

International Current Affairs

August 2024

1. HAMAS POLITICAL CHIEF ISMAIL HANIYEH ASSASSINATED IN IRAN

- Hamas said its political leader Ismail Haniyeh has been killed in an overnight strike in the Iranian capital Tehran, a major development that throws the war between Israel and the militant group into an unpredictable and dangerous new phase.
- He is the second leader of an Iran-backed group reported to have been assassinated in the last day, following the killing of Hezbollah's most senior military commander in Lebanon.
- Haniyeh's death is, both strategically and symbolically, a dramatic blow to Hamas, eliminating its most public figure who headed up the group's political operations while living overseas.

2. ANNUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT OF QUAD COUNTRIES TO BE HOSTED BY INDIA IN 2024

3. 24 NEW SITES INCLUDED IN UNESCO HERITAGE LIST AT NEW DELHI MEETING

- Now, 1,223 heritage sites of the world are included in the UNESCO Heritage list, of which 952 are included under the cultural category, 231 under natural and 40 under mixed category.
- Italy leads the list with 60 sites, followed by China with 59 sites.
- India has 43 sites on the list, the latest being the **Moidams of Assam, the Mound-Burial System of the Ahom Dynasty**.
- At the New Delhi meeting, the World Heritage Committee removed Niokolo-Koba National Park in Senegal from the List of World Heritage in Danger.



4. JAPAN'S SADO GOLD MINE GAINS UNESCO STATUS

5. TURKEY PARLIAMENT APPROVES CONTROVERSIAL STRAY DOG EUTHANASIA LAW

- Turkey's parliament approved a move to euthanise some of the country's four million stray dogs - those who are sick or deemed aggressive
- The government says the euthanasia clause is needed to prevent dog attacks and the spread of rabies.
- It says the other homeless dogs should be captured en masse, placed in animal shelters and put up for adoption.

6. UNION MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS NITIN GADKARI ATTENDS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF IRANIAN PRESIDENT DR. MASOUD PEZESHKIAN

- Both sides emphasized the importance of Chabahar Port in strengthening bilateral and regional trade.
- The snap elections in Iran were necessitated by the tragic death of former President Ebrahim Raisi

7. ADB PROVIDES \$200 MILLION LOAN FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN INDIA

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed a \$200 million (approximately Rs 1,700 crore) loan to improve solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across eight states in India.
- This funding is part of the **Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0** – Comprehensive Municipal Waste Management in Indian Cities Program.



Asian Development Bank

- The Asian Development Bank is a regional multilateral institution with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region.
- The bank provides loans, grants, technical assistance and equity investments to the member countries.
- The Bank was founded on 19 December, 1966, India is one of the founding member.
- India is the third largest shareholder of the ADB.

The top five largest shareholders of the ADB are:

United States and Japan (each with 15.6% of total shares), People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

Currently, it has 68 members,
Headquarters: **Mandaluyong City, Philippines**.
President: **Masatsugu Asakawa** (Citizen of

8. 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).

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the GCTM on 19 April 2022 in Jamnagar in the presence of WHO Director Tedross Ghebreyesus and Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.

9. 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.
- 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).

Vietnam

- Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country which is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- It is a communist country which is ruled by the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Capital: Hanoi
Currency: Dong
President: To Lam
Prime Minister: Pham Minh Chinh

10. INDIA AND VIETNAM PARTNER ON MARITIME HERITAGE COMPLEX IN LOTHAL

11. NELSON MANDELA LEGACY SITES INSCRIBED AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

- The newly recognized World Heritage property, officially named "The Human Rights, Liberation and Reconciliation: Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites," encompasses 14 locations intricately linked to Nelson Mandela's life and South Africa's liberation struggle

12. 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
- Since 1976, India has repatriated 358 antiquities, of which 345 have been retrieved since 2014.

13. PM MODI PRAISES PARIMAL NATHWANI'S BOOK 'CALL OF THE GIR' ON ASIATIC LIONS & CONSERVATION EFFORTS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appreciated the book 'Call of the Gir' written by Rajya Sabha Member Parimal Nathwani.
- The book combines vivid photography and narratives to highlight the urgency of conservation efforts.

14. G-20 ACCEPTS BRAZIL'S "BILLIONAIRE TAX" PROPOSAL

- Zucman's proposal, commissioned by Brazil, calls for a 2% minimum tax that would hit about 3,000 of the world's richest people.
- idea it sees as vital to planetary battles against poverty and climate change — the primary aims of Brazil's first stint as the G-20's leader.
- That tax aims to ensure that multinational firms pay a minimum rate regardless of their jurisdiction. If a corporation pays less than 15% tax on profits in one country, other nations can charge a so-called top-up levy.

15. RAPIDO BECOME FOURTH UNICORN OF THE YEAR WITH FRESH FUNDING OF \$120 MILLION FROM WEST BRIDGE

16. BANGLADESH PM SHEIKH HASINA RESIGNS, ENDING 15 YEARS IN POWER

- Bangladesh experienced a monumental shift in its political landscape. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had held power for 15 consecutive years, abruptly tendered her resignation and left the country

Origins of the Unrest

- The seeds of discontent that led to Hasina's downfall were sown in July 2024. The government announced a controversial quota system for government jobs, giving preference to families of freedom fighters – those who fought for Bangladesh's independence in 1971. This decision reignited long-standing debates about merit, fairness, and the legacy of the independence movement.
- Despite an initial ruling by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to dismiss the quota order, protests continued to gain momentum. The situation was further inflamed when Prime Minister Hasina referred to the protesting students as 'razakar' (traitors), a highly charged term in Bangladesh's political lexicon.



Prime Minister: Sheikh Hasina Wajed
Capital: Dhaka
Currency: Taka

17. BANGLADESH PRESIDENT ORDERS RELEASE OF EX-PM KHALEDA ZIA

People's Republic of Bangladesh

- Bangladesh is a neighbouring country of India. It gained Independence from Pakistan in 1971 after the India-Pakistan war.
- India shares its longest international boundary, 4097 km, with Bangladesh.
- West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram share a boundary with Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh is one of the most densely populated countries in the world.



18. IRAN-ISRAEL WAR: WAR ATTACK SITUATION AMID IRAN AND ISRAEL

- US Secretary of State **Antony Blinken** has warned that **Iran and Hezbollah** may **attack Israel** within the **next 24 to 48 hours**.
- Immediately following the **assassination of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh**
- India's stance on Iran Israel War: South Block quickly issued a statement expressing India's "**serious concern**" at the **escalation of hostilities**, and called for "**immediate de-escalation**"

19. TURKEY BLOCKS INSTAGRAM AMID 'CENSORSHIP' ROW

- Turkey blocked access to Instagram for its 85 million people, the country's Information and Communication Technologies Authority announced.
- The ban was a response to the platform removing posts related to the death of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh.

20. PRESIDENT MURMU OFFICIAL VISIT TO FIJI, NEW ZEALAND AND TIMOR LESTE

- For the first time, an Indian President will visit Fiji and Timor Leste.
- The visit is part of the Indian government's Act East policy announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The policy aims to promote economic, cultural and strategic ties with the countries of the Indo-Pacific region.



21. ASHMA KUMARI KC CROWNED AS MISS NEPAL WORLD 2024

- Ashma Kumari KC was crowned Miss Nepal World 2024 in the 28th edition beauty pageant
- Sumana KC and Karuna Rawat won the titles of Miss Nepal Earth and Miss Nepal International, respectively.

22. PAKISTAN'S \$3.6 BILLION INTEREST PAYMENT TO IMF

International Monetary Fund

- The International Monetary Fund is a global multilateral development (MDB) bank established as a specialised agency of the United Nations on 27 December 1945. It formally started operating on 1 March 1947.
- The **Bretton Woods Conference**, also known as the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference
- **44 countries, including India**, participated in the conference the conference decided to establish the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** and the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)**, which later became part of the World Bank group.
- **India is a founder member of the IMF**. India has the **eighth largest quota-2.75%** in the IMF. India has a voting share of 2.63% in the IMF.

- **Headquarters of the IMF:** Washington D.C, United States of America.
- **Accounting Unit of IMF:** Special Drawing Rights (SDR)
- **First MD of IMF:** Ivar Rooth of Sweden 1951-1956
- **Member countries:** 190

23. CHINA TO START WORLD FIRST "THORIUM MOLTEN SALT NUCLEAR REACTOR" PROJECT BY 2025

24. CURACAO NATION BECOMES 6 ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY "CARICOM"

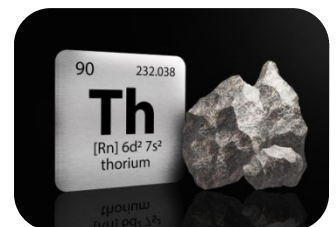
25. TROPICAL STORM DEBBY INTENSIFIES INTO A FULL BLOWN HURRICANE IN USA

26. BANGLADESH PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES NOBEL LAUREATE YUNUS AS INTERIM GOVT CHIEF

- Nobel laureate **Mohammad Yunus** was appointed as the head of Bangladesh's interim government by **President Mohammed Shahabuddin**, a day after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina **resigned and fled the country** following deadly protests against her government over a **controversial quota system in jobs**.

27. AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCES MAITRI GRANTS FOR RESEARCH AND CULTURAL COLLABORATION WITH INDIA

- These grants, **aimed at fostering Australia-India collaboration**, encompass sustainable manufacturing, energy transition research, and artistic projects
- The **Maitri grants, administered by the Centre for Australia-India Relations**, aim to deepen links and allow for closer collaboration between the two countries.
- The **five Maitri Research Grants** will explore opportunities in agribusiness, critical technology, energy transition, and advanced manufacturing.



28. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU ADDRESSES THE NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN WELLINGTON

29. SHEIKH HASINA ACCUSES US OF OUSTING HER FOR REFUSING TO SURRENDER SAINT MARTIN ISLAND

- She claims the US wanted to assert control over the Bay of Bengal through this action. Hasina alleges that she could have remained in power if she had surrendered the island.
- Hasina justified her resignation as a means to avoid further violence and urged Bangladeshi citizens not to fall prey to the radical manipulation. She also expressed sorrow over the ongoing violence and killings of political leaders in Bangladesh.

30. PRESIDENT MURMU RECEIVES THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD OF TIMOR LESTE

- President Droupadi Murmu was honoured with the highest civilian award of Timor Leste - **Grand Collar of Order of Timor Leste**, by Timor Leste President Jose Ramos Horta.
- President Murmu is the **first Indian President** to visit Timor Leste.

Timor Leste

- Timor Leste, which was earlier known as East Timor, is an island country in Southeast Asia.
- It was a Portuguese colony till 1975, and after the withdrawal of the Portuguese, it was occupied by Indonesia.
- It gained its formal independence in 2002.
- President: Jose Ramos Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize winner

Prime Minister: **Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão**
Capital: **Dili**
Currency: **US Dollar**

31. SRI LANKA - INDIA FRIENDSHIP ARCH INAUGURATED AS PART OF PLANT4MOTHER CAMPAIGN

- Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, Santosh Jha and Sri Lankan Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana, inaugurated the 'Sri Lanka – India Friendship Arch' at the National Sandalwood Garden
- The event was a part of the 'Plant4Mother' campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



32. FAST TRACKING BIMSTEC FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

- There should be a **focus on reducing trade deficit**, strengthening of **trade facilitation** measures to strengthen **partnership in e-commerce**, digital public infrastructure and better integration of custom borders with the aid of technology.
- The **Minister noted** that there is a need for **computerisation of border controls**, faster clearances of the import-export online application processes which **will help in Ease of Doing Business**.

BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)

- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) is a regional organization which was founded as **BIST-EC (Bangladesh India Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation)** on **6 June 1997**.
- Initially, it consisted of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. In **1997**, it was expanded to include Myanmar. In **2004**, Nepal and Bhutan joined the organisation, taking the total membership of the BIMSTEC to seven.
- Secretariat: **Dhaka, Bangladesh**
- Secretary General - **Indra Mani Pandey of India**

33. BILL GATES FOUNDATION TO SET UP FSTP AT SAROVARAM

- The city of Kozhikode in Kerala, India, is set to receive a significant upgrade to its waste management infrastructure. **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.
- This development marks a crucial step towards **improving sanitation and water hygiene in the region**.



34. REFAAT AHMED SWORN IN AS BANGLADESH'S NEW CHIEF JUSTICE

35. WORLD BANK TO LAUNCH "B-READY" REPORT REPLACING EASE OF DOING BUSINESS REPORT ON BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Reports Published by World Bank

- The World Bank was founded in July 1944.
- The World Bank is a **group of five international financial institutions**.
- Headquarters: **Washington D.C, the United States of America**
- President: **Ajay Banga**
- Members: **180 countries**.

World Bank releases several research reports.

- **World Development Report**
- **Global Economic Prospect**
- **Global Financial Development Report**
- **Commodity Market Outlook**
- **International Debt Statistics**
- **Ease of doing business (NOW B- READY)**

36. INDIA AND MALDIVES RENEW MOU FOR TRAINING 1,000 CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS

- India and the Maldives have renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bolster the training of Maldivian civil servants.
- The renewed MoU, spanning from 2024 to 2029, will facilitate the training of an additional 1,000 civil service officers from the Maldives.

37. TODD MCCLAY IN INDIA: NEW ZEALAND & INDIA TO BOOST AGRICULTURAL TIES

38. GERMAN SCIENTISTS DISCOVER PLASTIC-EATING FUNGI FOR WASTE REDUCTION

- It could offer a hope in tackling the problem of millions of tonnes of **waste polluting the world's oceans every year**.
- **Microfungi** can **degrade synthetic polymers**, showing potential for use in controlled environments like sewage treatment plants. However, they are unlikely to solve the global plastic waste crisis. (350-400 million metric tons)



39. AUSTRALIA, U.S., U.K. SIGN NUCLEAR TRANSFER DEAL FOR AUKUS SUBMARINES

- Australia had signed a deal to allow the exchange of nuclear secrets and material with the United States and Britain, a key step toward equipping its navy with nuclear-powered submarines.
- It is a trilateral security partnership between the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and Australia agreed in 2021.
- AUKUS is a trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, announced on 15 September 2021 for the Indo-Pacific region.
- The pact will focus on military capability, separating it from the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance that also includes New Zealand and Canada.
- Under the pact, the US and the UK will assist Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines.
- The security grouping AUKUS will focus on advancing strategic interests in the Indo-Pacific region
- It is often described as the world's most successful intelligence alliance.

40. YOUTH AROUND THE WORLD FIND IT TOUGH TO GET A JOB: ILO REPORT

- Young people around the world are unable to find secure work and their chances of finding a job decrease as the income level of the country they reside in decreases, the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024 report.
- The number of 15 to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is concerning and that the post-COVID-19 pandemic employment recovery has not been universal.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

- It was created in 1919, as part of the Treaty of Versailles that ended World War I.
- In 1946, the ILO became a specialized agency of the newly formed United Nations.
- HQ: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Parent organization: Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC).
- It is also a member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDP)
- Current DIRECTOR GENERAL - Gilbert F. Hounbo

41. JAPANESE PM FUMIO KISHIDA ANNOUNCES DECISION TO STEP DOWN IN SEPTEMBER

- ❖ Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said he would step down in September, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) needs a new start.

Capital: Tokyo
Currency: Japanese yen (¥)



42. PAKISTAN ATHLETE ARSHAD NADEEM TO BE HONOURED WITH HILAL-E-IMTIAZ AWARD

- The Javelin Throw gold medallist in the Paris Olympics 2024,
- Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem is set to be honoured with Hilal-e-Imtiaz by the country's government.
- Hilal-e-Imtiaz is the second-highest civilian award given by the Government of Pakistan (Highest - Nishan-e-Pakistan)



37-YEAR-OLD PAETONGTARN SHINAWATRA BECOMES THAILAND'S YOUNGEST PRIME MINISTER

43. GERMANY JOINS UNITED NATIONS COMMAND IN SOUTH KOREA AS 18TH MEMBER STATE

- Germany's recent inclusion in the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea marks a significant expansion of the command's member states, now totaling 18 nations.
- This move underscores Berlin's commitment to global security, linking European stability to the broader Indo-Pacific region.

44. WORLD OLDEST LUNISOLAR CALENDAR DISCOVERED AT TURKIYE GOBEKLI TEPE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

45. PM MODI TO HEADLINE THE ET WORLD LEADERS FORUM

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will serve as the chief guest at the inaugural ET World Leaders Forum, in New Delhi.
- The forum aims to address India's role in global economic growth, innovation, and policy-making amidst a backdrop of global economic stagnation.
- Theme: "Leadership for Global Prosperity"

46. UN HUMAN RIGHTS TEAM TO VISIT BANGLADESH TO INVESTIGATE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

- A human rights team from the United Nations will visit Dhaka next week to discuss with the Bangladesh interim government, investigations into the human rights violations during the recent unrest in Bangladesh.
- The team visiting Bangladesh will discuss with the interim government areas of support and the modalities for an investigation of human rights violations in the context of the recent violence and unrest.

