
- C) Indian Air Force
- D) Indian Coast Guard

Answer : A

- ✓ National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Southern Command of the Indian Army organised a two-day national symposium, 'Exercise AIKYA', on disaster management in Chennai.
- ✓ Aikya," meaning "Oneness" in Tamil, reflects the exercise's aim to integrate India's Disaster Management community.
- ✓ It brought together key stakeholders from across Peninsular India to enhance disaster preparedness and response capabilities.
- ✓ The exercise witnessed participation from six southern states/UTs: Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Puducherry
- ✓ Key organizations involved: India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Central Water Commission (CWC), and Forest Survey of India (FSI); Geographical Survey of India (GSI) and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- ✓ It simulated emergency situations to test roles and responsibilities, fostered discussions on technologies and trends in disaster relief, and reviewed lessons from recent operations.
- ✓ It addressed issues including tsunamis, landslides, floods, cyclones, industrial incidents, and forest fires, with a focus on recent events in Tamil Nadu, Wayanad, and Andhra Pradesh

Q. Which one of the following is the primary goal of the Europa Clipper Mission, recently seen in the news?

- A) To study Mars' atmosphere
- B) To explore Saturn's rings
- C) To study Jupiter's icy moon
- D) To land a probe on the surface of Mercury

Answer : C

- ✓ NASA is set to launch the Europa Clipper mission, aiming to explore Jupiter's icy moon, Europa.
- ✓ About Europa Clipper Mission:
- ✓ It is a NASA mission to study Jupiter's icy moon Europa.
- ✓ The mission will place a spacecraft in orbit around Jupiter in order to perform a detailed investigation of Europa.

- ✓ The first NASA spacecraft dedicated to studying an ocean world beyond Earth, Europa Clipper aims to find out if the ice-encased moon Europa could be habitable.
- ✓ Europa shows strong evidence of an ocean of liquid water beneath its icy crust.
- ✓ The spacecraft extends 100 feet (30.5 meters) from one end to the other and about 58 feet (17.6 meters) across.
- ✓ It is the largest spacecraft NASA has ever developed for a planetary mission.
- ✓ Europa Clipper will orbit Jupiter and conduct 49 close flybys of the moon to gather data needed to determine whether there are places below its thick frozen crust that could support life.
- ✓ The spacecraft has large solar arrays to collect enough light for its power needs as it operates in the Jupiter system.

Q. Global Cybersecurity Index, recently in the news, is published by:

- A) World Bank
B) World Trade Organization
C) Asian Development Bank
D) International Telecommunication Union

Answer : D

- ✓ India has marked a significant milestone in its cybersecurity efforts by achieving top Tier i.e. Tier 1 status in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024.
- ✓ It is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cybersecurity at a global level.
- ✓ It is to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the issue.
- ✓ Each country's level of development or engagement is assessed along five pillars namely, Legal Measures, Technical Measures, Organizational Measures, Capacity Development, and Cooperation – and then aggregated into an overall score
- ✓ It is published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- ✓ Key highlights of GCI 2024
- ✓ The report places 46 countries in Tier 1, the highest of the five tiers, reserved for “role modelling” countries that demonstrate a strong commitment in all five cybersecurity pillars.
- ✓ With a remarkable score of 98.49 out of 100, India joins the ranks of ‘role-modelling’ countries, demonstrating a strong commitment to cybersecurity practices across the globe.
- ✓ Most countries are either “establishing” (Tier 3) or “evolving” (Tier 4) in terms of cybersecurity.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the INSPIRE– MANAK Programme:

1. It aims to motivate students studying in classes 6 to 10 to become future innovators and critical thinkers.
2. It is jointly implemented by the Department of Science and Technology and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – 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 : C

- ✓ 11th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) of INSPIRE– MANAK winners felicitation ceremony in New Delhi.
- ✓ The INSPIRE – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspiration and Knowledge) is one of the flagship schemes of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India.
- ✓ It is for nurturing ideas and innovations of school students and motivates them to pursue science and a research career.
- ✓ It is jointly implemented by DST and the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) – India.

- ✓ It aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years and studying in classes 6 to 10 to become future innovators and critical thinkers.
- ✓ **Significance:**
- ✓ It believes that once the original ideas and innovations rooted in Science and Technology by students get incubated, it will foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children.
- ✓ This will help address societal needs through science and technology and nurture them to become sensitive and responsible citizens and innovation leaders of tomorrow.
- ✓ What is National Innovation Foundation?
- ✓ It was set up in March 2000 with the assistance of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- ✓ It is India's national initiative to strengthen grassroots technological innovations and outstanding traditional knowledge.
- ✓ Its mission is to help India become a creative and knowledge-based society by expanding policy and institutional space for grassroots technological innovators

Q. Which state government has launched the Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Scheme?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Modi also launched the Maharashtra Government's Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Scheme at Wardha.
- ✓ The Acharya Chanakya Skill Development scheme focuses on skilling the state's youth between the ages of 15 and 45 to become self-reliant and find better employment opportunities.

Q. Who won the 14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship?

- A) Punjab
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Kerala
- D) West Bengal

Answer : A

- ✓ Punjab wins the 14th Hockey India Junior Men National C'ship 2024.
- ✓ Hockey Punjab won the 14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2024 by defeating Uttar Pradesh Hockey in a penalty shootout 4-3.
- ✓ The final was played at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar, Punjab, on 19 September 2024.
- ✓ The 14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2024 was organised by Hockey India at Jalandhar, Punjab, from 9 to 19 September 2024.
- ✓ Teams in the 14th Hockey India Junior Men National Championship 2024
- ✓ Hockey India
- ✓ Hockey India is affiliated with the world Hockey governing body, the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- ✓ Hockey India is the only recognised governing body of men's and women's hockey in India.
- ✓ Hockey India was set up in 2009 to replace the Indian Hockey Federation.
- ✓ Headquarters: New Delhi
- ✓ President: Dilip Tirkey

Q. India has become the____ largest market in the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index (ACWI IMI), surpassing China and narrowly behind France.

- A) Third
- B) Fourth
- C) Fifth
- D) Sixth

Answer : D

- ✓ India has become the sixth largest market in the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index (ACWI IMI), surpassing China and narrowly behind France.
- ✓ For the first time, India is the largest emerging market (EM) in the gauge that tracks the performance of global capital markets.
- ✓ At the end of August, India's weight in the MSCI ACWI IMI stood at 2.35 percent, 11 basis points (bps) more than China's, which is 2.24 percent. France has just 3 bps more weight than India.
- ✓ The MSCI ACWI IMI index encompasses stocks in the large—and mid-cap space. It is a spinoff of the more widely followed MSCI ACWI Index, which has only large—and mid-cap representation.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Blast Furnace:

1. It is a vertical shaft furnace used primarily to produce pig iron from iron ore.
2. Blast furnaces are the largest consumers of materials and energy in the steel-making process.

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

- ✓ Tata Steel Ltd. recently said it had commissioned 'India's largest blast furnace' at Kalinganagar, Odisha, as part of the Phase II expansion of its plant.
- ✓ **About Blast Furnace:**
- ✓ It is a vertical shaft furnace that produces liquid metals by the reaction of a flow of air introduced under pressure into the bottom of the furnace with a mixture of metallic ore, coke, and flux fed into the top.
- ✓ The blast furnace itself is a steel shaft lined with fire-resistant, refractory materials.
- ✓ The hottest part of the furnace - where the walls reach a temperature $>300^{\circ}\text{C}$ - is water-cooled.
- ✓ The whole structure is supported from the outside by a steel frame.
- ✓ Blast furnaces are used to produce pig iron from iron ore for subsequent processing into steel, and they are also employed in processing lead, copper and other metals.

Q. Where was the 2024 Clean the Beach Campaign launched by the Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change?

- A) Mumbai
B) Kochi
C) Goa
D) Chennai

Answer : A

- ✓ **Bhupendra Yadav launches Clean the Beach Campaign 2024 in Mumbai**
- ✓ Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, led the country in this year's Clean the Beach Campaign on the occasion of the International Coastal Clean-up Day on 21 September 2024. The minister participated in an event to clean the beach at Juhu in Mumbai.
- ✓ The Clean the Beach Campaign was simultaneously undertaken on more than 100 beaches across the country.
- ✓ The campaign is part of the government of India's "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" and "Swachh Sagar Abhiyan," which call for a mass cleanliness and sanitation campaign in the country with public participation.
- ✓ **Clean the Beach Campaign**
- ✓ The Clean the Beach Campaign was launched by the Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 5 June 2018 on the occasion of World Environment Day. The campaign focuses on encouraging citizens to clean up coastal areas of man-made trash like plastic bottles, cigarette butts, glass, etc., and create awareness about preserving and protecting the oceans and waterways.

- ✓ The 2024 Clean the Beach Campaign has been undertaken by the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change in partnership with the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences and the coastal State/Union Territories government.
- ✓ **Coastal State and Union Territories in India**
- ✓ The Clean, the Beach Campaign was undertaken along the beaches of the following States/Union Territories of India: Gujarat, Union Territory of Daman and Diu, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Union Territory Lakshadweep, Union Territory Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, West Bengal, and the Union Territory Andaman and Nicobar islands.
- ✓ Since 1986, the International Coastal Clean-Up Day has been observed on the third Saturday of September.
- ✓ In 2024, it will be observed on 21 September

Q. When is the International Day of Peace observed in the world?

- A) 20 September B) 21 September
C) 22 September D) 23 September

Answer : B

- ✓ The world observes 21 September every year as International Peace Day.
- ✓ The Day is observed by humanity to promote a culture of peace, advocate a halt to hostilities and conflict around the world and resolve disputes and differences through dialogue and peace education.
- ✓ This year, the United Nations has chosen Cultivating a Culture of Peace as International Peace Day's theme.
- ✓ The theme has been chosen to mark the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace by the United Nations General Assembly

Q. Which city will host the 25th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards from March 7 to March 9, 2025?

- A) New Delhi B) Gurugram
C) Noida D) Jaipur

Answer : D

- ✓ The 25th International Indian Film Academy Awards will be held in Jaipur from March 7 to March 9, 2025.
- ✓ The announcement comes in the run-up of the 2024 edition of the awards, set to begin in Yas Island, Abu Dhabi, for the third consecutive year from September 27.
- ✓ An MoU was signed between Rajasthan Tourism Department and the IIFA for the silver jubilee celebrations of the IIFA Awards, to be held in the state capital next year.
- ✓ IIFA 2025 will promote tourism in Rajasthan, it is for the second time that the event is taking place in India. First such event was held in Mumbai in 2019.
- ✓ The 2025 ceremony will also host the inaugural IIFA Digital Awards that would honour the best performances in digital entertainment, films and OTT content

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Project 200, recently seen in the news:

1. It is an innovative satellite designed to operate at an Ultra-Low Earth Orbit.
2. It primarily aims to demonstrate an advanced communication technology.

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

- ✓ Bengaluru-based space startup Bellatrix Aerospace recently unveiled Project 200 on the inaugural day of the Bengaluru Space Expo 2024.
- ✓ **About Project 200:**
- ✓ It is an innovative satellite designed to operate at an Ultra-Low Earth Orbit (180 km-250 km).
- ✓ It was developed by Bellatrix Aerospace, a Bengaluru-based space startup.
- ✓ Traditionally, satellites have been deployed in orbits at altitudes well above 450 km.
- ✓ This altitude choice has been influenced by various considerations, such as the desire to minimise the impact of atmospheric interference on satellite operations.
- ✓ Though it is known that a satellite's capabilities improve significantly at 200 km, limitations on propulsion technology have prevented satellites from operating at this orbit.
- ✓ Project 200 is a technology demonstration mission to qualify a new unconventional satellite powered by an innovative propulsion system (developed in-house) at around 200 km.
- ✓ Bellatrix Aerospace stated that their cutting-edge propulsion technology enables satellites to maintain 200 km orbits for years, rather than deorbiting in a few days.
- ✓ According to Bellatrix, at 200 km, a satellite's capability would improve significantly since the communication latency is reduced by half and image resolution is improved by three times.
- ✓ The cost of the satellite is also less when compared to spacecraft placed in 450 km orbits.

Q. Who has been appointed as the new Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF)?

- A) Rajwinder Singh Bhatti B) Tejinder Singh
C) Rakesh Pal D) Amar Preet Singh

Answer : D

- ✓ Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh has been appointed the next Chief of the Air Staff.
- ✓ He is currently the Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and will take over the top post on September 30 when the incumbent Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari retires on superannuation.
- ✓ An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College, Air Marshal Singh was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984.
- ✓ He served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Central Air Command before taking over as the Vice Chief on February 1, 2023.
- ✓ The Air Marshal is a recipient of Param Vishisht Seva Medal and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

Q. With reference to the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, consider the following statements:

1. It is a regional arrangement to build cooperation and economic integration in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. India has signed all the pillars of this framework.
3. It is not a Free Trade Agreement but it allows members to negotiate the parts they want to.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ India signed the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) bloc's agreements on a clean and fair economy.

✓ **Key Facts about Indian Cancer Genome Atlas (ICGA):**

- ✓ It is a national initiative focused on mapping cancers across India, supported by a foundation.
- ✓ The ICGA Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation, operates through a public-private-philanthropic partnership.
- ✓ It receives support from more than 50 clinicians, researchers, and data analysts.
- ✓ Its mission is to enhance cancer diagnosis and treatment for Indian patients and contribute to the global understanding of cancer biology.
- ✓ The foundation's first project focuses on the multi-omics profiling of breast cancer, with plans to extend this effort to other types of cancer in the future.

Q. With reference to Quad Group, consider the following:

1. Its member countries are India, Australia, the US and Japan.
2. It aims to ensure a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region.
3. It has a permanent secretariat in New Delhi.

How many of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ Prime Minister of India is participating in the fourth Quad Leaders Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, in the United States of America (USA).
- ✓ It is a grouping of four democracies namely India, Australia, US and Japan and is known as the quadrilateral security dialogue or quad.
- ✓ The aim of this grouping is to ensure a free and open international order based on the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific.
- ✓ Objectives: The group's primary objectives include maritime security, addressing the risks of climate change, creating an ecosystem for investment in the region, and boosting technological innovation
- ✓ Brief History of Quad:
- ✓ Following the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004, India, Japan, Australia, and the US created an informal alliance to collaborate on disaster relief efforts.
- ✓ In 2007, then PM of Japan, Shinzo Abe, formalised the alliance, as the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or the Quad.
- ✓ However, due to Chinese resistance and reluctance shown by India, it could not move ahead.
- ✓ Later, during the 2017 ASEAN Summits, all four former members re-joined negotiations to revive the quadrilateral alliance.
- ✓ The Quad was upgraded to the ministerial level in September 2019.
- ✓ In March 2021, the first-ever summit of QUAD leaders took place virtually.
- ✓ It was participated by the PMs/Presidents of all the member countries. The summit was hosted by the US.
- ✓ Later, in September 2021, the first in-person meeting of Quad leaders was hosted by the US.
- ✓ It is not structured like a typical multilateral organisation and lacks a secretariat and any permanent decision-making body (like the EU or UN).
- ✓ Instead, it has focused on expanding existing agreements between member countries and highlighting their shared values

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Food Import Rejection Alerts Portal:

1. It is designed to notify the public and food safety authorities about food import rejections at Indian borders.
2. It is developed by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

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

- ✓ Food Import Rejection Alerts (FIRA)- portal was launched during the second edition of the Global Food Regulators Summit 2024 hosted by FSSAI at Bharat Mandapam.
- ✓ It is an online portal for notification of food import rejections at Indian borders.
- ✓ It has been developed by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ✓ It is designed to notify the public and relevant food safety authorities about food import rejections at Indian borders.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ The portal will facilitate rapid exchange of information among authorities worldwide on food safety and health risks stemming from rejected food.
- ✓ It will also enable relevant food authorities to take immediate action for the prevention and control of risks before it cause harm.
- ✓ The new portal has an online interactive interface for rapid dissemination of information to ensure enhanced traceability and transparency.
- ✓ It also serves as a valuable database for tracking rejected food products and for further strengthening of the risk management system.

Q. The Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) has signed an MoU with which company to develop critical technologies for tracking space objects, particularly near-Earth objects and artificial satellites, as part of India's growing focus on Space Situational Awareness (SSA)?

- A) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
B) Big Bang Boom Solutions Private Limited
C) Tata Advanced Systems
D) Bharat Electronics Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ ARIES and BEL collaborate to enhance India's Space Situational Awareness
- ✓ In a major development for India's space technology sector, the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), GoI, has signed an MoU with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ✓ The partnership aims to develop critical technologies for tracking space objects, particularly near-Earth objects and artificial satellites, as part of India's growing focus on Space Situational Awareness (SSA).
- ✓ Under the terms of the MoU, ARIES and BEL will leverage advanced image processing techniques and data analytics solutions. These will be supported by observations from ARIES's cutting-edge telescopes, including the 4m International Liquid Mirror Telescope (ILMT).
- ✓ SSA is crucial for predicting, warning, and avoiding potential collisions between space objects, which is essential for ensuring the safety of satellites and their users

- Q.** Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub set a new record for the longest single mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Oleg and Nikolai belong to which country?
- A) USA
B) Japan
C) Russia
D) UK

- ✓ Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko, Nikolai Chub set new record for longest single mission aboard ISS
- ✓ Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub have set a new record for the longest single mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS).
- ✓ Kononenko and Chub broke the previous record for the longest continuous stay in space, which was set by cosmonauts Sergei Prokopyev, Dmitry Petelin, and NASA astronaut Francisco Rubio.
- ✓ The three set the previous record last year by spending 370 days aboard the International Space Station. Kononenko and Chub returned to Earth on the Soyuz MS-25 spacecraft, after spend a record 374 days in space.

- Answer : C

- ✓ Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India achieved 100-Day Target of 100 Nagar Vans under the Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) with objective to Enhance Urban Greenery.
- ✓ It was launched in 2020 in an effort to enhance the urban greenery to improve the quality of life and increasing social cohesion in cities.
- ✓ The scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 4 lakh per hectare for the creation and maintenance of these urban forests, encouraging the involvement of citizens, students, and other stakeholders in the creation and management of these green spaces.
- ✓ Nagar Van areas range from a minimum of 10 ha to 50 ha.
- ✓ The scheme covers all cities with Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- ✓ Emphasis is on biodiversity, Planting fruit-bearing, medicinal, and native species to attract wildlife and promote ecological balance. Community participation is central, with opportunities for public engagement through tree planting, educational programs, and sustainable management.
- ✓ Each Nagar Van must have at least two-thirds of its area under tree cover and will feature components like Biodiversity Parks, Smriti Vans, Butterfly Conservatories, and Herbal Gardens and now Matri Van created under Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam.
- ✓ Presently, the Nagar Van Yojana aims to develop 1000 Nagar Vans by the year 2027 with the financial support of National Fund of National Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (National CAMPA).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Computer Security Incident Response Team Power:

1. It serves as the central agency for responding to cyber incidents and ensuring coordinated responses.
2. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE).

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 Power inaugurated the Computer Security Incident Response Team for the power sector (CSIRT-Power) in New Delhi.
- ✓ It was launched by the Union Minister of Power in collaboration with CERT-In.
- ✓ It is in alignment with the National Cyber Security Policy of 2013.
- ✓ It will serve as the central agency for responding to cyber incidents and ensuring coordinated responses.
- ✓ Objective: The primary objective of CSIRT-Power is to enhance cybersecurity resilience in the Indian power sector through a structured approach. This includes preventing and responding to cybersecurity incidents, ensuring coordinated responses to cyber threats, and collecting, analysing and sharing information about sector-specific threats.
- ✓ CSIRT-Power will also implement measures to raise cybersecurity awareness and improve the sector's cybersecurity posture while promoting best practices, standard operating procedures, and security policies.
- ✓ The facility will provide cybersecurity expertise and assistance to constituent utilities and facilitate cooperation among stakeholders to strengthen cybersecurity efforts.
- ✓ It was set up under the Central Electricity Authority.
- ✓ **What is CERT-In?**
- ✓ It is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents as and when they occur.
- ✓ It is a functional organisation of the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India, with the objective of securing Indian cyberspace.
- ✓ CERT-In has been operational since January 2004.

Q. India has signed the first-of-its-kind agreements focused on a Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and the overarching Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in Delaware, USA. In which year IPEF was launched?

- A) 2016
B) 2021
C) 2022
D) 2023

Answer : C

- ✓ India has signed the first-of-its-kind agreements focused on a Clean Economy, Fair Economy, and the overarching Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) in Delaware, USA.
- ✓ These agreements were exchanged under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) for prosperity yesterday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is on a three-day visit to the US for the Quad Summit.
- ✓ The Agreement on Clean Economy intends to promote technical cooperation, workforce development, capacity building, and research collaborations.
- ✓ It will facilitate investments and project financing, including concessional financing, as well as joint collaborative projects, with a particular emphasis on supporting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- ✓ **About Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**

- ✓ IPEF was launched on 23 May 2022 in Tokyo, Japan, comprising 14 countries – Australia, Brunei, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and USA.
- ✓ The IPEF seeks to strengthen economic engagement and cooperation among partner countries to advance growth and economic stability.
- ✓ The framework is structured around four pillars relating to Trade (Pillar I); Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II); Clean Economy (Pillar III); and Fair Economy (Pillar IV).
- ✓ India has ratified Agreement on Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II) in February 2024 and has maintained an observer status in Pillar-I.

Q. Which state government has launched a financial assistance programme, 'Bana Kaih', which aims to provide financial assistance to farmers growing ginger, turmeric, Mizo chilli, and broomsticks?

- A) Manipur
B) Mizoram
C) Maharashtra
D) Assam

Answer : B

- ✓ The Mizoram government has launched a financial assistance and support programme, 'Bana Kaih', for small entrepreneurs and farmers of the state.
- ✓ This scheme aims to provide financial assistance to farmers growing ginger, turmeric, Mizo chilli, and broomsticks. These crops will be purchased through farmer societies established in villages.
- ✓ Under this initiative, the government has set minimum prices for these cash crops. If farmers sell their produce below these rates, they will receive support prices. However, if they manage to sell at higher prices, the government will not intervene.
- ✓ Additionally, paddy unhusked rice will be bought at Rs 30 per kg from Kolasib and Mamit districts.
- ✓ The state government has allocated Rs 200 crore for the scheme's implementation in 2024-25. An additional Rs 110 crore has been set aside for agricultural assurance in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

Q. Indian wrestler Sangram Singh became the first Indian male wrestler to win an MMA (mixed martial arts) fight at the Gama International Fighting Championship. The Championship was held in which country?

- A) Georgia
B) Hungary
C) Oman
D) Japan

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian wrestler Sangram Singh became the first Indian male wrestler to win an MMA (mixed martial arts) fight at the Gama International Fighting Championship Tbilisi in Georgia.
- ✓ Commonwealth heavyweight wrestling champion Sangram won in a 90-second match against the Pakistani opponent, Ali Raza Nasir.
- ✓ Moreover, Sangram also registered the fastest win ever by an Indian fighter in the 93 kg division in the championship.

Q. World Rhino Day is celebrated annually on which day to raise awareness about the Rhinoceros and the urgent need for their conservation?

- A) 22 September B) 23 September
C) 24 September D) 25 September

Answer : A

- ✓ World Rhino Day is celebrated annually on September 22 to raise awareness about the Rhinoceros and the urgent need for their conservation.

- ✓ It serves as a global platform to highlight the critical threats rhinos face, including poaching and habitat loss, while recognizing the efforts of individuals and organizations dedicated to protecting these majestic animals.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Keep the Five Alive
- ✓ The day also emphasizes the importance of preserving rhino populations for ecological balance, cultural heritage, and future generations. It is a call to unite in the fight for rhino conservation worldwide.

Q. In September 2024, _ and _ were felicitated with the best male and female player awards, respectively at the FIDE 100 Awards ceremony in Hungary.

- A) Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa; Hou Yifan
- B) Hans Niemann; Anna Muzychuk
- C) Viswanathan Anand; Ju Wenjun
- D) Magnus Carlsen; Judit Polgar

Answer : D

- ✓ Magnus Carlsen and Judit Polgar were felicitated with the best male and female player awards, respectively at the FIDE 100 Awards ceremony in Hungary.
- ✓ Carlsen, ranked world number one, is a part of the Norway team in the ongoing Chess Olympiad 2024.
- ✓ Carlsen has held the No. 1 position in the FIDE world chess rankings since July 1, 2011, trailing only Kasparov in time spent as the highest-rated player in the world.
- ✓ Polgar, on the other hand, announced retirement from competitive chess in 2014

Q. Which Indian pace bowler became the 10th Indian to achieve 400 international wickets during India's first Test against Bangladesh, marking this milestone with a total of 401 wickets across 196 matches?

- A) Mohammed Shami
- B) Kuldeep Yadav
- C) Ravichandran Ashwin
- D) Jasprit Bumrah

Answer : D

- ✓ Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah completed 400 wickets in international cricket, becoming the 10th bowler from his team to do so.
- ✓ Bumrah reached this milestone during India's first Test against Bangladesh at Chennai.
- ✓ In 196 international matches, Bumrah has taken 401 wickets at an average of 21.01, with the best bowling figures of 6/19.
- ✓ He is the only sixth Indian pacer to reach this milestone. In 37 Tests, Bumrah has taken 163 wickets at an average of 20.49, with the best figures of 6/27. He has 10 five-wicket hauls in the long format.
- ✓ The top three wicket-takers for India in international cricket are: Anil Kumble (953 wickets), Ravichandran Ashwin (744 wickets), and Harbhajan Singh (707 wickets).

Q. Where will the world's first multi-material chip fabrication unit for national security be set up?

- A) Jewar, Uttar Pradesh
- B) Gaya, Bihar
- C) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- D) Hisar, Haryana

Answer : A

- ✓ India-US to Jointly set up multi-chip fab unit for National Security.
- ✓ India and the United States will jointly set up the world's first multi-material chip fabrication unit in India, which will be exclusively for national security purposes.
- ✓ During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States from 21-23 September 2024, a historic agreement was signed between him and American President Joe Biden on semiconductors.

- Q.** Which country will help India set up the world's first multi-material chip fabrication unit for national security?

D) France

Q. Which countries are members of G-4 which advocate reform in the United Nations Security Council?

D) India, Brazil, Japan and France

Q. What is the total approved budget of the Chandrayaan-4 mission of ISRO?

D) Rs 1090.10 crore

603

- ✓ Union Cabinet approves Chandrayaan -4 Mission to collect lunar sample.
- ✓ Union Cabinet approved the Chandrayaan -4 mission in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 18 September 2024.
- ✓ The Chandrayaan -4 mission will collect lunar samples from the moon's surface and bring them back to Earth. Only three countries—the United States of America, Russia, and China—have successfully brought lunar soil back to Earth.
- ✓ According to the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw, the ultimate goal is to land an Indian astronaut on the lunar surface by 2040 and successfully return them to Earth
- ✓ **ISRO to lead the Chandrayaan -4 mission**
- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which launched Chandrayaan-1 in 2008, Chandrayaan-2 in 2019, and Chandrayaan-3 in 2023, will be responsible for the Chandrayaan-4 mission.
- ✓ ISRO has been allocated a budget of Rs 2104.06 crore for the Chandrayaan -4 mission to be completed in 36 months.
- ✓ All the necessary technologies will be developed indigenously with the help of the Indian industry.
- ✓ The allocated budget includes the cost of spacecraft development, two launch vehicle missions of LVM3 rockets, external deep space network support and conducting special tests for design validation etc,
- ✓ The success of the Chandrayaan -4 Mission will pave the way for the landing of an Indian astronaut (Gaganyatri) on the moon's surface
- ✓ **Human Mission to the Moon**
- ✓ The government of India approved an ambitious space programme during the Amrit Kaal. It envisages a mission to Venus, a functioning Indian Space Station named Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035, and an Indian landing on the surface of the Moon by 2040.
- ✓ India's premier space agency, ISRO, will spearhead all these missions. It will lead in developing the necessary technologies and infrastructure in association with academia and the private sectors
- ✓ **China and USA Mission to Land Humans on the Moon**
- ✓ China has announced its plan to send Chinese astronauts to the moon by 2030 and ultimately build a research base station at the moon's south pole.
- ✓ Recently, China became the first country in the world to successfully bring back the lunar soil sample from the south pole of the moon through its Chang'e 6 mission.
- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America has launched the Artemis Mission, under which it plans to land astronauts on the moon's south pole in September 2026.
- ✓ It also plans to build a lunar station on the moon's south pole, and the first flight for this purpose is expected to take place in 2028.