47. TYPHOON AMPIL BRINGS HEAVY RAIN TO JAPAN

48. INDIA AND ISRAEL LAUNCH NEW WATER TECHNOLOGY CENTRE AT IIT-MADRAS

- This tripartite agreement is signed by the Embassy of Israel, IIT Madras, and the AMRUT mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- 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.
- To kickstart this initiative, a capacity-building course on '24/7 Water Supply in Urban Areas' was organised at IIT-Madras.

49. MAITRI UTASAV IN SRI LANKA TO MARK INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

- The cultural wing of the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre is organising Bharat Sri Lanka Maitri Utsav to commemorate India's Independence Day.
- At the Independence Square in Colombo.
- The four-day-long event will feature a handicraft fair, a food festival and cultural performances.

50. SUDAN DECLARES CHOLERA OUTBREAK, WHO REPORTS 316 DEATHS

- Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by eating or drinking food or water that is contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*.
- Cholera causes severe diarrhea and dehydration.
- The disease is most common in places with poor sanitation, crowding, war, and famine. Cholera outbreaks are more common in warm climates.
- Can lead to death if left untreated.

Treatment:

- Currently, there are three WHO pre-qualified oral cholera vaccines (OCV), Dukoral, Shanchol, and Euvichol-Plus.

Treatment for cholera can include:

- Rehydration therapy
- Antibiotics
- Zinc supplementation for children

51. WHO DECLARES MPOX AS PHEIC FOR THE SECOND TIME

- The World Health Organization (WHO) Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, declared mpox (monkeypox) disease a "public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC)" after an upsurge in the mpox case in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other African countries.
- This is the second time that mpox has been declared as PHEIC by WHO. Earlier in July 2022 it was declared as PHEIC by the WHO.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

- WHO chief General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- The World Health Organization (WHO), established in 7 april 1948
- Membership: WHO currently has 194 member states
- Headquarter - Geneva, Switzerland



52. SHIVELUCH VOLCANO IN RUSSIA ERUPTS

- Shiveluch volcano in Russia erupted after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck off the eastern coast of the country.
- Shiveluch, also called Sheveluch, which originates from the name "suelich" which means "smoking mountain" in Itelmen is the northernmost active volcano in Kamchatka Krai, Russia.



53. 3RD INDIA JAPAN 2+2 MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE HELD IN NEW DELHI

- 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.
- 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.

54. U.S. NAVY DEPLOYS LONG-RANGE MISSILES TO COUNTER CHINA

- The US Navy has introduced the AIM-174B, an extremely long range air-to-air missile, in the Indo-Pacific, aiming to counter China's aerial dominance.
- The defence missile is now the longest-range missile ever fielded by the US.
- Capable of striking targets up to 400 km (250 miles) away, it surpasses the range of China's PL-15 missile, providing US jets a critical edge in aerial engagements.



55. INDIA-SRILANKA FERRY SERVICE RESUMES BETWEEN NAGAPATTINAM AND KANKESANTHURAI NEAR JAFFNA

- The services were launched earlier in October 2023 between Nagapattinam in India and Kankesanthurai near Jaffna in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka.
- The ferry Sivagangai run by a private operator, IndSri Ferry Services

56. NEPAL TO EXPORT 1000 MW ELECTRICITY TO INDIA

- Nepal will export nearly **1,000 MW** of electricity to India, External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** said after meeting his Nepalese counterpart **Arzu Rana Deuba** in New Delhi. He went on to describe the development as a “new milestone”.



57. ZIMBABWE VP CHIWENGA ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI FOR 19TH CII INDIA-AFRICA BUSINESS CONCLAVE

- Zimbabwe Capital: Harare
- Zimbabwe has recently introduced a new currency called the ZiG (Zimbabwe gold).



58. INDIA SURPASSES CHINA AS TOP IMPORTER OF RUSSIAN OIL

- India overtook China as the world's biggest importer of Russian oil in July as Chinese refiners bought less because of lower profit margins from producing fuels, a comparison of import data showed.
- Russian crude made up a record **44%** of India's overall imports last month, rising to a record **2.07 million barrels per day (bpd)**, **4.2%** higher than in June and **12%** more than a year ago,

59. INDIA-JAPAN PACT FOR FIRST GREEN AMMONIA EXPORT SIGNED

- The Heads of Terms (HoT) agreement was signed between Sembcorp Industries, Sojitz Corporation, Kyushu Electric Power and NYK Line, solidifying a cross-border green ammonia supply partnership from India to Japan,
- India aims to become a global hub for green ammonia and hydrogen, with ongoing tenders for green ammonia production.
- the first such collaboration between the two nations, Sembcorp Industries will lead the production of green ammonia in India,

60. PM MODI TO HOLD DELEGATION LEVEL TALKS WITH HIS POLISH COUNTERPART DONALD TUSK IN WARSAW

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk held a delegation-level meeting in Warsaw, Poland.
- PM Modi also meets President Andrzej Duda of Poland.
- He also pointed out that Kabbadi emerged as a source of connection between the two nations as Poland is going to host the Kabaddi championship for the first time this year.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today paid his respects at the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Warsaw.**



- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a revered monument dedicated to the memory of Polish soldiers who gave their lives in service to their country. It is located at Piłsudski Square and is a significant symbol of national remembrance and honor in Poland.

61. WORLD BANK LAUNCHES USD 225 MILLION “AMAZON REFORESTRATION LINKED OUTCOME BOND”

- The Amazon Reforestation-Linked Outcome Bond, the largest outcome bond to-date, capitalizes on a growing investor desire to support positive development impact.
- The transaction attracted many repeat World Bank outcome bond investors, as well a new crop of first-time participants.

62. INDIA AND DENMARK COLLABORATE ON CLEAN RIVER INITIATIVE

- The Environmental Strategic Partnership between India and Denmark has launched a Smart Laboratory on Clean Rivers (SLCR) with initial funding of **Rs 16.8 crore** from the Jal Shakti Ministry and an additional **Rs 5 crore** from Denmark.
- This collaboration aims to revitalize the Varuna River using advanced technologies and a comprehensive river management plan over a 2-3-year period.

63. X ANNOUNCES SUSPENSIONS OF OPERATIONS IN BRAZIL ALLEGING ‘CENSORSHIP ORDERS’ FROM SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

64. CROATIA ANNOUNCES IMPOSITION OF MANDATORY MILITARY SERVICE FROM NEXT YEAR

65. 90 FT HIGH BRONZE STATUE OF LORD HANUMANA “STATUE OF UNION ” INAUGURATED IN USA

66. ICELAND VOLCANO ERUPTS, SPEWING LAVA FOUNTAINS FROM REYKJANES PENINSULA

- A volcano in southwestern Iceland erupted, its sixth outbreak since December.
- The volcano came to life after being dormant for 800 years.
- Reykjanes peninsula
- Iceland is located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, technically the longest mountain range in the world, but on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean.
- Iceland is home to 33 active volcanoes, the highest in Europe. This unique landscape has given Iceland the epithet, ‘Land of Fire and Ice’.

67. 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 arrived for a short seven-hour stay in Ukraine on 23 December after visiting Poland on a special Train 'Rail Force One'.



68. CANADA'S MINING FIRM DISCOVERED THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST DIAMOND OF 2492 CARAT IN BOTSWANA

- The **Cullinan diamond** remains the largest gem-quality diamond ever discovered at 3,106 carats.
- It was mined in **South Africa in 1905** and cut up into several smaller stones.

69. TWO NASA ASTRONAUTS, SUNITA WILLIAMS AND BARRY WILMORE TO RETURN TO EARTH IN FEBRUARY 2025 WITH SPACEX

- They flew to the International Space Station (ISS) aboard a Boeing Starliner capsule in June, will only be returning to Earth in SpaceX's Crew-9 Dragon capsule in February 2025.



70. INDIA WELCOMES FIRST CIVILIAN SPACE TOURIST GOPICHAND THOTAKURA

- **Gopichand Thotakura**, India's first civilian space tourist, received a warm welcome in Delhi upon his return.
- Thotakura made history by joining **Blue Origin's New Shepard-25 (NS-25) mission**, founded by **Amazon's Jeff Bezos**, becoming the second Indian citizen to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission.
- His trip lasted about ten minutes, reaching a maximum altitude of 105 km.



71. NORTH KOREAN LEADER KIM JONG UN UNVEILS NEW 'SUICIDE DRONES'

- North Korean leader Kim Jong Un unveiled new "suicide drones" designed to crash into enemy targets with explosives.
- Kim Jong Un highlighted the need to expand drone capabilities and integrate advanced technologies.

72. DUTCH BLACK HOLE CONSORTIUM, NETHERLAND LAUNCHES BLACK HOLE FINDER APP

73. NEPAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES LIFTING OF BAN ON TIK-TOK

74. INDIA AND INDONESIA RESOLVE TO BOOST ANTI-TERROR COOPERATION

- India and Indonesia have agreed to strengthen their cooperation in combating terrorism, particularly focusing on preventing the misuse of new technologies and condemning the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border attacks especially concerning Pakistan's support for terror groups in Jammu-Kashmir.

75. RIGHT TO DISCONNECT LAW COMES INTO FORCE IN AUSTRALIA

76. PAKISTAN ARMY SUCCESSFULLY TEST FIRED SURFACE TO SURFACE BALLISTIC MISSILE "SHAHEEN-II"

77. SUICIDE ATTACKS IN MANY PLACES UNDER "OPERATION HIROOF" IN BALUCHISTAN PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN

78. MALAYSIA CHANGE ITS ORANGUTAN DIPLOMACY

- Malaysia has withdrawn its proposal to gift ape species orangutans to countries that import Malaysian palm oil, inspired by China's "panda diplomacy."

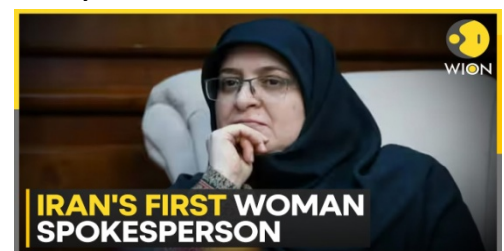
79. JAPAN ON HIGH ALERT AS TYPHOON SHANSHAN APPROACHES KYUSHU ISLAND

- The typhoon is expected to approach Japan's central and eastern regions, which includes the capital Tokyo, around the weekend
- Capital: Tokyo
- Currency: Japanese yen
- A typhoon is a tropical cyclone that forms in the Northwest Pacific Ocean, usually over East Asia.



80. 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.



National News

Current Affairs

August 2024

1. INDIA BAGS RIGHT TO OPERATE MONGLA PORT IN BANGLADESH

2. CENTRE CLEARS URBAN FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECTS WORTH ₹2,514.36 CR OF 5 STATES

- The High-Level Committee in today's meeting approved six project proposals in the states of Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, West Bengal and Maharashtra at a total cost of Rs. 2514.36 crore for Urban Flood Management in six metro cities, namely Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune.

3. EDUCATION MINISTER LAUNCHES NATS 2.0 AND DISBURSES RS. 100 CRORE STIPENDS

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 portal and disbursed Rs. 100 crore in stipends to apprentices via Direct Benefits Transfer (DBT).
- The initiative aims to enhance employability skills for young graduates and diploma holders across various sectors, including IT, manufacturing, and automobiles

4. ICG LAUNCHES 'SUVIDHA SOFTWARE VERSION 1.0' TO ENHANCE TRAINING PROTOCOLS

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) unveiled its new 'Suvidha Software Version 1.0' during the inaugural 'Annual Operational Sea Training Conference' held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, .
- This advanced software aims to improve training protocols and maintain consistency across all ICG platforms.



5. INDIAN ARMY LAUNCHES E-SEHAT TELE-CONSULTANCY FOR VETERANS

- The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) has introduced the Electronic Services e-Health Assistance and Tele-consultation (E-SeHAT) module.
- This initiative allows ECHS beneficiaries to receive online medical consultations from their homes, eliminating the need to visit ECHS Polyclinics.
- The pilot phase of E-SeHAT has been initiated at 12 ECHS Polyclinics, including those in remote locations such as Baramulla, Imphal, Churachandpur, Dimapur, and Aizawal

6. UNION MINISTER BHUPENDRA YADAV LAUNCHES "IDEAS4LIFE INITIATIVE " AT IIT DELHI

- Ideas4LiFE is set up to gather creative ideas and innovations online that can inspire people to live more sustainably.
- It supports Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of using resources wisely.
- The program invites students, researchers, teachers, and innovators to share their ideas. It seeks to create a culture of innovation focused on protecting the environment.

7. INDIA'S FIRST INTEGRATED AGRI-EXPORT FACILITY TO COME UP AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT

- Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal approved an Rs 284.19 crore integrated agri-export facility project at Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai.
- It aims to reduce multiple handlings of agricultural products- By centralizing the export process; the facility will minimize the need for multiple handlings of products. This will reduce the risk of damage and loss during transit.



8. MAZHOTSAVAM, A FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE- THE MONSOON AND UNDERSTAND IT

- A two-day rain festival to be held on the banks of the Bharathapuzha, Kerala celebrates the rain and the river and hopes to revive the traditional, cultural and environmental practices surrounding the monsoon.

9. EXCLUDE 'CREAMY LAYER' FROM SC, ST RESERVATIONS, RULES SUPREME COURT

- The Supreme Court ruled that states must identify the 'creamy layer' within the SCs and STs and exclude them from quota benefits.
- The Supreme Court also ruled by a majority judgment that sub-classification within the SC and STs Reservation is permissible; overruling the earlier order in the EV Chinnaiah matter that sub-classification was not permissible as SC/STs form "homogenous classes".

What is a 'creamy layer' within castes and tribes?

- 'Creamy layer' are a category of persons within reserved categories – scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in this case – that are economically and socially advanced.

10. KASHMIR, 4TH INDIAN CITY TO RECEIVE WORLD CRAFT CITY CERTIFICATE

- 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 was 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).

11. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHED

- In a pivotal move towards **empowering women entrepreneurs** and spurring economic growth, the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** unveiled the **Women Entrepreneurship Program**.
- This program is designed to address the distinct challenges that women face when starting and growing businesses.
- **Partnership with Britannia Industries Limited**

12. TELANGANA SAYS 'WILL BE FIRST STATE' TO IMPLEMENT SC QUOTA SUB-CLASSIFICATION AFTER ORDER

- The state government will take appropriate measures to implement the reservations for Madigas and other subcastes in the current job notification as well.
- Madigas are the largest among the 59 SC sub-castes in Telangana followed by the Malas.

13. CBSE LAUNCHES SAFAL TEST CYCLE 2024 WITH A PLAN TO REDUCE EXAM STRESS

- It aims to develop a first-of-its-kind "census" on learning gaps to help plan timely remedial action.

Key Features:

- It is a **Competency-based Assessment** for Grades 3, 5 and 8 that assesses core concepts, application of knowledge and higher order thinking skills.
- It will test proficiency of students at 4 levels of skills and knowledge – Below Basic (2 years below Grade), Basic (1 year below Grade), Proficient and Advanced (Current Grade).

14. CEA APPROVES HYDRO-PUMPED STORAGE PLANT IN ODISHA AND KARNATAKA

- Under the provisions of the **Electricity Act 2003**, any company intending to set up a hydro-generating station requires the concurrence of the **Central Electricity Authority**
- The **2000 MW Sharavathy Hydro-Pumped Storage plant** is being developed on the **river Sharavathy** in the **Shimoga district** of Karnataka.
- The **Rs 8000 crore 2000 MW Sharavathy project** is the country's **largest pump storage power generation unit**. This mega project, backed by the government of Karnataka, is expected to solve the state's power crisis.
- 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.



15. INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST ALUMINIUM PRODUCER

16. SUPREME COURT GIVES LEGISLATIVE POWER TO STATE TO TAX MINERALS AND MINERAL BEARING LAND

- A nine-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court has affirmed the constitutional authority of states to levy taxes on mines and mineral-bearing lands.

17. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- **Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh** announced in the **Rajya Sabha** that the Union Government has introduced a new **Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)**.
- This system aims to **streamline and enhance the management of government employees' service matters** through digital means.

18. HINDUSTAN ZINC LAUNCHES ASIA'S FIRST GREEN ZINC BRAND "ECOZEN"

- Hindustan Zinc's **EcoZen** and other zinc products find their primary application in **galvanization of steel for corrosion resistance**.
- Produced using renewable energy, EcoZen has a carbon footprint of less than **1 tonne of carbon equivalent per tonne of zinc produced**, about **75% lower than the global average**
- It is important for its role in sectors such as **steel, infrastructure, automotive and sunrise sectors** such as **renewable energy, electronics, hi-tech manufacturing, energy storage, defence and electric mobility**.

19. NPCI RE-ESTABLISHED CONNECTIVITY WITH C-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES AFTER SECURITY REVIEW

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) reestablished the retail payment connections of banks that were using **C-Edge systems** on August 1 after the technology provider was hit by a **ransomware attack**
- C-Edge, a joint venture between **State Bank of India (SBI)** and **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, is a **technology service provider** that offers services to cooperative and regional rural banks.