Q. When does the ISRO plan to launch an Indian astronaut on the moon's surface?

A) 2030	B) 2035
C) 2040	D) 2045

Answer : C

- ✓ According to the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw, the ultimate goal is to land an Indian astronaut on the lunar surface by 2040 and successfully return them to Earth.

Q. Which country has launched the Artemis Mission to land astronauts on the moon's surface and build a station there?

A) India	B) USA
C) China	D) Japan

Answer : B

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America has launched the Artemis Mission, under which it plans to land astronauts on the moon's south pole in September 2026.

Q. When does China plan to land its astronaut on the surface of the moon?

- A) 2030
- B) 2040
- C) 2035
- D) 2045

Answer : A

- ✓ China has announced its plan to send Chinese astronauts to the moon by 2030 and ultimately build a research base station at the moon's south pole.
- ✓ Recently, China became the first country in the world to successfully bring back the lunar soil sample from the south pole of the moon through its Chang'e 6 mission.

Q. Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways?

- A) Manu Bhaker
- B) Neeraj Chopra
- C) Aman Sehrawat
- D) Avani Lekhara

Answer : A

- ✓ **Manu Bhaker: Brand Ambassador of Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterway.**
- ✓ Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterway has appointed double Olympic medalist shooter Manu Bhaker as its Brand Ambassador.
- ✓ This was announced by the Union Minister for Port Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, at the 4th Harnessing of the Nari Shakti for the Development of the Nation event held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, on 17 September 2024 to facilitate women achievers.
- ✓ The 4th Harnessing of the Nari Shakti for the Development of the Nation was jointly organised by the Chennai Port Authority and the Kamarajar Port Authority at the International Cruise Terminal of the Chennai Port in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Women achievers with a background in marine or other sectors were honoured for their contribution to nation-building.
- ✓ **Honoured Women achievers**
- ✓ Apart from Manu Bhaker, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal also felicitated First Lady Marine Engineer in the history of Indian Mercantile Marine, Sonali Banerjee; First Women Captain of the INSV Tarini, Lt Commander Vartika Joshi; 2024 Paris Paralympics Badminton silver medallist, Thulasimathi Murugesan; Paris Paralympics silver medalist in badminton Manisha Ramadass; Surveyor, 1 STS Marine Components, Indian Registrar of Shipping,
- ✓ Rupali Joshi and General Manager, JM Baxi Group, Chennai Branch, Teena Joey
- ✓ **About Manu Bhaker**
- ✓ Manu Bhaker is the daughter of a Marine Engineer and was born in Jhajjar, Haryana.
- ✓ She is the youngest Indian shooter to win the ISSF World Cup medal.
- ✓ At the 2018 ISSF World Cup, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, she won a gold medal in the 10-meter air pistol event at the age of 16.
- ✓ At the 33rd Summer Olympics held in Paris, France, in 2024, she became the first Indian woman shooter to win a medal in Olympics history.
- ✓ She also became the first Indian athlete to win two medals in a single edition of the Summer Olympics.
- ✓ First, she won bronze in the 10-meter air pistol event, and then, with Sarabjot Singh, she won the bronze medal in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Karam Festival:

1. It is mainly celebrated in the Northeastern states of India.
2. It is a popular festival related to the harvest and a tribute to the Karam tree.

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

- ✓ Tribal populations in many states of India celebrated the harvest festival of Karma or Karam Parv.
- ✓ Karma Puja, one of the most popular festivals is related to the harvest and a tribute to the Karam tree. This tree symbolises fertility, prosperity and everything that is auspicious.
- ✓ Origin: The origin of the festival can be traced to the beginning of agriculture by tribal communities.
- ✓ **How it is celebrated?**
- ✓ About a week before the festival commences, young women bring clear sand from the river, in which they sow seven types of grains.
- ✓ On the day of the festival, a branch of the Karam tree is planted in the courtyard or 'akhra'.
- ✓ Devotees come with Jawa (hibiscus) flowers, and the pahan (priest) worships the Karam Raja. Dancing and singing of traditional Karam songs follow.
- ✓ The festival concludes with the immersion of the Karam branch in a river or pond, and the Jawa is distributed among the devotees.
- ✓ Towards the end of the Karam festival, branches from sal or bhelua trees are often planted in the fields with the hope that the Karam Raja/ Devta will protect their crops.
- ✓ It is traditionally celebrated on the Ekadashi tithi (eleventh day) of the lunar fortnight in the month of Bhado/ Bhadra, which corresponds to August-September in the Gregorian calendar.
- ✓ The festival is popular, especially among the Munda, Ho, Oraon, Baiga, Kharia, and Santhal peoples.
- ✓ It is mainly celebrated in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Assam, and Odisha.

Q. Which city will host the 23rd Commonwealth Games in 2026?

- A) Scotland B) Australia
C) Thailand D) Indonesia

Answer : A

- ✓ **Glasgow to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after Victoria backs off.**
- ✓ Glasgow, Scotland's capital, has agreed to host the 2026 Commonwealth Games after the original host, Victoria of Australia, declined due to the rising cost. Glasgow has previously successfully hosted the 2012 Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ The first Commonwealth Games was held in 1930, and countries or territories that are members of the Commonwealth Games Federation, now known as Commonwealth Sport, participate in the Games.
- ✓ The last of six of the seventh edition of the Commonwealth Games has been held in Great Britain or Australia.
- ✓ Scotland, England and Wales constitute Great Britain.
- ✓ Australian state of Victoria was awarded the hosting right of the 23rd Commonwealth Games in 2026. The organiser of the Victorian Commonwealth Games even received the traditional torch as the next host of the games from the 2022 Birmingham Games organising committee at the closing ceremony of the 2022 Games.
- ✓ After the Victorian government refusal to support the Commonwealth Games financially, Victoria refused to host them.
- ✓ Glasgow agreed to host the games after it received backing from the Scottish government.

- ✓ The 2026 Games will be a scaled-down version of the previous Commonwealth Games and will host only 10 sporting events, compared to the 17 sporting events of the 2022 Birmingham Games.
- ✓ In 2021, Commonwealth Sports agreed to make athletics and swimming compulsory, while Archery and Boxing were declared core sports.
- ✓ It is not clear which sporting events will be included in the 2026 edition.
- ✓ **About Commonwealth Games**
- ✓ The first Commonwealth Games was organised as the British Empire Games in Hamilton, Canada, in 1930.
- ✓ It is held every four years but was not held in 1942 and 1946 due to World War II.
- ✓ Only two Asian cities have hosted the Commonwealth Games: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in 1998 and Delhi in 2010.
- ✓ So far, the Commonwealth Games has not been hosted by an African country.
- ✓ The Commonwealth is a group of countries that were previously a colony of Great Britain but are now independent.
- ✓ The Commonwealth Countries have set up the Commonwealth Games Federation, now known as Commonwealth Sport, which administers the Commonwealth Games.
- ✓ Commonwealth Sport Members: 74 countries

Q. What is the theme of the 8th India Water Week 2024, recently inaugurated by President Draupadi Murmu in New Delhi?

- A) Water Security for Sustainable Development with Equity
- B) Water Cooperation – Coping with 21st Century Challenges
- C) Water and Energy for Inclusive Growth
- D) Partnership and cooperation for inclusive water development and management

Answer : D

- ✓ President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the 8th India Water Week on 17 September 2024. The biannual four-day event is being held at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from 17 to 20 September 2024. The Union Jal Shakti minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, was also present on the occasion.
- ✓ The India Water Week is modelled on Stockholm Water Week, which focuses on water management and cooperation issues.
- ✓ The International Wash Conference 2024 is also being held simultaneously with the India Water Week.
- ✓ The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, and Government of India organise India Water Week every two years. This year, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is the Partner Ministry for the 8th India Water Week and Exhibition.
- ✓ The 8th India Water Week theme is “Partnerships and Cooperation for Inclusive Water Development and Management”.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Jal Shakti organised the first Indian Water Week in 2012. It was organised again in 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2022.
- ✓ Every year, a particular theme is chosen as the focus area of the India Water Week edition.

Q. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off country's first Vande Metro, now renamed as Namu Bharat Rapid Rail service, between ____.

- A) Bhuj and Ahmedabad
- B) New Delhi and Ahmedabad
- C) New Delhi and Meerut
- D) Bhuj and Varanasi

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has flagged off country's first Vande Metro, now renamed as Namu Bharat Rapid Rail service, between Bhuj and Ahmedabad.

- ✓ The Ahmedabad-Bhuj Vande Metro service will stop at nine stations and cover the 360-kilometre distance in 5 hours and 45 minutes at a top speed of 110 kilometres per hour.
- ✓ Developed on the same platform as the Vande Bharat Express, the Vande Metro train is a self-propelled train set designed for short-distance inter-city travel. However, unlike Vande Bharat which is a semi-high speed 160 kmph train set, the Vande Metro trains will have a maximum speed limit of 130 kmph.

Q. National Engineers Day is celebrated every year on 15 September. What is the theme of National Engineer's Day 2024?

- A) Engineering for A Healthy Planet
- B) Smart Engineering for a Better World
- C) The Role of Engineers in Developing India
- D) Innovating for a Sustainable Future

Answer : D

- ✓ India celebrates National Engineer's Day on September 15, commemorating the birth anniversary of engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, a pioneer in the field of engineering.
- ✓ The day is observed to honour his contributions to the development of India in the fields of engineering, education and economy.
- ✓ Theme 2024 – Innovating for a Sustainable Future
- ✓ Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya was awarded Bharata Ratna by the Government of India in 1955.

Q. What is the name of the operation launched by the Indian government to provide humanitarian assistance to Typhoon Yagi, which affected Vietnam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic?

- A) Operation Madad
- B) Operation Raahat
- C) Operation Sadbhavana
- D) Operation Trident

Answer : C

- ✓ The government of India has launched Operation Sadbhavana to help countries affected by Typhoon Yagi in Southeast Asia.
- ✓ The Indian government has announced USD one million in humanitarian assistance to Vietnam and USD one lakh to the Lao People's Democratic Republic as part of its Act East Policy and its policy of being the first responder in providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) to impacted countries.
- ✓ The name of the tropical cyclone 'Typhoon Yagi' was given by the Japanese Meteorological Agency.
- ✓ The government of India, under Operation Sadbhavana, has announced one million dollars in humanitarian assistance to Vietnam. The 35 tons of humanitarian assistance includes a consignment of water purification items, water containers, blankets, kitchen utensils, and solar lanterns, among other things.
- ✓ The government has also announced one lakh dollars in assistance to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The ten tonnes of humanitarian relief supplies include hygiene kits, blankets, mosquito nets and repellents, sleeping bags, gensets, water purifiers, water purification tablets, disinfectants and other materials
- ✓ **About Typhoon Yagi**
- ✓ Typhoon Yagi is considered to be the most powerful storm to originate in the South China Sea in the last 30 years.
- ✓ Typhoons are tropical cyclones that originate in the South China Sea.
- ✓ Typhoon Yagi, with a speed of more than 142 miles per hour, affected Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Lao People's Democratic Republic and southern China.

Q. Which country has given the name Yagi to Typhoon Yagi?

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

Answer : B

- ✓ The name of the tropical cyclone 'Typhoon Yagi' was given by the Japanese Meteorological Agency.

Q. What was the theme of the 4th Global Bio-India?

- A) 'Biotech Innovation' and 'Bio-manufacturing'
- B) The Future is Now
- C) Building a Just World
- D) Sustainable Planet

Answer : A

- ✓ 4th edition of the Global Bio-India 2024 concludes in New Delhi.
- ✓ The 4th Global Bio-India 2024 event successfully concluded on 14 September 2024. The three-day event was held in New Delhi from 12 to 14 September 2024. It showcased India's enormous potential in the biotech sector for research, development, and manufacturing to the world. The first Global Bio-India was held in 2021, and since then, it has been held annually
- ✓ The 4th Global Bio-India 2024 was organised by the Department of Biotechnology under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, and the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- ✓ South Korea was the partner country at the 4th Global Bio-India 2024.
- ✓ The theme of the 4th Global Bio-India 2024 was 'Biotech Innovation' and 'Bio-manufacturing'.
- ✓ The theme aims to promote India as a global hub for research, development, and manufacturing in the biotech sector.

Q. The government of India has set a target to achieve a \$ 150 billion bioeconomy by which year?

- A) 2025
- B) 2030
- C) 2035
- D) 2040

Answer : A

- ✓ **Status of the Bioeconomy in India**
- ✓ The government of India has recently approved the BioE3 (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) Policy, which aims to make India a global biotech powerhouse by promoting biomanufacturing and employment in the sector.
- ✓ According to the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), the Indian bioeconomy has grown from \$10 billion in 2014 to \$130 billion 2024.
- ✓ The government of India has set a target to achieve a \$150 billion bioeconomy by 2025.
- ✓ Currently, 60 per cent of the global production of vaccines is done in India.
- ✓ India has the 2nd highest number of USFDA-approved manufacturing plants outside the USA.
- ✓ According to the recently published report of the Australian Strategic Pacific Institute ASP, India is among the top countries in 45 out of 64 technologies and holds second place in Biotech manufacturing

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile:

1. It is a ship-borne weapon system designed to neutralise various aerial threats at close ranges.
2. It is equipped with advanced guidance systems that provide enhanced agility and precision in targeting.

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 successfully test-fired the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VLSRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur on the Odisha coast.
- ✓ It is a ship-borne weapon system designed to neutralise various aerial threats at close ranges, including sea-skimming targets.
- ✓ During the mid-course flight, the missile uses a fibre-optic gyroscope-based inertial guidance mechanism while the terminal phase uses active radar homing.
- ✓ It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- ✓ The test was jointly carried out by the Indian Navy and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from a land-based vertical launcher against a high-speed, low-flying aerial target.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It is designed for neutralising various airborne threats at close ranges, including aircraft, helicopters, drones, and incoming missiles.
- ✓ It is equipped with advanced guidance systems and cutting-edge technologies that provide enhanced agility and precision in targeting.
- ✓ It weighs around 170 kg and uses solid propellant. With a maximum speed of Mach 4.5, the weapon system can reach an altitude of 16 km.
- ✓ The successful demonstration of this system further strengthens India's air defence capabilities in maritime operations.

Q. Palamau Tiger Reserve is located in which state?

- A) Odisha B) Assam
C) Jharkhand D) Kerala

Answer : C

- ✓ Forest officials from the Palamau Tiger Reserve have informed the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) that Naxals have eaten into the reserve.
- ✓ **About Palamau Tiger Reserve:**
- ✓ Location: It is located on the western side of Latehar district on the Chhotanagpur plateau in Jharkhand.
- ✓ The reserve forms part of the Betla National Park.
- ✓ It is one of the first nine tiger reserves created in the country at the inception of 'Project Tiger'.
- ✓ It is the first reserve in the world in which a tiger census was carried out as a pugmark count as early as 1932 under the supervision of J.W. Nicholson.
- ✓ It has a total area of 1,014 sq. km. with a core area of 414 sq. km. and a buffer area of 600 sq. km.
- ✓ The terrain is undulating, with valleys, hills, and plains.
- ✓ Three rivers, namely NorthKoyal, Auranga, and Burha, flow through the valleys.
- ✓ The reserve is very rich in minerals like Bauxite and Coal.

Q. Gopalpur Port, recently seen in the news, is located in which one of the following states?

- A) Gujarat
- B) West Bengal
- C) Odisha
- D) Andhra Pradesh

Answer : C

- ✓ The Odisha government recently approved a proposal to transfer 95 percent of the equity shares of Gopalpur Port to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ).
- ✓ **About Gopalpur Port:**
- ✓ It is a deep draft, multi-cargo port located on the east coast of India in the mineral rich state of Odisha.
- ✓ It has the capacity to handle 20 million metric tonnes per annum of cargo.
- ✓ It lies between Paradip Port in the north and Visakhapatnam Port in the south at almost equi distance from each.
- ✓ The hinterland of the port are the states of Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, thus providing access to a mix of minerals, steel, aluminium, cement and power plants.
- ✓ The coal fields of IB and Talcher, which account for approximately 25% of India's coal reserves form part of the hinterland of the port.
- ✓ Connectivity:
- ✓ The broad-gauge Howrah-Visakhapatnam-Chennai east coast trunk route which runs parallel to the east coastline is just 6 km away from Gopalpur port site.
- ✓ Close proximity to NH5 (Kolkata-Chennai) provide excellent road connectivity to and from Gopalpur.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Emmy Award:

1. It is the renowned accolades given to television and emerging media performances.
2. It is only given for documentary, technology and engineering related television performances.

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

- ✓ 76th Primetime Emmy Awards were handed out at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.
- ✓ The Emmy Awards are the most renowned accolades given to television and emerging media performances. Unlike Oscars and Golden Globe awards, they aren't given for films.
- ✓ These were conceived in 1948 and the first ceremony took place on January 25, 1949.
- ✓ Apart from the International Emmy Awards and the Primetime Emmy Awards, the Emmys are also given in the following categories: daytime, sports, news and documentary, technology and engineering, and regional.
- ✓ While Primetime Emmy Awards honour television shows produced only in America and aired during primetime, International Emmy Awards are for international shows.
- ✓ Daytime Emmy Awards are given to American shows aired during late-morning and afternoon. Regional Emmy Awards are for regional television markets, including state-to-state programming, local news and locally produced shows.
- ✓ These awards are given by three sister organizations:
- ✓ First is the Television Academy, which administers the Primetime Emmy Awards.
- ✓ Second is the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, which oversees daytime, sports, news and documentary categories.
- ✓ Third is the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, which is responsible for International Emmys.
- ✓ Each organisation maintains its own membership of television professionals who vote and decide who will get the award

Q. The Chamran-1 Research Satellite, recently seen in the news, was launched by which one of the following countries?

- A) UAE
- B) Kazakhstan
- C) Iran
- D) Saudi Arabia

Answer : C

- ✓ Iran has successfully launched its research satellite, Chamran-1, into space recently.
- ✓ **About Chamran-1 Research Satellite:**
- ✓ It is an Iranian research satellite designed and manufactured by Iranian engineers at Iran Electronics Industries (SAIran), a defense ministry subsidiary, in collaboration with the Aerospace Research Institute and several private firms.
- ✓ It was put into orbit at an altitude of 550 kilometers (341 miles) above the Earth's surface onboard a homegrown Ghaem-100 space launch vehicle (SLV).
- ✓ The Ghaem-100 rocket, which carried the latest satellite, is manufactured by the Aerospace Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).
- ✓ It is Iran's first three-stage solid-fuel satellite launcher.
- ✓ Weighing approximately 60 kilograms, the primary mission of the Chamran-1 is to test hardware and software systems for orbital maneuver technology validation.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding INDUS-X:

1. It is an initiative of India and Japan to expand strategic technology partnerships and defense industrial cooperation between governments and businesses.
2. It aims to explore possibilities for co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery, and infantry 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 third edition of the INDUS-X Summit concluded in the United States, marking a progress in the advancement of a joint defence innovation ecosystem in India and the USA.
- ✓ It was launched in 2023 during the state visit of the Prime Minister of India to the USA.
- ✓ Objective: To expand strategic technology partnerships and defense industrial cooperation between governments, businesses, and academic institutions in India and the US.
- ✓ INDUS X will be a defence innovation bridge, which will inter-alia, include Joint Challenges, Joint Innovation Fund, Academia engagement, Industry-startup connect, investment by private entities in defence projects, mentoring by experts and niche technology projects etc.
- ✓ It will focus on advancing high-tech cooperation and fostering joint research, development, and production opportunities in the defence sector.
- ✓ The initiative aims to explore possibilities for co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery, and infantry vehicles.
- ✓ It will focus on advancing high-tech cooperation and fostering joint research, development, and production opportunities in the defence sector.
- ✓ The initiative aims to explore possibilities for co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery, and infantry vehicles.
- ✓ The INDUS-X initiative is being steered by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) on behalf of the Ministry of Defence and Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) under the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD).

Q. The International Day for the preservation for Ozone layer (World Ozone Day) is observed annually on?

- A) 15 September
- B) 14 September
- C) 16 September
- D) 13 September

Answer : C

- ✓ Since 1995, the 16th of September has been observed as World Ozone Day in India and International Day for the Preservation of Ozone worldwide.
- ✓ World Ozone Day, or the International Day for the Preservation of Ozone, is celebrated every year to spread awareness among people about the depletion of the Ozone Layer, the danger it poses to the planet, and the countermeasures taken to preserve it.
- ✓ In India, the Ozone Cell under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been celebrating the International Day for the Preservation of Ozone at the National and State levels since 1995.
- ✓ In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution establishing 16 September as International Day for the Preservation of Ozone.
- ✓ The day was chosen to commemorate the signing of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on 16 September 1987.
- ✓ The first International Day for the Preservation of Ozone/World Ozone Day was observed on 16 September 1995.
- ✓ The theme of the 30th World Ozone Day 2024 is "Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions."

Q. What is the theme of the 30th World Ozone Day 2024?

- A) Montreal Protocol: Advancing Climate Actions
- B) Global Cooperation Protecting Life on Earth
- C) Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone Layer and Reducing Climate Change
- D) Montreal Protocol - Keeping us, our food and vaccines cool

Answer : A

Q. Who has been elected the president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)?

- A) Roger Binny
- B) P. T. Usha
- C) Anju Bobby George
- D) Tayyab Ikram

Answer : D

- ✓ Tayyab Ikram to continue as FIH chief for second consecutive term
- ✓ Incumbent International Hockey Federation (FIH) president Tayyab Ikram is set to be elected unopposed as the head of the world body at its 49th Congress in Muscat, Oman.
- ✓ The nominations for FIH elections were received by the August 31 deadline for the positions to be elected by the National Associations that are members of the FIH at its Statutory Congress.
- ✓ The former Pakistan and China hockey coach is a member of the IOC Olympic Solidarity Commission and has been an Executive Board member of the FIH since 2016. On 5 November 2022, he was elected as the 13th President of FIH.
- ✓ International Hockey Federation (FIH)
- ✓ Formation : 1924
- ✓ Founded : Paris, France
- ✓ Headquarters : Lausanne, Switzerland
- ✓ President : Tayyab Ikram (Now a citizen of Macau, Ikram was born in Pakistan)
- ✓ CEO : Thierry Weil

Q. Which country has become the first country to allow voters to elect judges at all levels?

- A) Finland
- B) Mexico
- C) Iraq
- D) Germany

Answer : B

- ✓ Mexico became the world's first country to allow voters to elect judges at all levels after protesters invaded the upper house and suspended debate on the issue.
- ✓ The reform was approved with 86 votes in favor and 41 against, garnering the two-thirds majority needed to amend the constitution, in an upper chamber dominated by the ruling Morena party and its allies.
- ✓ A two-thirds majority was required to amend the constitution, and the reform achieved this threshold.

Q. Who appoints the Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory of Delhi?

- A) Prime minister
- B) President
- C) Chief Justice of India
- D) Lieutenant Governor

Answer : B

- ✓ The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act 1991 added article 239AA to the constitution and renamed the Union Territory of Delhi as the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- ✓ The NCT Delhi is not a state but a Union territory with a 70-member Legislative Assembly.
- ✓ The President appoints the Chief Minister of NCT Delhi.
- ✓ There can be a maximum of seven ministers, including the Chief Minister in the NCT Delhi government.

Q. Who has been appointed as the 8th Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory of Delhi?

- A) Shashikala Kakodkar
- B) Meenakashi Lekhi
- C) Swati Maliwal
- D) Atishi Marlena

Answer : D

- ✓ **Atishi Marlena: 3rd Women and 8th Chief minister of NCT Delhi.**
- ✓ The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), in a meeting in New Delhi on 17 September 2024, has elected senior party leader Atishi Marlena as its new chief minister after the announcement of resignation by the incumbent chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal.
- ✓ Atishi will be 3rd woman after Sushama Swaraj and Sheila Dikshit and 8th person to become the chief minister of the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi.
- ✓ The term of the current Delhi legislative assembly ends on 11 February 2025.
- ✓ **Resignation of three-time CM Arvind Kejriwal**
- ✓ The founder leader of the Aam Aadmi Party and three-time NCT Delhi chief minister, Arvind Kejriwal, tendered his resignation to the NCT Delhi Lieutenant Governor, V.K. Saxena, on 17 September 2024.
- ✓ Arvind Kejriwal, facing serious corruption charges in the Delhi Liquor Excise case, was recently granted bail by the Supreme Court. After being granted bail, Arvind Kejriwal announced that he would resign from the post.
- ✓ The Aam Aadmi Party's legislative party elected Aatishi Marlena as its new leader and the new chief minister of NCT Delhi in a meeting on 17 September 2024.
- ✓ Aatishi Marlena is a MLA from Kalkaji seat.
- ✓ The present term of the Delhi Legislative Assembly ends on 11 February 2025.
- ✓ In the last assembly election held on 8 February 2020, AAP secured an absolute majority by winning 62 seats, and the Bharatiya Janata Party bagged 8 seats in the 70-member assembly.

- ✓ Since 1952, there have been eight chief ministers of NCT Delhi, including Aatishi Marlena. Sheila Dikshit of the Congress(I) is the longest-serving chief minister from 1998-2013.
- ✓ Sushma Swaraj of the BJP has the shortest tenure of 52 days. Sushma Swaraj was also the first female chief minister of NCT Delhi.

Q. India defeated which team to win the 8th Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy?

- A) China
- B) Russia
- C) Croatia
- D) Brazil

Answer : A

- ✓ India wins Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy for record 5th time.
- ✓ The Indian men's hockey team, led by Harmanpreet Singh, defeated host China 1-0 in the final to win the Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy for a record fifth time. The final match of the 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was played at the Moqi Hockey Training Base in Hulunbuir City, China, on 17 September 2024.
- ✓ Defending champion India had earlier won the trophy in 2011, 2016, 2018 and 2023.
- ✓ In the final, Jugraj Singh scored the only winning goal of the match in the 51 minutes.
- ✓ The 8th Men's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 was held at Hulunbuir City, Inner Mongolia, People's Republic of China, from 8-17 September 2024.
- ✓ **India Maintains Unbeaten Record**
- ✓ India was the only team in the 8th Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy to defeat all its opponents and remain unbeaten in the tournament.
- ✓ In the league stage, India defeated China 3-0, Japan 5-1, Malaysia 8-1, South Korea 3-1 and Pakistan 2-1.
- ✓ In the semi-final match, India defeated South Korea 4-1 to reach its sixth final of the Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy.
- ✓ For China, it was their first first-ever final in the Men's Asian Champions Trophy Championship. The Chinese team had defeated Pakistan in the semi-final,
- ✓ This was the first tournament the Indian hockey team was playing without its legendary goalkeeper, PR Sreejesh, who retired after the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- ✓ The Indian team coach is Craig Fulton.
- ✓ The three-time Men's Asian Champions Trophy champion Pakistan defeated South Korea 5-2 in the 3rd place in the play-off match. South Korea was at the fourth place, Malaysia at 5th place and Japan at the last and 6th place.
- ✓ Awards Winners at the 8th Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy
- ✓ Following are the award winners of the 8th Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy.
- ✓ Top scorer of the tournament: Yang Jihun of South Korea (nine goals)
- ✓ Promising goalkeeper of the tournament: Kim Jaehan of South Korea's
- ✓ Best goalkeeper of the tournament: Wang Caiyu of China
- ✓ Rising star of the tournament: Shahid Hannan of Pakistan
- ✓ Player of the tournament: Harmanpreet Singh, captain of India
- ✓ Man of the final match: Lin Changliang of China
- ✓ 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 five title wins, followed by Pakistan, with three title wins.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas:

1. It provides information about the potential of ocean energy resources encompassing marine meteorological and hydrological energy forms.
2. It is developed by the India Space Research Organisation (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 : A

- ✓ Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has announced the development of an 'Integrated Ocean Energy Atlas' of the Indian EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone).
- ✓ It showcases the vast potential of ocean energy resources encompassing marine meteorological (solar and wind) and hydrological (wave, tide, currents, ocean thermal, and salinity gradients) energy forms.
- ✓ It identifies areas with high potential for energy generation and will serve as a reference for policymakers, industry and researchers for harnessing the rich energy resources available in the Indian EEZ.
- ✓ INCOIS prepared the annual, monthly, and daily energy estimates of ocean energy components following standard methods that can be visualised through a WebGIS interface at 5 km grid resolution.
- ✓ Key facts about the INCOIS
- ✓ It was established as an autonomous body in 1999 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding CREATE setup:

1. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises.
2. It helps advance rural industrialization and fostering enterprise creation.

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 Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) inaugurated the Centre for Rural Enterprise Acceleration through Technology (CREATE) setup at Leh through virtual mode.
- ✓ It will enhance local productivity, product quality, and economic potential and improve livelihoods for the local communities.
- ✓ It will help advance rural industrialization and foster enterprise creation, to retain the traditional artisans, particularly in regions like Ladakh.
- ✓ CREATE will provide
- ✓ A Pashmina Wool Roving Facility.
- ✓ Training for the development of production facility for Essential Oil Extraction from Roses and Other Flowers and Training for the development of a production facility for the Bio-processing of available fruits and other raw materials.
- ✓ The machinery required for Pashmina wool roving has been installed, commissioned and is ready for operation.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Smart Precision Horticulture Programme:

1. It is an initiative under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.
2. It uses smart technology like the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, drones and data analytics to boost production.

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 Agriculture is planning a Smart Precision Horticulture Programme under the existing Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) scheme.
- ✓ It uses smart technology such as the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, drones and data analytics to boost production through maximal use of resources while minimising environmental impact.
- ✓ It will cover 15,000 acres of land in five years from 2024-25 to 2028-29 and is expected to benefit about 60,000 farmers.
- ✓ At present, the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), launched during Covid-19, has provisions for financing infrastructure projects for smart and precision agriculture.
- ✓ Apart from offering financial support, the Centre is also considering collaborating with the Netherlands and Israel, where tech-based modern farming solutions are being used, through Centres of Excellences (CoEs).
- ✓ Apart from offering financial support, the Centre is also considering collaborating with the Netherlands and Israel, where tech-based modern farming solutions are being used, through Centres of Excellences (CoEs).
- ✓ The Centre has also set up 22 Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDCs) across the country to test new technologies and modify them according to local needs.

Q. Which shipyard in India is building the Arnala Class of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) for the Indian Navy?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Mahe Class Anti Submarine Warfare Ship Malpe and Mulki launched.
- ✓ The Cochin Shipyard launched its Mahe Class anti-submarine Warfare Shallow Water ship Malpe and Mulki on September 9, 2024, in a ceremony in Kochi, Kerala.
- ✓ The Malpe and Mulki are the fourth and fifth ships in the Mahe Class, Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft vessels to be built by the defence sector Cochin Shipyard Limited. The ship has been built indigenously, with around 80 per cent of its content being Indian.
- ✓ The government of India launched a project to manufacture 16 Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow watercraft (ASW-SWC) vessels in India under the Make in India initiative.
- ✓ The new Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow watercraft will replace the Russian Abhay-class corvettes that were inducted into the Indian Navy in 1989.
- ✓ In April 2019, the Union Ministry of Defence signed a contract with Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and the Kochi-based Cochin Shipyard Limited to construct eight ASW-SWC vessels each.
- ✓ The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited-built ASW -SWC vessels will be known as Arnala Class vessels, and the Cochin Shipyard vessels will be known as Mahe Class vessels
- ✓ Vessels Launched under the ASW SWC Project
- ✓ Under the Mahe class ASW-SWC vessels, the Cochin Shipyard has launched the first vessel Mahe, the second vessel Malvan, the third Mangrol, the fourth Malpe and the fifth Mulki.
- ✓ Six ships have been launched under the Arnala class ASW-SWC so far. The first ship was the Arnala, the second Androth, the third Anjadip, the fourth Amini, the fifth Agray, and the sixth Akshay. The Akshay and Agray were launched in March 2024.
- ✓ What is an ASW-SWC Vessel?

- ✓ The ASW-SWC vessels are submarine hunters that will operate along India's coastal waters. The waters near the coastal areas are shallow hence they are called Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow watercraft.
- ✓ The ASW-SWC are also capable of laying mines along the sea bed and undertake low-intensity maritime operations.
- ✓ The 77.6 m long & 105 m wide ASW-SWC vessels are equipped with lightweight torpedoes, ASW rockets and mines, 30mm naval surface gun, and two 16.7mm stabilised remote control guns with optronic control systems.
- ✓ It has stealth technology and highly advanced sonar to detect submarines in shallow waters.
- ✓ The maximum speed of the vessels is 25 knots per hour.
- ✓ The Amala and the Mahe class AW-SWC vessels can accommodate 57 crew members

Q. Which shipyard in India is building the Mahe Class of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) for the Indian Navy?

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

Answer : D

Q. How many vessels will be built for the Indian Navy under the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) Project?

- A) 16
- B) 20
- C) 25
- D) 10

Answer : A

- ✓ 16, eight by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited and eight by Cochin Shipyards Limited

Q. Who has become the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance(ISA)?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Nepal Becomes 101st full Member of International Solar Alliance.
- ✓ Nepal has become the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance(ISA) as a full member.
- ✓ The Instrument of Ratification for the same was exchanged between Nepal's Charge d' affairs Dr. Surendra Thapa, and Joint Secretary Economic Diplomacy Multilateral Economic Relations (ED&MER), MEA, Abhishek Singh during a meeting in New Delhi, Delhi.
- ✓ The information for the same was shared by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
- ✓ ISA's 'Towards 1000' strategy targets mobilizing USD 1 trillion investments in solar energy by 2030, providing clean energy access to 1 billion people, and installing 1 terawatt (TW)/1000 Giga Watt (GW) of solar energy capacity

ISA IN NEWS 2024

- Nepal has become the 101st country to join the International Solar Alliance(ISA).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually addressed the first International Solar Festival, which was being held in New Delhi
- Paraguay has become the 100th full member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)

Answer : B

- ✓ union Minister for Commerce and Industry launched the Trade Connect e-platform.
- ✓ It is a new digital initiative aimed at transforming the landscape of international trade for Indian exporters, especially MSMEs (Medium, Small and Medium Enterprises).
- ✓ It will connect Indian Exporters, MSMEs and Entrepreneurs with various stakeholders including Indian Missions Abroad, Export Promotion Councils, and other Partner Government Agencies.
- ✓ The platform will provide information on trade events taking place in different parts of the world, benefits available due to India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and other international trade-related information and data.
- ✓ The platform, developed in collaboration with key partners including the Ministry of MSME, EXIM Bank, Department of Financial Services (DFS), and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- ✓ Significance
- ✓ This initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of promoting a Digital India, fostering greater transparency, and empowering businesses by providing them with seamless access to crucial trade information.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Sugamya Bharat App, recently seen in the news:

1. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It aims to provide legal aid to persons with disabilities.

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

- ✓ More than 1,400 complaints related to accessibility have been lodged through the Sugamya Bharat mobile application since its launch in 2021, with approximately 75 percent of those resolved, according to official data.
- ✓ About Sugamya Bharat App:
- ✓ It is an initiative of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ✓ Designed to aid people with disabilities and the elderly, the Sugamya Bharat app allows users to report accessibility problems in public infrastructure, transportation, and buildings.
- ✓ Objectives:
- ✓ Identification of issues/complaints from the public related to accessibility at public places (Need to capture location of the place through Google Maps).
- ✓ Uploading geotagged pictures: To understand and identify which type of public place is having issues related to accessibility for disabled people.
- ✓ Any person facing difficulty or issue related to accessibility in India can raise their concerns/grievances on the App.
- ✓ Only accessibility related issues pertaining to Buildings, Transportation System and ICT (websites and TV viewing) can be registered at App.
- ✓ Complaints are filed by uploading photos, which are then forwarded to relevant authorities.
- ✓ To enhance the app's features, the government plans to redesign it with AI capabilities.
- ✓ The upgraded version will include an AI-powered chatbot and multilingual interface, improving its overall functionality.
- ✓ A partnership has been established with the NGO Mission Accessibility and the research institute I-STEM to develop the AI-enabled app.

Q.

2. The secretariat of the IBCA is headquartered 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 : C

- ✓ Natural geographic isolation is occurring among Asiatic lion populations in Gujarat, and there is currently no need to translocate them, according to the director general of the International Big Cat Alliance.
- ✓ About International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA):
- ✓ It was launched by the Indian Prime Minister in Mysuru on April 9, 2023, at an event commemorating 50 years of Project Tiger in India.
- ✓ Objective: Strengthen global cooperation and efforts for conservation of seven big cat species (tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma) and their habitats.
- ✓ Out of the seven big cats, five — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, and cheetah — are found in India.
- ✓ The alliance aims to reach out to 97 range countries covering the natural habitats of the seven big cats.
- ✓ IBCA has been conceived as a multi-country, multi-agency coalition to strengthen global cooperation and mobilise financial and technical resources to support the entire ecosystem associated with the conservation of these species and their habitats.
- ✓ IBCA would have a multi-pronged approach in broad-basing and establishing linkages in several areas and help in knowledge-sharing, capacity-building, networking, advocacy, finance, and resource support.
- ✓ IBCA governance consists of an assembly of members, a standing committee, and a secretariat with its headquarters in India.
- ✓ IBCA has secured the Government of India's initial support of Rs. 150 crore for five years (2023-24 to 2027-28).

Q.

- ### A) Dogra Regiment

B) Maratha Light Infantry

C) Rajput Regiment

D) Kumaon Regiment

Answer : C

- ✓ The 20th edition of the annual India-US Joint military exercise code-named Yudh Abhyas 2024 commenced at the Foreign Training Node in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan on 9 September 2024.
- ✓ The 2024 Yudh Abhyas will be conducted from 9-22 September 2024
- ✓ The 20th edition of the Yudh Abhyas is the largest exercise ever in terms of participants. Both the Armies are deploying 600 personnel each in the exercise.
- ✓ The Indian contingent mainly comprises a battalion of the Rajput Regiment of the Indian Army and personnel from other arms and services.
- ✓ The United States is represented by the personnel of its Indo-Pacific Command. The US contingent comprises the 1-24 Battalion personnel of the Alaska-based 11th Airborne Division
- ✓ At the Yudh Abhyas 2024, military exercise will involve both command post exercise and field training exercise
- ✓ Exercises involving the Army of both India and the US
- ✓ Yudh Abhyas

- ✓ First in 2002 at Agra (India).
- ✓ It is held at battalion level, alternatively in India and the United States.
- ✓ In 2023 it was held in Alaska (USA) in October 2023.
- ✓ Vajra Prahar (Army Special Forces)
- ✓ First in 2010.
- ✓ It is held between the U.S. and Indian Special Forces soldiers, focussing on jungle warfare and counterinsurgency.
- ✓ The 14th edition was held in November 2023 at the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School of the Indian Army in Vairengte, Mizoram.
- ✓ Exercise involving Air Force
- ✓ Cope India
- ✓ First, in 2004, as a fighter jet training exercise between the Indian Air Force and the U.S. Air Force.
- ✓ In 2018, it was relaunched after a gap of nine years.
- ✓ The 6th edition of Cope India-2023 was held at Indian Air Force Stations Kalaikunda, Panagarh and Agra in the month of April 2023
- ✓ Tri-Service exercise
- ✓ Tiger TRIUMPH
- ✓ Tiger TRIUMPH or Tri-Services India U.S. Amphibious Exercises involve both countries' Army, Navy and Air Force.
- ✓ First, in 2019, in the Bay of Bengal
- ✓ The 3rd edition was held at the Bay of Bengal in March 2024.
- ✓ Special Exercise
- ✓ Exercise Tarkash
- ✓ Involves the counter-terrorism forces of both countries.
- ✓ From India, the National Security Guard (NSG) takes part in the exercise with the U.S. Special Forces.
- ✓ The seventh edition of the Exercise Tarkash was held in Kolkata in May 2024.
- ✓ Exercise Sangam
- ✓ First edition -1994.
- ✓ It is a joint Naval Special Forces exercise.
- ✓ Indian Navy Marine Commando Forces (MARCOs) and U.S. Navy SEALs participate.
- ✓ The 8th edition of the Exercise Sangam was held at Goa in October-December 2023.

Q. Who is the first Indian to be elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia?

- A) Raja Randhir Singh B) PT Usha
C) Anju Bobby George D) Pat Mendonca

Answer : A

- ✓ Randhir Singh: 1st Indian elected as Olympic Council of Asia President
- ✓ Former shooter and able administrator Raja Randhir Singh became the first Indian to be elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia.
- ✓ He and other office bearers of the Olympic Committee of Asia were elected at the 44th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, held in New Delhi on 8 September 2024.
- ✓ When the incumbent President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah of Kuwait, was banned from sports administration for 15 years for breach of ethics.
- ✓ Raja Randhir Singh has been elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia for a four-year term from 2024 to 2028.
- ✓ About Raja Randhir Singh
- ✓ Raja Randhir Singh comes from a family of sportspersons and sports administrators. His father, Raja Bhalindra Singh, played first-class cricket and was a member of the International Olympic Committee between 1947 - 1992.
- ✓ As a sportsman, he pursued a career in shooting. Between 1968 and 1984, he represented India in five Summer Olympics.

- ✓ In the four Asian Games he competed in, he won a gold medal in the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games, a bronze in the 1982 Delhi Asian Games, and a silver medal in the team event at the 1986 Seoul Asian Games.
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Raja Randhir Singh was conferred the prestigious Arjuna Award in 1979 by the government of India.
- ✓ Raja Randhir Singh was conferred with the Olympic Council of Asia Award of Merit in 2005,
- ✓ ANOC (Association of National Olympic Committee) Merit Award in 2006
- ✓ International Olympic Committee's Olympic Order, Silver in 2014.
- ✓ About the Olympic Council of Asia
- ✓ The Olympic Council of Asia was established as the Asian Games Federation in 1949 in New Delhi.
- ✓ In 1981, its name was changed to the Olympic Council of Asia, and its headquarters moved from New Delhi to Kuwait.
- ✓ The Olympic Council of Asia is a non-governmental body that governs sports in Asia.
- ✓ Member: 45 Asian National Olympic Committee
- ✓ Headquarters: Kuwait
- ✓ President: Raja Randhir Singh

Q. Who won the 4th Intercontinental Cup men's football tournament?

- A) India
- B) Syria
- C) Mauritius
- D) Croatia

Answer : B

- ✓ Syria wins the 4th Intercontinental Cup Men's Football Tournament
- ✓ Syria defeated India 3-0 in the last round-robin match to win the 4th Intercontinental Cup men's football championship. India, the defending champions, could not score a single goal in the match.
- ✓ The Chief Minister of Telangana, Revanth Reddy, presented the winners' trophy to Syrian captain Mahmoud Al-Mawas, also named the Syed Abdul Rahim Player of the Tournament.
- ✓ The best player of the tournament is given the Syed Abdul Rahim trophy.
- ✓ The All India Football Federation organised the 4th Intercontinental Cup football championship from 3 to 9 September 2024 at the GMC Balayogi Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana
- ✓ In the 4th Intercontinental Cup Football championship, three teams-India, Syria and Mauritius participated.
- ✓ Syria, ranked 93rd in the latest FIFA ranking, was the highest-ranked team in the tournament, followed by host India, ranked 124th, and Mauritius, ranked 179th.
- ✓ About the Intercontinental Cup
- ✓ The Intercontinental Cup men's football tournament is organised by the All India Football Federation(AIFF) and replaced the Nehru Cup.
- ✓ Normally, four nations participate in the Intercontinental Cup, but in the fourth edition, only three teams participated.

Q. Intercontinental Cup is associated with which games?

- A) Hockey
- B) Football
- C) Basketball
- D) Badminton

Answer : B

- ✓ The Intercontinental Cup men's football tournament is organised by the All India Football Federation(AIFF) and replaced the Nehru Cup.

Q. Which country will host the 5th edition of the bilateral military exercise AL NAJAH?

- A) Oman
- B) Saudi Arabia
- C) UAE
- D) Singapore

Answer : A

- ✓ Oman hosts Indo-Oman Eastern Bridge VII & Al Najah V Exercise
- ✓ Continuing their effort to deepen bilateral defence ties, Indian and Omani military forces will conduct a series of bilateral exercises in September 2024.
- ✓ The Indian Army and the Indian Air Force contingent have arrived in Oman to participate in the AL NAJAH -V and Exercise Eastern Bridge -VII, respectively.
- ✓ Exercise Eastern Bridge VII
- ✓ The seventh edition of the bilateral military exercise Exercise Eastern Bridge between the Indian Air Force and the Royal Oman Air Force commenced at the Air Force Base Masirah, Oman, on 11th September 2024.
- ✓ The seventh Exercise, Eastern Bridge VII, is scheduled for 11-22 September 2024.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force has sent a contingent of MiG-29s, Jaguar fighter planes, and C-17 Globemaster III transport planes.
- ✓ About the Exercise Eastern Bridge
- ✓ The first edition of the bilateral Exercise Eastern Bridge was held in 2009 in Oman.
- ✓ The sixth edition of the bilateral Exercise Eastern Bridge was held at the Indian Air Force's Jodhpur Base from 21 to 25 February 2022
- ✓ Exercise AL NAJAH 2024
- ✓ The 5th edition of the bilateral military exercise Al NAJAH between the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman will be held from September 13th to 26th at the Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman.
- ✓ The 60-member Indian Army contingent consists of a Battalion of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment
- ✓ About the Exercise AL NAJAH
- ✓ Exercise AL NAJAH has been held between the two countries' forces since 2015 and is held alternately in India and Oman every two years.
- ✓ The fourth AL NAJAH exercise was held in Rajasthan from 1–13 August 2022.
- ✓ Exercise Naseem Al Bahr (Sea breeze)
- ✓ The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman conduct a bilateral maritime exercise called Naseem Al Bahr, or Sea Breeze Exercise.
- ✓ The first Naseem Al Bahr exercise was held in 1993, and it is hosted alternately by the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman.
- ✓ The 13th edition of the Naseem Al Bahr exercise was held off the coast of Oman from November 19 to 24, 2024.

Q. What is the name of the bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the Royal Oman Army?

- A) AL NAJAH
- B) Sea breeze
- C) Eastern Bridge
- D) Indradhanush

Answer : A

- ✓ The 5th edition of the bilateral military exercise Al NAJAH between the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman will be held from September 13th to 26th at the Rabkoot Training Area in Salalah, Oman

Q. Which company has constructed the Indian Navy's Kalvari class Submarine Escape Training Facility Vinetra?

- A) L&T Defence company B) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
C) Cochin Shipyard D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers

Answer : A

- ✓ Indian Navy commissions Submarine Escape Training Facility Vinetra
- ✓ The Indian Navy commissioned its indigenously designed and developed Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility on 13 September 2024 at its premier submarine training base, INS Satavahana, in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ The INS Satavahana is under the Eastern Naval Command of the Indian Navy.
- ✓ L&T Defence has constructed the Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility, Vinetra(meaning Trainer).
- ✓ About Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility Vinetra
- ✓ The Kalvari Submarine Escape Training Facility will train the submarine crews of the Kalvari class of conventional submarines operated by the Indian Navy. It will train the crew to save their lives and escape from the submarine when it is in distress due to an accident or under attack.
- ✓ The facility is equipped with a five-meter escape tower integrated with an adjacent diving basin.
- ✓ The Vinetra facility was developed under the government's Make in India facility and Atma Nirbhar Bharat campaign to make India self-reliant in critical defence technology and facilities.
- ✓ Kalvari Class Submarine of the Indian Navy
- ✓ The Kalvari class submarine is being constructed in India under Project 75 of the Indian Navy, under which six submarines were to be constructed.
- ✓ In 2005, India and France signed a \$3.75 billion deal to construct six conventional Scorpene-class submarines in India with technology transfer from France.
- ✓ The French company Naval Group was to provide the technology, while the Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) was to construct it.
- ✓ The 2000-tonne INS Kalvari class submarine is capable of performing all types of missions, such as surface vessel warfare, anti-submarine warfare, long-range strikes, special operations, and intelligence gathering.
- ✓ Submarine Built under Project 75
- ✓ The first submarine built under Project 75, INS Kalvari, was launched in 2017. Since then, four more submarines have been inducted into the Indian Navy. The sixth submarine, INS Vaghsheer, is undergoing sea trials.
- ✓ The Kalvari class submarines are - INS Kalvari,INS Khanderi,INS Karanj,INS Vela, INS Vagir and INS Vaghsheer.
- ✓ At present, the Indian Navy operates 16 conventional submarines and two nuclear-powered submarines, INS Arihant and INS Arighat.
- ✓ The conventional submarines are seven Russian Sindhughosh-class, five Indo-French Kalvari-class, and four German Shishumar-class submarines

Q. How many submarines have been built under Project 75 of the Indian Navy?

- A) 6
B) 5
C) 7
D) 9

Answer : A

- ✓ Six -INS Kalvari,INS Khanderi,INS Karanj,INS Vela, INS Vagir and INS Vaghsheer.

Q. The capital of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar has been changed from Port Blair to ?

- A) Bibhuti Bushan Sarkar B) Abinash Chandra
C) Sri Vijaya Puram D) Ullaskar Dutta

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Home Ministry renames Port Blair as Sri Vijaya Puram
- ✓ In continuation of its policy of removing the colonial imprint from the country, the government of India has renamed the capital city of the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar to Sri Vijaya Puram from Port Blair.
- ✓ This was announced by the Union Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Cooperation, Amit Shah, on 13 September 2024 on his social media X handle.
- ✓ Sri Vijaya Puram is located on South Andaman Island, part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ In India, the name of a city, town, railway station, etc., is changed only after the approval of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. However, before the Home Ministry gives its approval, it consults the Geographical Survey of India, the Department of Post, and the Ministry of Earth Sciences
- ✓ Port Blair to Sri Vijaya Puram
- ✓ The British named Port Blair after a British colonial Navy official, Captain Archibald Blair. In 1788, the East India Company appointed Captain Blair to survey the Andaman Islands and the Chagos Archipelago. Captain Archibald Blair arrived in Andaman in 1789.
- ✓ The new name Sri Vijaya Puram has been inspired by the Sri Vijaya Empire, which flourished between the 7th and 13th centuries AD in Southeast Asia (present-day Indonesia). It was a powerful Buddhist maritime empire with links to India.
- ✓ Andaman was also once the naval base of the Chola Empire.
- ✓ The name has been changed to reflect the role and importance of the Andaman and Nicobar in India's freedom struggle.
- ✓ Importance of Andaman and Nicobar in freedom struggle
- ✓ Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, the Supreme Commander of the Azad Hind Fauz, hoisted the Indian national flag in Port Blair on 30 December 1943 and declared its Independence from the British.
- ✓ Andaman & Nicobar also has a three-storey Cellular jail, which was constructed in 1906 to imprison Indian freedom fighters like Veer Savarkar. It is also famous as Kaala Pani
- ✓ Renaming of Islands in Andaman and Nicobar
- ✓ During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the Andaman Nicobar in June 2018 the name of the major islands were changed .
- ✓ Ross Islands was renamed as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep, Neil Island was renamed as Shaheed Dweep and Havelock Island renamed as Swaraj Dweep.
- ✓ Again on 23 January 2023, on the occasion of the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose birthday, which is celebrated as Parakram Diwas, the government of India renamed 21 largest unnamed islands of Andaman & Nicobar Islands after 21 Param Vir Chakra awardee

Q. On which island of the Andaman and Nicobar is the Sri Vijaya Puram, capital of Andaman and Nicobar located?

- A) South Andaman Island B) East Andaman Island
C) North Andaman Island D) West Andaman Island

Answer : A

- ✓ About Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- ✓ Andaman and Nicobar islands is an archipelago consisting of 836 islands/Islets/Rocky Outcrops of which 213 are inhabited.
- ✓ It lies in the Indian ocean and comprises two island groups - the Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands.
- ✓ The Andman islands are separated from the Nicobar islands by 10° North latitude .

- ✓ The total area of the Andaman Islands is 6,408 sq.km and Nicobar Islands is 1,841 sq. km.
- ✓ It became an Union Territory in 1956.
- ✓ Lieutenant Governor : Devendra Kumar Joshi
- ✓ Capital :Sri Vijaya Puram

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Rangeen Machhli App:

1. It provides multilingual information on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages.
2. It is developed by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture.

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 Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying launched the "Rangeen Machhli" mobile app at ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIFA), Bhubaneswar.
- ✓ It is designed to meet the growing needs of the ornamental fisheries sector, providing crucial knowledge resources for hobbyists, aquarium shop owners, and fish farmers.
- ✓ It is developed by ICAR-CIFA with support from the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It provides multilingual information on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages, making it accessible to a wide audience.
- ✓ The app offers comprehensive details on care, breeding, and maintenance practices to both farmers and hobbyists.
- ✓ One of its key features is the "Find Aquarium Shops" tool, which allows users to locate nearby aquarium shops through a dynamic directory updated by shop owners, promoting local businesses and connecting users with reliable sources for ornamental fish and aquarium-related products.
- ✓ In addition, the app includes educational modules for both newcomers and professionals in the ornamental fish industry
- ✓ What is the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)?
- ✓ It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture in the entire country under the aegis of DARE, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Q. Aryna Sabalenka, who won the women's singles title of the 2024 US Open Tennis Championship, belongs to which country?