20. GOVT LAUNCHED CASHLESS TREATMENT SCHEME FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS

- **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** has formulated a scheme and initiated implementation on **pilot basis in Chandigarh and Assam** to provide cashless treatment to victims of road accidents **caused by use of motor vehicle**, on any category of road, in collaboration with **National Health Authority (NHA)**.
- Victims entitled to cashless treatment up to **Rs. 1.5 lakhs per accident per person for a maximum period of 7 days** from date of accident.
- Applicable to all road accidents caused by use of motor vehicle on any category of road.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) shall be the implementing agency for the pilot program, in coordination with **police, hospitals, State Health Agency (SHA) etc.**

- This scheme is managed by the **Motor Vehicle Accident Fund**, which was established under **Section 164B of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**.

21. ZOMATO TO LAUNCH NEW APP 'DISTRICT' TO CAPTURE ITS 'GOING-OUT' MARKET

- Zomato is launching the 'District' app to consolidate various going-out services like **dining, movies, sports ticketing, live performances, shopping, and staycations**.

22. NCERT PROPOSES 10 BAGLESS DAYS FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS 6 – 8

- The **National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** released guidelines for the **implementation of bagless days for classes 6 to 8** in an effort to make learning in schools more experiential and stress-free.
- Developed by **Pandit Sunderlal Sharma** Central Institute of Vocational Education, the vocational education unit of the NCERT, the guidelines come after the new **National Education Policy (NEP), 2020**



23. PRICE MONITORING SYSTEM MOBILE APP 4.0 LAUNCHED TO CURB INFLATION

- The **Ministry of Consumer Affairs** launched Version 4.0 of the **Price Monitoring System (PMS)** Mobile App, adding 16 new commodities for daily price monitoring, totaling 38 items, from 550 centres across 34 States/UTs.
- The price data monitored by the Department provides advance inputs for policy decision for the Government, RBI and analysts regarding the CPI inflation.
- These includes providing **Bharat Chana Dal at Rs.60 per kg; Bharat Atta at Rs.27.50 per kg and Bharat Rice at Rs.29 per kg** to the retail consumers.



24. US HAS BECOME SECOND LARGEST SUPPLIER OF LNG IN INDIA

- In 2023, the United States emerged as **India's second-largest supplier of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)**, surpassing the United Arab Emirates, delivering 3.09 million tonnes (MT) in 2023.
- **Qatar** remained the **largest supplier with shipments** in 2023.

25. PRESIDENT MURMU CHAIRS 52ND GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

26. UNION HEALTH MINISTRY ISSUES FIRST-EVER SOPS FOR TRANSPORTING HUMAN ORGANS THROUGH VARIOUS MODES OF TRAVEL

- The **Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)** aimed at ensuring maximum utilization.
- Airlines carrying human cadaveric organs can request the Air Traffic Control for priority take-off and landing of the aircraft and arrange front-row seats.
- They can also request priority reservation and a provision for late check-in for medical personnel transporting organs.



27. UNION CABINET APPROVED 8 NATIONAL HIGH-SPEED ROAD CORRIDORS

- The government approved eight national high-speed road corridor projects of length 936 km entailing investment of Rs 50,655 crore to improve logistics efficiency and connectivity across the country.
- The implementation of these eight important projects will generate an estimated 4.42 crore mandays of direct and indirect employment

28. KHIR-CITY TO BE LAUNCHED IN BENGALURU ON AUG 23

- Karnataka will officially inaugurate its ambitious Knowledge Health Innovation Research-City (KHIR-City)
- A cluster of world-class universities, hospitals, innovative industries, and research institutions, coming up on a parcel of 2,000 acres of land near the Kempegowda International Airport.
- With an estimated investment of over ₹40,000 crore, the entire project is expected to create about 50,000 jobs.

29. AMIT SHAH LAUNCH FOUR NEW APP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW CRIMINAL LAWS

- The Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation **Amit Shah** launched four apps—**e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti, and e-Summon**—to ensure the smooth implementation of the three new criminal laws in the country.



Functions of the four Apps

- **e-Sakshya**, all testimonies, videography and photography will be saved on the e-evidence server. It will be available to all the courts on a real-time basis.
- **e-Summon** app, the courts will electronically send summons to police stations and the concerned person to whom the summons is to be sent.
- **Nyaay Setu** Dashboard will link the Police, Medical, Forensic, Prosecution and Prison authorities. It will provide the police with all the information related to the investigation on a real-time basis.
- **Nyaay Shruti** app will enable the court to hear witnesses via videoconferencing.
- **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**, replacing the Indian Penal Code 1860,
- **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**, replacing the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and
- **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023**, replacing Indian Evidence Act, 1872.

- **e-Sankhyiki portal launched by the MoSPI**
 - The portal's main aim is to build a comprehensive database management system and make sharing information about official statistics user-friendly.
 - The portal consists of a **Data Catalogue** and **Macro Indicator** modules

30. GOVERNMENT RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS FOR THE 33RD PARIS OLYMPICS

- The four stamps released by the ministers depict five Olympic sports - **Javelin Throw, Field Hockey, Sailing and Table Tennis**.

31. BOB RAE ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF UN'S ECOSOC

- **Bob Rae**, Canada's Ambassador to the UN, elected as **ECOSOC President** for a 1-year term, enhancing Canada's bilateral engagements.
- **The United Nations Economic and Social Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, responsible for coordinating the economic and social fields.**



32. PM NARENDRA MODI HAILS RECORD GAS PRODUCTION IN COUNTRY

- Our self-reliance in the field of energy is very important in achieving the goal of '**Viksit Bharat**'.
- The gas production in 2020-21 was 28.7 BCM and increased to 36.43 BCM (Billion cubic meters) in 2023-24.
- The country is expected to reach 45.3 BCM gas production by FY26,



33. DOPPLER RADAR TO BE INSTALLED IN LAHAUL-SPITI FOR WEATHER FORECASTING

- **X-band Doppler weather radar will be installed in Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh, by December 2025** to enhance weather forecasting and disaster management in the region.
- **Radar (Radio Detection and Ranging):** a device which uses electromagnetic waves in the microwaves region to detect location (range & direction), altitude, intensity and movement of moving and non-moving objects.
- **Doppler Radar:** a specialized radar that uses the Doppler effect to produce velocity data about objects at a distance.
- **Doppler Effect:** When the source and the signal are in relative motion to each other there is a change in the frequency observed by the observer. If they are moving closer, frequency increases and vice versa.

34. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS DELHI L-G'S POWER TO APPOINT ALDERMEN TO MCD

- The Supreme Court held that the **authority of the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to nominate 10 persons with special knowledge of municipal administration to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi is a statutory duty attached to his office and he is not bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.**
- A bench of Chief Justice of India **D Y Chandrachud** and Justices **P S Narasimha** and **J B Pardiwala**, said in its order, "**The statutory power under Section 3(3)(b)(i) to nominate persons of special knowledge was vested in the Lt Governor for the first time by the 1993 amendment to the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957 to incorporate the Constitutional changes through Articles 239AA, 239AB and introduction of Part IX-A relating to municipalities.**

35. PM MARKS 5 YEARS OF ABROGATION OF ARTICLES 370 AND 35(A)

- On the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of **Articles 370 and 35(A)**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the decision as a pivotal moment in **Indian history, marking the beginning of a new era of progress and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh.**
- He emphasized that **the abrogation ensured the full implementation of the Indian Constitution in these regions, aiming to enhance security, dignity, and development opportunities for marginalized communities while reducing corruption.**

36. NCW LAUNCHES DIGITAL SHAKTI CENTER TO COMBAT CYBERCRIMES AGAINST WOMEN

- **The National Commission for Women (NCW)** has inaugurated the **Digital Shakti Center in New Delhi** to address the rising cybercrimes against women.
- **This initiative aims to empower women with cyber safety knowledge, provide support for complaint registration, and create a safe digital environment.**



National Commission for Women (NCW):

- The NCW is the **statutory body of the Government of India**, generally concerned with **advising the government on all policy matters** affecting women.
- It was **established in January 1992** under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, as defined in the **1990 National Commission for Women Act**.
- The **objective of the NCW is to represent the rights of women in India** and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns.
- The subjects of their **campaigns have included dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labour.**

CHAIRMAN – REKHA SHARMA

37. INDIA TO BUILD GREEN HIGHWAYS WITH WORLD BANK AI

- The Government of India and the World Bank has joined forces to construct the **Green National Highway Corridor Project (GNHCP)**.
- This project aims to build **781 km of eco-friendly highways** across four states (**Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh**) with a focus on safety and climate resilience.
- **Project Completion Timeline:** The GNHCP is scheduled for **completion by May 2026**.
- The World Bank will provide a loan of **US \$500 million** for the project, with a total cost of **US \$1288.24 million (Rs. 7,662.47 crore)**.

World Bank

The World Bank was founded in July 1944.

The World Bank is a **group of five international financial institutions**.

- ❖ Headquarters: **Washington D.C, the United States of America**
- ❖ President: **Ajay Banga**
- ❖ Members: **180 countries**.

It releases several research reports.

- ✓ World Development Report
- ✓ Global Economic Prospect
- ✓ Global Financial Development Report
- ✓ Commodity Market Outlook
- ✓ International Debt Statistics

38. GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA IN COLLABORATION WITH AIRBUS BEGINS

- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) has started its **first executive training program** for the aviation sector at the **Asian Institute of Transport Development (AITD)** at Dwaraka, New Delhi.
- The **three-day program** will be focused on **"Safety Management Systems"** for working professionals; it is conducted in **collaboration with Airbus**.

39. MADRAS HIGH COURT DECLARES SECTION 77-A OF REGISTRATION ACT UNCONSTITUTIONAL

- The Madras High Court on Friday declared as unconstitutional **Section 77-A of the Registration Act, 1908**, on the ground that it conferred excessive quasi-judicial power on the District Registrars to cancel documents related to any immovable property in the State if they were found to have been registered through fraud or on submission of forged revenue records

40. INDIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY SOARS BY 165% IN A DECADE

- India's renewable energy capacity has surged by **165% over the past decade**, reaching **203.1 GW in 2024**.
- This growth makes India the **fourth largest globally** in renewable energy capacity, with significant advancements in solar and wind power.

41. RS 920 CR NAMAMI GANGE MISSION 2.0 PROJECTS IN UP AND BIHAR

- The central government has completed and operationalized four major projects of **Rs 920 crore** in **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** under **Namami Gange Mission 2.0**.
- These projects will add **145 megaliters per day MLD** of sewage treatment capacity and provide better sewer networks.



What is Namami Gange Mission?

- 'Namami Gange Programme', is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 with budget outlay of **Rs.20,000 Crore** to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

42. DR MANSUKH MANDAVIYA DIRECTS IMPLEMENTATION OF ELI SCHEME IN MISSION MODE

- Labour and employment minister Mansukh Mandaviya called for expeditious implementation of the three employment-linked incentive (ELI) schemes in a mission mode.
- The three schemes were announced in Union Budget 2024-25. Initiatives to facilitate employment, skilling and other opportunities for **41 million youth** over a five-year period with a central outlay of **Rs 2 lakh crore**.
- EPFO is the nodal body for rolling out the benefits under the three schemes.

ELI Schemes

- The ELI scheme aims to create over **two crore jobs** in the country in a period of **two years**.

Scheme A:

- Government reimburses one month's wage up to **Rs 15,000** in three installments for first-time workforce entrants.

Scheme B:

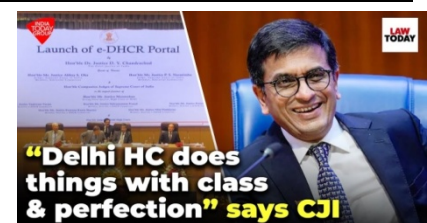
- Focus on bulk hiring in manufacturing.
- Reimbursements: **24%, 24%, 16%, and 8%** of the wage, shared equally between employee and employer.
- Employer must hire **50 or 25%** of baseline EPFO employee strength and retain them for at least **12 months**.

Scheme C:

- Government reimburses employer's EPFO share up to **Rs 3,000 per month** for two years.

43. CJI DY CHANDRACHUD LAUNCHES "E-DHCR" PORTAL

- CJI D Y Chandrachud introduced the **E-DHCR**, a new portal for accessing reportable judgments of the Delhi High Court.
- **e-DHCR** portal will offer free access to Delhi High Court judgments, serving as a useful resource for lawyers, litigants, law students, legal enthusiasts, and the general public.



44. INDIAN GOVT FOR THE FIRST TIME ALLOWED COMMERCIAL CULTIVATION OF HERBICIDE TOLERANT "HT BASMATI RICE "

'Nandini Sahakar Yojana'

- The Nandini Sahakar Scheme by NCDC (National Cooperative Development Corporation) is a women-focused framework providing financial assistance, project formulation, and capacity development to women cooperatives.
- Launched under Atmanirbhar Bharat, it aims to improve socio-economic status of women through entrepreneurship.
- There is no limit on financial assistance.

45. PM TO UNVEIL NEW CROP VARIETIES DEVELOPED BY ICAR-CPCRI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to release two new coconut and two cocoa varieties developed by the ICAR-Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kasaragod.
- Two coconut varieties — Kalpa Suvarna and Kalpa Shatabdi — and two cocoa varieties — VTL CH1 and VTL CH2.

46. PMAY- U 2.0 APPROVED BY UNION CABINET WITH 10 LAKH CRORE INVESTMENT

- 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.
- 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.
- All areas declared as towns by law and mentioned in the 2011 census across the country will be covered.

47. THIRD EDITION OF 'HAR GHAR TIRANGA' CAMPAIGN

- The third edition of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign will be held from August 9 to August 15 to celebrate Independence Day.
- The initiative, which encourages citizens to display the national flag and share selfies, aims to promote patriotism and national pride.

48. YOUTH CREATES WORLD RECORD FOR PERFORMANCE OF LARGEST-EVER KASHMIRI FOLK DANCE AT 'KASHUR RIWAAJ' CULTURAL FESTIVAL

- Youth of Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district created a world record by registering their names to the Universal Records Forum (URF) for the largest-ever Kashmiri folk dance performed by 10,000 young women at the 'Kashur Riwaaj' cultural festival.

49. COUNTRY'S FIRST PM JANAMAN COLONY BUILT-IN SHIVPURI JANPAD PANCHAYAT

- The PM-JANMAN (comprising Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes) to focus on 11 critical interventions through 9 Ministries including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The scheme aims to provide crucial interventions such as permanent housing, road connectivity, piped water supply, mobile medical units, hostel construction, 'Anganwadi' facilities and skill development centres etc.

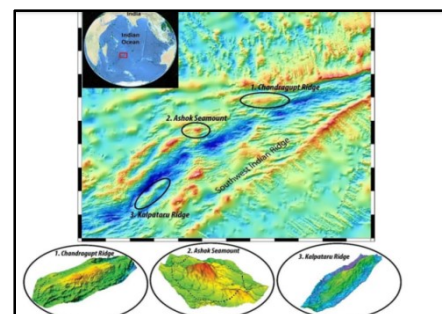
50. INDIA'S FIRST GRAIN ATM LAUNCHED IN ODISHA

- WFP (World Food Programme) and the Government of Odisha launched India's first around the clock grain dispensing machine, the 'Grain ATM,' also known as 'Annapurthi', in the state capital Bhubaneswar.
- Odisha has become the first state in India to provide access to the public distribution system beneficiaries 24 hours a day.
- Annapurthi is energy efficient and consumes only 0.6 Watts per hour and can be connected to solar panels for automatic refilling.



51. CHHATTISGARH APPROVES COUNTRY'S THIRD LARGEST TIGER RESERVE

- The Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve, which integrates an existing national park with a wildlife sanctuary, is Chhattisgarh's fourth reserve for the big cats.
- It spans 2,829 square kilometres across four northern districts of the state.
- Manendragarh-ChirmiriBharatpur, Koriya, Surajpur and Balrampur
- Guru Ghasidas National Park was made a tiger reserve in 2021, but it could not be notified due to opposition.
- Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve is the country's largest tiger reserve, covering 3,296.31 sq km.
- Manas Tiger Reserve in Assam is the second largest with an area of 2,837.1 sq km. Both have 58 tigers.