- A) USA
B) Belarus
C) Italy
D) France

Answer : B

Q. Who won the 2024 US Open men's singles title?

- A) Jannik Sinner
B) Taylor Fritz
C) Max Purcell
D) Jordan Thompson

Answer : A

- ✓ Jannik Sinner, Aryna Sabalenka wins 2024 US Open Singles title

- ✓ Jannik Sinner of Italy and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus won the men's and women's singles titles of the 2024 US Open Grand Slam Tennis tournament, respectively. It was the first US Open title for Jannik Sinner and Aryna Sabalenka.
- ✓ It was the second Grand Slam title for Jannik Sinner and the third Grand Slam title for Aryna Sabalenka.
- ✓ The four grand slam events in tennis are the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and US Open.
- ✓ The 2024 US Open championship was held in Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York City, the United States of America, from 19 August to -8 September 2024.
- ✓ Jannik Sinner -First Italian man to win the US Open .
- ✓ World No.1 Jannik Sinner became the first Italian in the open era to win the men's singles title at the US Open.
- ✓ In the final played at the Arthur Ash stadium on 8 September 2024, Jannik Sinner defeated Taylor Fritz of the USA 6-3, 6-4, 7-5.
- ✓ This was the second Grand Slam title for Jannik Sinner. He won the 2024 Australian Open singles title.
- ✓ First US Open singles title for Sablenaka
- ✓ World no.2 ranked Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus defeated the American Jessica Pegula in the final of the US Open 7-5, 7-5. The final was played at the Arthur Ashe Stadium on 7 September 2024.
- ✓ This was Sabalenka's first US Open singles title and her third Grand Slam title. Aryna Sabalenka won the Australian Open women's singles title in 2023 and 2024.
- ✓ **Winners of the 2024 US Open**

Event	Winner (Nationalities)	Runners-UP (Nationalities)
Men's Single	Jannik Sinner (Italy)	Taylor Fritz (USA)
Women's Single	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Jessica Pegula (USA)
Men's Double	Max Purcell and Jordan Thompson (Both Australian)	Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz (Both from Germany)
Women's Double	Lyudmyla Kichenok (Ukraine)and Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia)	Kristina Mladenovic (France) and Zhang Shuai (China)
Mixed Doubles	Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori (Both from Italy)	Donald Young and Taylor Townsend (Both American)

About the US Open

- ✓ The US Open is the fourth and the last Grand Slam tournament of a calendar year.
- ✓ It was first held in 1881, and since 1978, it has been played on the hard court.
- ✓ Since 1978, all the US Open matches have been played at the United States Tennis Association Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, Queens, New York.

Q. Senior bureaucrat Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as the new ____.

- A) Expenditure Secretary B) Cabinet Secretary
C) Home Secretary D) Finance Secretary

Answer : D

- ✓ Senior bureaucrat Tuhin Kanta Pandey has been appointed as the new Finance Secretary.
- ✓ Pandey, a 1987-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Odisha cadre, is currently the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) secretary.
- ✓ The vacancy was created following the appointment of T V Somanathan as the Cabinet secretary last month

NEWLY FAMOUS SECRETARY 2024

- Tuhin Kanta Pandey : Finance Secretary
- 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
- Ajay Seth : Economic Affairs Secretary

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan award:

1. It is an initiative of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It was launched with an aim of implementing City Action Plans prepared as part of National Clean Air 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 : C

- ✓ Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change presented the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan award 2024 on the occasion of International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.
- ✓ About Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Award:
- ✓ It is an initiative by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) to rank cities on the basis of implementation of activities approved under the city action plan and air quality in 130 NCAP cities.
- ✓ In September 2022, the MoEF&CC released guidelines on 'Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan- Ranking of Cities' under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ✓ The aim of launching Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan is to give ranking to 130 cities in the country for implementing City Action Plans prepared as part of NCAP for reducing air pollution up to 40% by 2025-26.
- ✓ Objectives:
- ✓ To create awareness among all sections of the society
- ✓ Inform citizens about the health impacts related due to exposure
- ✓ Comparing air quality conditions at different locations/cities
- ✓ To achieve the goal of NCAP "Clean air for all".
- ✓ All 130 cities covered under NCAP are assessed based on information submitted under ranking framework by cities/ULBs on PRANA portal (dashboard to capture progress under NCAP programme).
- ✓ Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan Awards 2024 were presented to the best performing NCAP cities under:
- ✓ Category-1 (population over 10 Lakhs) to Surat, Jabalpur, and Agra;

- ✓ Category-2 (population between 3 and 10 Lakhs) to Firozabad, Amravati, and Jhansi; and
- ✓ Category-3 (population under 3 Lakhs) to Raebareli, Nalgonda, and Nalagarh.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Agni-4 Ballistic Missile:

1. It can carry a payload of 5,000 kg and can be fired from a road-mobile launcher.
2. It is a surface-to-surface and two-stage solid-fuel missile.

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 has completed a successful test-fire of Agni-4 Ballistic Missile.
- ✓ It is an intermediate-range ballistic missile.
- ✓ The launch of this Agni-4 was carried out from the Integrated Test Range in Odisha's Chandipur.
- ✓ The launch successfully validated all operational and technical parameters.
- ✓ It was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command, a part of India's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ It can hit as far as 4,000 kilometres.
- ✓ The 20-metre-long missile can carry a payload of 1,000 kg and can be fired from a road-mobile launcher.
- ✓ It is a surface-to-surface missile.
- ✓ It is a mobile, two-stage solid-fuel system.
- ✓ The Agni missiles are designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Q. Who inaugurated the first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian King Vulture or red-headed vulture in Uttar Pradesh?

- A) Narendra Modi
B) Draupadi Murmu
C) Amit Shah
D) Yogi Adityanath

Answer : D

- ✓ World's 1st breeding centre for Asian King Vultures inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in the Bharivaisi, Campianganj Range of the Gorakhpur Forest Division on 6 September 2024. It is the world's first conservation and breeding centre for the Asian King Vulture or the red-headed vulture.
- ✓ There are other conservation and breeding centres of vultures named Jatayu in the country, but they cater to all breeds of vultures.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Forest Department, in collaboration with the Bombay Natural History Society, has established the Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre in Maharajanjanj.
- ✓ The scientific name of the king vulture is *Sarcogyps calvus*. The bird is mainly found in North India.
- ✓ The bird has been included in the critically endangered species list of the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature).

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Samudra Pratap Vessel:

1. It is designed and developed by the DRDO.
2. It helps to check the oil spill in the country's sea coast.

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

- ✓ First indigenously developed Pollution Control Vessel of Indian Coast Guard (ICG), 'Samudra Pratap' Launched in Goa.
- ✓ The vessel will help to check the oil spillage in the country's sea coast.
- ✓ The ship was launched and named as 'Samudra Pratap'.
- ✓ It is built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard.
- ✓ It is the first time where these types of vessels are being designed and built indigenously in India.
- ✓ Features
- ✓ It boasts a length of 114.5 meters, a breadth of 16.5 meters, and a displacement of 4,170 tons. The vessel will be manned by 14 officers and 115 sailors and is equipped with state-of-the-art technology for pollution control.
- ✓ Notably, it features side-sweeping arms to contain oil spills while in motion, an advanced radar system for oil spill detection, and facilities to recover and store various types of oil.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Ramon Magsaysay Award:

1. It is awarded to celebrate greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia.
2. It is given to the Journalism and Creative Communication Art field.

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

- ✓ Japanese anime director Hayao Miyazaki was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award, popularly known as Asia's Nobel Prize.
- ✓ It is Asia's premier prize and highest honor, celebrates greatness of spirit and transformative leadership in Asia.
- ✓ The Awardees, annually selected by the RMAF board of trustees, are presented with a certificate and a medallion with an embossed image of Ramon Magsaysay facing right in profile.
- ✓ From 1958 to 2008, the Award was given in six categories annually:
- ✓ Government Service: To recognize outstanding service in the public interest in any branch of government, including the executive, judicial, legislative, or military;
- ✓ Public Service: To recognize outstanding service for the public good by a private citizen;
- ✓ Community Leadership: To recognize leadership of a community toward helping the disadvantaged have fuller opportunities and a better life;
- ✓ Journalism, Literature, and Creative Communication Arts: To recognize effective writing, publishing, or photography or the use of radio, television, cinema, or the performing arts as a power for the public good;
- ✓ Peace and International Understanding: To recognize contributions to the advancement of friendship, tolerance, peace, and solidarity as the foundations for sustainable development within and across countries.
- ✓ Emergent Leadership: To recognize an individual, forty years of age or younger, for outstanding work on issues of social change in his or her community, but whose leadership may not yet be broadly recognized outside of this community.
- ✓ It is presented in formal ceremonies in Manila, Philippines on August 31st, the birth anniversary of the much-esteemed Philippine President whose ideals inspired the Award's creation in 1957.

- ✓ About Ramon Magsaysay Award:
- ✓ Established : 1957
- ✓ First award : 1958
- ✓ Vinoba Bhave was the 1st Magsaysay Award winner in 1958 (first Indian).
- ✓ This award was created to commemorate Ramon Magsaysay, the late president of Philippines.
- ✓ The Ramon Magsaysay Award is Asia's premier prize and highest honour.
- ✓ It is considered as Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize
- ✓ This award is given in 6 categories
- ✓ These categories are:
 1. Government services (GS)
 2. Public services (PS)
 3. Community leadership (CL)
 4. Journalism, literature & creative communication arts (JLCCA)
 5. Peace and International Understanding (PIU)
 6. Emergent leadership (EL)
- ✓ Indian winners on the list
- ✓ Prominent Indians who have won the award include Vinoba Bhave in 1958, Mother Teresa in 1962, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay in 1966, Satyajit Ray in 1967, and Mahasweta Devi in 1997.
- ✓ In recent years, Arvind Kejriwal (2006), Anshu Gupta of Goonj (2015), human rights activist Bezwada Wilson (2016), and journalist Ravish Kumar (2019) have won the award

Q. Uri-I Hydroelectric Project is located one which one of the following rivers?

A) Chenab	B) Yamuna
C) Ravi	D) Jhelum

Answer : D

- ✓ The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has deferred the proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the Stage-II of Uri-I Hydroelectric Project.
- ✓ About Uri-I Hydroelectric Project:
- ✓ It is an operating hydroelectric power plant located in the Jhelum River of Uri town in the Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- ✓ It is located very near the Line of Control (LOC), the de facto border between India and Pakistan.
- ✓ The power project was commissioned in 1997 with a total installed capacity of 480 MW.
- ✓ It is owned by the Central Government, and the operating company of the plant is National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC).
- ✓ The unit size of the power plant is 480 MW, having 4 units of 120 MW each.
- ✓ Key Facts about Jhelum River:
- ✓ It is a river that flows in India and Pakistan.
- ✓ It is a tributary of the Indus River.
- ✓ It is the main waterway of the Kashmir valley.
- ✓ It is the largest and most western of the five rivers of Punjab and passes through the Jhelum District in the north of Punjab province, Pakistan.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Thanjavur Veena:

1. It is the first musical instrument in India to get the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
2. The Rudra veena and Vichitra veena types are popular in Carnatic music.

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

- ✓ Thanjavur Veena is the first musical instrument in the country to get the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ✓ The Thanjavur veena is an Indian instrument and has an interesting construction.
- ✓ They are of two types viz. the "Ekantha Veena" and "Sada Veena".
- ✓ Ekantha Veena" is carved from a single block of wood, while Sada Veena,' has joints and is carved in three sections namely resonator, neck and head.
- ✓ The veena has 24 fixed frets (Mettu), so that all ragas can be played.
- ✓ It is made of fresh bark from a Jack Fruit Tree. The tree bark is forced to undergo several rounds of testing before being finalized for usage.
- ✓ There are four types of veena. While Rudra veena and Vichitra veena are popular in Hindustani classical music, Saraswati veena and Chitra veena are used in Carnatic classical music.
- ✓ Thanjavur is the only place where Saraswati veena is made. Saraswathi, the goddess of learning and arts, is portrayed with a veena.

Q. Mohun Bagan Super Giant football club was defeated by which team in the final of the 133rd Durand Football Cup 2024?

- A) Kerala Blasters
B) NorthEast United
C) Gokulam Kerala
D) FC Goa

Answer : B

- ✓ Guwahati-based NorthEast United Football Club won its first Durand Cup title, defeating the defending champion Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) 4-3 in a penalty shootout in the final. The final of the 133rd edition of Asia's oldest football tournament was played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan, Kolkata(West Bengal), on 31 August 2024.
- ✓ The 133rd edition of the Durand Cup was held in Kolkata, Kokrajhar(Assam), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), and Shillong(Meghalaya) from 27 July to 31 August 2024.
- ✓ Jamshedpur was hosting the matches of the Durand Cup for the first time.
- ✓ First title win for NorthEast United Football Club
- ✓ Mohun Bagan Super Giant football club, the most successful team in the history of the Durand Cup, having won it 17 times, failed to defend its title.
- ✓ Mohun Bagan took the lead with two goals in the first half of the match. The NorthEast United Football Club equalised with two goals in the second half of the match. At the end of regulation time, both teams were 2-2.
- ✓ The NorthEast United Football Club, owned by Bollywood actor John Abraham, received three trophies: the Durand Cup, the Shimla Trophy, and the President's Cup. .
- ✓ The 133rd edition of the Durand Cup was hosted by the Durand Football Tournament Society in cooperation with the All India Football Federation (AIFF), Eastern Command of the Indian Army.
- ✓ 133rd Durand Cup 2024, Award Winners

Award	Player	Club
Golden Boot (top goal scorer)	Noah Sadaoui scored six goals	Kerala Blasters Football Club
Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper)	Gurmeet Singh	NorthEast United Football Club
Golden Ball (Best player of the tournament)	Jithin MS	NorthEast United Football Club

- ✓ About Durand Cup
- ✓ The Durand Cup, started in 1888 at Shimla by the British India Army, is the oldest football tournament in India and Asia.
- ✓ The tournament derives its name from the then-foreign secretary of British India, Mortimer Durand.
- ✓ Mohun Bagan Super Giant football club is the most successful team in the tournament with 17 titles wins.

Q. Consider the following:

1. India	2. Maldives
3. Mauritius	4. Nepal
5. Myanmar	

How many of the above countries are members of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)?

A) Only two (1,2)	B) Only three (1,2&3)
C) Only four (1,2,3&4)	D) All five (1,2,3,4&5)

Answer : B

- ✓ Member states of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) recently signed the Charter and the MoU for the establishment of the CSC Secretariat in Colombo.
- ✓ About Colombo Security Conclave (CSC):
- ✓ It is a regional security grouping comprising India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Mauritius.
- ✓ The CSC's core objective is to promote regional security by addressing transnational threats and challenges of common concern to the Member States.
- ✓ Origin:
- ✓ The CSC, initially known as the Trilateral for Maritime Security Cooperation, evolved out of trilateral meetings between National Security Advisors (NSAs) and Deputy NSAs from India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, starting in 2011.
- ✓ It came to a standstill after 2014 due to rising tensions between India and the Maldives.
- ✓ After its revival and re-branding as the CSC in 2020, Mauritius and more recently, Bangladesh were added as members of the grouping.
- ✓ Current members of CSC include India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius, and Sri Lanka, while the Seychelles is an observer nation.
- ✓ CSC brings together NSAs and Deputy NSAs of the member countries.
- ✓ Cooperation under the conclave focuses on five pillars:
- ✓ maritime safety and security
- ✓ countering terrorism and radicalisation
- ✓ combating trafficking and transnational organised crime
- ✓ cyber-security and protection of critical infrastructure
- ✓ humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- ✓ Permanent secretariat: Colombo

Q. Which country was not present during the signing ceremony of the charter of the Colombo Security Conclave?

A) Bangladesh	B) Sri Lanka
C) Maldives	D) Mauritius

Answer : A

- ✓ Colombo Security Conclave members sign MoU to establish a Secretariat.
- ✓ The Member countries of the Colombo Security Conclave have agreed to institutionalise and give permanent status to the regional security platform of the Indian Ocean countries.

- ✓ The Colombo Security Conclave was set up in 2011 as an India-Sri Lanka-Maldives maritime security dialogue and renamed the Colombo Security Conclave in 2020.
- ✓ During the meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 30 August 2024, the member countries of the Colombo Security Conclave signed the charter, which outlines the Conclave's objectives, and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for establishing the Secretariat of the Colombo Security Conclave.
- ✓ The Colombo Security Conclave meeting is conducted at the national security advisor level of the member countries.
- ✓ The permanent members of the Colombo Security Conclave are India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Mauritius.
- ✓ Bangladesh was admitted as a member during the 8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC), which was hosted by Mauritius virtually on 10 July 2024.
- ✓ Seychelles has an observer status in the Colombo Security Conclave.
- ✓ All members were present and signed the Charter and MoU of the Colombo Security Conclave, except Bangladesh.
- ✓ Five Pillars of Cooperation of the Colombo Security Conclave
- ✓ During the meeting at Colombo, the member countries agreed on the main pillars of cooperation for the Conclave; maritime safety and security; countering terror and radicalisation; combating trafficking and organised crime; protection of critical infrastructure, humanitarian assistance, cyber security, and disaster relief.

Q. What is the term of the 23rd Law Commission?

- A) two years
- B) three years
- C) four years
- D) five years

Answer : B

- ✓ Central Government notifies 23rd Law Commission for a term of 3 years.
- ✓ The President of India, Draupadi Murmu, has approved the constitution of the 23rd Law Commission of India. The Union Ministry of Law and Justice issued a notification to this effect on 2 September 2024.
- ✓ The term of the previous 22nd Law Commission ended on 31 August 2024.
- ✓ The Law Commission will be under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ✓ Law Commission, an Executive Body
- ✓ The Law Commission, like the NITI Aayog, is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.
- ✓ This means that there is no mention of a Law Commission in the Indian Constitution, and the Parliament has not passed a law to set up the Law Commission.
- ✓ The Law Commission is an executive body created by executive order of the President of India. Thus, all its recommendations are advisory in nature.
- ✓ The central government is not bound to accept the recommendation of the Law Commission. However Law Commission reports are widely debated in the country as they are produced by members who are the serving Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court.
- ✓ Composition of the 23rd Law Commission of India
- ✓ According to the notification of the Government of India, the 23rd Law Commission of India will have five full-time members.
- ✓ The Chairman and the full-time member of the Law Commission will be serving judges of the Supreme Court or the High Courts.
- ✓ The 23rd Law Commission will comprise of;
- ✓ Chairman,
- ✓ Four full-time Members (including Member-Secretary);
- ✓ Ex officio Member, Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs ;
- ✓ Ex officio Member, Secretary, Legislative Department; and

- ✓ The new Supreme Court flag is blue in colour.
- ✓ The insignia has 'Supreme Court of India' and 'Yato Dharmastato Jayah' (in Devanagari script) inscribed on it.
- ✓ The phrase "Yato Dharmastato Jayah" is a Sanskrit expression that translates to "Where there is Dharma, there is victory" or "Victory lies where Dharma (righteousness) prevails."
- ✓ This phrase encapsulates the essence of justice and righteousness that the Supreme Court strives to uphold.
- ✓ The new flag and insignia were conceptualized and designed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi.
- ✓ The flag will be available in various designs, including cross table flat, single table flag, pole flag, and wooden frame, ensuring its presence in diverse settings

Q. Where was the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation held?

- A) New Delhi B) Hyderabad
C) Chennai D) Mumbai

Answer : A

- ✓ New Delhi will host the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation on 11 and 12 September 2024. The first Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was held in Beijing, China, in 2018.
- ✓ The economically dynamic Asia-Pacific region is a major contributor to global air traffic, with India being one of the world's fastest-growing passenger aviation markets.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, in partnership with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Asia Pacific Office (APAC), has organised the 2nd Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation.
- ✓ APAC is the regional office of the ICAO in the Asia Pacific region.
- ✓ Around 250 representatives from 41 countries, including Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam, are participating in the second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in New Delhi.
- ✓ However no representative from Pakistan is participating in the conference.
- ✓ About ICAO and ICAO APAC
- ✓ The International International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was set up in 1944 as a United Nations agency.
- ✓ It works to develop a safe and sound global aviation system by setting the rules and standards,
- ✓ Currently, 193 countries are members of the ICAO.
- ✓ Headquarters: Montreal Canada
- ✓ The ICAO has set up seven regional offices around the world for better coordination among its member countries.
- ✓ For the Asia Pacific region, ICAO established the Asia Pacific Office (APAC) in 1948 in Melbourne, Australia.
- ✓ It was later shifted to Bangkok, Thailand, from Australia in 1955.
- ✓ At present, 39 countries are members of the APAC

Q. How many countries are the members of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Asia Pacific Office (APAC)?

- A) 47
B) 39
C) 19
S) 25

Answer : B

Q. Where was the SEMICON India 2024 held?

- A) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh B) Mumbai, Maharashtra
C) Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh D) Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Answer : C

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the SEMICON India 2024 at the India Expo Mart in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on 11 September 2024.
- ✓ The three-day SEMICON India exhibition and conference, which will run from 11 to 13 September, will project India as a rising investment destination in the world semiconductor market and provide a platform for the global semiconductor industry to interact with government policymakers and the Indian industry.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Jitin Prasad, President and CEO of SEMI Ajit Manoch, and other distinguished industry leaders were present on the occasion
- ✓ SEMI, in collaboration with München India and with the support of the Union Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY), has organised the SEMICON India 2024 exhibition and conference.
- ✓ SEMI is a global association of the semiconductor industry and professionals representing the global electronics manufacturing and design supply chain.
- ✓ It is based in Milpitas, California, the United States of America
- ✓ The theme of SEMICON India 2024 is Shaping the Semiconductor Future.
- ✓ Aim of the SEMICON India 2024
- ✓ The main aim of SEMICON India 2024 is to provide a platform for global leaders, semiconductor industry experts, academia, and government officials to interact and explore opportunities to invest in the Indian semiconductor sector.
- ✓ According to Prime Minister Modi, India's electronics sector is valued at over \$150 billion, and the government aims to achieve a valuation of \$500 billion by the end of 2030.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Standing Committee on Statistics:

1. It was formed by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. It was mandated to explore the use of administrative statistics to improve data outcomes.

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 Standing Committee on Statistics formed to oversee all statistical surveys by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has been dissolved by the government amid apparent concerns raised by some members over the delay in conducting the census.
- ✓ It was formed in 2019 to provide a new internal oversight mechanism for official data, revamping a SCES.
- ✓ Need:
- ✓ The development assumes significance amid sharp critiques of India's statistical machinery by members of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the PM.
- ✓ The EAC's chairperson (Bibek Debroy) had mooted an overhaul of the system and contended that the Indian Statistical Service has "little expertise in survey design".
- ✓ Terms of reference:
- ✓ To ensure more coverage, the panel can have up to 16 members.

- ✓ To expand the mandate beyond economic data and advise the Ministry on technical aspects for all surveys, such as sampling, design, survey methodology and finalisation of results.
- ✓ To identify data gaps that need to be filled by official statistics, along with an appropriate strategy to plug those gaps.
- ✓ To explore the use of administrative statistics to improve data outcomes.
- ✓ Role to be played by NSC: While the panel will help finalise survey results, the NSC will have the ultimate authority to approve the publication of those results.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Air Quality Management Exchange Platform:

1. It was launched by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It was developed in response to a resolution passed at this year's United Nations Environment Assembly.

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 Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) has developed and launched an Air Quality Management Exchange Platform (AQMx).
- ✓ It is a platform that provides the latest air quality management guidance and tools proposed to meet WHO Air Quality Guidelines interim targets.
- ✓ It was developed in response to a resolution passed at this year's United Nations Environment Assembly to increase regional cooperation and action on improving air quality globally.
- ✓ Significance of the platform
- ✓ It will help to address air quality management capacity gaps, notably with curated guidance across key themes, including on how to go about air quality monitoring, inventory development, and health impact assessments.
- ✓ It will allow decision makers to see a more complete picture of air pollution's impact and lead to policies that accurately reflect public health needs on a global scale.
- ✓ The platform will expand to allow regional and sub-regional communities to exchange knowledge about air quality management best practices.
- ✓ Key facts about Climate and Clean Air Coalition
- ✓ It was founded in 2012, and convened within the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ✓ It is a voluntary partnership of more than 160 governments, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations.
- ✓ It works to reduce powerful but short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) – methane, black carbon, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and tropospheric ozone – that drive both climate change and air pollution.

Q. Who among the following was unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language?

- A) Om Birla
B) Narendra Modi
C) Amit Shah
D) Rahul Gandhi

Answer : C

- ✓ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.
- ✓ After the formation of the new government, a committee meeting was held in New Delhi to reconstitute the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.

- Q.** Which state will host the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo (RE-INVEST) from September 16 to 18?
- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh D) Maharashtra

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 4th Global RE-INVEST Renewable Energy Investors Meet and Expo at Gandhinagar, on September 16.
- ✓ A three-day flagship event of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, at Mahatma Mandir will bring together key players in the renewable energy sector.
- ✓ The event will have a plenary session of all chief ministers on the first day and a similar session of all state energy ministers on the second day.
- ✓ Representatives from Germany, Australia, Norway, Denmark, among others will be in attendance. Sessions will be held on topics including Green Hydrogen, Innovative Models for round the clock renewable energy, making India a hub in Battery energy storage and mainstreaming offshore wind in India.

- Answer : A

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Q. Who is the first Indian to be elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia?

- A) Raja Randhir Singh B) PT Usha
C) Anju Bobby George D) Pat Mendonca

Answer : A

- ✓ Randhir Singh: 1st Indian elected as Olympic Council of Asia President
- ✓ Former shooter and able administrator Raja Randhir Singh became the first Indian to be elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia.
- ✓ He and other office bearers of the Olympic Committee of Asia were elected at the 44th General Assembly of the Olympic Council of Asia, held in New Delhi on 8 September 2024.
- ✓ When the incumbent President, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah of Kuwait, was banned from sports administration for 15 years for breach of ethics.
- ✓ Raja Randhir Singh has been elected President of the Olympic Council of Asia for a four-year term from 2024 to 2028.
- ✓ About Raja Randhir Singh
- ✓ Raja Randhir Singh comes from a family of sportspersons and sports administrators. His father, Raja Bhalindra Singh, played first-class cricket and was a member of the International Olympic Committee between 1947 - 1992.
- ✓ As a sportsman, he pursued a career in shooting. Between 1968 and 1984, he represented India in five Summer Olympics.
- ✓ In the four Asian Games he competed in, he won a gold medal in the 1978 Bangkok Asian Games, a bronze in the 1982 Delhi Asian Games, and a silver medal in the team event at the 1986 Seoul Asian Games.
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Raja Randhir Singh was conferred the prestigious Arjuna Award in 1979 by the government of India.
- ✓ Raja Randhir Singh was conferred with the Olympic Council of Asia Award of Merit in 2005,
- ✓ ANOC (Association of National Olympic Committee) Merit Award in 2006
- ✓ International Olympic Committee's Olympic Order, Silver in 2014.
- ✓ About the Olympic Council of Asia
- ✓ The Olympic Council of Asia was established as the Asian Games Federation in 1949 in New Delhi.
- ✓ In 1981, its name was changed to the Olympic Council of Asia, and its headquarters moved from New Delhi to Kuwait.
- ✓ The Olympic Council of Asia is a non-governmental body that governs sports in Asia.
- ✓ Member: 45 Asian National Olympic Committee
- ✓ Headquarters: Kuwait
- ✓ President: Raja Randhir Singh

Q. Abdelmadjid Tebboune has been reelected as the President of which country?

- A) Algeria B) Albania
C) Angola D) Armenia

Answer : A

- ✓ Abdelmadjid Tebboune re-elected as Algerian President for 5 year term.
- ✓ President Abdelmadjid Tebboune was first elected as the President of Algeria in 2019.
- ✓ About Algeria
- ✓ Algeria is a predominantly Muslim Arab country located in Northern Africa.
- ✓ The country was a colony of France and gained its independence on 5 July 1962.
- ✓ Areawise, Algeria, is the largest country in Africa.
- ✓ Algeria is rich in oil and gas and is Africa's largest exporter of natural gas.
- ✓ Capital: Algiers
- ✓ Currency: Algerian Dinar

- ✓ President : Abdelmadjid Tebboune

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Fath-360 Missile, recently seen in the news:

1. It is a short-range cruise missile known for its precision and mobility.
2. It was developed by Russia to carry out tactical strikes against various targets.