52. EAM DR. JAISHANKAR INAUGURATES ADDU RECLAMATION AND SHORE PROTECTION PROJECTS IN MALDIVES

- This ambitious program of 80 million US dollar involves reclamation for tourism development purposes.
- This will translate in overall growth for the region, bringing in better opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and trade

53. THREE INDIAN OCEAN STRUCTURES NAMED ASHOKA, CHANDRAGUPT AND KALPATARU

Ashoka Seamount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was discovered in 2012. It is in an oval-shaped structure spanning approximately 180 sqkm and was identified using the Russian vessel Akademik Nikolay Strakhov.
Kalpataru Ridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was discovered in 2012. This elongated ridge covers an area of 430 sq km and may play a critical role in supporting marine biodiversity. Experts believe that this ridge could have provided essential support for marine life by offering

	habitat shelter and food sources for various species.
Chandragupt Ridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This ridge is an elongated structure covering 675 sq km. It was identified in 2020 by the Indian research vessel MGS Sagar. It reflects India's growing influence in marine science and its commitment to exploring and understanding the Indian Ocean. This naming was proposed by India and approved by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

54. GUJARAT IS THE TOP STATE IN THE PROSPERITY CATEGORY ACCORDING TO THE 'QCI SURAJAYA RECOGNITION AND RANKING FRAMEWORK' OF QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA

55. UNICEF AND BENGAL PARTNER TO ENGAGE FATHERS IN BREASTFEEDING

- The West Bengal government and UNICEF have teamed up to encourage fathers to play an active role in promoting breastfeeding among new mothers.
- This initiative aims to enhance family support for breastfeeding and improve the rates of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a child's life.(breast milk as the baby's "first vaccine,")

UNICEF

- Created in 1946 as International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF) by UN relief Rehabilitation Administration to help children affected by World War II
- UNICEF became a permanent part of the United Nations in 1953.
- The name was shortened to United Nations Children Fund but it is still referred to as UNICEF
- Awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1965 for "promotion of brotherhood among the nations"
- Headquarters: New York City.
- Current UNICEF ambassador – Kareena Kapoor Khan

56. HINDENBURG RESEARCH ALLEGES SEBI CHIEF

- The U.S.-based short seller alleged that the chairperson of India's stock market regulator, in charge of probing these issues, herself had a stake in obscure offshore entities used in what it alleged was 'the Adani money siphoning scandal'.
- Almost 18 months after Hindenburg Research flagged allegations of malfeasance and stock price manipulation at the Adani group of companies.

SEBI

- The SEBI is a statutory regulatory body established by the Government of India in 1992.
- It was given statutory powers through the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Objective: To regulate the securities market in India and protect the interests of investors in securities.
- Chairperson – Mrs. Madhabi Puri Buch

57. IITGN, IIT INDORE JOIN HANDS TO SET UP CNARMADA TO ASSESS RIVER ECOSYSTEM

- Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar (IITGN) has set up the Centre for Narmada River Basin Management (cNARMADA) at its campus to conduct the Condition Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP) of the Narmada river basin.
- IITGN has joined hands with Indian Institute of Technology Indore (IITI) for the assessment undertaken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- It will also prepare a road map for comprehensive rejuvenation and conservation of the riverine ecosystems

58. ANCIENT MAHARASHTRA ROCK ART DECLARED 'PROTECTED MONUMENT' BY MAHA GOVT.

- Geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri as 'protected monuments' under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960.
- The group of petroglyphs at Deud, Ratnagiri, dates back to the Mesolithic era (roughly 20,000-10,000 years ago).
- Geoglyphs and petroglyphs are different types of ancient art forms. They involve the creation of images or designs on the earth's surface or rock surfaces



59. UNION GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE AYUSH IN AYUSHMAN BHARAT SCHEME

- The Union Government is working on the inclusion of an AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) package under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), Launched in 2018.
- AB PM-JAY aims to provide health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to approximately 55 crore beneficiaries corresponding to 12.34 crore families constituting the bottom 40% of the population.

60. GUIDELINES ISSUED FOR 'MODEL SOLAR VILLAGE' UNDER PM-SURYA GHAR

- The Government has issued operational guidelines for the implementation of Model Solar Village under PM-Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojana.
- Under the scheme emphasis has been placed on creating one Model Solar Village per district across the country

- A total financial outlay of 800 crore rupees has been allocated for this component, providing 1 crore rupees per selected Model Solar Village.
- Under this scheme, a village must be a revenue village with a population size above 5,000 or 2,000 for special category states.

61. UNION JAL SHAKTI MINISTRY LAUNCHES FLOOD WATCH INDIA 2.0 APP

- In order to improve flood forecasting and flood management systems in the country, the government of India has launched an improved Flood Watch India 2.0 App. The Flood Watch India app 2.0 provides real-time information on flood situations to users across the country through a smartphone.
- The Flood Watch India 2.0 app has been developed by the Central Water Commission, which comes under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.

62. TRAI MANDATES ALL SERVICE PROVIDERS TO IMMEDIATELY STOP PROMOTIONAL CALLS FROM UNREGISTERED TELEMARKETERS TO CURB INCREASING SPAM CALLS

- In a major step to curb the increasing number of spam calls, regulator Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has mandated all service providers to stop voice promotional calls, be pre-recorded or computer generated or otherwise, from all unregistered senders or telemarketers.
- If any unregistered sender/unregistered telemarketer is found to be misusing its telecom resources, all the telecom resources of such sender shall be disconnected by the the access provider for a period up to two years

63. MINISTRY OF COAL LAUNCHES GLOBAL MINING INITIATIVE TO BOOST COAL PRODUCTION

- The primary goal of engaging Mining Developers cum Operators (MDOs) is to significantly increase coal production by streamlining operations, enhancing productivity, and reducing mining costs.
- MDOs handle coal mining; from excavation to delivery to Coal India Limited (CIL). They also manage land, environment, and resettlement issues.

64. VULTURE WITH 'DHAKA COLLAR' FOUND IN JHARKHAND

- A sick vulture of an endangered species, with 'Dhaka' inscribed on a metallic ring on one of its legs, was found in a dam in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh district.
- The white-backed vulture is a Schedule 1 endangered species.
- An inscription 'gpobox-2624, Dhaka, b67' and a tracking device were also found on the vulture, along with a note: "If found, please contact john.malot@rspb.org.uk."

65. HINDU MAN FROM BANGLADESH BECOMES FIRST PERSON TO GET CITIZENSHIP UNDER CAA

- A Hindu man from Bangladesh (Dulon Das), living in Assam since June 5, 1988, has become the first person in the northeast to get citizenship under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act of 2019.



Citizenship Amendment Act 2019

- The citizenship laws in India derived their origins from the constitution under Articles 5-11 and the Citizenship Act of 1955. This Act provided provisions for citizenship by birth, descent, registration and naturalisation.
- It amended the Citizenship Act of 1955 to make illegal migrants who are Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, eligible for Indian citizenship.
- Those from these communities who entered India on or before December 31, 2014, would not be treated as illegal immigrants, providing a path to naturalisation.
- The amendment relaxed the residency requirement from 11 years to 6 years for these communities to acquire Indian citizenship by naturalization
- The amendments for illegal migrants will not apply to certain tribal (under Sixth Schedule) areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, as well as states regulated by the "Inner Line" permit (Ar, Mi, Na, Ma, La) under the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations 1873.

66. NORTH INDIA'S LARGEST FLOATING SOLAR PROJECT COMMISSIONED IN OMKARESHWAR

- Madhya Pradesh has commissioned the largest floating solar project in central and north India, generating 90 MW at Omkareshwar.
- Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project 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 of 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: 646 crores

67. KISAN KI BAAT: GOVERNMENT RADIO PROGRAM TO BRIDGE FARM-SCIENCE GAP

- The government is set to launch 'Kisan Ki Baat', a monthly radio programme aimed at bringing scientific knowledge to farmers, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced.

- This initiative seeks to modernise agricultural practices and empower farmers with cutting-edge scientific information.
- Kisan Ki Baat' is part of a larger strategy to revitalize India's agricultural sector. Chouhan stressed the importance of integrating Krishi Vigyan Kendras with farmers' needs and promoting discussions among agriculturists.

68. MUSICIAN RICKEY KEJ CREATES GUINNESS WORLD RECORD FOR INDIA'S NATIONAL ANTHEM

- The achievement follows Kej's previous success in 2023, where he led the largest-ever Symphony Orchestra performance of the Indian National Anthem at Abbey Road Studios, London.



69. BHARAT JODO ABHIYAAN LAUNCHES JANA GANA MANA ABHIYAAN CAMPAIGN

- Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan (BJA), a civil society platform, has launched an 8-month campaign Jana Gana Mana Abhiyaan (JaGaMA) from August 15 (Independence Day) to April 14, 2025 (Ambedkar Jayanti)
- Objective to promote constitutional values, protect democratic institutions and strengthen non-violent political, ideological and cultural resistance to defend the Republic



70. KIA BENGALURU BECOMES FIRST AIRPORT IN ASIA TO RECEIVE LEVEL 5 ACCREDITATION OF ACI

- Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru has become the first in Asia to receive Airports Council International's (ACI) highest Level 5 accreditation.
- KIA has made a 95.6% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, attaining the highest emission elimination by an Indian airport, achieved seven years ahead of the initial target of 2030.
- THE AIRPORT AIMS TO ATTAIN NET ZERO GHG EMISSIONS BY 2050, ENCOMPASSING SCOPE 3 EMISSIONS.

71. CENTRE UNVEILS KRISHI-DSS, A SATELLITE-BASED PLATFORM TO SUPPORT FARMERS

- Krishi-Decision Support System (K-DSS) portal, a satellite-based geospatial platform that will provide farmers with information on the weather, groundwater levels, soil health, reservoir storage levels etc and include data like satellite images.
- It will utilize satellite imagery to deliver early warnings about potential disasters such as pest attacks and extreme weather events
- The Krishi-DSS is part of the Digital Public Infrastructure for Agriculture announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her Budget speech
- Space technologies have been applied in the farm sector since 1969, stressing the need to extend their use beyond paddy and wheat.
- The Krishi-DSS platform has been developed using RISAT1A and VEDAS of the Department of Space.
- RISAT-1A: Radar Satellite-1
- Visualization of Earth observation Data and Archival System (VEDAS)

72. BENGALURU RESEARCHERS DISCOVER THREE NEW EDIBLE BUG SPECIES FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- Belonging to the genus *Coridius* of family *Dinidoridae* (Hemiptera), these stink bugs have been named *Coridius adii*, *Coridius insperatus* and *Coridius esculentus*.
- *Coridius adii* is named in honour of the Adi tribe, one of the major groups inhabiting mainly the Siang valley in Arunachal Pradesh, which consumes this species as food.



73. CCPA IMPOSES RS 3 LAKH FINE ON SRIRAM'S IAS FOR MISLEADING CLAIMS OVER UPSC 2022 EXAM RESULT

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of Rs 3 lakh on Sriram's IAS for advertising misleading claims regarding the result of UPSC Civil Service Exam 2022 : the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution
- Instead of the 200 selections as claimed by the institute, there were only 171 selected candidates.
- Nidhi Khare - Chief Commissioner of CCPA

Central Consumer Protection Authority

- As provided in the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has been established w.e.f. 24th July, 2020.
- **Objective:** to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class.
- **Composition:** It will have a Chief Commissioner as head, and only two other commissioners as members — one of whom will deal with matters relating to goods while the other will look into cases relating to services
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

74. KIREN RIJJU LAUNCHES PORTAL FOR JIYO PARSI SCHEME

- The portal will enable Parsi couples to apply online under the scheme.

- **Jiyo Parsi Scheme**, launched in 2013-14, is a Central Sector Scheme to arrest the population decline of the Parsi community in India.
- The scheme has three components, Medical Assistance, Advocacy & Health of Community:
 - a) Under Medical Component: financial assistance is provided to Parsi Couples for medical treatment
 - b) Under Health of Community Component: financial assistance is provided to Parsi Couples for child care and assistance of elderly people.
 - c) Under Advocacy Component: advocacy/outreach programmes are conducted to generate awareness among the Parsi Population.

75. UNION GOVERNMENT TO FORM COMMITTEE FOR ENSURING SAFETY OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

- The government made the decision after considering the concerns expressed by various healthcare stakeholders, including FORDA (Federation of Resident Doctors Association) and IMA (Indian Medical Association).
- The central government directed government hospitals to register an FIR within six hours against any verbal abuse or physical violence meted out to healthcare staff.
- The head of institution shall be responsible for filing an FIR within the stipulated time period.

76. INDORE BASED WINGS EV TO LAUNCH INDIA'S FIRST ELECTRIC MICRO CAR "ROBIN"

77. SPERM/EGG DONORS HAVE NO LEGAL RIGHT OVER CHILD AS PER BOMBAY HIGH COURT



78. CENTRALISED PENSION PROCESSING SOFTWARE "BHAVISHYA" LAUNCHED FOR CENTRAL GOVERNMENT MINISTERIES/ DEPARTMENTS

79. ODISHA TO BRING 5 ROYAL BENGAL TIGERS FROM MAHARASHTRA & MADHYA PRADESH BY SEPTEMBER

- 3 of these tigers will be released into the Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary in Sambalpur
- 2 will be introduced into the Similipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj.

Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR)

- STR is located within the Mayurbhanj District, in the northernmost part of Odisha.
- It was declared a 'Tiger Reserve' in the year 1956 and included under the national conservation programme 'Project Tiger' in 1973.
- The STR was included as a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO in the year 2009.
- It is the only landscape in the world that is home to melanistic tigers.
- Sal is the dominant tree species here.

Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary

- The Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located in the Bargarh district in Odisha.
- It is situated near the city of Sambalpur's Hirakud Dam.
- It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1985.

80. 3 ONLINE PLATFORMS LAUNCHED TO BOOST COUNTRY'S POWER SECTOR EFFICIENCY

- The 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
- All these online portals have been developed by the Central Electricity Authority under the Union Ministry of Power.

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.

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.

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

81. INDIA'S FIRST CONSTITUTION MUSEUM MARKS 75 YEARS OF THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

- India's first Constitution Museum, named "The Constitution Academy and the Rights & Freedoms Museum," is set to be inaugurated by OP Jindal Global University.

- This initiative celebrates the **75th anniversary** of the adoption of the Indian Constitution.

82. CABINET SECRETARY TO HEAD NTF ON MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS SAFETY

- The **Ministry of Health and Family Affairs, Government of India**, has issued an office order on the constitution of the **14-member National Task Force formed by the Supreme Court** for the safety of medical professionals.
- The office order issued by the ministry appoints **Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba** as the **Chairperson of the National Task Force**.
- A **postgraduate trainee doctor was allegedly raped and murdered while on duty** at **RG Kar Medical College** in Kolkata. Following widespread protests by doctors nationwide, the Supreme Court suo motto started hearing the case
- The three-member bench headed by the **Chief Justice of India, Justice DY Chandrachud**, ordered the **setting up of the National Task Force** to suggest measures for the safety of the medical professionals in the country.

83. INDIA'S SECOND 700 MW NUCLEAR POWER KAPS-4 PLANT STARTS OPERATIONS AT FULL CAPACITY

- India's second home-built 700 MW nuclear power reactor at **Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)** in Gujarat started operating at its full capacity,
- The full power operation of KAPS-4 after the smooth operation of its twin unit KAPS-3 at full power demonstrates the strength of the first of a kind indigenous 700 MW Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR) design,

84. RBI LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE RBI90QUIZ FOR UNDERGRADUATES

- The quiz is a nationwide competition being held as part of the events to commemorate 90 years of RBI's functioning.
- The contest would help create greater awareness about the Reserve Bank and the financial eco system among the students.
- **RBI -1 st April,1935**

RBI(RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)

- The RBI was established in 1934, under the Reserve Bank of India Act.
- The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton Young Commission.
- Though privately owned initially, it was nationalized in 1949 and since then fully owned by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- India's central bank and regulatory body responsible for regulation of the Indian banking system.
- **RBI@90**, a program marking 90 years of RBI (2024)

85. INDIA APPROVES ADDITIONAL 251 MW POWER EXPORTS FROM NEPAL

- India approved an additional 251 MW of power exports from 12 hydropower projects in Nepal.
- Nepal will export power to Bihar under a medium-term power sales agreement for the first time.
- Total approved power export from Nepal to India increased from 690 MW (16 projects) to 941 MW (28 projects).
- Nepal became a net exporter of electricity, generating NPR 16.93 billion in revenue in the last fiscal year.



86. CENTRE SAYS MEGHALAYA POLIO CASE IS VACCINE-DERIVED

- A case of vaccine-derived polio has been confirmed in a two-year-old child from Tikrikilla in Meghalaya.
- This is not a case of wild polio, but an infection that presents in some people with low immunity.
- The World Health Organisation declared India polio-free in 2014 after the last case of wild poliovirus in the country was reported in 2011.
- Polio (poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious viral disease that enters the body through the mouth, multiplying in the intestine before invading the nervous system.
- It mainly affects children under 5 years of age.

Global Polio Eradication Initiative:

- ✓ It was launched in 1988 by national governments and spearheaded by the WHO, Rotary International, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

World Polio Day:

- ✓ It is observed every year on 24th October in order to call on countries to stay vigilant in their fight against the disease
- ✓ **Pulse Polio Immunization Programme**
- ✓ With the global initiative of eradication of polio in 1988 following the World Health Assembly resolution in 1988,
- ✓ Pulse Polio Immunization programme was launched in India in the financial year 1994-95.

87. KARNATAKA LEADS NATION WITH 5,765 PUBLIC EV CHARGING STATIONS

- With 5,765 charging stations, Karnataka has the highest number of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the country, according to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- Around 85% of these stations (4,462) are in Bengaluru Urban district.
- The data from BEE shows that Karnataka stands ahead of Maharashtra (3,728 stations), Uttara Pradesh (1,989 stations), and Delhi (1,941 stations) in the list.
- Karnataka was the first State in India to introduce an EV policy in 2017.

88. ASHWINI VAISHNAW LAUNCHES 'CREATE IN INDIA CHALLENGE-SEASON ONE'

- Information and Broadcasting Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** launched 'Create in India Challenge-Season One' in New Delhi in the run-up to the **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit**.
- Reflecting the evolution of Indian economy and the impact of technological advancements, **25 challenges** have been launched.