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 Wall Street Journal recently reported that Iran has delivered short-range ballistic missiles, including the Fath-360, to Russia.
- ✓ About Fath-360 Missile:
- ✓ The Fath-360, or Fateh-360, is an Iranian short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) known for its precision and mobility.
- ✓ It is designed to carry out tactical strikes against various targets, including military installations and infrastructure.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Launch weight: 787 kilograms
- ✓ It travels at speeds ranging from Mach 3 to 4.
- ✓ It has a range of approximately 120 to 300 kilometers.
- ✓ It carries a 150-kilogram warhead.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the BepiColombo Spacecraft:

1. It is a joint European Space Agency (ESA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) mission.
2. It aims to study planet Mercury's magnetic field and magnetosphere to gain insights into its internal structure.

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 BepiColombo spacecraft gave scientists their first clear view of Mercury's south pole.
- ✓ About BepiColombo spacecraft:
- ✓ It is a joint European Space Agency (ESA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) mission to Mercury.
- ✓ The mission was named after Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo, an Italian mathematician and engineer who made significant contributions to the understanding of Mercury's orbit.
- ✓ It was launched on October 20, 2018 and it is an ambitious and complex mission designed to study Mercury's surface, composition, magnetic field, and its interaction with the solar environment.
- ✓ The BepiColombo spacecraft consists of two main components:
- ✓ Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO): The MPO is primarily provided by ESA and is responsible for mapping and studying Mercury's surface, as well as its composition and topography.
- ✓ Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO): The MMO is provided by JAXA and focuses on studying Mercury's magnetic field and magnetosphere.

- ✓ Kerala Tourism won the PATA Gold Award 2024 for its 'Holiday Heist' online contest in the Digital Marketing Campaign category.
- ✓ The campaign, launched in July 2023, used a bidding game on the WhatsApp ChatBot 'Maya' to attract tourists.
- ✓ Over 80,000 bids were made by travellers across India to visit Kerala's prime destinations at low prices.
- ✓ The campaign generated more than 45 million impressions and over 13 million video views. Some participants won tour packages worth ₹30,000 for just ₹5. Kerala Tourism received the award in Bangkok on August 28, 2024

Q. Vadhvan Port, recently seen in the news, is located in which state?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Kerala
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer : A

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation for the Vadhvan Port project in Palghar, Maharashtra, worth around ₹76,000 crore.
- ✓ Vadhvan Port is set to become one of the top 10 ports globally, with a handling capacity of 23.2 million TEUs.
- ✓ The port, near Dahanu town, Maharashtra, will be one of India's largest deep-water ports, offering direct connectivity to international shipping routes.
- ✓ Equipped with modern technology and infrastructure, it will feature deep berths and efficient cargo handling.
- ✓ The project will create significant employment, boost local businesses, and support regional economic growth.
- ✓ It emphasizes sustainable development, minimizing environmental impact.
- ✓ Once operational, the port will enhance India's maritime connectivity and strengthen its global trade position.

Q. Uri-I Hydroelectric Project is located one which one of the following rivers?

- A) Chenab
- B) Yamuna
- C) Ravi
- D) Jhelum

Answer : D

- ✓ The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has deferred the proposal for grant of Environmental Clearance (EC) to the Stage-II of Uri-I Hydroelectric Project.
- ✓ About Uri-I Hydroelectric Project:
- ✓ It is an operating hydroelectric power plant located in the Jhelum River of Uri town in the Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- ✓ It is located very near the Line of Control (LOC), the de facto border between India and Pakistan.
- ✓ The power project was commissioned in 1997 with a total installed capacity of 480 MW.
- ✓ It is owned by the Central Government, and the operating company of the plant is National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC).
- ✓ The unit size of the power plant is 480 MW, having 4 units of 120 MW each.
- ✓ Key Facts about Jhelum River:
- ✓ It is a river that flows in India and Pakistan.
- ✓ It is a tributary of the Indus River.
- ✓ It is the main waterway of the Kashmir valley.
- ✓ It is the largest and most western of the five rivers of Punjab and passes through the Jhelum District in the north of Punjab province, Pakistan.

Q. Grom-E1 Missile, recently seen in the news, was developed by which one of the following countries?

- A) United States of America
- B) Israel
- C) Russia
- D) Germany

Answer : C

- ✓ Russian troops recently hit Kharkiv, Ukraine, with a Grom-E1 hybrid missile.
- ✓ About Grom-E1 Missile:
- ✓ It is a sophisticated weapon created from the Soviet-era Kh-38 “air-to-surface” missile.
- ✓ It was developed by Russia and officially unveiled for the first time in 2018.
- ✓ It combines the features of both a missile and an aerial bomb.
- ✓ Features:
- ✓ Maximum Range: 120 km (75 miles).
- ✓ It features a high-explosive modular warhead equipped with a contact detonator.

Q. Consider the following countries:

- 1. United Kingdom
- 2. China
- 3. France
- 4. Russia
- 5. USA

How many of the above countries are permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?

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

Answer : D

- ✓ India should get its ‘rightful place’ as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), according to ex-Singaporean diplomat Kishore Mahbubani, a former president of the top UN body.
- ✓ About United Nations Security Council (UNSC):
- ✓ It is one of the five principle organizations of the United Nations (UN).
- ✓ It has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.
- ✓ Under the Charter of the UN, all Member States are obligated to comply with UNSC decisions.
- ✓ The Security Council takes the lead indetermining the existence of a threat to peace or act of aggression.
- ✓ Powers:
- ✓ Establishment of peacekeeping operations
- ✓ Establishment of international sanctions
- ✓ Authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions
- ✓ Members: It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote.
- ✓ 5 permanent members known as P5, including the United Kingdom, China, France, Russia, and the United States of America.
- ✓ The P5’s privileged status has its roots in the United Nations’ founding in the aftermath of World War II.
- ✓ They have veto power over decisions of UNSC.
- ✓ 10 non-permanent members: Each year the 193-member General Assembly elects five non-permanent members for a two-year term at the UNSC.
- ✓ The nonpermanent members are generally chosen to achieve equitable representation among geographic regions, with five members coming from Africa or Asia, one from eastern Europe, two from Latin America, and two from western Europe or other areas.

- ✓ The Security Council has permanent headquarters at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City

Q. Who has won the 2024 SAFF Men's U-20 Championship Football Tournament?

- A) Nepal
- B) Maldives
- C) Bangladesh
- D) India

Answer : C

- ✓ 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, finally won the title in their fourth attempt at the finals. The Bangladeshi team appeared in the 2017, 2019 and 2022 finals without any success
- ✓ 2024 SAFF Men's U-20 Championship football tournament
- ✓ The 9th SAFF U-20 Men's Championship football tournament was held in Nepal from 18 to 28 August 2024. The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) organises this biennial championship.
- ✓ Male footballers below the age of 20 participate in the tournament.
- ✓ Six teams -India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Maldives participated in the tournament
- ✓ India has won the tournament in 2019, 2022, and 2023.
- ✓ Awards
- ✓ Most Valuable Player of the Tournament Award: Mirajul of Bangladesh
- ✓ Best Goalkeeper: Md. Asif of Bangladesh
- ✓ Fair Play Award: Nepal
- ✓ About SAFF (South Asian Football Federation)
- ✓ The South Asian Football Federation is a regional football association of the eight-member South Asian countries.
- ✓ However, Afghanistan is the only South Asian country which is not a member of SAFF.
- ✓ Headquarters: Dhaka, Bangladesh
- ✓ President of SAFF: Kazi Md. Salahuddin of Bangladesh

Q. Where was the India Bio-Energy & Tech Expo 2024 organised?

- A) Mumbai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Bengaluru

Answer : B

- ✓ Union Minister for Road Transports and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Union Minister for Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri jointly inaugurated the India Bio-Energy & Tech Expo 2024 on 2 September 2024 in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Expo is being held from 2-4 September 2024.
- ✓ Both ministers also gave awards to the companies that are playing a key role in the bioenergy industry and for their role in enhancing bioenergy production and supply in the country.
- ✓ The Indian Federation of Green Energy organised the India Bio-Energy & Tech Expo 2024 in association with MMACTIV Sci-Tech Communications Ltd in New Delhi.
- ✓ The India Bio-Energy & Tech Expo 2024 provides a platform for the stakeholders to deliberate about the future of bioenergy technologies and take steps to promote India's green energy initiatives.

Q. Which country will host the 19th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) from December 2024?

- A) Qatar
- B) India
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) France

Answer : C

- ✓ Saudi Arabia will host the 19th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) from December 15-19, 2024, at the King Abdulaziz International Conference Center in Riyadh.
- ✓ The five-day event is expected to gather over 10,000 participants from 160 countries, including more than 1,000 international speakers.
- ✓ The forum aims to reach consensus among governments, private sector, and non-profit organizations on policies for stronger internet governance worldwide.
- ✓ IGF is a global multistakeholder platform. The event, organized by the UN since 2006, fosters discussions on public policy issues related to the internet, facilitates sharing information, exchanging experience, and working to come up with solutions

Q. Who has won the men's singles title of the 2024 Tuanku Muhriz Trophy?

- A) Abhay Singh B) Saurav Ghoshal
C) Aditya Pawar D) Karthik Sinha

Answer : A

- ✓ Abhay Singh wins the single title at the 2024 Tuanku Muhriz Trophy.
- ✓ The Indian men's national squash champion, Abhay Singh, won the men's singles title of the 2024 Tuanku Muhriz Trophy. In the final played on 1 September 2024, he defeated
- ✓ the top seed Lau Tsz Kwan of Hong Kong, China. This was the 10 PSA(Professional Squash Association) title for Abhay Singh.
- ✓ The \$15,000 prize money Tuanku Muhriz Trophy is a Professional Squash Association (PSA) Challenger tournament. It was held in Seremban, Malaysia, from 28 August to -01 September 2024.
- ✓ 10th PSA title for Abhay Singh
- ✓ World no 68th ranked player Abhay Singh defeated the world no 48 ranked player Lau Tsz Kwan 3-1 (7-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-4) in 41 minutes to win his 10th PSA title.
- ✓ Abhay Singh, in partnership with Joshna Chinappa, won the mixed doubles title at the 2024 Asian Squash Doubles Championship, which was held in Johor, Malaysia, in July 2024.
- ✓ He also partnered with Velavan Senthilkumar to win the men's doubles title at the 2024 Asian Squash Doubles Championship.
- ✓ Aira Azman wins the women's singles title
- ✓ Aira Azaman of Malaysia won the women's singles title of the 2024 Tuanku Muhriz Trophy. She defeated Hong Kong China's Chan Sin Yuk 11-9,11-9,11-9 in the final.
- ✓ About Professional Squash Association (PSA)
- ✓ The Professional Squash Association (PSA) was renamed the International Squash Professional Association (ISPA) in 1974.
- ✓ Headquarters: Leeds, England
- ✓ Men's president: Saurav Ghoshal of India
- ✓ Women's president: Sarah-Jane Perry of England

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Su-30MKI aircraft:

1. It is a multirole combat fighter aircraft fitted with a Tarang Radar Warning Receiver.
2. It is designed and 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 : A

- ✓ The Cabinet Committee on Security approved the proposal for the procurement of 240 aero-engines for Su-30MKI aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- ✓ It is the bilateral Naval Exercise between India and France.
- ✓ This bilateral exercise between the two navies was initiated in 1993.
- ✓ It was named 'VARUNA' in 2001 and has become a hallmark of India France strategic bilateral relationship.
- ✓ The 2024 edition of Indo-French bilateral naval 'Exercise Varuna' scheduled in the Mediterranean Sea.
- ✓ It includes advanced tactical exercises underscoring the deepening synergy and interoperability between the two navies.
- ✓ The Indian Navy's P-8I aircraft, renowned for its maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities, will play a pivotal role in these exercises and it joins the INS Tabar.
- ✓ The P-8I's participation in Exercise Varuna reflects the growing sophistication and complexity of the joint operations between the Indian and French navies.
- ✓ Key facts about P-8I aircraft
- ✓ P-8I is a long-range, multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft being manufactured by Boeing for the Indian Navy.
- ✓ It replaced the aging fleet of the Indian Navy's Tupolev Tu-142 aircraft.

Q. Dhanush Srikanth who was in the news recently, belongs to which sport?

A) Badminton	B) Tennis
C) Shooting	D) Wrestling

Answer : C

- ✓ Dhanush Srikanth win three Gold at the World Deaf Shooting Championship.
- ✓ The Indian deaf shooter Dhanush Srikanth won three gold medals at the 2024 World Deaf Shooting Championship in Hanover, Germany. The International Committee of Sports for the Deaf is organising the 2024 World Deaf Shooting Championship in Hanover, Germany, from 29 August to -8 September 2024.
- ✓ Dhanush Srikanth set a new world record in the men's 10m air rifle event with a score of 632.7.
- ✓ All three medals in the event were won by Indians: Dhanush bagged the gold, Shourya Saini won the silver, and Mohammed Vania won the bronze.
- ✓ Srikanth won his second gold medal in the 10m mixed team event with Mahit Sandhu.
- ✓ The Indian team of Mohammed Vania and Natasha Joshi won the silver medal.
- ✓ His third gold medal came in the 10m air rifle men's team event, where he partnered Shourya Saini and Mohammed Vania.
- ✓ India has sent a 13-member team to the World Deaf Shooting Championship.
- ✓ At the end of day three, India had won 12 medals (three gold, six silver, and three bronze).
- ✓ Himanshi Tokas won a silver medal in the women's 63-kilogram category at the Asian Cadet and Junior Judo Championships.
- ✓ The Asian Cadet and Junior Judo Championship was held at Mungyeong, South Korea, on 29 and 30 August 2024.
- ✓ Table Tennis Player Divyanshi Bhowmick won a bronze medal in the Under-19 Girls singles event at the WTT Youth Contender Varazdin 2024.
- ✓ The WTT Youth Contender Varazdin 2024 was held at Varazdin in Croatia from 27 August to 2 September 2024.

Q. Nitesh Kumar who won the gold medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympics, belongs to which sports?

A) Badminton	B) Tennis
C) Shooting	D) High jump

Answer : A

- ✓ Nitesh Kumar won the second gold medal for India at the 2024 Paris Paralympics by winning the final of the men's singles Badminton SL3 class event on 2 September 2024.

- ✓ With this, Bhatt joins the brand's diverse roster of L'Oreal brand ambassadors like Viola Davis, Jane Fonda, Eva Longoria, Kendall Jenner, Elle Fanning, Camila Cabello, and many others.
- ✓ She will star in the French beauty brand's campaigns, starting in September 2024.
- ✓ Bhatt embodies the core values of L'Oreal Paris, representing inclusivity and empowerment, sharing the transformative power of self-belief with women all over the world.

Q. With reference to the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
2. 500 cities across India have been selected to be developed as Smart Cities under the scheme.
3. Emphasis has been given on the participation of the private sector through public-private partnerships (PPP) under the scheme.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A) Only one (1)
B) Only two (1,3)
C) All three (1,2,3)
D) None

Answer : B

- ✓ The Smart Cities Mission (SCM), which was launched to enhance the quality of life in urban spaces, has completed more than 90% of the total projects, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has said recently.
- ✓ About Smart Cities Mission (SCM):
- ✓ It was launched on 25 June, 2015.
- ✓ The main objective of the SCM is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment, and a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'.
- ✓ The mission aims to drive economic growth and improve quality of life through comprehensive work on the social, economic, physical, and institutional pillars of the city.
- ✓ The focus is on sustainable and inclusive development through the creation of replicable models that act as lighthouses for other aspiring cities.
- ✓ 100 cities have been selected to be developed as Smart Cities (through a two-stage competition) in various rounds from 2016 to 2018, with each getting five years from their selection to complete the projects.
- ✓ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- ✓ Some of the core infrastructure elements in a Smart City would include adequate water supply, assured electricity supply, sanitation, including solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, affordable housing, especially for the poor, robust IT connectivity and digitalization, good governance, especially e-Governance and citizen participation, sustainable environment, safety and security of citizens, particularly women, children, and the elderly, and health and education.
- ✓ The strategic components of the Smart Cities Mission are city improvement (retrofitting), city renewal (redevelopment), and city extension (Greenfield development), plus a Pan-city initiative in which Smart Solutions are applied, covering larger parts of the city.
- ✓ Funding:
- ✓ The Central Government will give financial support to the extent of Rs. 48,000 crores over 5 years, i.e., on an average of Rs. 100 crore per city per year.
- ✓ An equal amount on a matching basis is to be provided by the State/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).
- ✓ Additional resources are to be raised through convergence, from ULBs' own funds, grants under the Finance Commission, innovative finance mechanisms such as Municipal Bonds, other government programs, and borrowings.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the Food Recovery to Avoid Methane Emissions (FRAME) methodology:

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

- Answer : A

- Q.** Harvinder Singh created history by winning a Gold in the men's archery individual recurve open final at the Paris Paralympics 2024. He is from which state?

- Answer : B

- Q.** India's Dharambir has won the gold medal in the men's F51 event of which sport in Paris Paralympics 2024?

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Answer : B

- ✓ Dharambir sets Asian record to win gold, while Pranav secures silver in Paralympic Men's F51 club throw
- ✓ India's Dharambir broke the Asian record to clinch the gold medal in the Paralympics 2024 while compatriot Pranav Soorma clinched the silver as Indian club throwers dominated the men's F51 event in the marquee event happening in Paris.
- ✓ After four fouled attempts, the world championships bronze medallist from Sonapat, Dharambir hurled the club to a distance of 34.92m in his fifth attempt to claim the top spot.



D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ 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.

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.

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

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.

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.

Q. The legendary Indian classical dancer Dr Yamini Krishnamurthy passed away. She received India's third-highest civilian award - Padma Bhushan in which year?

- A) 2008
B) 2007
C) 2001
D) 2002

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 Krishmaurthy'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. Who won the gold medal in the men's singles Tennis title at the 2024 Paris Olympics?

- 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. Carlos Alcaraz, who won the silver medal in the tennis singles event at the 2024 Paris Olympics, belongs to which country?

- A) Serbia
B) Spain
C) Switzerland
D) Australia

Answer : B

Q. Which company is manufacturing the Astra Mk-1 missile in India?

- A) RITES Limited
B) IRCON International Limited
C) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
D) Bharat Dynamics Limited

Answer : D

- ✓ IAF gives green signal to BDL to produce 200 Astra Mk-1 Missile
- ✓ 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 clearance was given

after the visit of the Indian Air Force Deputy Chief Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit to the Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) in Hyderabad, Telangana recently.

- ✓ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed the Astra Mk-1, which is being manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited, a public-sector company.
- ✓ **About the Astra weapon system**
- ✓ The Astra is an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile that can be fired from the Indian Air Force's Sukhoi 30MKI, the LCA Tejas fighter aircraft, and the Indian Navy's Mig-29K fighter plane.
- ✓ The Astra Mk-1 has a range of 80-110 km with a maximum speed of 4.5 Mach. One Mach is equal to the speed of the sound.
- ✓ The missile is capable of destroying aerial targets like fighter aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, drones, etc.
- ✓ The DRDO is also developing the Astra Mk-2 air-to-air BVR missile. Unlike the Mk-1 version, this missile uses a dual pulse rocket motor, which increases its strike range to 130-160 km.
- ✓ **About Bharat Dynamics Limited**
- ✓ The public sector company Bharat Dynamics Limited was set up on 16 July 1970 under the Union Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ The company has four manufacturing units at Hyderabad, Bhanur and Ibrahimpatnam in Telangana and Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Chairman Cum Managing Director (CMD): Retd. Commodore A Madhavrao
- ✓ Headquarters: Hyderabad, Telangana

Q. What kind of missile is 'Astra mark-1 (Mk-1) missile', recently in news?

- A) Surface-to-Air missile
- B) Air-to-Air beyond visual range (BVR) missile
- C) Air-to-Surface missile
- D) Surface-to-Surface missile

Answer : B

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Astra Missile:

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. Which two Indian gaganyatri have been selected by ISRO for the ISRO-NASA project to send humans to the International Space Station?

- 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 ISRO's 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

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.

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

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 Draupadi 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

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) Manichithrathazhu	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. Kantara, which won the award for the Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment in the 70th National Film Awards, was made in which language?

A) Kannada	B) Hindi
C) Malayalam	D) Gujarati

Answer : A

Q. Which film has won the best non-feature film award in the 70th National Film Awards 2022?

A) Ayena	B) Dunki
C) Gulmohar	D) Sikaisal

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

- ✓ 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.

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 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 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 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.
- ✓ **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.

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.

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.
- ✓ This award is conferred on the exemplary teachers/faculty members of higher education institutions and Polytechnics.
- ✓ Eligibility: The award is open to all the faculty members of colleges/universities/higher educational institutions/polytechnics in India. The candidates should satisfy the following conditions:
- ✓ The nominee should be a regular faculty member.
- ✓ He must have at least five years of full-time experience (undergraduate or postgraduate level).
- ✓ The nominee should not be over 55 years of age as of the last date of receiving the application for the awards.
- ✓ Vice-Chancellor/Director/Principal (regular or officiating) are not eligible to apply. However, individuals who were in such positions, but below 55 years of age and still in active service are eligible.
- ✓ The winners will receive a medal and a certificate worth Rs 50,000

Q.

- A) Surya Ganguly
B) Neelesh Shah
C) Karthik Venkataraman
D) Ajay Puri

Answer : C

- ✓ Karthik Venkataraman won the 61st edition of the Indian National Championship by scoring 9/11 points in the event organised by the Haryana Chess Association.
- ✓ This is the second win at the National Championship for Karthik, who also won the tournament in the year 2022

Q.

- A) Iraq
B) Afghanistan
C) UAE
D) Iran

Answer : D

- ✓ Iran appoints Fatemeh Mohajerani as First Female Government Spokesperson
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Term of the Independent Chair of the ICC
- ✓ A person is elected as the Independent Chair of the ICC for two years and a maximum of three terms.
- ✓ Greg Barclay was elected the ICC Independent Chair in 2020 and again re-elected in 2022. However, he declined to serve beyond his second term.
- ✓ 5th Indian to head the ICC and the third Indian to be Chair of the ICC
- ✓ The ICC created the post of Independent Chair in 2014 and abolished the post of President in 2016. The Office of the Independent Chair is the most powerful post in the ICC.
- ✓ Jay Shah will be the third Indian to be elected as the Chair of the ICC and the 5th Indian to head the ICC.
- ✓ Jagmohan Dalmiya was the first Indian to become the President of the ICC for the 1997-2000 period.
- ✓ Sharad Power was the second Indian to become the President of the ICC, serving a term from 2010 to 2012.
- ✓ In 2014, former BCCI President N. Srinivasan was elected as the first Chair of the ICC.
- ✓ Shashank Manohar replaced N. Srinivasan in 2015 and became the second Indian to be elected as the Chair of the ICC. His term as the Chair of the ICC was from 2015 to 2020.
- ✓ Jay Shah is the third Indian to be the Chair of the ICC and 5th to head the ICC.
- ✓ About Jay Shah
- ✓ Jay Shah is the son of the Indian Home Minister Amit Shah. He started his career in cricket administration in Gujarat in 2009. He was elected Secretary of the BCCI in 2019 and was again re-elected in 2022.
- ✓ Jay Shah also joined the ICC's influential Finance & Commercial Affairs (F&CA) and was elected its Chair in 2023.
- ✓ Jay Shah was elected as the President of the Asian Cricket Council from 2021 to 2024
- ✓ International Cricket Council (ICC)
- ✓ Formation : 15 June 1909
- ✓ Headquarters : Dubai, UAE
- ✓ Chairman : Jay Shah (India)
- ✓ New CEO : Geoff Allardice (Australia)
- ✓ Membership : 108 members
- ✓ Deputy Chairman : Imran Khwaja (Singapore).
- ✓ 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. Consider the following statements regarding the National Medical Register (NMR) Portal:

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.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding the New India Literacy Programme (NILP):

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

- Answer : C

- Q.** Consider the following statements:

- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- Answer : C

- ✓ 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:

- ✓ 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.

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 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	B) Maitri
C) Mini	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 county'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.
- ✓ Australia is the most successful team, with six title wins.

Q. Who has been appointed as the chef de mission of the Indian contingent at the upcoming Paris Paralympics?

- A) Abhinav Bindra B) Satya Prakash Sangwan
C) Annu Raj Singh D) Karnam Malleswari

Answer : B

- ✓ 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.

Q. With reference to the production of Ethanol in India, consider the following statements:

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.

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

- ✓ 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

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.

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

D) 1, 2 and 3 only

- ✓ 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.

D) Hindustan Zinc Ltd

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ At present, lithium-ion batteries dominate the market but lithium availability, geographic concentration of mineral processing, and safety concerns around combustion issues pose some key challenges to the advancement of sustainable energy solutions.

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.

- 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).

A) 1 only
B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2
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).
- ✓ **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.** 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

- ✓ 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
Kazhuvelli 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 Bhyan
- B) Varun Singh Bhati and Jayanti Behera
- C) Sumit Antil and Bhagyashri Jadhav
- D) Mariyappan Thangavelu and Avani Lekhara

Answer : C

- ✓ Sumit Antil & Bhagyashri Jadhav: 2024 Paris Paralympics Flag Bearer.
- ✓ The Paralympic Committee of India has named Tokyo Paralympics gold medallist para-athletes Sumit Antil and Shot Putter Bhagyashri 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.

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.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA):

1. It is an Inter-Service Organisation functioning under the Department of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence.
2. It was formed after the 1962 Sino-India war and is responsible for second-party Quality Assurance (QA) of all defence stores and equipment.

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) 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.
- ✓ DGQA approval implies that the products have been subjected to extensive testing, including simulations of extreme conditions.

Q. Shiveluch volcano, recently seen in the news, is located in:

A) Russia	B) Italy
C) Indonesia	D) Kenya

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 Jaishnakar 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.
- ✓ 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.

- Q.** Consider the following statements regarding National Geoscience Award:

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

- Answer : A

- Q.** Deutsche Bank has appointed ___ as its head of global corporate coverage for India and Sri Lanka.

- Answer : D

- 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 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 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

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.

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

- ✓ 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 Namo Bharat Trains.

- A) One India – One Ticket
- B) One India – One Namo
- 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 Namo 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 Namo 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.

- 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 ____.

B) Agni

D) Pralay

- ✓ 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.

2. It is managed by the Reserve Bank of India.

B) 2 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ 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.

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 Jaishankar 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, Antariksha 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).

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.
- 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. How many agreements were signed during the visit of Saint Kitts and Nevis's foreign minister to India recently?

- A) 2
B) 3
C) 5
D) 6

Answer : B

- ✓ 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?

- A) Germany
C) Croatia
B) Spain
D) France

Answer : B

- ✓ 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

- 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

- ✓ 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)

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

✓ 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.

- ✓ The Goem Vinamulya Vij Yevjan has an initial investment of Rs 35 crore. Goa Energy Development Agency will cover the balance cost of rooftop installations up to 5kW.
- ✓ This support is for consumers who have used 400 or fewer units in the past year.

Q. Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn in as president of which country?