89. SOUTH INDIAN ADIVASI KNOWLEDGE CENTRE TO BE LAUNCHED IN B.R. HILLS

- **Kaanu**, a South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre, will be launched at the Tribal Health Resource Centre (THRC) at BR Hills, Karnataka.
- Kaanu, which means evergreen forest in both Kannada and Soliga language.
- Aims to be the first ever knowledge centre on South Indian Adivasi past, present and culture: a tree of knowledge."

90. LAUNCH OF "BHARAT ZERO EMISSION TRUCKING (ZET) POLICY ADVISORY" DOCUMENT

- The "Bharat Zero Emission Trucking (ZET) Policy Advisory" aims to guide India towards adopting zero-emission trucks powered by electricity and hydrogen
- The goal is to reduce pollution, improve air quality, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
- The recommendations target achieving 100% ZET sales by 2050, aligning with India's Net Zero 2070 goal.
- The document was created by a Policy Advisory Panel chaired by Dr. Preeti Banzal with support from IIT Madras' Centre of Excellence for Zero Emission Trucking (CoEZET).

91. GOI APPROVES UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

- This new scheme is set to benefit approximately **23 lakh government employees** and will serve as an alternative to the existing National Pension System (NPS).

92. 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.
- **Philately** refers to the collection and study of postage stamps and related products
- 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.
- **Union Minister for Communication: Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**

93. GOVERNMENT ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION OF SEAPLANES IN COUNTRY

- **Union Minister of Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu** has launched the guidelines for seaplane operation under **RCS-UDAN**.
- The guidelines prioritize the safety and security of seaplane operations and clearly outline the responsibilities of each stakeholder, from the operators to the regulatory bodies.
- India's 7517 km long coastline and extensive network of rivers and lakes which present a unique opportunity for the development of seaplane operations in the country.

UDAN

- Full Form Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik
- UDAN Scheme Launch Year 2017
- Nodal Ministry Ministry of Civil Aviation
- UDAN Scheme Objective Air Connectivity to unreserved and underserved airports of the country.

94. UNION MINISTER SARBANANDA SONOWAL INAUGURATES PORT PROJECTS AND LAUNCHES SKILLING PROGRAM AT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT

- **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbanand Sonwal**, visited **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)**, to inaugurate three Lake Beautification and rejuvenation projects in the JN Port vicinity.
- These lakes are named after the great saints of Maharashtra **Saint Dyaneshwar Maharaj, Saint Eknath Maharaj and Saint Namdeo Maharaj**.
- **JNPA inception 26 May, 1969** (the second largest container port in India after Mundra Port)

95. 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**' .
- 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**.
- The theme of the inaugural Sapno ki Udaan e-magazine was **Space**.

96. CCI RAISES CONCERNS OVER \$8.5 BILLION RELIANCE-DISNEY MERGER

Competition Commission of India (CCI)

- ✓ Statutory body within the Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- ✓ Enforces the Competition Act, 2002 to promote competition and prevent activities that negatively impact competition



- ✓ Key Functions Investigates cases affecting competition; approves mergers to prevent market dominance
- ✓ Established 14 October 2003 Fully Functional Since May 2009
- ✓ Current Chairperson Ravneet Kaur (appointed in 2023)

97. IEC CAMPAIGN ON PM-JANMAN MISSION

- The IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) Campaign on the PM-JANMAN mission is being launched by the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- To raise awareness and ensure the saturation of government schemes in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) areas.
- PM JANMAN is a government scheme that aims to bring tribal communities into the mainstream.

98. LADAKH GETS FIVE NEW DISTRICT

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to create five new districts in the union territory of Ladakh, said home minister Amit Shah
- "In pursuit of Narendra Modi's vision to build a developed and prosperous Ladakh, the MHA has decided to create five new districts in the union territory.
- These districts are – Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra and Changthang.

99. ATHER ENERGY TURNS UNICORN AFTER \$71 MILLION FUNDING FROM NIIF

- Electric two-wheeler manufacturer Ather Energy has secured \$71 million in a new funding round led by its existing investor, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), which takes the valuation to \$1.3 billion,
- A unicorn is a privately held company valued at or above \$1 billion. There are about 109 unicorns in India.
- Founders Tarun Sanjay Mehta and Swapnil

100. PM MODI DISTRIBUTES CERTIFICATES TO 11 LAKH NEW 'LAKHPATI DIDIS'

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed certificates to 11 lakh new Lakhpati Didis in a function organised at Jalgaon in Maharashtra. The Prime Minister also felicitated Lakhpati Didis and discussed with them about their businesses.
- During the program, Prime Minister released a revolving fund – Community Investment Fund of 2,500 crore rupees, expected to benefit about 48 lakh members of 4.3 lakh Self Help Groups (SHGs)

101. UNION CABINET APPROVES BIO E3 POLICY AND VIGYAN DHARA SCHEME

- The Union Cabinet approved the 'BioE3' (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) policy
- The BioE3 policy seeks to include innovation-driven support for research and development and entrepreneurship across the three sectors.
- The Union Cabinet also approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes of the Department of Science and Technology, merged into a unified central sector scheme called 'Vigyan Dhara'.
- This will accelerate technology development and commercialisation by establishing biomanufacturing and bio-AI hubs and biofoundry.
- The policy will further strengthen the government's initiatives such as a Net Zero' carbon economy and Lifestyle for Environment' and will steer India on the path of accelerated Green Growth' by promoting a Circular Bioeconomy'.

102. FSSAI ORDERS REMOVAL OF A1 AND A2 CLAIMS FROM ALL PACKAGING OF MILK AND DAIRY PRODUCTS

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) asked food business operators (FBOs) and e-commerce players to remove all claims of A1 and A2 types of milk and milk products from all packaging.
- FSSAI stated that the A1 and A2 differentiation of milk is essentially linked to a difference in the structure of protein (beta casein).
- The key difference lies in the amino acid structure. A1 beta-casein has a histidine amino acid at position 67, while A2 beta-casein has proline at the same position
- A2 beta-casein is believed to be easier to digest
- But as per FSSAI the current rules do not recognise any such differentiation of milk on the basis of A1 and A2 types.

103. UNION HEALTH MINISTER J.P. NADDA LAUNCHES NATIONAL MEDICAL REGISTER PORTAL IN NEW DELHI

- The National Medical Register (NMR) is mandated under Section 31 of the NMC Act, 2019 which states that the Ethics & Medical Registration Board (EMRB) of NMC shall maintain a National Register in electronic form containing the name, address, and all recognized qualifications possessed by a licensed medical practitioner.
- NMR will be a comprehensive and dynamic database for all allopathic (MBBS) registered doctors in India.
- NMR will be a part of the Healthcare Professional Registry under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

104. CHIRAG PASWAN RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF LJP FOR 5 YEARS

- Union Minister Chirag Paswan was re-elected as the national president of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) for the next five years.

105. INDIAN GOVERNMENT FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME PMJDY COMPLETES 10 YEARS

- The world's largest financial inclusion programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completed 10 years on 28 August 2024.
- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched by the government of India 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.

- Kerala's Ernakulam was the first district in India to achieve 100% financial inclusion.
- Kerala was the first state to achieve 100% financial inclusion in 2007.
- Slogan- "Mera Khaata, Bhagya Vidhata".

106. MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION HAS LAUNCHED A PILOT PROJECT TO TRANSFORM 60 FAIR PRICE SHOPS (FPS) INTO 'JAN POSHAN KENDRAS'

- Launched by Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and New and Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh
- The Jan Poshan Kendra will provide better income to Fair Price Shop dealers and nutrition-rich food items to consumers under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana .
- Jan Poshan Kendra will have provision for storing 50% products under the category of nutrition while the rest for keeping other household items.
- The project also includes the introduction of several new digital tools and support systems designed to enhance transparency and operational efficiency:
- FPS Sahay: An application providing paperless, presence-less, and collateral-free financing for ration dealers.
- Mera Ration App 2.0: An app designed to give consumers information about the public distribution system

107. EASTERN RAILWAY DEVELOPS 'PRABODH' CHATBOX FOR EASIER ACCESS TO RAILWAY RULES

- The 161-year-old Kanchrapara Workshop of Eastern Railway (ER) in West Bengal — one of the oldest such establishments in the country — has come up with an Artificial Intelligence-based chatbox named 'Prabodh' to help ER employees remain abreast with the latest rules and regulations.

108. CABINET APPROVES SETTING UP OF 12 INDUSTRIAL SMART CITIES ACROSS 10 STATES

- Union cabinet approved 12 industrial smart cities under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP) with an estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore to boost domestic manufacturing.
- The project spans across 10 states and is strategically planned along six major corridors.
- These industrial areas will be located in 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 Koppurthy in Andhra Pradesh and Jodhpur-Pali in Rajasthan

The industrial smart cities:

- Aligned with vision of Viksit Bharat
- Grand necklace of Industrial Smart Cities on the backbone of Golden Quadrilateral.
- Employment potential - 10 Lakh direct and up to 30 Lakh indirect jobs
- Investment potential Rs. 1.5 lakh crore
- Built on PM GatiShakti principles
- 'Plug-n-play' and 'walk-to-work' concepts with planned urbanization

109. NANO DAP EXPERIMENT REVEALS DECLINE IN WHEAT YIELDS

- A two-year field experiment on the efficacy of nano diammonium phosphate (DAP) by scientists from the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) has found a substantial decrease in wheat yields compared to conventional nitrogen fertiliser application.
- Wheat Yield Decline: The study showed that when farmers used nano DAP instead of regular DAP, the wheat grain yield decreased by 16.1%.
- Plant Growth Affected: The study also found that plants didn't grow as tall when nano DAP was used



110. CYCLONE TO DEVELOP IN ARABIAN SEA, FIRST IN AUGUST SINCE 1964

- Upon intensifying into a cyclone, it will acquire the name Asna, given by Pakistan.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) said that a cyclone is likely to develop over the north Arabian Sea, off Gujarat coast.
- The cyclone is most unlikely to affect Indian coasts, as the prevailing deep depression over Saurashtra-Kutch would have moved away to north Arabian Sea.

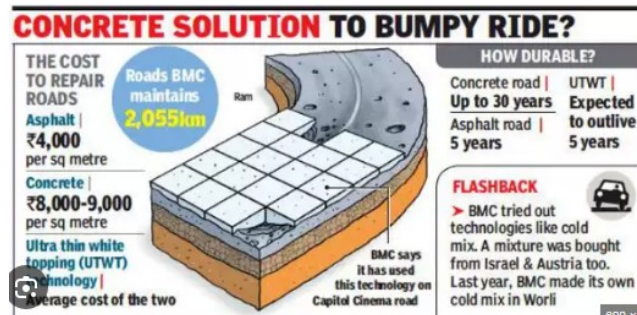
111. DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA LAUNCHES RESET PROGRAMME FOR RETIRED SPORTSPERSONS

- On National Sports Day in New Delhi, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, launched the "Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training" (RESET) Programme.
- This initiative aims to empower retired athletes by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to enhance their employability and career development.
- The programme aims to support the growth of sports in India and contribute to nation-building by nurturing future champions.



112. WHAT IS WHITE-TOPPING TECHNOLOGY?

- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) in India is proposing a new policy to repair and upgrade old national highways using a method called White-topping Technology.
- White-topping is a process where a layer of Portland cement Concrete (PCC) is placed on top of existing bituminous (asphalt) roads.
- This technique is especially useful for roads that have ongoing problems due to poor drainage.
- Benefits of Whitetopping Longer Lifespan: It can extend the life of a road by 20-25 years.
- Less Maintenance Cost- Effective, Environmental Benefits



113. RELIANCE TO COMMISSION FIRST SOLAR GIGAFACTORY THIS YEAR

- Reliance Industries Ltd, India's most valuable company, plans to commission its first solar giga-factory this year as part of a pivot towards green energy, at Jamnagar, Gujarat
- The solar giga factory will include the manufacturing of PV modules, cells, wafers and ingots, polysilicon, and glass at a single location.
- The modules convert sunlight into electricity

114. PM MODI TO INAUGURATE VADHVAN PORT AND ADDRESS GLOBAL FINTECH FEST IN MAHARASHTRA

PM to Launch India's Largest Deep-Water Port

30 Aug, 2024 | Palghar, Maharashtra

What Makes **VADHVAN PORT** India's Maritime Marvel?

115. SINGAPORE AIRLINES RECEIVES APPROVAL FOR VISTARA-AIR INDIA MERGER

- Singapore Airlines has received approval from the Indian government for the foreign direct investment as part of the proposed merger of Vistara with Air India.
- This deal will create one of the world's largest airline groups.
- With the clearance in place, the merger that will see Singapore Airlines acquiring a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India is expected to be completed by the end of this year.



State News

Current Affairs

August 2024

1. POLICE LAUNCH 'NIGRAANI', ENGAGE CHOWKIDAARS TO COMBAT DRUG THREAT OR MENACE

- The Bathinda police have started an initiative of 'Nigraani' (keeping a watch) by reconnecting village chowkidars (watchmen) with local police stations.
- As part of police's community engagement, 'Mission Nigraani' has been started on a pilot project basis in around 70 villages which are affected by drug-related issues,



2. UP ASSEMBLY PASSES AMENDED ANTI-CONVERSION BILL

- The Uttar Pradesh Assembly on July 30 passed the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024 that enhances punishment for forced conversions.
- The punishment for marrying a woman by deceiving her or converting her religion was 10 years with a fine of ₹50,000. The new Bill now enhances punishment to life imprisonment.

What is UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024?

- Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna introduced the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the House on July 29.
- The proposed amendment states that if an individual threatens attacks, marries, promises to marry, conspires, or traffics a woman, minor, or anyone with the intent to convert them, the offense will be classified as among the most serious.
- If any person is found guilty of this offence, there is a provision of 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment.

3. KARNATAKA AND TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT BEGINS TALK ON "MEKEDATU PROJECT"

WHAT IS MEKEDATU PROJECT?

- The Mekedatu dam is a multi-purpose (drinking water and power) project proposed by karnataka involving the construction of a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in the Ramanagara district. Once completed, it is expected to supply over 4 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water to Bengaluru city for drinking purposes
- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, government was ready to discuss with Tamil Nadu regarding the implementation of the Mekedatu project across river Cauvery, but the neighbouring state was not coming forward despite it not "causing any problem to them".

4. TELANGANA ASSEMBLY PASSES BILL TO ESTABLISH YOUNG INDIA SKILLS UNIVERSITY

- The Telangana state assembly has passed the "Young India Skills University Telangana (Public-Private Partnership) Bill 2024.
- The bill is aimed at establishing A Skills University to impart skills in 17 subjects, which can ensure the student's employment in the competition of the course at the university.
- The SC, ST, and BC students will be provided fee reimbursement and a reservation policy will be implemented. The Government had released ₹100 crore for the purpose.

5. WHAT IS THE KARNATAKA MUDA SCAM?

- The Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), originally called the City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) when it was created in 1904, is responsible for urban planning and development in Mysuru.
- Media reports alleged gross irregularities in the allotment of residential sites by MUDA to land losers as compensation, including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi.
- MUDA started a 50:50 ratio scheme in 2020. This plan gives 50% of the developed land to the original landowners and allows MUDA to keep the other half.

6. TELANGANA GOVERNMENT TO GIVE GROUP-I POSTS OF DSP CADRE TO NIKHAT ZAREEN AND MOHD. SIRAJ

- Telangana Government has resolved to sanction Group-I posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police cadre to Boxer Nikhat Zareen and cricketer Mohammed Siraj in appreciation of their outstanding performance in their respective sports fields.



7. JHARKHAND LAUNCHES MUKHYAMANTRI MAIYAAN SAMMAN YOJANA FOR WOMEN

- The Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana was earlier called Jharkhand Behan Beti Swavalamban Protsahan Yojana.



- The Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana aims to empower the women of the state by making them financially strong.
- It also aims to improve the level of education, health and nutrition of women by providing them with financial assistance.
- **Women to get Rs 1000 per month**, Women in the age group of **21-50 years** are eligible for the scheme

8. NEW DELHI HOST 14TH INDO-VIETNAMESE DEFENCE POLICY DIALOGUE

- India hosted the **14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue** in **New Delhi**.
- The meeting was part of the wider military-to-military dialogue between the two countries to strengthen the bilateral defence relationship.

9. NAGALAND BECOME FIRST STATE TO TIE UP WITH SBI GENERAL INSURANCE FOR DISASTER RISK

10. HARYANA GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES BRINGING ALL CROPS UNDER MSP

What is the Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

- In 1966-67, the government introduced the Minimum Support Price with the objective to:
- Encourage farmers to adopt modern scientific farming to increase production,
- To raise productivity and crop production in the country to meet the emerging demand patterns in the country.

Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)

- CACP was set up in 1965 as an expert committee under the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It calculates the MSP of mandated crops and recommends them to the government.
- The government is not bound to accept the CACP's recommendations, which are advisory in nature.

Mandated Crops under MSP

- The CACP recommends MSPs for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- The mandated crops include 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 Rabi crops and 2 other commercial crops.

11. MAHARASHTRA APPROVES PRISONS AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES BILL

- The Maharashtra State government drafted and tabled the **Maharashtra Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024**.
- As 'Prisons' fall under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, it is within the exclusive domain of State governments to legislate on and regulate prisons in their jurisdiction
- Maharashtra has over 60 prisons including nine central, 28 districts, and 19 open prisons.

12. ANDHRA SCRAPS 2-CHILD POLICY FOR INDIVIDUALS TO CONTEST LOCAL BODY POLL

- The **Andhra Pradesh government** has decided to scrap the **two-child norm** for contesting local body elections in view of the declining fertility rate in the state

13. TELANGANA TOPS COUNTRY IN ORGAN DONATIONS FROM CADAVER DONORS, MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

14. HARYANA CABINET BRINGS ORDINANCE FOR BACKWARD CLASSES (B) RESERVATIONS IN PANCHAYATI RAJ INSTITUTIONS

- The amendment provides proportionate reservation for Backward Classes 'B' in Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- It is based on recommendations from the Haryana Backward Classes Commission.
- The ordinance reserves seats for BC (B) in positions like Panch, Sarpanch, Panchayat Samiti Members, and Zila Parishad Members.

15. PUNJAB FIRST SCHOOL OF HAPPINESS

- The Government Primary School at Lakher village in Anandpur Sahib will soon move to a new state-of-the-art building, designed exclusively by architects from Punjab Works Department, to lend happiness to students, with concept of 'bag-free-Saturdays'
- This innovative project aims to create a nurturing and joyful learning environment across the state by upgrading infrastructure, enhancing facilities, and integrating a holistic approach to education

16. WILL CANCEL HIGHWAY PROJECTS : GADKARI TO MANN ON ATTACK ON NHAI ENGINEERS

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has written to Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann, expressing serious concerns over recent attacks on engineers and contractors associated with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in Jalandhar and Ludhiana.
- Gadkari urged the Punjab government to take immediate corrective measures, including the registration of FIRs and strict action against those responsible for the attacks.
- If the situation does not improve, NHAI will have no other option but to cancel/terminate 8 other severely affected projects with a total length of 293 km costing ₹14,288 crore



17. PUNJAB HELP CENTRE LAUNCHED AT IGI AIRPORT TO ASSIST NRIS

- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann inaugurated the 'Punjab Help Centre' at IGI Airport, New Delhi, marking the first state-run NRI Facilitation Centre in India.
- The 24x7 centre offers assistance with flights, taxi services, lost luggage, and emergency accommodations.



18. MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT APPROVES LOGISTICS POLICY 2024

- The Maharashtra government has approved the Logistics Policy 2024, aimed at revolutionizing the state's logistics infrastructure and generating approximately 500,000 job opportunities.
- The policy includes the development of over 200 logistics parks, complexes, and truck terminals equipped with advanced facilities.

19. WHAT IS THE UPASTHITI PORTAL?

- Chief Minister Hemant Soren launched the 'Upasthiti Portal' to track daily attendance of health workers in Jharkhand.
- This system will verify biometric attendance to ensure accountability.

20. CM YOGI ADITYANATH INAUGURATES THE 'KAKORI TRAIN ACTION' CENTENARY FESTIVAL

- The Kakori Train Action was a train robbery, committed by the revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement against the British Raj on August 9, 1925, in a village called Kakori near Lucknow.
- This robbery was carried out by 10 revolutionaries including Hindustan Republican Association's revolutionary Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Keshav Chakraborty, Mukundi Lal, and Banwari Lal.
- Significantly, freedom fighters Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqullah Khan and Roshan Singh were hanged on December 19, 1927 for their involvement in the Kakori Conspiracy.
- The forest department will establish Shaheed Smriti Vatika in every district as a tribute to the martyrs of Kakori. Preparations are also underway for a Shaheed Smriti Yatra by 100 cyclists to mark the occasion
- A Kakori Literature Festival will be held, showcasing an exhibition of books related to Kakori freedom fighters, the freedom movement, and the Kakori train action.
- It is renamed because the word 'Kand' refers to the sense of humiliation of the incident during India's freedom struggle.

21. THE 'HAATIAPP', DEVELOPED IN ASSAM

- An Assam-based biodiversity organisation has developed a mobile phone application for all stakeholders toward mitigating human-elephant conflict and coexisting with the large animals in the State and elsewhere in the northeast.
- The 'HaatiApp', envisaged as an early warning system about the presence of wild elephants in the proximity of human settlements, is scheduled to be launched along with a solar fence manual.

22. MADRAS HIGH COURT RECOGNIZED IDOLS IN TEMPLES AS "LIVING PERSON "

23. MP: 1ST STATE TO PROVIDE CASH TO GIRLS STUDENT TO BUY SANITARY NAPKINS

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.

24. MAHARASHTRA GOVT APPROVES "NALGANGA-WAINGANGA RIVER LINKING PROJECTS"



25. HARYANA CM NAIB SINGH LAUNCHES "HAR GHAR HAR GRIHINI YOJANA"

- This scheme is set to provide significant relief to about 50 lakh Antyodaya families by offering domestic gas cylinders at a subsidized rate of Rs 500.
- This initiative is part of a broader effort by the Haryana government to improve the living conditions of its poorest citizens

26. HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES "HIM UNNATI YOJNA " TO PROMOTE NATURAL FARMING

Aimed at boosting production of milk, vegetables, fruits, and other cash crops through structured incentives.

27. MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES ₹1,500 MONTHLY AID UNDER 'LADKI BAHIN' SCHEME

- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that over one crore eligible women in the State will start receiving ₹1,500 per month under the government's 'Mukhyamantri Ladki Bahin' scheme, which is set to launch on August 17.
- The flagship scheme modelled after the 'Ladli Behna Yojana' introduced by the previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led government in Madhya Pradesh
- Under the Ladki Bahin scheme, underprivileged (annual family income capped at ₹2.5 lakh) women aged 21 to 65 years will get monthly financial assistance from the government.
- July will be considered the starting month. Consequently, eligible women will receive an initial installment of ₹3,000, covering two months.

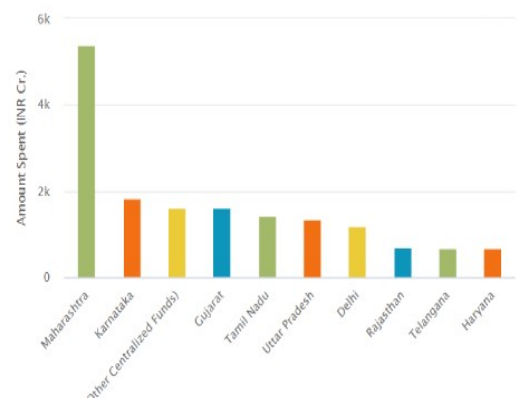
28. U.P. CM LAUNCHES MUKHYAMANTRI YUVA UDYAM VIKAS ABHIYAN YOJANA

- Announced on 78th Independence Day
- to promote entrepreneurship among youth
- Under the scheme, financial support will be provided to young individuals interested in entrepreneurship.
- With a target of establishing one million micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) units across the state.

29. ANDHRA PRADESH GOVT. AIMS TO DOUBLE HORTICULTURE CROP ACREAGE UNDER MICRO-IRRIGATION BY 2029

- The Andhra Pradesh government is considering a proposal to provide 90% subsidy to horticulture farmers opting for micro - irrigation under Andhra Pradesh Micro Irrigation Project (APMIP).
- The proposal aims to increase horticultural production by at least 15% every year through a new policy.
- At present, horticulture crops are being grown on around 15 lakh hectares in the State and the government aims to increase the acreage by at least 3 lakh hectares a year for five years, taking the total to around 30 lakh hectares.
- Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of fruits in India, contributing 15.6% of the total production.
- Andhra Pradesh ranks first in the productivity of oil palm, papaya, lime, cocoa, tomato and coconut and second in chilli in India

CSR Spent: Top 10 States



30. MAHARASHTRA LAUNCHES STATE FIRST SOLAR VILLAGE AT MANYACHIWADI

31. MAHARASHTRA HAS THE HIGHEST CSR EXPENDITURE IN FY 23

32. CM SUKHU LAUNCHES 'MUKHYAMANTRI BAL PAUSHTIK AAHAR YOJANA' IN HP

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched 'Mukhyamantri Bal Paushtik Aahar Yojana' to provide nutritious foods to school children and a scheme to provide free Tablets to primary school teachers to boost digitalisation in the state educational and administrative system.

Mukhyamantri Bal Poshtik Aahar Yojana

- The Mukhyamantri Bal Poshtik Aahar Yojana is **only for government school children**.
- Students from **nursery to class eight** will be provided **boiled eggs or fruits** once a week. The fresh fruits will be sourced from local markets based on the preferences of the children,
- The scheme will complement the **existing mid-day meal scheme** and **provide nutritious food to children in government schools**.
- It will cover **15,181 government schools** and 5,34,293 students in the state.
- The state government has allocated **Rs.12.75 crore** for the 'Mukhyamantri Bal Poshtik Aahar Yojana' for 2024-25

33. MP BECOMES 1ST STATE TO NOTIFY RULES FOR SERVING SUMMONS & WARRANTS ONLINE

- It permits the use of electronic methods such as email, messaging apps like WhatsApp and text messages in its judicial processes.
- The Madhya Pradesh Home Department has officially published the Madhya Pradesh Electronic Processes (Issuance, Service and Execution) Rules, 2024 in the Madhya Pradesh Gazette.
- this development, sanctioned under the country's new law, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, aims to accelerate judicial procedures, fortify legal proceedings and enhance the efficiency of the judicial system

34. TO PREVENT UNDERAGE MARRIAGES, ASSAM GOVT APPROVES BILL TO ABOLISH MUSLIM MARRIAGES, DIVORCE REGISTRATION ACT & RULES

- The Assam cabinet approved the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriage and Divorce Bill, 2024, mandating Muslims to register marriages and divorces with the government.
- This will eliminate the role of “qazis” in this process, and aims to curb child marriages.
 - ✓ **Objective:** The Assam government approved a new bill aimed at abolishing the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act, 1935.
 - ✓ **Main Focus:** To prevent underage marriages and streamline the registration of Muslim marriages and divorces under government authority
 - ✓ **Child Marriage:** The new bill prohibits the registration of child marriages (males under 21 years and females under 18 year)
 - ✓ **New Process:** All Muslim marriages and divorces will now be registered at the subregister's office, instead of by qazis (traditional religious authorities)

35. UTTARAKHAND HAS BECOME THE FIRST INDIAN STATE TO LAUNCH A GROSS ENVIRONMENT PRODUCT INDEX

- Uttarakhand is the first state in the world where the development of the ecosystem will be assessed through the Gross Environmental Product Index.
- The Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation is the creator of the Gross Environment Product Index.
- There are four pillars of the Gross Environment Product Index: air, soil, tree and water.

36. ODISHA CM MAJHI LAUNCHES SUBHADRA SCHEME

- Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi announced the Subhadra scheme, which will provide ₹50,000 to one crore women aged 21 to 60 over five years, with a total budget of ₹55,825 crore. Payments of ₹10,000 annually will be made in two installments each year.

37. KERALA LAUNCHES COUNTRY'S FIRST DIGITAL COURT TO HANDLE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT ACT CASES

38. POLICE SEIZE 50 GRAM OF RADIOACTIVE METAL CALIFORNIUM IN GOPALGUNJ BIHAR

39. HEMA COMMITTEE SUBMITS REPORT ON MALYALAM FILM INDUSTRY

40. THE “AARAMBH” PROGRAMME, LAUNCHED IN PUNJAB: AIMS AT ENHANCING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Aarambh” initiative is designed to focus on the holistic development of young children attending Anganwadi centres.
- It is set to provide a nurturing and play-based learning environment for children, with active participation from parents and Anganwadi workers.
- “Aarambh” is grounded in the key principles of the National Education Policy 2020 and aligns with national initiatives like the foundational “Aadharshila” and “Poshan bhi Padhai bhi” training curriculum introduced by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.



- The activities provided to parents and educators will be aligned with the state’s curriculum, ensuring they are easy to implement at home while promoting cognitive, pre-literacy, pre-numeracy, social-emotional and fine and gross motor skills in children.

41. MAHARASHTRA BECOMES FIRST STATE TO IN COUNTRY TO ADOPT UNIFIED PENSION SCHEME (UPS)

42. PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN JOSEPH FRANCIS PEREIRA BECOMES 1ST IN GOA TO GET INDIAN CITIZENSHIP UNDER CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT.

43. RAJASTHAN AND MADHYA PRADESH TO DEVELOP ‘SHRI KRISHNA GAMAN PATH’

- To boost religious tourism and cultural heritage, the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have announced plans to develop a new religious circuit called the ‘Shri Krishna Gaman Path’.
- This initiative aims to connect the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura with the sacred city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, tracing the footsteps of one of Hinduism’s most revered deities.



44. HIMACHAL PRADESH PASSES BILL TO RAISE WOMEN’S MARRIAGE AGE FROM 18 TO 21 YEARS

- The Himachal Pradesh State Assembly passed the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024, increasing the minimum age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years in order to support gender equality and higher education.
- The Bill amended the Prohibition of Child Marriage (PCM) Act, which was passed by Parliament in 2006.

45. ‘UP DIGITAL MEDIA POLICY 2024’ : RS 8 LAKH MONTHLY INCOME FOR PROMOTING POLICIES, LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR ANTI-NATIONAL CONTENT

- Under the policy, the government would give advertisements to eligible visual and digital media firms and influencers active on popular social media platforms of X, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube.

- The maximum payment to account holders, operators and influencers of X, Facebook and Instagram has been fixed at Rs 5 lakh, Rs 4 lakh, Rs 3 lakh per month
- Category-wise ceiling for payment pertaining to videos, shorts and podcasts and other type of content on YouTube has been fixed at Rs 8 lakh, Rs 7 lakh, Rs 6 lakh and Rs 4 lakh per month.

46. UP GOVT TO GIVE SCHOLARSHIP TO ALL STUDENTS OF SANSKRIT SCHOOLS

- The Uttar Pradesh government decided to give scholarships to all students studying in over 500 Sanskrit schools in the state.
- Earlier, only the children of families with annual income up to Rs 50,000 were given scholarships, but now the income limit has been removed.
- It was also decided to hike the scholarship amount for those in classes 9 to 12 in these schools.
- The new scholarship amount ranges between Rs 50 and Rs 200 per month for students.

Science & Technology

August 2024

1. INDIA'S ASTROSAT OBSERVATORY DISCOVERS VAMPIRE STAR "M67"

2. NASA DISCOVERS COLDEST EXOPLANET "EPSILON INDI-AB", 12 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH

- The discovery was made using the James Webb Space Telescope's (JWST) Mid-InfraRed Instrument (MIRI).
- The planet orbits the K5V-type star Epsilon Indi A, located 12 light-years from Earth.
- The exoplanet has a temperature of about -1°C (30°F) and orbits its star at a distance 28 times greater than the Earth-Sun distance.

3. FOOD POISONING LEADS TO FOUR DEATHS IN LISTERIOSIS OUTBREAK IN USA AND CANADA

- Listeriosis is a foodborne bacterial illness that can affect anyone exposed to a contaminated food product, including the recalled products.
- While healthy individuals can fall ill from a *Listeria* infection, the disease can be fatal for unborn babies, newborns, individuals over age 60, and those with weakened immune systems.

4. 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.
- 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

- 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..
- 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.

5. ISRO TO LAUNCH REMOTE SENSING EOS 8 SATELLITE ON 55TH FOUNDATION DAY

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** will launch its **Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08)** on 15 August 2024, its 55th foundation day.
- ISRO was formed on **15 August 1969** as the premier space agency of the government of India.
- 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.**
- 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,**

6. 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**; state-run **Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST)** launched the first components on the network. SSST's constellation has been named **"Thousand Sails."**
- The project, also known as the **G60 Constellation**, was set up last year to establish a Chinese-based global **low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite Internet network** competitor to Starlink.

7. PINE LAB SETU AND AXIS BANK LAUNCHES "UPISETU"

8. HUGE UNDERGROUND RESERVOIR OF LIQUID WATER ON MARS, SEISMIC DATA INDICATES

- A massive reservoir of liquid water, equal to an ocean, is found hiding under Mars.

- The water deposit found fractured within igneous rocks is so huge that it is enough to fill an ocean that can cover the entire Earth's planetary neighbour, concluded scientists who observed the recent seismic data of Mars.
- The claims were made based on data received from NASA's robotic InSight Lander during a mission to help decipher the interior of Mars.

9. ICMR AND PANACEA BIOTEC INITIATE THE FIRST DENGUE VACCINE PHASE 3 CLINICAL TRIAL

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotec announced the commencement of the Phase 3 clinical trial of India's first indigenous dengue vaccine, DengiAll.

- India's first indigenous dengue vaccine marks a critical advancement in our fight against dengue.
- According to WHO report approximately 75-80% of infections in India are asymptomatic, yet these individuals can transmit the infection through the bite of Aedes mosquitoes.



10. SWEDEN REPORTS MPOX CLADE I; WHO CALLS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

- Sweden has confirmed its first case of the mpox Clade I variant, marking the first occurrence of this more dangerous strain outside Africa.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has called for enhanced surveillance, data sharing, and international cooperation to manage and control the outbreak.