- A) Iran
- B) Iraq
- C) Saudi Arabia
- D) Qatar

Answer : A

- ✓ Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn in as president of Iran news president.
- ✓ Pezeshkian takes office at a time of escalating Middle East tensions over Israel's conflict with Hamas in Gaza and cross-border fighting with Iran's ally Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- ✓ Mr. Pezeshkian replaces hardline Ebrahim Raisi, who was killed in a helicopter crash in May.
- ✓ About Iran
- ✓ Capital : Tehran
- ✓ Currency : Rial
- ✓ President : Masoud Pezeshkian

Q. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)?

- A) Suman Sharma
- B) Dinesh Dasa
- C) Ankit Garg
- D) Preeti Sudan

Answer : D

- ✓ Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan has been appointed as the Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ✓ Ms. Sudan is currently a member of the Commission. She will take over from Manoj Soni who resigned a few days ago due to "personal reasons".
- ✓ She will have a tenure till April 2025, when she turns 65.
- ✓ Soni resigned almost five years before his tenure ended in 2029. He joined the Commission as a Member in 2017, and was sworn-in as the Chairperson on May 16, 2023.
- ✓ 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

- ✓ 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:

1. It is set up to fix and revise the prices of controlled bulk drugs.
2. It works under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

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 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

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. Veteran Gandhian and social worker Shobhana Ranade passed away recently at the age of 100. In which year she was awarded the Padma Bhushan for her social work?

- 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. Which state recently became the first in India to buy all crops from farmers at MSP?

- 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. Where did the helicopter of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina land in India after she fled Bangladesh in August 2024?

- 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.

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 Thaosen 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 Yusneily 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.

Serial Number	Wrestler	Category	Medal	Olympics
1	K D Jadhav	Men's bantamweight (57kg) freestyle	Bronze	1952 Helsinki Olympics
2	Sushil Kumar	Men's freestyle 66kg	Bronze	2008 Beijing Olympics
3	Sushil Kumar	Men's freestyle 66kg	Silver	2012 London Olympics
4	Yogeshwar Dutt	Men's freestyle 60 kg	Bronze	2012 London Olympics
5	Sakshi Malik	Women's freestyle 58 kg	Bronze	2016 Rio Olympics
6	Ravi Kumar Dahiya	Men's freestyle 57 kg	Silver	2020 Tokyo Olympics
7	Bajrang Punia	Men's freestyle 65 kg	Bronze	2020 Tokyo Olympics

Q. Who is the only wrestler who has won two medals in the Olympics?

- A) Bajrang Punia B) Sushil Kumar
C) Yogeshwar Dutt D) Ravi Kumar Dahiya

Answer : B

- ✓ Sushil Kumar bronze at the 2008 Beijing olympics and silver at the 2012 London olympics.

Q. Where was the Viraasat handloom exhibition organised on the occasion of the 10th National Handloom Day?

- A) New Delhi B) Mumbai
C) Chennai D) Hyderabad

Answer : A

- ✓ 10th National Handloom Day, Background and Viraasat Exhibition.
- ✓ The Nation celebrates the 10 National Handloom Day on 7th August 2024.
- ✓ The Day is observed to acknowledge and honour the weaving community in India and their invaluable contribution to India's socio-economic development.
- ✓ The handloom sector, which is a symbol of India's rich and varied cultural heritage, is the second largest employer in India after the agriculture sector.

- ✓ 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 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 Sound, 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.
- ✓ 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.

2. It has a maximum range of up to 500 kilometers.

A) One only

C) All three

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.

1. It aims to succeed the renowned Sindhughosh (Kilo) class.

A) 1 only

D) Neither 1 nor 2

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 renowned Sindhughosh (Kilo) class, emphasizing the Navy's commitment to maintaining a robust 3,000-ton class of submarines.
- ✓ It is expected to feature some of the most advance features such as, indigenous Weapon Control system and Lithium-ion batteries.

- ✓ It represents a pivotal milestone in India's pursuit of maritime supremacy, amalgamating top-tier French technology from Project 75 and the expertise of German/Spanish collaboration from Project 751 (India).
- ✓ The objective is to initiate the construction of the prototype by 2028.
- ✓ This undertaking holds immense significance for India's submarine-building capabilities, aiming to reduce reliance on foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for submarine design.

Q. Consider the following statements with respect to SDG India Index 2023-24

1. It measures and tracks national progress of all States and UTs on 113 indicators aligned to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's National Indicator Framework (NIF).
2. Not all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are included in the composite score of the SDG India Index.
3. The score on Income and gender inequality has decreased and score on poverty has improved.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- A) Only one
B) Only two
C) All Three
D) None of the above

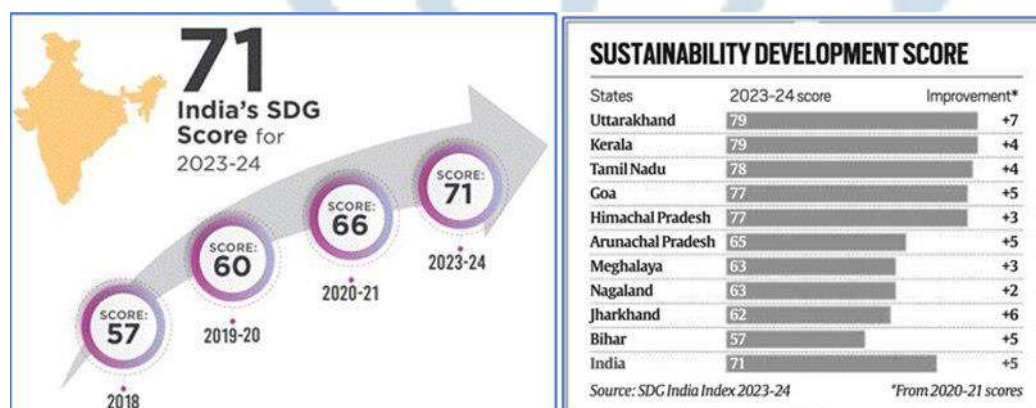
Answer : C

- ✓ It 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).
- ✓ Not all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals are included in the composite score and Goal 14 has been excluded in the calculation of the Composite Score for the Index as it solely pertains to the nine coastal States.
- ✓ The score on the Income and gender inequality decreased and score on poverty has improved.
- ✓ The composite score for India improved from 57 in 2018 to 66 in 2020-21 to further to 71 in 2023-24.

Q. Which of the following two states have emerged as the top performers in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24, which evaluates the progress of states and union territories on social, economic and environmental parameters?

- A) Punjab and Odisha
B) Uttarakhand and Kerala
C) Odisha and Kerala
D) Gujarat and Kerala

Answer : B



- ✓ 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.

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Q. India's first integrated agri-export facility has recently been approved for which port?

- A) Cochin Port
B) Jawaharlal Nehru Port
C) Deendayal Port
D) Mangalore Port

Answer : B

- ✓ India's first Integrated Agri-Export Facility will be established at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai, enhancing agricultural export and import capabilities.
- ✓ Ports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal approved the project, worth over 284 crore rupees, to be developed in a public-private partnership.
- ✓ The facility aims to streamline logistics, reduce wastage, and provide better prices for agricultural products. It will support the export of key items such as non-basmati rice, maize, spices, onion, and wheat.
- ✓ Sonowal emphasized that this initiative is a significant step toward empowering farmers and boosting India's agricultural sector.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre:

1. It helps in implementing disaster risk reduction in Asia and the Pacific region.
2. India is a founding member of this organization.

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 has taken over as the Chair of Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC) for 2024-25.
- ✓ It is an autonomous international organization established in 1986.
- ✓ It is for cooperation in and implementation of disaster risk reduction and building climate resilience in Asia and the Pacific region.
- ✓ Vision: "Safer communities and sustainable development through disaster risk reduction" and its geographical remit is Asia and the Pacific
- ✓ Member countries: India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the founding members.
- ✓ Headquarters: Bangkok, Thailand and sub-centres in the country of operations are the operational parts of ADPC.

Q. Which country has become the chairman of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center for 2024-25?

- A) Russia
B) Germany
C) India
D) France

Answer : C

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.

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

- ✓ 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.

A) Nigeria
B) Ethiopia
C) Venezuela
D) Kenya

- ✓ 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

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 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

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 : Antonio Costa (Portugal)
- ✓ President of Commission : Ursula von der Leyen (Germany)
- ✓ President of European Parliament : Robert Metsol (Malta)

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 & Kusunda coal mine included in World's 10 largest coal mines.
- ✓ Two coal mines in Chhattisgarh, Gevra and Kusunda, 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 Kusbunda 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

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 & 022) 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.
- ✓ Belarus, which was earlier the Observer country at the SCO, was upgraded and made the 10th full member of the SCO in 2024.
- ✓ The 25th SCO Council of Heads of State Meeting will be held in China as China has assumed the rotating Presidency of the SCO from Kazakhstan.
- ✓ About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- ✓ Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is an intergovernmental organisation that was established in 2001. The group focuses on furthering regional security and cooperation among its member states.
- ✓ The Council of Heads of States is the supreme decision-making body of the SCO, which meets once a year.
- ✓ Headquarters: Beijing, China
- ✓ Permanent Members of SCO (10 Countries): Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.
- ✓ Observer Members (2): Afghanistan and Mongolia

Q. Russia has approved the schedule for the creation of a Russian orbital station by ____.

- A) 2029 B) 2030
C) 2031 D) 2033

Answer : D

- ✓ Russia has approved the schedule for the creation of a Russian orbital station by 2033.
- ✓ The scientific and energy modules will be launched first in 2027, and three other core modules, namely the universal nodal, gateway, and base modules, will be launched by 2030. and two other target modules are scheduled to be launched by 2033.
- ✓ A total of 608.9 billion rubles has been allocated to finance the project.
- ✓ Roscosmos, Russian Federal Space Agency, which was formed in 1992.

Q. Which space agency has successfully launched the Advanced Land Observing Satellite-4 "DAICHI-4" (ALOS-4) to revolutionize disaster management?

- A) NASA B) ISRO
C) JAXA D) CNSA

Answer : C

- ✓ 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).
- ✓ This marked the third successful deployment of the H3 system.
- ✓ ALOS-4 is designed for earth observation and was deployed into orbit from off the coast of Kyushu, Japan.

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

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. 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.

Q. Tharun Mannepli 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
C) Chen Yufei
B) Tasnim Mir
D) Ratchanok Intanon

Answer : B

- ✓ Tasnim Mir & Mannepalli 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)

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.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Implementation agency: Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- ✓ Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Q. Which state government has launched the “Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayastam” 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 Abhayastam” 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 Abhayastam”, 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 ICMAI for 2024-25.
- ✓ Bibhuti Bhusan Nayak has been elected unanimously as the new President of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICMAI) 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?

Answer : B

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?

Answer : B

- A) Iraq
B) Afghanistan
C) Pakistan
D) Syria

- ✓ 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).

- **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.

- Q.** Where has the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) first Asian "Pre-clinical Network Facility" been set up?

D) Hyderabad

- ✓ 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.

D) France

- ✓ 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 : Roebtr Metsol (Malta)

D) Jayant Chaudhary

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- ✓ 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

- ✓ 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 Nauseda was sworn in as the President of which country for a second five-year term?

- A) Lithuania
- B) Luxemburg
- 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
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ This is a natural next step for our young athletes, our country and the global esports community," said Prince Abdulaziz, who also heads the Saudi national Olympic committee.

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.

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 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.

Q. Who has been appointed as the 35th foreign secretary of India?

- A) Vinay Mohan Kwatra B) Vikram Misri
C) K.P.S Menon D) S Jaishnakar

Answer : B

- ✓ 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).

Q. Which country has won the Copa America 2024 title by defeating Colombia?

- A) Argentina B) France
C) Germany D) Croatia

Answer : A

- ✓ 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 B) Saidal Khan Nasir
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.

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.
- ✓ In the third phase, the construction of shikhars (spires) and the final finishing touches of the entire temple will be completed.
- ✓ The temple will have a total of 12 shikhars, with the main shikhar reaching a height of 270 feet.
- ✓ The temple's architecture draws inspiration from Cambodia's Angkor Wat, the Ramanathaswamy temple in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu, and the Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple in Madurai.
- ✓ Angkor Wat is a temple complex in Cambodia and one of the largest religious monuments in the world.
- ✓ Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple is a historic Hindu temple located on the southern bank of the Vaigai River, Madurai in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Ramanathaswamy Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Shiva located on Rameswaram island in the state of Tamil Nadu.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Exercise Pitch Black:

1. It is a biennial and multi- national exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force.
2. India is participating for the first time in this exercise.

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

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 un-populated 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.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Technology Development Fund (TDF) Scheme:

1. It encourages the participation of public and private industries by providing grants-in-aid for the development of indigenous defence technologies.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- Answer : C

- Q.** Which state has been adjudged as the best state in Horticulture in the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024?

- Answer : B

- Q.** Bhawana Kanth becomes first female pilot of the IAF to fly Su-30MKI fighters planes participating in the exercise Pitch Black, belongs to which state?

- Answer : B

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- ✓ 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

- ✓ In 2022, an estimated 7 million people were in formal contact with the police (arrests, cautions, and warnings) for drug offences, with about two-thirds of this total due to drug use or possession for use.
- ✓ In addition, 2.7 million people were prosecuted for drug offences and over 1.6 million were convicted globally in 2022.
- ✓ Key Facts about UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):
- ✓ It is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime, in addition to being responsible for implementing the United Nations lead programme on terrorism
- ✓ It was established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.
- ✓ Headquarters: Vienna, Austria

Q. India has recently started joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' with which country?

- A) Mongolia
B) Vietnam
C) Singapore
D) Malaysia

Answer : A

- ✓ The 16th India-Mongolian joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant' started at the Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) on 3 July 2024. The bilateral exercise will be held from 3 -16 July 2024. The Mongolian ambassador to India Dambajavyn Ganbold, and the General Officer Commanding 51 Sub Area of the Indian Army, Major General Prasanna Joshi, were present at the opening ceremony of the 16th edition of the 'Nomadic Elephant'.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Exercise KHAAN QUEST:

1. It was first started as a bilateral event between India and the Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003.
2. It aims to prepare the Indian Armed Forces for peacekeeping missions.

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 Army contingent departed for the Exercise KHAAN QUEST which is scheduled to be conducted from 27th July to 9th August 2024 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- ✓ About Exercise KHAAN QUEST:
- ✓ It is a multinational military exercise which will bring together military forces from around the world to collaborate and enhance their peacekeeping capabilities.
- ✓ Last edition of Exercise KHAAN QUEST was conducted in Mongolia from 19th June to 2nd July 2023.
- ✓ Background
- ✓ The exercise first started as a bilateral event between USA and Mongolian Armed Forces in the year 2003.
- ✓ Subsequently, from the year 2006 onwards the exercise graduated to a Multinational Peacekeeping Exercise with current year being the 21st iteration.
- ✓ India and Mongolia conduct a bilateral Nomadic Elephant military exercise between the two armies. The 16th bilateral Nomadic Elephant was held at the Foreign Training Node, Umroi (Meghalaya) in July 2024
- ✓ About Mongolia
- ✓ Mongolia is a landlocked country in North Central Asia. Russia surrounds it in the north and China in the south.

- ✓ Capital : Ulaanbaatar
- ✓ Currency: Tugrik
- ✓ Prime Minister : Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene

Q. Which of the following country will host the 2030 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games?

- A) France
- B) USA
- C) Australia
- D) New Zealand

Answer : A

- ✓ French Alps to Host 2030 Winter Olympics and Paralympic Games
- ✓ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that the French Alps will host the Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2030.
- ✓ The announced plans are conditional based on the guarantees given by French President Emmanuel Macron that the new office being formed in the country after 2024 will underwrite all the organisational guarantees that must still be signed.
- ✓ The 2030 Winter Games will be the first time the event returns to France since the 1992 edition. The 2026 edition of the prestigious tournament will be held in Italy.
- ✓ About French Alps
- ✓ Situated on the French-Italian border, the Alps are widely known for offering some of the world's best snow skiing. This reputation is well-earned.
- ✓ The renowned Mount Blanc, the highest summit in the Alps at 15,700 feet (or over 5,000 meters), is part of the enormous Alps Mountain range.

Q. Who has been honoured with customised gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris?

- A) Akshay Kumar
- B) Shah Rukh Khan
- C) Amitabh Bachchan
- D) Aishwarya Rai

Answer : B

- ✓ Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has been honoured with customised gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris.
- ✓ Shah Rukh is the first Indian actor to have gold coins in his name at the museum.
- ✓ According to the report, the Gervin Museum is a wax museum located on the Grands Boulevards in Paris.
- ✓ The Dunki actor has his wax statues in several wax museums across the globe including the US, the UK, Germany, France, Czech Republic, Thailand, India, Singapore and Australia.
- ✓ Shah Rukh will soon be receiving the prestigious Pardo alla Carriera at the 77th edition of the Locarno Film Festival as well.
- ✓ Paris Olympics Notable important points 2024
- ✓ 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) Jhumpa 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.

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

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

- ✓ 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

- ✓ Indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system Kavach deployed on 1465 Route km and 144 locomotives on South Central Railway.
- ✓ Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system and a highly technology-intensive system, which requires safety certification of the highest order.

- ✓ Kavach aids the loco pilot in train running within specified speed limits by automatic application of brakes in case Loco Pilot fails to do so and also helps the train safely run during inclement weather.
- ✓ Kavach has been certified for highest level of Safety Integrity Level -SIL4 by Independent Safety Assessor and reduces the probability of train collisions in block sections.
- ✓ Kavach has so far been deployed on 1465 Route km and 144 locomotives (including Electric Multiple Unit rakes) on the South Central Railway. Further, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Detailed Estimate on another 6000 RKms are approved on Indian Railways.
- ✓ Kavach 4.0 specification was approved by Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO). This version covers all the major features required for the diverse railway network.
- ✓ The funds utilized on Kavach so far is Rs 1216.77 Cr and the allocation of funds during the year 2024-25 stands at Rs 1112.57 Cr., Funds for Kavach is used for Kavach only.

Q. As per the financial report for 2023-24, which football club has become the first football club to report revenue generation of over €1 billion (\$1.08bn)?

- A) Milan
B) Barcelona
C) Dallas Cowboys
D) Real Madrid

Answer : D

- ✓ Real Madrid have become the first football club to report revenue generation of over €1 billion (\$1.08bn).
- ✓ As per the financial report for 2023-24, the La Liga giants Real Madrid made €1.073bn in revenue, registering a rise of 27% and a total gain of €230 million. The revenue statement did not include player transfers.
- ✓ They also registered after-tax profits of €16m, 32% higher than last season.
- ✓ Real Madrid are valued at \$6.07bn by Forbes – the most valuable football club in the world and the 11th most valuable sports team overall.
- ✓ The Dallas Cowboys are the highest-valued sports team in the world as per Forbes with a valuation of \$9bn.

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the E-Upahaar Portal:

1. It was developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It helps in the auctioning of gift items presented to the Hon'ble President and former Presidents 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 : C

- ✓ Rashtrapati Bhavan will auction selected gift items, presented to the President and former Presidents on various occasions, through an online portal called E-Upahaar.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The Indian athletes wore traditional attire designed by the famous fashion designer Tarun Tahiliani. The men wore traditional kurta Bundi sets, while the women wore sarees.
- ✓ Mascot and Motto of the 2024 Paris Olympics
- ✓ The 2024 Paris Olympics Mascot is Olympic Phryge. It is designed on the traditional French Phrygian hat that represents the symbols of freedom and the French Republic.
- ✓ It is coloured in blue, white and red, representing the flag of France with the golden Paris 2024 logo emblazoned across its chest.
- ✓ "Alone we go faster, but together we go further," is the motto of the Paris Olympics and the Paralympic Games.
- ✓ About Indian Contingent in the Paris Olympics
- ✓ India has sent 117 athletes to the Paris Games, the second-largest contingent ever after the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games, which saw the participation of 121 athletes.
- ✓ In the Paris Olympics, 70 male and 47 female Indian athletes are participating in the Paris Olympics.

- ✓ Breaking, Surfing, sports climbing, and Skateboarding are the four new sports to be included in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics.
- ✓ Youngest and Oldest Indian Athlete
- ✓ Veteran Tennis player Rohan Boppana is the oldest Indian athlete at the age of 44 years while the 14-year-old swimmer Dhinidhi Desinghu is the youngest member of the Indian contingent.

Q. What is the mascot of the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics?

- A) Olympic Phryge
B) Miga, Quatchi, Sumi
C) Sheen-e She
D) Tun Tun

Answer : A

- ✓ Olympic Phryge. It is designed on a traditional French Phrygian hat and coloured in blue, white and red, representing the flag of France with the golden Paris 2024 logo.

Q. How many medals have been won by India at the Summer Olympics?

- A) 20
B) 35
C) 40
D) 55

Answer : B

- ✓ India and Medals in the Olympics
- ✓ India has won 35 medals in the Summer Olympics so far, with Norman Pritchard being the first medalist. Pritchard won two silver medals at the 1900 Paris Olympics—in the men's 200-meter race and 200-meter hurdles.
- ✓ The men's hockey team has won 12 medals - 8 gold, 1 silver and 3 bronze medals. It won a bronze medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ After independence, KD Jadhav won India's first individual medal in the Olympics, a bronze in the weightlifting event at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.
- ✓ The first individual gold was won by Abhinav Bindra in shooting in the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
- ✓ Neeraj Chopra won the only second individual gold medal for India in the Olympics in the javelin throw event at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ Wrestler Sushil Kumar and ace female badminton player PV Sindhu are the only two Indian athletes to have won more than one individual medal in the summer olympics.
- ✓ Sushil Kumar won bronze in the 2008 Beijing Olympics and a silver in the 2012 London Olympics.
- ✓ Ace female badminton player PV Sindhu won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics and a bronze medal at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ 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

Answer : D

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ All the matches of the 9th Women's Cricket Asia Cup were played at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla, Sri Lanka
- ✓ Player of the Match - Harshita Samarawickrama
- ✓ Player of the Series- Chamari Athapaththu for her 304 runs and 3 wickets in the entire series
- ✓ India is the only team that has played in the finals of all the Asia Cups and has been the most successful team, with 7 title wins.
- ✓ Asia Cup has been played in both One Day Internationals (ODI) and T-20 format.

Q. Who has been appointed as the Governor of Telangana by President Murmu recently?

- A) Om Prakash Mathur
- B) Jishnu Dev Varma
- C) Santosh Kumar Gangawar
- D) Ramen Deka

Answer : B

Q. Who has been appointed as the Governor of Sikkim?

- A) Om Prakash Mathur
- B) PS Sreedharan Pillai
- C) Bandaru Dattatreya
- D) C.P. Radhakrishnan

Answer : A

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) Acharya 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

- ✓ 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
B) Jiya Rai
C) Arunima Sinha
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

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.
- ✓ Ganatantra 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 15h 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 Parsad.
- ✓ Rashtrapati 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.

BEST MCQ WITH FACTS

JUNE 2024

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.

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 Nation 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. Consider the following statements with reference to the Arun-III Hydro Power Project:

1. It is a run-of-the-river hydropower project being constructed on the Arun River in Nepal with Indian assistance.
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.

Q. Trishna mission, a collaboration between ISRO and which space agency, aims to monitor surface temperature and water management on a global scale?

- A) CNES
B) NASA
C) ROSCOSMOS
D) JAXA

Answer : A

- ✓ Trishna: ISRO's joint mission with France to Provide unprecedented climate data.
- ✓ In a major boost to global efforts to monitor and mitigate climate change, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is collaborating with the French Space Agency CNES on an ambitious new satellite mission called Trishna.
- ✓ Short for Thermal infraRed Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment, Trishna is engineered to deliver high spatial and temporal resolution observations of Earth's surface temperature, vegetation health, and water cycle dynamics.
- ✓ Slated for launch in 2025, Trishna will be a game-changer in using space-based thermal infrared imaging to study the impacts of climate change and support sustainable management of precious natural resources like water.
- ✓ The 770 kg satellite will operate from a sun-synchronous orbit at 761 km altitude, carrying two cutting-edge imaging payloads

ISRO JOIN VENTURE MISSION 2024

- ISRO said in a statement that the Thermal Infra - Red Imaging satellite for High - resolution Natural Resource Assessment (TRISHNA) mission is a joint venture between ISRO and the French National centre for space studies (CNES).
- Proba-3 Mission of European Space Agency's (ESA) to Study Sun will be Launched by ISRO.
- NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) is scheduled to launch in the first quarter of 2024.
- NISAR will be launched on the ISRO Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark-II from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- NISAR, according to ISRO, is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory being constructed in collaboration with NASA, a 2,800 kilograms SUV-sized satellite.

Q. What is the name of the world's highest steel arch rail bridge recently tested by Indian Railways?

- A) Jammu-Udhampur Bridge
B) Chenab Bridge
C) Sangaldan Arch Bridge
D) Reasi Steel Bridge

Answer : B

- ✓ Indian Railways conducts trial run on world's highest steel arch rail bridge.
- ✓ Indian Railways successfully tested an electric engine from Sangaldan to Reasi, passing the world's tallest steel arch rail bridge, the Chenab Bridge.
- ✓ 1st trial train has successfully run from Sangaldan to Reasi, including crossing the Chenab Bridge. All construction works for the USBRL are nearly finished, with only tunnel No.1 remaining partially incomplete.
- ✓ The Chenab Bridge reaches a height of 359 meters (approximately 1,178 feet), surpassing the Eiffel Tower by 35 meters

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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
- ✓ 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.

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.

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.

- ✓ According to the Education Ministry, more than 77 lakh people have benefitted from the scheme across the country till date. More than 1.29 crore learners and 35 lakh volunteer teachers are enrolled on the ULLAS Mobile App.
- ✓ A person who is 7 years and above of age and who cannot read and write in any language is called illiterate in India. According to the 2011 census the number of non-literates in the 15 years and above age group was 25.76 crore of which 9.08 crore were male and 16.68 crore females
- ✓ ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram
- ✓ The ULLAS (Understanding of Lifelong Learning for All in Society) Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented from 2022-23 to 2026-27.
- ✓ The scheme seeks to cover all aspects of Adult Education to align with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The NEP 2020 has recommendations for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning.
- ✓ Outlay for the Scheme
- ✓ The total outlay for the scheme is Rs.1037.90 crore for 2022-23 to 2026-27 duration. The government of India's share is Rs.700 crore, and the state's share is Rs.337.90 crore.
- ✓ Aim and Target of the Scheme
- ✓ Non-literates of 15 years and above in all States/UTs in the country will be covered under the scheme.
- ✓ The target for Foundational Literacy and Numeracy is five crore learners or one crore learners per year.
- ✓ The whole scheme is being implemented through online mode and the teachers will be volunteers.
- ✓ The volunteer teachers will conduct the class in online mode through the ULLAS app.
- ✓ Component of the ULLAS-Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram Scheme
- ✓ The scheme has five components, namely;
- ✓ Foundational Literacy and Numeracy- It means the ability to read and write and count,
- ✓ Critical Life Skills - These include digital literacy, legal literacy, financial literacy, healthcare and awareness, childcare and education, family welfare, etc.),
- ✓ Basic Education- It includes education up to secondary stage (classes 9-12).
- ✓ Vocational Skills- These include suitable skill development to obtain employment, Continuing Education.

Q. The government of India has extended the tenure of Tapan Kumar Deka as the Director General of the Intelligence Bureau till—?