11. NPCI SPINS OFF BHIM INTO A SEPARATE ARM; LALITHA NATARAJ APPOINTED CEO

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) incorporated Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) as a wholly-owned subsidiary, into a new entity known as NPCI-BHIM Services Ltd (NBSL).

12. NASA "NEOWISE TELESCOPE" MISSION ENDED

- 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
- Launched in 2009, WISE originally aimed to explore the universe's farthest reaches, observing distant galaxies, supermassive blackholes.

13. SPACEX'S POLARIS DAWN MISSION: THE FIRST PRIVATE SPACEWALK

- SpaceX's upcoming Polaris Dawn mission is set to make history as the first private spacewalk.
- Five-day expedition will be led by American billionaire Jared Isaacman, who previously chartered the Inspiration4 mission in 2021.
- The mission will utilize a Falcon 9 rocket and the Crew Dragon capsule, Resilience, for its third flight

14. RARE ASTRONOMICAL OF SUPERMOON BLUEMOON SEEN ON AUGUST 19 , 2024

- This is an unusual astronomical feat — the full moon being both a "blue moon" and a "super moon," giving rise to the "Super Blue Moon," a rare trifecta of astronomical events.

15. NPCI LAUNCHES 'UPI CIRCLE' FOR SECURE PAYMENTS AMONG TRUSTED USERS

- NPCI's new 'UPI Circle' feature allows primary UPI users to delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users, enhancing convenience and security in digital transactions.

16. KERALA ISSUES ALERT AGAINST MPOX

- The State Health department has issued an alert against mpox (known earlier as Monkeypox) with the World Health Organization last week declaring that the outbreak in many African nations now has to be considered a Public Health Emergency of International Concern.
- Mpox outbreak has been spreading in many Central and Eastern African nations since 2023, The disease, caused by a virus of the same family as small pox

Mpox (Monkeypox)

- A viral zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus.
- First Human Case: Recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- Types (Clades): Two known clades – Clade I (Central Africa) and Clade II (West Africa)
- Symptoms: Skin rash, fever, headache, muscle aches, back pain, and swollen lymph nodes.
- Transmission: Through direct contact with body fluids (including sexual contact) or indirect contact with contaminated clothing or bedding.
- Treatment: No specific treatments for monkeypox virus infection.

17. 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 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.
- The RHUMI-1 reusable hybrid rocket was launched from a mobile launcher in Thiruvudandhai, a coastal village in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- RUHMI-1, a sounding rocket, flew at an altitude of about **35 km** and returned to Earth after conducting several experiments within seconds.

18. BHARAT BIOTECH UNVEILS ORAL CHOLERA VACCINE AMID GLOBAL SHORTAGE

- **Bharat Biotech International Ltd** has launched **Hillchol (BBV131)**, a novel single-strain oral cholera vaccine (OCV) developed under license from **Hilleman Laboratories**.
- This launch is critical as global demand for **OCVs exceeds 100 million** doses annually, and there has been a deficit of approximately **40 million doses** due to limited supply.

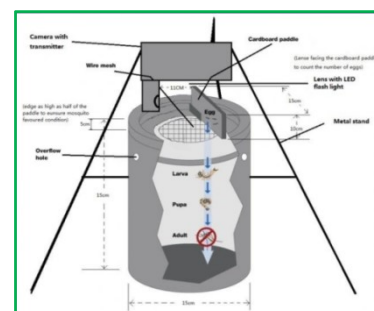
19. INDIA DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS RT-PCR TESTING KIT FOR MPOX

- The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation** has granted approval to **Siemens Healthineers** for the manufacture of **RT-PCR** testing kits for detection of **Mpox**,
- **IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR** "The **IMDX Monkeypox Detection RT-PCR** Assay is a molecular diagnostic test that targets **two distinct regions in the viral genome**, spanning both **clade I and clade II variants of the virus**

20. NASA LAUNCHES TANAGER-1 SATELLITE TO TRACK METHANE AND CARBON DIOXIDE EMISSIONS

21. WHAT IS AN OVITRAP?

- To curb the spread of mosquito-borne diseases like dengue and malaria, the Health Department and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have installed ovitraps, a first-of-a-kind initiative in Bengaluru.
- Ovitraps, which attract and eliminate mosquitoes, have been installed in Gopalpura
- An ovitrap is a pot-shaped device which is filled with a combination of water and certain chemicals.
- This chemical mixture attracts egg-laying mosquitoes, specifically **Aedes** mosquitoes, and destroys them once they are trapped.

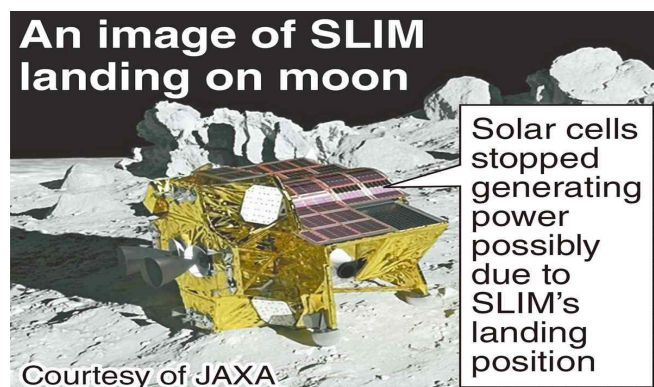


22. JAPAN'S SLIM MOON MISSION SUSPENDS OPERATION AFTER CONTACT WAS LOST

23. CLUSTER "BARBA-2" WITH GIANT STAR MILLIONS OF TIMES BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN DISCOVERED IN MILKY WAY

24. INDIA'S 2ND NUCLEAR MISSILE SUBMARINE COMMISSIONED BY RAJNATH SINGH

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is set to commission **India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Arighat (S-3)**, at a quiet event in Visakhapatnam, marking a significant boost to **India's nuclear deterrence and second-strike capability**.
- This submarine, armed with **750-km range K-15 nuclear ballistic missiles**, will patrol the **Indo-Pacific under India's strategic command**.
- With the commissioning of **INS Arighat**, India now has two **SSBNs – INS Arihant (S-2) and INS Arighat** – reinforcing its nuclear triad



25. NASA ENGINEERS DESIGN UNDERWATER ROBOTS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

- **NASA engineers** are developing **underwater robot probes** to measure the **rate of ice shelf melting in Antarctica** due to **climate change**.
- These robots, **developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory**, aim to provide accurate data to improve predictions of sea level rise.
- The project involves deploying prototypes in **harsh environments like the Arctic**.

26. NPCI INTRODUCES BBPS FOR BUSINESS, UPI CIRCLE TO BOOST DIGITAL PAYMENTS

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the introduction of two new offerings:
 1. **Bharat BillPay (BBPS) for Business**, designed to **streamline business-to-business (B2B) transactions**
 2. **UPI Circle**, which is a **delegated payments feature**
- RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das unveiled these products at the Global FinTech Festival in Mumbai.
- **Bharat BillPay for Business** - aims to standardise, simplifies and automates various invoice payment processes for day-to-day business operations irrespective of size of the business.
 - ✓ Offerings like **business onboarding search and add business**, **purchase order (PO) creation**; **invoice management**, **automated reminders**, **financing**, **AR (Accounts Receivable)** and **AP (Accounts Payable) dashboard**, and **online dispute resolution** are inbuilt in this platform.
 - ✓ **UPI Circle** is a **delegated payment feature** that allows a **primary UPI user** to link with **trusted secondary users**, granting them **partial or full access** to their account for making payments.

Artificial Intelligence

August 2024

1. 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.
- 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.
- SEBI launched SCORES 2.0 on 1 April 2024 with advanced features.



Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

- The Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established in 1988 by a resolution of the government of India.
- It was made a statutory body in 1992 under the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act 1992.
- It is the regulator of the Capital market and the Commodities market in India.
- It works for the protection of investors in the securities market and the development of the securities market in India.
- Like other financial regulators in India, SEBI is also under the Union Ministry of Finance.

Headquarters: Mumbai
Chairperson: Madhabi Puri Buch

2. BANK OF BARODA UNVEILS AI POWERED VIRTUAL ASSISTANT "VRM" AND NEW PAYMENT APPS "BOBBYPAY" AND "MDIGINEXT"

3. MICROSOFT'S GITHUB LAUNCHES PLAYGROUND FOR AI MODELS

- Microsoft's developer platform GitHub has announced GitHub Models, an interactive sandbox environment for developers and engineers to explore different AI models for free.
- Leading models like Meta AI's Llama 3.1, OpenAI's GPT-4o and GPT-4o mini, Mistral AI's Mistral Large 2 and Cohere's Command will be among the options available.

4. CENTRE LAUNCHES NEW AI-BASED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM TO MANAGE PESTS

The Union Government on launched the AI-based National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) that will help farmers to connect with agriculture scientists and experts on controlling pests using their phone.

5. AIRTEL PAYMENTS BANK ENHANCES SECURITY WITH AI-POWERED FACE MATCH

- Airtel Payments Bank has launched Face Match, an AI-driven security feature that uses facial recognition to enhance account protection.
- It evaluates various risk factors and prompts users for selfie verification if suspicious activity is detected aiming to combat fraud and ensure secure transaction.

6. RELIANCE AGM 2024: MUKESH AMBANI UNVEILS 'JIO BRAIN' AI SUITE

- During Reliance Industries' 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM), Chairman Mukesh Ambani announced a groundbreaking development in the field of artificial intelligence.
- The company's telecom arm, Reliance Jio, is set to launch a comprehensive suite of AI tools and applications called 'Jio Brain'.
- Jio Brain is designed to cover the entire artificial intelligence lifecycle, offering a range of tools and applications for businesses and enterprises.
- This innovative platform aims to integrate Jio's 5G network capabilities with advanced machine learning technologies.



Defence

August 2024

1. INDIAN NAVY'S INS SHALKI ARRIVES IN COLOMBO FOR TWO-DAY VISIT

- Indian submarine **INS Shalki** is on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka in reflection of growing maritime security cooperation between the two countries.
- **INS Shalki** is **Shishumar class diesel-electric submarine**, commissioned into the Indian Navy on February 7, 1992.
- It is the first ever submarine to be built in India.

2. IAF GIVES GREEN SIGNAL TO BDL TO PRODUCE 200 ASTRA MK-1 MISSILE

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** developed the **Astra Mk-1**, which is being manufactured by **Bharat Dynamics Limited**, a public-sector company.
- 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.

3. SHIVALIK WINS NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT COMPETITION AT RIMPAC 2024

- INS Shivalik of the Eastern Fleet has emerged victorious in the **Naval Gunfire Support Competition** at the Rim of the Pacific Exercise- 2024 (RIMPAC-2024), held in Hawaii and **won the coveted RODEO trophy**.
- The event which featured 25 partner nations

About Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise:

- 29th biennial Exercise Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC), a multinational exercise involving 29 nations and more than 25,000 personnel, in and around the Hawaiian Islands.
- It's one of the largest biennial multilateral Naval Exercises, which is led by US.
- The RIMPAC started in 1971 as an annual exercise by the US, Australia, and Canada. But from 1974, maritime exercise became a biennial event.
- India first participated in RIMPAC in 2014 with INS Sahyadri.
- Theme 2024: "Partners: Integrated and Prepared."

4. ITBP TO GET RUSSIAN KAMAZ TYPHOON VEHICLE FOR LAC

- The **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** has successfully conducted a demonstration and trial of the formidable **Typhoon vehicle** at its **Transport Battalion in Chandigarh**
- **Kamaz-53949 Typhoon-K** is a Russian-made 4x4 **Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP)** vehicle.
- It was developed by **Remdiesel**, a subsidiary of **KamAZ**.
- Maximum road speed of **100 km/h** and a range of up to **1,000 km** without refueling.



Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBPF)

- It is a **Central Armed Police Force** functioning under the **Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India**.
- The ITBP was raised on **24 October 1962** during the **Indo-China War**.
- **DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ITBP : RAHUL RASGOTRA**

5. INDIAN ARMY CONDUCTS 'PARVAT PRAHAAR' EXERCISE IN LADAKH

- The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, '**Parvat Prahaar**', in **Ladakh**, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations.
- This exercise is crucial for maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of the Army in the region, which is close to the **India-China border**.

6. IAF SU-30 MKI RETURN AFTER PARTICIPATING IN EXERCISE UDARA SHAKTI 2024

- The **Indian Air Force** contingent of seven **Sukhoi-30 MKI** returned to India on **10 August 2024** after participating in the bilateral **Exercise Udara Shakti 2024** with the **Royal Malaysian Air Force**.
- The **Royal Malaysian Air Force** hosted **Exercise Udara Shakti 2024** at its base in **Kuantan, Malaysia**,
- Along with **Russia**, the **Indian Air Force** is one of the largest operators of **Sukhoi Su-30** fighter jets. The Indian variant of the **Sukhoi Su-30** fighter jet is called the **Su-30MKI (Modernised Commercial for India)** **Modernizirovanny Kommercheskiy Indiytskiy**, meaning "M")

7. IIT INDORE DEVELOPS E-SHOES FOR LIVE LOCATION TRACKING

- **IIT Indore** has created advanced shoes incorporating **Tribo-Electric Nanogenerator (TENG)** technology, which generates electricity from human motion and integrates **GPS for real-time location tracking**.



- These shoes, delivered to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), aim to enhance the safety and efficiency of armed forces personnel and have applications in various other fields.

8. 10TH BILATERAL MITRA SHAKTI MILITARY EXERCISE COMMENCES IN SRI LANKA

- The annual bilateral **Mitra Shakti** military exercise between the **Indian Army** and the **Sri Lankan Army** commenced in the **Sri Lankan Army Training School, Maduru Oya**, on 12 August 2024.
- The annual **Mitra Shakti** exercise started in **2012** and is held alternately in India and Sri Lanka.
- The 2024 exercise is the 10th edition, and the **9th exercise** was held in Pune, India, in 2023.

9. INDIAN NAVY TO LAUNCH ITS SECOND NUCLEAR SUBMARINE "INS ARIGHAT"

- The **INS Arighat**, India's **second indigenously built SSBN**, is currently in the final stages of trials and upgrades as required by the Indian Navy.
- According to sources, the submarine is expected to be officially commissioned into service within the next two months. Once commissioned, **INS Arighat** will join **INS Arihant**, which was inducted into the Navy in 2016, as part of India's growing fleet of nuclear submarines.

10. DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TESTED ITS FIRST LONG-RANGE GLIDE BOMB, GAURAV

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested its Long-Range Glide Bomb, **Gaurav**, off the coast of Odisha.
- The smart bomb was dropped from the Indian Air Force's **Su-30 MK-I** fighter plane. **The successful testing of the smart bomb is likely to enhance the Indian Air Force's combat capability.**
- Long-range Glide Bombs are smart bombs that enable the Air Force to hit targets that are beyond the reach of conventional munitions. They are dropped by a fighter plane at a safe distance from the enemy air defence system.

11. DEFENCE MINISTRY TEAM HOIST TRICOLOUR FLAG ON MOUNT KILIMANJARO UNDER MISSION KANCHENJUNGA

12. INDIA DEVELOPS INDIGENOUS KAMIKAZE DRONES AHEAD OF 78TH INDEPENDENCE DAY: REPORT

- The **National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)** has unveiled a groundbreaking development in defence technology: fully indigenous kamikaze drones.
- These "do-and-die" unmanned aerial vehicles, equipped with home-built engines, are capable of flying up to **1,000 kilometers**, marking a significant stride in India's defense capabilities
- Kamikaze drones also known as loitering munitions



13. RECENTLY, JAPAN ISSUED ITS FIRST-EVER 'MEGAQUAKE ADVISORY' ON THE NANKAI TROUGH, A SUBDUCTION ZONE

- A 7.1-magnitude earthquake struck southern Japan, prompting the Japan Meteorological Agency to issue its first-ever "megaquake advisory."
- The advisory highlighted an increased likelihood of strong shaking and large tsunamis, particularly along the Nankai Trough, a subduction zone along Japan's southwest Pacific coast.



What is the Nankai Trough?

- ✓ The **Nankai Trough** is an underwater subduction zone (nearly **900 km** long) where the **Eurasian Plate** collides with the **Philippine Sea Plate**, pushing the latter under the former and into the **Earth's mantle**.
- ✓ This accumulates tectonic stress which can cause a megaquake — an earthquake with a magnitude larger than 8.
- ✓ These tremors usually come in pairs, with the second often rupturing in the subsequent two years — the most recent "twin" earthquakes took place in 1944 and 1946.

14. NIPUN MUNITION

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has transferred the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of the 'Nipun' munition to the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) at the Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pashan, Pune
- **NIPUN** is a new anti-personnel mine designed and developed by the Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pune, India, in collaboration with the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
- The mine is intended to be the first line of defense against enemy infantry and infiltrators, and is meant to be used against humans.
- **NIPUN** is considered to be more effective and potent than existing anti-personnel mines, and is said to be safe to handle, transport, and lay

15. ICG DG RAKESH PAL DIES OF CARDIAC ARREST

16. RAJNATH SINGH INAUGURATED NEW MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION CENTRE OF INDIAN COAST GUARD IN CHENNAI

He also inaugurated the Marine Pollution Response Centre in Chennai and the Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry.