- A) 2026
- B) 2025
- C) 2027
- D) 2028

Answer : B

- ✓ Intelligence Bureau Chief Tapan Kumar Deka gets 1 year extension.
- ✓ The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved an extension of one year service to the incumbent Intelligence Bureau Director General Tapan Kumar Deka.
- ✓ According to the Department of Personnel and Training, Tapan Kumar Deka will continue in office till 30 June 2025.
- ✓ Tapan Kumar Deka was appointed as the Director General of the Intelligence Bureau in 2022 for a term of two years after the retirement of Arvind Kumar.
- ✓ Tapan Kumar Deka is a 1988 Himachal Pradesh cadre Indian Police Service (IPS) officer.
- ✓ Intelligence Bureau (IB)
- ✓ Founded : 1887
- ✓ Headquarters : New Delhi
- ✓ Motto : Always Alert
- ✓ First Director : T. G. Sanjeevi Pillai
- ✓ 28th Director : Tapan Kumar Deka
- ✓ Minister responsible : Home affairs

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.
- ✓ The day also recognise the contribution of these industries in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✓ This year's theme is 'Building a Stronger Future Together'.
- ✓ NEW DEFINITION OF MSME
- ✓ Criteria : Investment And Turnover
- ✓ MICRO : Investment < Rs 1 Cr & turnover < Rs 5 Cr
- ✓ SMALL : Investment < Rs 10 Cr & turnover < Rs 50 Cr
- ✓ MEDIUM : Investment < Rs 50 Cr & turnover < Rs 250 Cr
- ✓ MSME : Micro small and medium enterprise
- ✓ UK Sinha Committee : MSME Sector
- ✓ Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi : Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- ✓ Consituency : Gaya, Bihar

Q. Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP), recently seen in the news, lies in which one of the following states?

- A) Odisha
- B) West Bengal
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) Karnataka

Answer : D

- ✓ South India's first and the country's largest leopard safari was recently inaugurated at the Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP).
- ✓ About Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP):
- ✓ It has been an integral part of Bannerghatta National Park and emerged out as an independent establishment in 2002.
- ✓ It has different units such as Zoo, Safari, Butterfly Park and Rescue Centre (Conservation of Captive animals).
- ✓ It is the first biological park in India to have a fenced, forested elephant sanctuary.
- ✓ Key Facts about Bannerghatta National Park:
- ✓ Location: It is located near Bangalore, Karnataka, in the hills of the Anekal range.
- ✓ It was declared a National Park in 1974.
- ✓ In 2006, India's first butterfly enclosure was inaugurated at the park.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the Space MAITRI mission:

1. It is an initiative between NewSpace India Limited and Australia.
2. It aims to foster closer ties between commercial, institutional, and governmental space organizations.

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 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.

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.
- ✓ 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 : Guaraní
- ✓ 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.

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 Salman Rushdie, Margaret 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?

- A) Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd
B) KM Sugar Mills Ltd
C) Constrarch 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

- ✓ 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".

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 Saubhagya 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.

- Q.** What is the name of the indigenously designed and manufactured submachine gun which has been recently inducted into the Indian Army?

D) ASMI

- ✓ 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.

D) MKU Limited

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

UPSC PAF

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.
2. It was a monastic establishment and used to teach all the major philosophies of Buddhism.

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

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the new Nalanda University campus near Rajgir's ancient university ruins.
- ✓ About Nalanda University:
- ✓ Nalanda stands out as the most ancient university on the Indian Subcontinent.
- ✓ It was founded by Kumargupta of the Gupta dynasty in Bihar in the early 5th century, and it flourished for 600 years until the 12th century.
- ✓ During the era of Harshavardhan and the Pala monarchs, it rose to popularity.
- ✓ It was a center of learning, culture, and intellectual exchange that had a profound impact on the development of Indian civilization and beyond.
- ✓ It had students from far-flung regions such as China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia.
- ✓ The students at Nalanda were expected to follow a strict code of conduct and were required to participate in daily meditation and study sessions.

- ✓ Subjects such as medicine, the ancient Indian medical system Ayurveda, religion, Buddhism, mathematics, grammar, astronomy, and Indian philosophy were taught there.
- ✓ It continued to be a centre of intellectual activity up until it was destroyed in the 12th century AD, in 1193, by Turkish ruler Qutbuddin Aibak's general Bakhtiyar Khilji.
- ✓ After six centuries, the university was rediscovered in 1812 by Scottish surveyor Francis Buchanan-Hamilton and later identified as the ancient university by Sir Alexander Cunningham in 1861.
- ✓ The Chinese monk Xuan Zang has offered invaluable insights into the academic and architectural grandeur of ancient Nalanda.
- ✓ It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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. 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.

- ✓ 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

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 Kmph.
- ✓ 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.

Q. What is the maximum jail provision for a person convicted of malpractice and irregularities in competitive exams under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024?

- A) 2
B) 3
C) 4
D) 5

Answer : B

- ✓ Three years in jail, which can be extended to five years, and a monetary fine of up to Rs 10 lakhs.

O. In which state will the world's first conservation center for red-headed vultures be established?

- A) Bihar
B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Madhya Pradesh
D) Assam

Answer : B

- ✓ The world's first conservation and breeding centre for red-headed vultures will be established in Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ This vulture is also famous by the name of Asian king vultures.
- ✓ This species has been listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List since 2007.
- ✓ The name of this centre will be Jatayu Conservation and Breeding Centre.

Q. According to a 47-country survey conducted by Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ), Oxford University, which of the following is the most trusted major news media brand in India?

- A) Indian Express B) Economic Times
C) The Hindu D) Times of India

Answer : D

- ✓ Times Of India No. 1 news brand in country
- ✓ Times of India is the most trusted major news media brand in India, according to a 47-country survey conducted by Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ), Oxford University.
- ✓ The survey, released as part of Digital News Report 2024, an annual publication by the institute, found TOI had a trust score of 71. TOI had also topped the survey in 2021 and 2022.
- ✓ The most trusted brand in the UK, BBC News, had a trust score of 62 and the most trusted paper in that country, Financial Times, scored 57.
- ✓ Similarly, in the US, local TV news had the highest trust score of 62 while New York Times (50), Wall Street Journal (49), CNN (48) and Washington Post (46) scored much lower.

Q. The International Olympic Day is observed every year on _____

- A) 23 June
B) 22 June
C) 21 June
D) 20 June

Answer : A

- ✓ The International Olympic Day is held on June 23 each year to celebrate sports and health.
- ✓ 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.

Q. Who is the first Indian to win a WTT Contender singles title in table tennis?

- A) Sreeja Akula
B) Yashaswini Ghoshal
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**

Serial Number	Events	Winner and their Nationality	Runners Up and their Nationality
1	Women's Singles	Sreeja Akula (India)	Yijie Ding (China)
2	Men's Singles	Dimitrij Ovtcharov (Germany)	Ricardo Walther (Germany)
3	Women Doubles	Sreeja Akula and Archana Kamath (India)	Yashaswini Ghoshal and Diya Chitale (India)
4	Men's Doubles	Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar (India).	Olajide Omotayo and Azeem Solanke (Both Nigerian)

Q. Sreeja Akula, who was in the news recently, belongs to which field?

- A) Badminton
B) Hockey
C) Table tennis
D) Wrestling

Answer : C

Q. How many medals were won by the Indian archers at the Archery World Cup 2024 stage 3 held in Antalya, Turkey?

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

Answer : C

- ✓ Dhiraj Bommadevara won two bronze medals for India at the Archery World Cup 2024 stage 3 in Antalya, Türkiye on 23 June 2024.
- ✓ The Indian team finished their campaign at Antalya with four medals- one gold, one silver and two bronze.
- ✓ The Archery World Cup 2024 stage 3 was organised by the World Archery at Antalya, Türkiye from 18 to 23 June 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
- ✓ This independent body was inspired by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.
- ✓ It is not a United Nations body
- ✓ India is a member country of this organisation.
- ✓ Secretariat: It is located in Bonn, Germany
- ✓ Key facts about the Blue Planet Prize
- ✓ It is awarded by Japan's Asahi Glass Foundation annually to individuals and organisations to recognise outstanding achievements in scientific research and its application, which have helped provide solutions to global environmental problems.
- ✓ The prize includes an award of \$500,000

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the e-Samridhi Portal:

1. It was launched by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. and National Cooperative Consumers' Federation of India.
2. It aims to procure all horticultural crops from farmers at Minimum Support Prices.

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 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.
- ✓ 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 the registration of farmers and government is committed to procuring 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.
- ✓ The payment to the farmers will be made by NAFED directly into their mapped bank account and no agency will be involved in between.

Q. Which state has announced to establish 'Prime Minister Excellence College' in every district?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Gujarat
D) Karnataka

Answer : B

- ✓ Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr. Mohan Yadav has announced to establish Prime Minister College of Excellence in every district of the state.
- ✓ These colleges will be established in all 55 districts of the state. Under the National Education Policy, the Madhya Pradesh government has approved the establishment of one Prime Minister Excellence College in all the districts of the state.

Q. Cyril Ramaphosa, who was in the news recently, belongs to which country?

- A) South Africa
- B) Nigeria
- C) Ethiopia
- D) Kenya

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 Rajeev 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

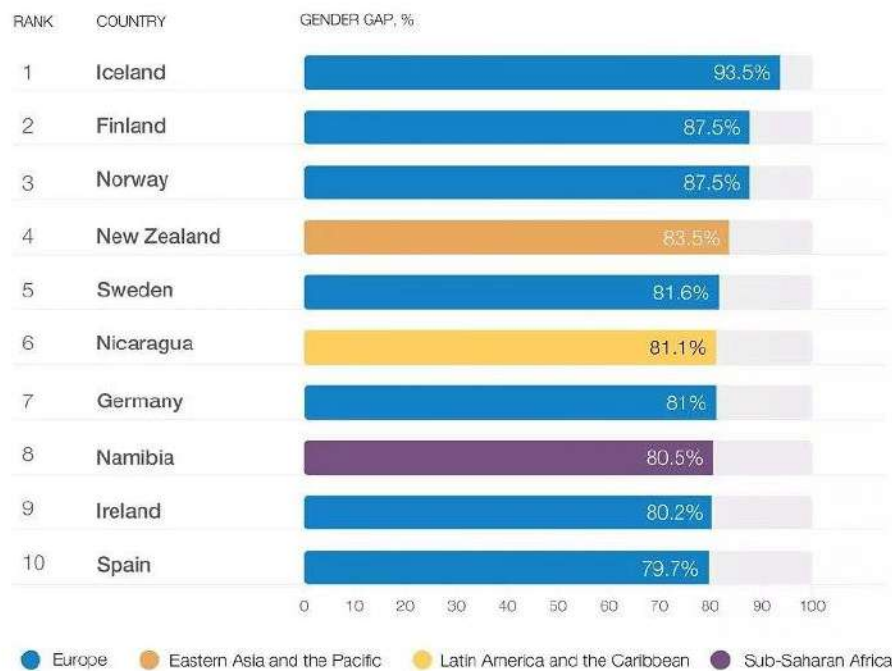
- ✓ India ranks 129 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index.
- ✓ The Global Gender Gap Index is an annual report produced by the World Economic Forum (WEF) that measures gender-based gaps in access to resources and opportunities in countries around the world.
- ✓ It is the longest-standing 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
- ✓ Subbaiah 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.

Q. Indian Railways entered the Limca Book of Records for organizing an event attended by 40,19,516 people at how many venues?

- A) 1,500 B) 2,000
C) 2,140 D) 2,500

Answer : C

- ✓ Indian Railways enters its name into Limca Book of Records.
- ✓ Indian Railways has entered its name into Prestigious Limca Book of Records for most people at a public service event at multiple venues.
- ✓ Ministry of Railways organized an event on 26 February 2024 which was attended by 40,19,516 people at 2,140 venues.
- ✓ The event was organized for the inauguration of road over / road under railway bridges and for laying the foundation stones of railway stations by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The mammoth effort and mobilization of Indian Railways has been recognized and the same has entered into Prestigious Limca Book of World Records.
- ✓ Indian Railways
- ✓ Founded : 12 September 1837
- ✓ Headquarters : Rail Bhawan, New Delhi
- ✓ people
- ✓ Ministry of Railways : Ashwini Vaishnaw
- ✓ Chairperson and CEO : Jaya Varma Sinha

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

Answer : B

- ✓ 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.

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
- B) P.K. Mishra
- C) Pulok Chatterjee
- 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 Sanniard 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 Damadordas 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 Annupriya 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.

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

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

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. When will India host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup, as announced by the International Hockey Federation (FIH)?

- A) December 2024
B) December 2025
C) December 2026
D) December 2027

Answer : B

- ✓ India Named Hosts for 2025 FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup.
- ✓ India will host the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup in December 2025, the International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced.

- ✓ The tournament, set to feature 24 teams for the first time, will be the 14th edition of the Junior Hockey World Cup. The host city will be announced later.
- ✓ The most recent edition of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup was held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in 2023. India lost to eventual champions Germany 4-1 in the semi-finals and went down to Spain 3-1 in the third-place playoff to settle for fourth place.
- ✓ This will be the fourth time India will host the Junior hockey World Cup. The 2013 edition was held in New Delhi while Lucknow and Bhubaneswar played hosts in 2016 and 2021, respectively

Q. Who has been appointed as the new brand ambassador of Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG)?

- A) Amitabh Bachchan B) Salman Khan
C) Akshay Kumar D) Shah Rukh Khan

Answer : D

- ✓ Muthoot Pappachan Group (MPG), popularly known as Muthoot Blue, has roped in Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador

Q. Who did Praggnanandhaa defeat for the first time in a Classical event at the Norway Chess 2024 tournament?

- A) Fabiano Caruana B) Hikaru Nakamura
C) Magnus Carlsen D) Viswanathan Anand

Answer : C

- ✓ Praggnanandhaa Topples World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen For First Time In Classical Event At Norway Chess 2024.
- ✓ Chess, Praggnanandhaa toppled Magnus Carlsen for the first time in a Classical event. The 18-year-old Indian prodigy took down the World No. 1 with the White pieces in the 3rd round of 12th Norway Chess 2024.
- ✓ Praggnanandhaa got an early edge out of the opening and eventually converted it into a victory. With this win, Pragg now takes the sole lead with 5.5 points in the event.

Q. Every Year, June 01 is dedicated to celebrate which of these days?

- A) World Milk Day
B) World Honey Day
C) World Water Day
D) World Food Day

Answer : A

- ✓ World Milk Day is observed on June 1 each year to recognize the importance of milk as a global food and provide an opportunity to bring attention to activities that are connected with the dairy sector.
- ✓ 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?

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 Telecom 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 Jamuui district of Bihar, is a man-made site created by constructing a dam on the Nagi River.
- ✓ Nakti Bird Sanctuary is the 82nd Ramasar 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 Jamuui 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

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
- ✓ 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. Who won the only gold medal for India at the 2024 Archery Asia Cup Stage 3 event?

- A) Deepika Kumari
B) Jyothi Surekha Vennam
C) Aditi Swami
D) Kumud Saini

Answer : D

- ✓ Kumud Saini won the sole gold medal for India at the Archery Asia Cup 2024 Stage 3, being held in Suwon, South Korea, on 8 June 2024.
- ✓ The Indian archery team finished its campaign in the Asia Cup with five medals - one gold, two silvers and two bronze.
- ✓ 17-year Kumud Saini was the only Indian archer to bag a medal in the individual events.
- ✓ In the final, Kumud defeated South Korean girl Park Yerin 143-140 to win the gold medal.
- ✓ Medal winners for India at the 2024 Archery Asia Cup Stage 3
- ✓ Following are the medal winners for India at the Suwon event.
- ✓ Gold Medal
- ✓ Kumud Saini in the Women's compound individual event.
- ✓ Silver Medal
- ✓ Kumud Saini, Maya Bishnoi and Tejal Rajendra Salve in the Women's compound team event.
- ✓ Kumud Saini and Manav Jadhao in the Mixed compound team event.
- ✓ Bronze Medal
- ✓ Manav Jadhao, Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru and Kushal Dalal in the Men's compound team event
- ✓ Bhargaviben Bhagora, Basanti Mahato, and Sharvari Somnath Shende in the Women's recurve team event.
- ✓ The 2024 Archery Asia Cup Stage 3 was held in the South Korean city of Suwon from 4 to 9 June 2024. It was the third event of the 2024 Archery Asia Cup.

Q. Ramoji Rao, who died recently. When was noted filmmaker Ramoji Rao conferred Padma Vibhushan?

- A) 2017
B) 2016
C) 2015
D) 2014

Answer : B

- ✓ Ramoji Film City founder & media mogul Ramoji Rao passed away.
- ✓ Cherukuri Ramoji Rao, the head of the Ramoji film city and the Telugu news and entertainment network ETV, passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana, on 8 June 2024.
- ✓ Ramoji Rao was 87 years old. Ramoji Rao was undergoing treatment at the local hospital and breathed his last in the early hours of 8 June 2024.
- ✓ Ramoji Rao, the Businessman
- ✓ Cherukuri Ramoji Rao headed the Ramoji Group, which has diversified business interests in entertainment, retail, and education.
- ✓ He founded the Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad. It is one of the world's largest integrated film cities and India's only thematic holiday destination with a focus on cinema.
- ✓ Ramoji Rao was conferred India's highest civilian award, Padma Vibhushan, in 2016 by President Pranab Mukherjee for his contributions to literature, journalism, and media.
- ✓ In 2000, he won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Telugu (producer) -Nuvve Kavali.
- ✓ Ramoji Rao was also a philanthropist. During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, he donated Rs 10 crore each to the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Chief Ministers' Relief Funds.

Q. How many medals were won by the Indian archers at the 2024 Archery Asia Cup Stage 3 event?

- A) 3
B) 4
C) 5
D) 7

Answer : C

- ✓ five medals - one gold, two silvers and two bronze.

Q. Ramoji Rao, who died recently. When was noted filmmaker Ramoji Rao conferred Padma Vibhushan?

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

SCHEME 1:-

ATAL PENSION YOJANA(APY)

◆ Launched :- 9 May 2015 from Kolkata (The scheme is being implemented with effect from 1st June 2015.)

◆ Launched by:- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

◆ Under : Ministry of Finance

◆ Current Finance Minister:-Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman(Karnataka, Rajya Sabha MP)

◆ Administered by:- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority(PFRDA)

◆ Age Limit :- 18-40 years

◆ The scheme is open for Indian citizen only.

◆ What is Atal Pension scheme?

Atal Pension Yojana is a pension scheme under the government of India. This scheme replaces the Swavalamban Yojana and was established to provide to old age income security to the workers belonging to the unorganised sector.

>From 1st October, 2022, any citizen who is or has been an income-tax payer, is not eligible to join APY.

◆ What is the benefit of this scheme?

>Subscribers would receive the guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000 or Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 at the age of 60 years

>In case of premature death of subscriber (death before 60 years of age), spouse of the subscriber can continue contribution to APY account of the subscriber, for the remaining vesting period, till the original subscriber would have attained the age of 60 years.

◆ Mode of Contribution Contribution :-

>Subscribers can make contributions to APY on monthly/ quarterly / half-yearly basis

◆ How many accounts can be opened by a subscriber?

>A subscriber can open only one APY account and it is unique. Multiple accounts are not permitted.

◆ Status:-

>As per the Ministry of Finance Report the total enrollment under Atal Pension Yojana has crossed 6 crore 44 lakh as on 20 March 2024. The scheme enrolled more than 1 crore 23 lakh new subscribers in the Financial Year 2023-24

SCHEME -2

■ ABOUT PRADHAN MANTRI JEEVAN JYOTI BIMA YOJANA

◆ Launched – 9 May 2015 from Kolkata

- ◆ Launched by – Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- ◆ Commenced on:- 1 June 2015
- ◆ Under - Ministry of Finance
- ◆ Age Limit - 18-50 years
- ◆ Risk coverage - 2 lakhs in case of death of the insured, due to any reason.
- ◆ Scheme is offered by – LIC and all other life insurance companies
- ◆ For those getting enrolled under PMJJBY for the first time during the middle of the policy period, payment of pro-rata premium is allowed as under;
 - a) For enrolment in June, July and August – Full annual premium of Rs.436/- is payable.
 - b) For enrolment in September, October, and November – pro rata premium of Rs. 342/- is payable
 - c) For enrolment in December, January and February – pro rata premium of Rs. 228/- is payable.
 - d) For enrolment in March, April and May – pro rata premium of Rs. 114/- is payable.
 However, full year's premium @ Rs 436/- is payable at the time of renewal under the scheme.
- ◆ Any NRI having an eligible bank account with a bank branch located in India is eligible for purchase of PMJJBY cover subject to fulfilment of the terms and conditions relating to the scheme. However, in case a claim arises, the claim benefit will be paid to the beneficiary/ nominee only in Indian currency.
- ◆ The scheme is a one-year cover term life insurance scheme, renewable from year to year, offering life insurance cover for death due to any cause.
- ◆ Status:-
 - >Completed- 9 years
 - >Under the PMJJBY 19.85 crores enrollment taken place as on 20.03.2024

SCHEME -3

■ ABOUT Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)

- ◆ Launched:- 9 May 2015(from Kolkata)
- ◆ Under:- Ministry of Finance
- ◆ Scheme: PMSBY is a one-year accidental insurance scheme renewable from year to year offering coverage for death or disability due to accident.
- ◆ Eligibility:- Persons in the age group of 18-70 years having an individual bank or a post office account are entitled to enroll under the scheme.
- ◆ Risk coverage :- 2 lakh for accidental death & full disability and 1 lakh for partial disability.
- ◆ Premium:- Rs.20(Rs.20 from 1 June 2022, Earlier it was Rs.12)
- ◆ Scheme is offered by :- Public sector General Insurance companies or any other general insurance company.
- ◆ Enrolment:- Enrolment under the scheme can be done by visiting the branch/ BC point or website of

the bank of the account holder or at the post office in case of post office savings bank account.

- ◆ The premium under the scheme is auto debited every year from the subscriber's bank account based on a one-time mandate from the account holder.

- ◆ Covered:-

- >Permanent total disability with a coverage of Rs.2 lakh

- >Permanent partiality disability with a coverage of Rs.1 lakh

- >Accident leading up to policyholder's death with coverage of Rs.2 lakh

- >Natural calamities(such as earthquakes, flood and other convulsions of nature) being in the nature of accidents, any death / disability (as defined under PMSBY) resulting from such natural calamities is also covered under PMSBY. While death due to suicide is not covered, that from murder is covered.

- ◆ Not Covered:-

- >Suicide deaths are not covered(while murder Covered)

- >Partial disability without irrecoverable loss

- >Non-permanent disabilities are not covered

- ◆ The insured/ nominee shall be eligible for one claim only.

- ◆ Any NRI having an eligible bank account with a bank branch located in India is eligible for purchase of PMSBY cover through this account subject to fulfilment of the terms and conditions relating to the scheme. However, in case a claim arises, the claim benefit will be paid to the beneficiary/ nominee only in Indian currency.

- ◆ Individuals who exit the scheme at any point may re-join the scheme in future years by paying the annual premium, subject to conditions that may be laid down. However, risk cover would start from the date of auto debit of premium from the subscriber's account.

- ◆ Why in News?

- >The centre is working to extend the deadline for the unorganised sector to claim life and accident insurance cover under PMSBY

- >9 th anniversary is coming

SCHEME -4

■ ABOUT PRADHAN MANTRI MUDRA(Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency)YOJANA

- ◆ Launched On: April 8, 2015

- ◆ Launched By: Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- ◆ Comes Under:- Ministry of Finance

- ◆ Under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), collateral-free institutional credit up to Rs. 20 lakh is provided by Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) i.e. Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) to micro/small business units for income generating activities in the manufacturing, trading, services sector and also for activities allied to agriculture.

- ◆ Quantum of Loan(Min/Max):-

- ◆ Maximum loan amount : upto Rs.20 lakhs.

- ◆ Loans from Rs.50,000 are categorised as SHISHU .

- ◆ Loans from Rs.50,001 to Rs.500,000 are categorised as KISHORE .

◆ Loans from Rs.500,001 to Rs.20,00,000/- are categorised as TARUN.

◆ For the purpose of working capital limit, MUDRA has launched a new product called “MUDRA Card”, which is a Debit card issued on RuPay platform, and provides hassle free credit in a flexible manner.

◆ MUDRA’s refinance assistance will be for a maximum tenor of 36 months which will also be aligned to terms of allotment of MUDRA funds by RBI from time to time.

◆ Recent News: -

◆ Loans sanctioned in the last financial year were higher at ₹5.28 lakh crore. The total disbursements stood at ₹5.20 lakh crore in the year ended March 2024, as against ₹4.40 lakh crore in the previous financial year.

◆ Nearly 70 per cent of the beneficiaries of these loans are women

◆ Budget 2024-25: The 'Tarun' category limit under the Mudra loans is enhanced to Rs. 20 lakh from the current Rs. 10 lakh for those entrepreneurs who have successfully repaid previous loans under the same category.

SCHEME -5

■ ABOUT PRADHAN MANTRI JAN DHAN YOJANA(PMJDY)

◆ Announced :-On 15th August,2014 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

◆ Launched On:-28, August 2014

◆ Slogan Of the Scheme:-“Mera Khata Vhagya Vidhata” (My Account Fate Restorer)

◆ Run By:- Department of Financial services and ministry of Finance

◆ Age Limit:- 18-65 Years

◆ The main features of the scheme include one basic savings bank deposit (BSBD) account for every unbanked adult.

◆ Under the scheme (PMJDY), a free RuPay debit card is provided to the PMJDY account holders with inbuilt accident insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh(raised from 1 lakh to 2 lakh)

◆ OD limit doubled from Rs 5,000/- to Rs 10,000/-; OD upto Rs 2,000/- (without conditions).

◆ In the original scheme the government had announced a life insurance cover of ₹30,000 to the account holders. But this had been discontinued since March 2020.

◆ PMJDY accounts are eligible for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency Bank (MUDRA) scheme.

◆ There is no requirement to maintain any minimum balance in PMJDY accounts. Deposits in such accounts earn interest of 3-4%.

◆ Recent News:-

Over 3 crore PMJDY accounts to be opened in FY 25.

53.13 crore accounts are operative PMJDY accounts, out of over 173 crore operative CASA(current account saving account), as on August 14, 2024.

Rs.2.3 lakh crore deposit balance in 53.13 crore Jan Dhan accounts.

66.6% of total PMJDY accounts are opened in Rural and Semi urban areas

Average Balance in PMJDY accounts has increased to Rs. 4352 (Aug 2024) from Rs.1,065 crore(March 2015)

29.56 crore(55.6%) accounts belong to Women out of 53.13 cr Jan dhan accounts

8.4% Pmjdya accounts have zero balance

Top states by number of Beneficiaries:-

Uttar Pradesh

Bihar

West Bengal

Madhya Pradesh

Rajasthan

Top states by balance in accounts:-

Uttar Pradesh

West Bengal

Bihar

Rajasthan

Madhya Pradesh

SCHEME -6

■ NPS Vatsalya Scheme :-

■ A new pension scheme named 'Vatsalya' has been proposed for minors by Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2024-25.

■ 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.

>proposed NPS Vatsalya scheme would allow partial withdrawal before subscriber turns 18. Subscribers may be allowed to do partial withdrawal after three years of joining NPS Vatsalya and the maximum sum allowed for withdrawal is likely to be 25 per cent of contributed amount. Partial withdrawal is expected to be allowed for the purposes of education, treatment of specified illnesses, disability etc.

>An NPS Vatsalya subscriber is also proposed to be allowed to exit NPS at 18. On exit, at least 80 per cent of the accumulated corpus may be required to be invested in annuity plan, while 20 per cent can be withdrawn as lumpsum.

■ Some important 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.

>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).

>PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) is the governing body for NPS.

SCHEME -7

■ **NATIONAL GREEN HYDROGEN MISSION (NGHM)**

■ Ministry:- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

■ Current Minister of New and Renewable Energy is :- Shri Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad, Karnataka)

■ The Union Cabinet approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission on 4th January 2023, with an outlay of ₹ 19,744 crore.

■ The overarching objective of the Mission is to make India a Global Hub for production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives, by targeting production of 5 MMT per annum of Green Hydrogen by 2030.

■ The following components have been announced as part of the Mission:-

i)Facilitating demand creation through exports and domestic utilization

ii)Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition (SIGHT) programme, which includes incentives for manufacturing of electrolyzers and production of green hydrogen

iii)Development of Green Hydrogen Hubs

iv)Public awareness and outreach programme

v)Skill development programme;

■ The National Green Hydrogen Mission has an outlay of ₹ 600 crore for the FY 2024 – 25. This is a 102% increase from the previous year's budget of ₹297 crore

■ The Green Hydrogen production capacity envisaged by 2030 is likely to leverage over ₹8 lakh crore in total investments in the Green Hydrogen industry. This investment is estimated to create 6,00,000 jobs by 2030.

■ The Mission is expected to reduce a cumulative ₹1 lakh crore worth of fossil fuel imports by 2030.

■ Adding around 125 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030

■ Some Recent Announcements:-

>Recently The Government of India has come out with guidelines for funding of testing facilities, infrastructure, and institutional support for development of Standards and Regulatory framework under the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

>The Scheme Guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) on July 04, 2024.

>The scheme will support identification of the gaps in the existing testing facilities for components, technologies, and processes in the value chain of Green Hydrogen & its derivatives. The Scheme will support creation of new testing facilities and upgradation of existing Testing Facilities to ensure safe and secure operations.

>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).

■ An Additional Information:-

>Depending on the nature of the method of its extraction, hydrogen is categorised into 3 categories, namely, Grey, Blue and Green.

>In May 2024, For the first time, India has set up its own pavilion, at the World Hydrogen Summit 2024, being held in Rotterdam, Netherlands

SCHEME -8

■ SMART CITIES MISSION

>Launched :- 25 June 2015

>By the Prime Minister Narendra Modi

>Under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

>Current Minister of Housing and urban affairs - Shri Manohar Lal Khattar (Karnal , Haryana)

◆ Outlay for Fy24-25- 2400 crore

◆ It is a centrally sponsored scheme

◆ Aim:- 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.

◆ On the financial progress, the Mission has an allocated GOI budget of ₹ 48,000 crore for the 100 Cities.

◆ Uttar Pradesh has the highest share of cities 13, followed closely by Tamil Nadu with 12 cities and 10 of Maharashtra

◆ The projects under the Smart Cities Mission are to be developed through private-public Partnerships (PPP)

■ Recent Updates :-

>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.

>More than 8,000+ multi-sectoral projects are being developed by the 100 Cities amounting to around ₹

1.6 lakh crore.

>As on 03rd July 2024, the 100 Cities have completed 7,188 projects (90% of total projects) amounting to ₹ 1,44,237 crore as part of the Mission. The balance 830 projects amounting to ₹ 19,926 crore are also in advanced stages of completion.

>As on date, GOI has released ₹ 46,585 crore (97% of the allocated GOI budget) to 100 Cities. Out of these funds released to the Cities, 93% have been utilized as on date. The Mission has also released full GOI financial support under the Mission to 74 out of 100 Cities.

>The Government of India has extended the Mission period upto 31 March 2025 to complete these balance 10% projects.

>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.

>Karnataka topped the list of states with most completed projects under the mission followed by Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

SCHEME -9

■ National Forensic Infrastructure Enhancement Scheme(N.F.I.E.S)

>Recently in June The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Central Sector Scheme

>This scheme aims to enhance forensic infrastructure across the country by establishing off-campus laboratories of the National Forensic Sciences University in 28 States and all Union Territories

>Total financial outlay= Rs. 2254.43 crore

>period from 2024-25 to 2028-29.

>Financial outlay of the Central Sector Scheme will be provisioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs from its own budget

◆ The Cabinet has approved the following components under this Scheme:-

- I. Establishment of Campuses of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) in the country.
- ii. Establishment of Central Forensic Science Laboratories in the country
- iii. Enhancement of existing infrastructure of the Delhi Campus of the NFSU.

◆ Key Objective:-

>The scheme underscores the importance of high quality, trained forensic professionals in the timely and scientific examination of evidence for an efficient criminal justice process, leveraging the advancements in technology & evolving manifestations and methods of crime.

>With the enactment of the New Criminal Laws which mandates forensic investigation for offences involving punishment of 7 years or more, a significant increase in the workload of forensic science laboratories is expected.

>The establishment of additional off-campus of the National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU) and new Central Forensic Science Laboratories (CFSLS) would address the shortage of trained forensic manpower, alleviate the case load / pendency of forensic laboratories, and align with the Government of India's goal of securing a high conviction rate of more than 90%.

SCHEME -10

■ PM - SURYA GHAR MUFT BIJLI YOJANA

The Government of India approved the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana on 29th February, 2024.

>It was announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13 February 2024

Comes Under the:- Ministry Of New and Renewable Energy

The current Minister of New and Renewable Minister is :- Pralhad Joshi (Dharwad Karnataka)

Aims:-

>It aims to increase the share of solar rooftop capacity and empower residential households to generate their own electricity.

>The scheme promises to deliver up to 300 units of free electricity each month to the beneficiary households.

>The scheme is expected to benefit 1 crore households across India.

Outlay:- The scheme has an outlay of Rs 75,021 crore

Duration:- Till FY 2026-27.

Implementation:-

>The scheme will be implemented by a National programme Implementation Agency (NPIA) at the National level and by the State Implementation Agencies (SIAs) at the state level. The Distribution Utility (DISCOMs or Power/Energy Departments, as the case may be) shall be the State Implementation Agencies (SIA) at the State/UT level.

>Under the scheme, the DISCOMs shall be required to put in place several facilitative measures for promotion of rooftop solar in their respective areas such as availability of net meters, timely inspection and commissioning of installations, vendor registration and management, interdepartmental convergence for solarizing government building etc.

How does PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijlee Yojana work?

>The scheme provides for a subsidy of 60% of the solar unit cost for systems up to 2kW capacity and 40 percent of additional system cost for systems between 2 to 3kW capacity. The subsidy has been capped at 3kW capacity.

>At current benchmark prices, this will mean Rs 30,000 subsidy for 1kW system, Rs 60,000 for 2kW systems and Rs 78,000 for 3kW systems or higher.

Who are eligible to apply for the Scheme?

>The applicant must be an Indian citizen.

>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.

Recent News

The government recently issued operational guidelines for implementation of 'Model Solar Village' component under PM-Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.

>Under the scheme component, emphasis has been laid on creating one model solar village per district across India, to promote solar energy adoption and enable village communities to become self-reliant in energy needs,

>A financial outlay of Rs 800 crore has been allocated for this component, providing Rs 1 crore per selected Model Solar Village.

>As per the guidelines, in order to be considered 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).

SCHEME -11

■ Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Urban 2.0(PMAY-U 2.0)

Nodal Ministry:- Ministry of Housing and urban Affairs

Current Minister of Housing and urban affairs:- Shri Manohar Lal Khattar (Karnal Haryana)

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.

In addition, the corpus fund of Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust (CRGFT) has been increased from ₹1,000 crore to ₹3,000 crore to provide benefit of credit risk guarantee on affordable housing loans from Banks/Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)/Primary Lending Institutions (PLIs) to Economically Weaker Section (EWS)/Low Income Group(LIG) segments for construction/purchase of their first home.

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.

Under PMAY-U, 1.18 crore houses have been sanctioned while more than 85.5 lakh houses have already been constructed and delivered to the beneficiaries

◆ 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.

◆ AIM :-

> It aims to facilitate the construction of one crore houses in urban areas for the urban poor and middle-class families.

◆ Coverage of the Scheme:-

> All areas declared as towns by law and mentioned in the 2011 census across the country will be covered.

◆ PMAY-U 2.0 Eligibility Criteria:-

> 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 2.0

>EWS households are families with an annual income up to ₹3 lakh.

>LIG households are families with an annual income from ₹3 lakh up to ₹6 lakh.

>MIG households are families with an annual income from ₹6 lakh up to ₹9 lakh.

◆ Component of the PMAY-U 2.0:-

>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.

>An additional Grant in the form of Technology Innovation Grant (TIG) @₹1000 per sqm/unit shall be provided to AHP Projects using innovative construction technologies.

>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.

>For projects constructed using innovative technologies, Technology Innovation Grant (TIG) at the rate of ₹3,000 per sqm shall be released by Central Government while State/UT Government shall provide ₹2000/ per sqm as part of State Share.

◆ 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.

>For UTs without legislature, Central: State sharing pattern will be 100:0, For UTs with legislature (UT of Delhi, J&K and Puducherry), North Eastern States and Himalayan States (Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand) sharing pattern will be 90:10 and for other states sharing pattern will be 60:40

◆ 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

◆ Impact:-

PMAY-U 2.0 will achieve the vision of 'Housing for All' by fulfilling the housing dreams of Economically weaker section(EWS)/ Low income Group (LIG) and Middle Income Group (MIG) segments.

SCHEME -12

■ Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY- G)

Nodal Ministry:-

Ministry of Rural Development

Current Minister of Rural and Development:- Shri Shiv Raj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha, Madhya)

◆ Background:-

To achieve the objective of “Housing for All” in rural areas, the Government of India had launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana -Gramin (PMAY-G) with effect from April 2016 with a target of construction of 2.95 crore houses with basic amenities to be achieved in phases till March 2024

◆ About Recent announcements in the Scheme :-

Recently in August The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the continuation and implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G) from the fiscal year 2024-25 to 2028-29.

The financial assistance is to be provided for the construction of 2 crore more houses at existing unit assistance of Rs.1.20 lakh in plain areas and Rs.1.30 lakh in North Eastern Region States and Hill States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

◆ AiM:-

>This scheme aims to address the housing needs of rural India, ensuring that every eligible household has access to a pucca (permanent) house with basic amenities.

>The scheme aims to saturate the Awaas+ (2018) list and the remaining eligible households in the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) 2011 Permanent wait list(PWL)

◆ Outlay:-

Total outlay of Rs.3,06,137 crore for FY 2024-25 to 2028-29 including Central Share of Rs.2,05,856 crore and State Matching Share of Rs.1,00,281 crore

◆ Continuation of the scheme beyond March, 2026 after evaluation of the PMAY-G by the NITI Aayog and re-appraisal of the scheme by EFC

◆ Administrative funds at 2% of the programme funds with bifurcation of the administrative funds as 1.70% to be released to the States/UTs and 0.30% to be retained at Central Level.

◆ Incomplete houses from the previous phase of PMAY-G as of March 31, 2024, will be completed during the fiscal year 2024-25 at existing rates.

◆ The remaining 35 lakh houses not completed till 31.03.2024 would be completed to achieve the cumulative target of 2.95 crore houses of previous phase.

◆ Two crore more houses will be constructed under the PMAY-G during next five years from FY 2024-2029 to address housing need arisen over the years. Construction of houses for two crore more households is expected to benefit nearly 10 crore individuals.

The Centre has relaxed the “automatic exclusion” criteria under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), allowing families owning “two-wheelers, motorised fishing boats, refrigerators, landline phones” and earning “up to Rs 15,000 per month” to now avail the rural housing scheme.

The parameters were among the criteria that render households ineligible under the scheme. The parameters that will continue to result in “automatic exclusion” are:-

- >motorised three/four-wheelers; mechanised three/ four-wheeler agricultural equipment;
- >Kisan Credit Card with credit limit of Rs 50,000 or above;
- >Household with any member as a Government employee; Household with non-agricultural enterprises registered with Government
- >Any member of family paying income tax; Paying professional tax; Land ownership ceiling of 2.5 acres or more of irrigated land.
- >Under PMAY-G, all households living in houses with pucca roof and/or pucca wall, and households in houses with more than two rooms were already filtered out. The exclusion criteria revision is significant in view of the Centre's aim to construct two crore additional houses under the rural housing scheme by 2028-29. On August 9, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal of this effect.
- >Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set release an instalment of Rs 2,745 crore to PMAY-G beneficiaries on September 15 in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. He will also distribute acceptance letters to all the targeted beneficiaries in the financial year 2024-25.

SCHEME -13

■ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)

- >Launched on :- 24th September 2013
- >Under:- Ministry of Housing and urban affairs
- >Current Minister of Housing and urban affairs:- Shri Manohar Lal Khattar (Karnal Haryana)
- >FY 24-25 Outlay:-300 Crore
- >Aim:-
 - To reduce poverty and vulnerability of the urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities, resulting in an appreciable improvement in their livelihoods on a sustainable basis, through building strong grassroots level institutions of the poor.
- The mission aims to provide shelters equipped with essential services to the urban homeless.
- In addition, the mission also addresses the livelihood concerns of the urban street vendors by facilitating access to suitable spaces, institutional credit, social security, etc.
- DAY-NULM has empowered 98 lakh urban poor households through the creation of self-help groups, created over 38 lakh livelihoods through skill training and entrepreneurship, and built almost 2,000 permanent shelters for the urban homeless
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) organised an event on 18th July 2024, named "Utkrishtata ki Ore Badhte Kadam: Celebrating Achievements, Inspiring Excellence" to felicitate best performers under PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Yojana and Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM).
- In recognition of their exemplary contributions, key stakeholders, including states, urban local bodies, and lending institutions, were honoured with PRAISE and SPARK awards for their exceptional performance in implementing the PM SVANidhi and DAY-NULM initiatives, respectively.
- Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time Ranking (SPARK) Awards (DAY-NULM):-

>Overall State Performance::
Big State :-

1st - Kerala
2nd-Uttar Pradesh
3rd- Rajasthan

NER & Hilly States::
1st- Himachal Pradesh
2nd- Tripura
3rd- Uttarakhand

>Best ULBs
Million Plus Cities (>10 lakh)::
1st- Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh
2nd- Nagpur Maharashtra

Population (3 -10 lakh):-
1st- Bilaspur Chhattisgarh
2nd- Malegaon Maharashtra

Population (1 - 3 lakh)
1st- Raigarh Chhattisgarh
2nd - Hanumangarh Rajasthan

Population (50K – 1 Lakh):-
1st-Bhatapara Chhattisgarh
2nd-Sidhi Madhya Pradesh

Population (upto 50K)
1st Pauni - Maharashtra

>Outstanding Technological Innovations
Top- Madhya Pradesh (Online identification of street vendors)

>Best Partnership Model for Urban Livelihoods
Top- Odisha(Mukta)

>Best Social Infrastructure
Top- Telengana (Vending Zone)

Best Development Partners
- UMC

SCHEME -14

■ Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission(DAY- NRLM)

>FY24-25 Outlay:-Rs. 15047 Crore

■ Background:-

>The program was launched in June 2011 by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
> Current Minister of Rural and Development is:- Shri Shiv Raj Singh Chouhan (Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh)

> The Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India launched a new programme known as National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) by restructuring and replacing the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) scheme with effect from April 01, 2013.

>NRLM was renamed as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) with effect from March 29, 2016

>DAY-NRLM is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the financing of the programme would be shared between the Centre and the States in the ratio of 60:40 (90:10 in case of North Eastern States including Sikkim; completely from the Centre in case of UTs).

>It aims to reduce poverty by enabling the poor household to access gainful self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities resulting in sustainable and diversified livelihood options for the poor.

>This is one of the world's largest initiatives to improve the livelihoods of the poor.

>DAY-NRLM promotes building strong institutions such as Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for the poor, particularly women, and enabling these institutions to access a range of financial services and livelihoods

■ Key Features:-

>One member (preferably a woman) from each rural poor household would be brought under the Self-Help Group (SHG) network. Women SHG groups would have bank linkage arrangement.

>The Mission consists of four components, viz., (i) social mobilization, community institution, and capacity building; (ii) financial inclusion; (iii) livelihood promotion; and (iv) convergence

■ RBI Master Circular – Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM):--

◆ Women SHGs and their Federations:-

>Women SHGs under DAY-NRLM consist of 10-20 persons. In case of special SHGs i.e. groups in the difficult areas, groups with disabled persons, and groups formed in remote tribal areas, this number may be a minimum of 5 persons.

◆ Financial Assistance to the SHGs(Self help groups)

>Revolving Fund (RF): DAY-NRLM would provide Revolving Fund (RF) support to SHGs in existence for a minimum period of 3/6 months and follow the norms of good SHGs, i.e. they follow 'Panchasutra' – regular meetings, regular savings, regular internal lending, regular recoveries and maintenance of proper books of accounts. Only such SHGs that have not received any RF earlier will be provided with RF, as corpus, with a minimum of ₹10, 000 and up to a maximum of ₹15,000 per SHG.

>The purpose of RF is to strengthen their institutional and financial management capacity and build a good credit history within the group.

■ Capital Subsidy has been discontinued under DAY-NRLM:

>No Capital Subsidy will be sanctioned to any SHG from the date of implementation of DAY-NRLM.

■ Introduction of Interest subvention:

>DAY-NRLM has a provision for interest subvention, to cover the difference between the Lending Rate of the banks and 7%, on all credit from the banks/ financial institutions availed by women SHGs, for a maximum of ₹ 3,00,000 per SHG. This will be available across the country in two ways:

(I) In 250 identified districts, banks will lend to the women SHGs @7% up to an aggregated loan amount of ₹ 3,00,000/-. The SHGs will also get additional interest subvention of 3% on prompt payment, reducing the effective rate of interest to 4%

(ii) In the remaining districts also, all women SHGs under DAY-NRLM will be SHGs are eligible for interest subvention to the extent of difference between the lending rates and 7% for the loan up to ₹ 3,00,000, subjected to the norms prescribed by the respective SRLMs. This part of the scheme will be operationalized by SRLMs.

■ Eligibility Criteria for SHGs to avail loans:-

>SHGs should be in active existence for at least 6 months as per their books of accounts (and not from the date of opening of S/B account)

>SHGs should be practicing 'Panchasutras' i.e., regular meetings, regular savings, regular inter-lending, timely repayment and up-to-date books of accounts

>SHGs should qualify as per grading norms fixed by NABARD. As and when the federations of the SHGs come into existence, the grading exercise may be done by the federations to support the banks

>All banks may use the Common Loan Application Forms devised by Indian Bank's Association (IBA) for extending credit facility to SHGs.

>SHGs may avail either Term Loan (TL) or a Cash Credit Limit (CCL) or both based on their requirement.

>In case of (Credit cash limit)CCL, banks are advised to sanction a minimum loan of ₹6 lakh to each eligible SHG for a period of 3 years with a yearly drawing power(DP)

>One woman in every SHG under DAY-NRLM may be provided a loan up to ₹1 lakh under the MUDRA Scheme, if she is otherwise eligible.

>Banks are advised to provide minimum OD facility of ₹5000 to every woman SHG member having PMJDY account in accordance with the guidelines issued by Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

>In order to facilitate use of loans for augmenting livelihoods of SHG members, at least 50% of loans above ₹1 lakh, 75% of loans above ₹4 lakh and at least 85% of loans above ₹6 lakh should be used primarily for income generating productive purposes.

■ Security and Margin:

No collateral and no margin will be charged up to ₹ 10.00 lakhs limit to the SHGs. No lien should be marked against savings bank account of SHGs and no deposits should be insisted upon while sanctioning loans.

■ DAY-NRLM would ensure adequate coverage of vulnerable sections of the society such that 50% of the beneficiaries are SC/STs, 15% are minorities and 3% are persons with disability, while keeping in view the ultimate target of 100% coverage of all households under the automatically included criteria and households with at least one deprivation criterion as per Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC).

■ Coverage:-

As per the Economic Survey 2023-24 with a creation of 8.3 million SHGs, 89 million women covered under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana -NRLM

SCHEME -15

■ **ABOUT AYUSHMAN BHARAT -PRADHAN MANTRI JAN AROGYA YOJANA(AB-PMJAY)**

◆ Launched On:- 23rd Sep, 2018

◆ Launched By:-PM Narendra Modi

◆ Launched From:- Ranchi Jharkhand

◆ Under:- The Ministry of Health and family Welfare(MoHFW)

◆ Current Minister of Health & Family Welfare:- Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda (Gujarat, Rajya sabha MP)

- ◆ Budget Allocation FY25 -The interim budget for FY25 allocated ₹7,500 crore for the scheme, a more than 10% increase over the amount spent in the just- concluded financial year
- ◆ The revised estimates for FY24 under the Ayushman Bharat scheme were ₹6,800 crore, while the Budget Estimates for FY24 were ₹7,200 crore (including a capital outlay of ₹411 crore).
- ◆ As per the FM budget speech FY 24-25 Healthcare cover under Ayushman Bharat scheme will be extended to all ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers and helpers
- ◆ This is the "World's Largest government funded healthcare Program".
- ◆ The National Health Authority (NHA) is the nodal agency responsible for the nationwide roll-out and implementation of the AB-PMJAY scheme
- ◆ AB-PMJAY provides cashless and paperless access to services for the beneficiary at the point of service.
- ◆ It provides a cover of up to Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. The individual's annual income must not exceed ₹2.4 lakh.
- ◆ PM-JAY is fully funded by the Government and cost of implementation is shared between the Central and State Governments.
- ◆ It Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post- hospitalization expenses such as diagnostic and medicine.
- ◆ Recent Updates :-
- ◆ The scheme was made available for 107 million poor households in the Country, roughly covering the bottom 40% of the population.
- ◆ Free hospitalisation benefits worth Rs 86,000 crore have been provided to beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) since the scheme was rolled out in September 2018
- ◆ More than 342.9 million Ayushman cards have been issued to beneficiaries so far. As many as 30,162 public and private hospitals are empanelled under PM-JAY.
- ◆ People from Tamil Nadu benefited most under the scheme followed by Karnataka, Rajasthan, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat.
- ◆ TOP 5 Cards created:-
Uttar Pradesh
Madhya Pradesh
Bihar
Maharashtra
Gujarat
- ◆ BOTTOM 5 Cards created-
Goa
Sikkim
Andaman and Nicobar Islands
Lakshadweep
Dadra and Nagar Haveli; Daman and Diu
- ◆ More than 65 million people have so far benefited from the Scheme which offers Rs.5 lakh a year free

health cover

◆ General medicine, infectious diseases, and general surgery are the three main therapy areas covered by the Ayushman Bharat scheme now, while haemodialysis is the top-most procedure the scheme covers.

■ RECENT NEWS :-

◆ Considering that many people in the country are just one medical bill away from slipping into poverty, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance recently recommended that PM-JAY scheme be extended to the 'missing middle' on a paid basis.

◆ According to a Niti Aayog report unveiled in October 2021, at least 30% of the population, or 400 million individuals – called the missing middle in this report –are devoid of any financial protection for health.

◆ The Union Cabinet on approved health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana irrespective of their income, benefiting around six crore senior citizens

◆ The Rs 5 lakh free health insurance cover would benefit senior citizens of around 4.5 crore families. Eligible beneficiaries would be issued a new distinct card under the scheme

◆ Senior citizens of the age 70 years and above belonging to families already covered under AB PM-JAY will get an additional top-up cover up to Rs 5 lakh per year for themselves (which they do not have to share with the other members of the family who are below the age of 70 years).

◆ All other senior citizens of the age 70 years and above will get a cover up to Rs 5 lakh per year on a family basis

◆ It clarified that senior citizens of 70 years and above who are under private health insurance policies or Employees' State Insurance scheme will be eligible to avail benefits under the the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)

◆ However, those already availing benefits of other public health insurance schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and Ayushman Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) may either choose their existing scheme or opt for AB PM-JAY,

◆ According to the government, AB PM-JAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme which provides health cover of Rs 5 lakh per family annually for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization to 55 crore individuals corresponding to 12.34 crore families.

◆ The scheme has covered 7.37 crore hospital admissions, including 49 per cent women beneficiaries. The public has benefited to the extent of over Rs 1 Lakh crore under the scheme, the statement said.

◆ "If there are two senior citizens (70 years+) in a family, then the Rs 5 lakh coverage will be shared between them.

◆ The initial outlay of the scheme will be Rs 3,437 crore

WILL THE HEALTH COVER MINIMISE THE DISEASE BURDEN?

>India's population over the age of 60 years is estimated to increase from 8.6 per cent in 2011 to 19.5 per cent by 2050, according to the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (LASI). In terms of absolute numbers it means that the 60 plus population is set to triple from 103 million in 2011 to 319 million in 2050. Health coverage in this age group is currently about 20 per cent, according to the India Ageing Report 2023.



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🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD (🔥)

NAME - PRIYADARSHINI
KALIYAMOORTHY
ROLL NO - 2120036944
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
SAPTHA GIRI GRAMEEN BANK
STATE - TAMILNADU



🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - GARVITA VARSHNEY
ROLL NO - 2603003298
SELECTED IN - ARYAVART
GRAMIN BANK CLERK
STATE - UTTAR PRADESH



🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - ISHITA GARG
ROLL NO - 2283004123
STATE - PUNJAB
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK



🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - NIPUN
ROLL NO - 1533002831
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - HARYANA



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STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - PRAVEEN
ROLL NO - 1801005776
SELECTED IN - RRB PO
KARNATAKA GRAMMENA
BANK
STATE - KARNATAKA



Name: Bathina Maneesha
Rollno: 2543024278
Selected in : RRB clerk
State : Telangana

🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - BATHINA MANEESHA
ROLL NO - 2543024278
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - TELANGANA



🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - NISHU SHARMA
ROLL NO - 1523008901
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
STATE - HARYANA



🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD.

NAME - GURIYA KUMARI
ROLL NO - 1373006773
SELECTED IN - RRB CLERK
DAKSHIN BIHAR GRAMEEN
BANK



🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - GURPREET KAUR
ROLL NO - 2283002821
BANK - PUNJAB GRAMIN BANK
STATE - FROM PUNJAB



🥳🥳 MY PAID GROUP
STUDENT GOT SELECTION IN
IBPS RRB CLERK
GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR FUTURE
JOURNEY FEELING PROUD

NAME - MANU 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- 2811001973
Bank - CLERK IN PNB



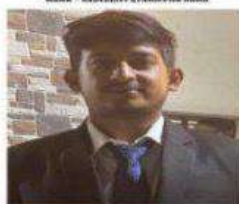
Name - Bhikang Vijaya
Roll no - 3161002146
State - Andhra Pradesh
Bank - Central Bank of India
Post - PO
Roll no- 2811001973
Post - SBI PO Clerk
Bank - Karnataka State Bank



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



NAME - PRIYANSHINI KALYANMURTHY
ROLL NO - 4351001578
LECTED IN - SBI PO SAPPALA GIRI GRAMEEN BAN
STATE - TAMILNADU



Name: Nigam
lected in - SBI PO CLERK, SBI CLERK, SBI EXECUTIVE
Roll No 3161002146



Name- Prabhu 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. Srinivas
lected - SBI JA & DPO PO (Central Bank Of Ind
Roll No - 3161002146



NAME - PRAVEEN
ROLL NO - 3161002146
LECTED IN - SBI PO KARIMNAGRA GRAMEEN BAN
STATE - KARNATAKA