17. ULCHI FREEDOM SHIELD EXERCISES

- **UFS 24** is an annual exercise by the **Republic of Korea** and **United States**

- For the first time in recent history, the **51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea**, is incorporating its recurring wing readiness exercise into **Ulchi Freedom Shield 24**

18. INDIAN AIR FORCE'S SARANG TEAM TO SHOWCASE AT EGYPT INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW 2023

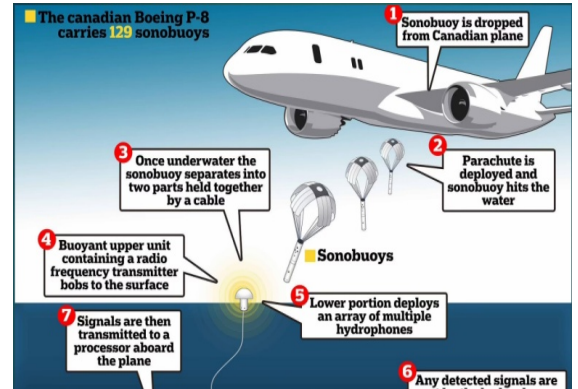
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken a significant step in international aviation diplomacy by dispatching its renowned **Sarang Helicopter Display Team** to participate in the inaugural **Egypt International Airshow**.
- This event, scheduled from **September 3 to 5, 2023**, at the **Al-Alamein International Airport** in **Egypt's El Dabaa**, marks a crucial moment for India to demonstrate its indigenous aviation capabilities on the global stage.

19. INDIA TO INK REPEAT ORDER FOR 73,000 SIG 716 RIFLES FROM THE US

- The Indian Defence Ministry is finalizing a repeat order for **73,000 SiG 716 G2 patrol assault rifles from the US** to equip its frontline troops.
- This follows a **2019 procurement of 72,400 SiG 716 rifles (7.62 x 51mm calibre)** under the '**Buy (Global)**' category through a fast-track procedure, which were distributed across the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

20. US APPROVED A \$52.8 MILLION DEAL TO SELL ANTI SUBMARINE WARFARE SONOBUOYS TO INDIA

- **Sonobuoys** are electro-mechanical acoustic sensors that relay underwater sounds emitted from ships & submarines; they are critical for anti-submarine warfare.
- A naval helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft generally drops sonobuoys in a pattern. An inflatable system with a radio transmitter remains on the surface for communication with the ship or aircraft tracking it while sensors descend below the surface to predetermined depth.



21. FIRST INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED POLLUTION CONTROL VESSEL LAUNCHED IN GOA

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** launched its first indigenously developed **Pollution Control Vessel, 'Samudra Pratap,'** in **Goa**.
- Emphasized the need for industry partners to contribute towards India becoming fully self-sufficient (Aatmanirbhar) in defense production and a net exporter.
- The vessel, built by **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**, aims to address **oil spillage along India's coastlines** and represents a significant milestone in indigenous shipbuilding.

Sports

Current Affairs

August 2024

1. INDIAN TENNIS LEGEND ROHAN BOPANNA ANNOUNCES RETIRE AFTER PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

2. THE 'PHRYGE', THE MASCOT

- The 'Phryge', the mascot of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Inspired by the traditional Phrygian hats, this mascot embodies a deep-seated symbol of freedom [the little red hat, known as a Phrygian cap (or a liberty cap), is a symbol of the French liberation].
- These caps stand for "freedom, identity and spirit in France"
- The Olympic Phryge and the Paralympic Phryge live by the mantra — "Alone we go faster, but together we go further",
- There are three sports that are being dropped from the Paris Olympics, which were there at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021: baseball, softball and karate.



3. 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,
- 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.

4. MANIKA BATRA BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TABLE TENNIS PLAYER TO REACH ROUND OF 16 IN OLYMPICS SINGLES

- Defeated higher-ranked Prithika Pavade of France.
- The 29-year-old Manika, gold medallist at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

5. INDIAN BADMINTON STAR ASHWINI PONNAPPA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER PLAYING HER 'LAST OLYMPICS'

- In 2011, Ashwini and Jwala made history by becoming the first Indian pair to win a medal – a bronze – at the World Championships.

6. NORMAN PRITCHARD: COLONISED INDIA'S FIRST ATHLETE TO WIN TWO MEDALS IN SAME OLYMPICS

- On July 30, British-Indian Norman Pritchard was trending again when Manu Bhaker became the country's first athlete in the post-independence era to win two Games medals in a single edition.
- Because Pritchard had done it pre-independence in the 1900 edition, which also took place in Paris, by winning silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles.

7. INDIA'S FIRST-EVER NIGHT STREET RACING EVENT TO BE HELD IN CHENNAI

- Chennai will host India's first-ever night street racing event, the second round of the Indian Racing Festival.

8. INDIAN TEAM WINS ONE GOLD, TWO SILVER, AND A BRONZE AT 56TH INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

- The Competition was held in Riyadh city of Saudi Arabia from the 21st to the 30th of this month.
- Devesh Bhaiyya from the Jalgaon district of Maharashtra won gold

9. USA'S KATIE LEDECKY WINS OLYMPIC 1500M FREESTYLE GOLD, CREATES HISTORY

- She secured a record-equaling 8th gold medal in the sport.
- Ledecy now shares the record for most Olympic gold medals in women's swimming with American Jenny Thompson
- She has also become most decorated woman swimmer in history with 13th Olympic medals

10. DJOKOVIC COMPLETES CAREER GOLDEN SLAM

- Serbia's **Novak Djokovic** clinched gold in the tennis men's singles event at the Paris Olympics 2024, as he beat **Spain's Carlos Alcaraz** and took revenge for the **Wimbledon final loss** less than a month ago
- Djokovic, thereby, won an **Olympic gold for the first time** in his career, to add to his **24 Grand Slam titles**

11. EGYPTIAN FENCER NADA HAFEZ SEVEN MONTHS PREGNANT WHILE COMPETING AT PARIS 2024 OLYMPICS

- Egyptian **fencer Nada Hafez** has revealed she was "carrying a little Olympian" when competing while **seven months pregnant** at the **Paris 2024 Olympics**.



12. **LT COL KABILAN SAI ASHOK, INDIA'S YOUNGEST BOXING REFEREE AT OLYMPICS**
13. **AVINASH SABLE BECOMES FIRST INDIAN MAN TO QUALIFY FOR 3000 M STEEPLECHASE FINAL AT OLYMPICS**
14. **SHUTTLE LAKSHYA SEN LOSES BRONZE MEDAL MATCH TO MALAYSIA'S LEE ZII JIA AT PARIS OLYMPICS**
 - Lakshya Sen beat Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen in the quarterfinal.
 - India has won two bronze medals in badminton through Saina Nehwal (2008) and PV Sindhu (2021)
15. **NOAH LYLES WINS U.S. MEN'S 100-METER OLYMPIC GOLD IN 20 YEARS**
 - 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.
16. **STAR SHOOTER MANU BHAKER SET TO BE INDIA'S FLAGBEARER IN CLOSING CEREMONY**
17. **PARIS OLYMPICS- HEARTBREAK FOR VINESH PHOGAT DISQUALIFIED BEFORE FINAL**



Sr. No	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

18. **DINESH KARTHIK, A NEW AMBASSADOR FOR SA20 LEAGUE**
19. **NEERAJ CLINCHES SILVER WITH SEASON-BEST THROW; NADEEM WINS GOLD**
 - Nadeem Arshad becomes the first Pakistani to win an individual gold in the Olympics. Pakistan win Olympic medal after 32 years.
20. **INDIA VS SPAIN HOCKEY PARIS OLYMPICS 2024: IND BEAT SPN 2-1 TO WIN SECOND CONSECUTIVE BRONZE**
21. **AFGHANISTAN CRICKETER IHSANULLAH JANNAT BANNED FOR 5 YEARS FOR MATCH-FIXING**
22. **PARIS OLYMPICS 2024: VINESH PHOGAT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM WRESTLING**
23. **INDIA GOT THE SIXTH MEDAL IN THE PARIS OLYMPICS 2024. INDIAN WRESTLER AMAN SEHRAWAT WON THE BRONZE MEDAL IN THE MEN'S FREESTYLE 57 KG WEIGHT CATEGORY**
24. **INDIA WINS CAVA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL NATIONS LEAGUE FOR THE SECOND TIME**
 - India lifted the CAVA (Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League final after beating hosts Nepal 3-2 at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu.
 - This victory marked India's second title in the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League
25. **VINESH PHOGAT APPEALS AGAINST DISQUALIFICATION IN COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORTS**
 - Vinesh Phogat has appealed against her disqualification from the 50kg category in Paris Olympics 2024 finals in the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS).
 - Phogat has demanded that she should be awarded a joint silver medal after being forced out of the category for being 100 gms overweight.
26. **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.
 - Sharath Kamal and PV Sindhu were the Indian flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the Paris Olympics.
27. **THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF OLYMPICS WAS HELD IN FRANCE'S BIGGEST STADIUM, STADE DE FRANCE, IN PARIS**



28. HARYANA TO COMMENCE FIRST-EVER GLOBAL WOMEN'S KABADDI LEAGUE IN SEPTEMBER

- Organized by the Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association (HIPSA) in partnership with World Kabaddi.
- The GPKL will showcase teams from a diverse range of countries, including England, Poland, Argentina, Canada, and Italy, with athletes from these nations expressing keen interest in participating.

29. PARA SHUTTLE 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

30. PR SREEJESH APPOINTED AS NEW HEAD COACH OF INDIA'S JUNIOR MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

31. KAVIN QUINTAL (CHENNAI), THE FIRST INDIAN TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE WORLD SUPERBIKE CHAMPIONSHIP

32. THE ICC PLAYERS OF THE MONTH FOR JULY 2024 - ENGLAND'S GUS ATKINSON AND SRI LANKA'S CHAMARI ATHAPATHTHU

33. SUMIT ANTIL & BHAGYASHRI JADHAV: 2024 PARIS PARALYMPICS FLAG BEARER

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

A total of 22 sports will be held at the Paris Paralympics.

34. HOCKEY INDIA RETIRES JERSEY NUMBER 16 IN HONOUR OF PR SREEJESH

- Hockey India has retired jersey number 16 from the national senior men's team in honour of goalkeeper PR Sreejesh.
- Hockey India termed Sreejesh the 'God of Modern Indian Hockey'.
- Sreejesh recently announced his retirement from Hockey after a successful Paris Olympics.
- Hockey India has also decided to appoint Sreejesh as the coach of the junior men's hockey team.



35. S. AFRICAN FORMER PLAYER MORNE MORKEL APPOINTED AS BOWLING COACH OF INDIA

36. FORMER INDIA CRICKETER VVS LAXMAN IS SET TO EXTEND HIS TERM AS THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY (NCA)

37. RIIOHLANG APPOINTED ASST. REFEREE FOR 8TH FIFA U-17 WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

- The world football governing body FIFA has selected Meghalay's Riiohlang Dhar as an assistant referee for the eighth U-17 Women's World Cup to be held in the Dominican Republic.

38. INDIA SHINES AT 17TH INTERNATIONAL EARTH SCIENCES OLYMPIAD

- India's student team has secured three gold medals, three bronze medals, and two silver prestigious medals
- At the 17th International Earth Sciences Olympiad (IESO) held in Beijing, China.

39. SAMOA BATSMAN DARIUS VISSER SMASHES 39 IN AN OVER IN T-20I BREAKS YUVRAJ SINGH 17 YEAR'S OLD INTERNATIONAL RECORD

40. SATYA PRAKASH SANGWAN APPOINTED AS CHEF DE MISSION FOR PARIS PARALYMPICS 2024

- FOR The First Time in Paralympics Para Cycling, Para Rowing and Blind Judo Played In Olympics

41. 9TH ICC T20 WOMEN WORLD CUP SHIFTED TO UAE FROM BANGLADESH DUE TO BANGLADESH UNREST

42. TWICE MOTOGP CHAMPION FRANCESCO BAGNAIA WON THE AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX (MOTORCYCLE RACING)

43. PANKAJ ADVANI WINS BILLIARDS FINAL OF WESTERN INDIA BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

44. SINNER AND SABALENKA CLAIM CINCINNATI OPEN TITLES

- Top-ranked Jannik Sinner and women's No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka each secured their first Cincinnati Open titles with straight-set victories.
- Sabalenka defeated Jessica Pegula 6-3, 7-5,
- Sinner overcame Frances Tiafoe 7-6 (4), 6-2.
- This marks a significant milestone for both players, with Sinner becoming the youngest Cincinnati champion since Andy Murray in 2008.



45. SMRITI MANDHANA MOVES TO THIRD IN ICC ODI RANKINGS

- India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana has jumped one spot to third in the latest ICC ODI rankings for women
- Mandhana is the top-ranked Indian batter in the 50-over format while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur retained her ninth position.
- Mandhana also held on to her fourth spot in the T20 rankings.

46. GERMANY CAPTAIN ILKAY GUNDOGAN ANNOUNCES INTERNATIONAL RETIREMENT FROM FOOTBALL

47. ROHIT SHARMA VIRAT KOHLI HONOURED AT THE 26TH CEAT CRICKET AWARDS

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)
Performance in Domestic Cricket (Men)	
Cricketer of the Year	Sai Kishore. Left-arm spinner from Tamil Nadu
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

48. NEERAJ CHOPRA'S 2ND BEST THROW EVER AT 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

49. KHELO INDIA'S ASMITA YOGASANA LEAGUE TO BEGIN IN BIHAR

- Khelo India's ASMITA Yogasana League (East Zone) began at Patliputra Sports Complex in Patna, Bihar.
- The three-day East Zonal League will conclude on 24th of August.
- These states are Bihar, Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha

50. U17 WRESTLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: RONAK DAHIYA WINS BRONZE

- Ronak Dahiya bagged a bronze medal in the 110kg Greco-Roman category of the U17 World Wrestling Championship. Ronak, ranked second in the world.
- World Wrestling Championships in Amman, Jordan.

51. DIANA PUNDOLE: FIRST INDIAN WOMAN RACER TO WIN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT MRF INDIAN NATIONAL CAR RACING CHAMPIONSHIP 2024 HELD IN CHENNAI

52. SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN RELEASES AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ACTIVIST KALPANA SANKAR

- Soumya Swaminathan, Chairperson of MS Swaminathan Research Foundation and former WHO chief scientist, released 'The Scientist Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women'.
- The book highlights Dr. Sankar's journey in empowering women through her NGO, Hand in Hand India, and her contributions to microfinance and rural development.

53. SHIKHAR DHAWAN RETIRES FROM ALL FORMS OF CRICKET

- 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.

54. FIRST-EVER WOMEN'S TEST MATCH BETWEEN INDIA AND ENGLAND TO BE PLAYED IN 2026 AT LORD'S CRICKET GROUND

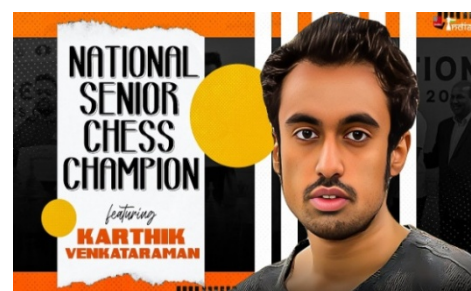
55. INDIAN SURFING TEAM SECURES HISTORIC FIRST QUOTA FOR 2026 ASIAN GAMES

- 2026 Asian Games to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- 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.

56. INDIAN WOMEN CLINCH FIRST-EVER TEAM TITLE AT U-17 WRESTLING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN JORDAN

- Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Amman, Jordan, Indian women win it's first-ever team title with 185 points.

- Indian women signed off with 8 medals, including 5 gold, one silver, and two bronze.
- India won a total of 10 medals in the championship, with two bronze medals coming in Greco-Roman wrestling.
- 57. ODISHA'S TANVI PATRI: 2024 ASIAN WOMEN SINGLES U-15 BADMINTON CHAMPION**
 - 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.
 - The Badminton Asia U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships 2024 was held in Chengdu, People's Republic of China
 - Samiaya Imad Farooqui in 2017 and Tasnim Mir in 2019 won the singles title in the Asian U-15 championship.
- 58. LANDO NORRIS WINS DUTCH GRAND PRIX 2024**
- 59. KHELO INDIA ASMITA WUSHU LEAGUE (WEST ZONE) TO BEGIN ON AUGUST 25 IN UTTAR PRADESH**
 - The Khelo India ASMITA Wushu League (West Zone) is all set to begin in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.
 - The four-day league will last till the 27th of August.
 - Women athletes from various West Zone states including Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat and others will be participating in this event.
- 60. 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,
 - India is the defending champion of the Men's Asian Champions Trophy, having won the 7th edition in Chennai in 2023.
- 61. KARTHIK VENKATARAMAN CLINCHES SECOND INDIAN NATIONAL TITLE**
 - Karthik Venkataraman won the 61st edition of the Indian National Championship after scoring 9/11 points at the event organised by the Haryana Chess Association.
 - This is the second victory in a national championship for Karthik, who had also won the tournament in 2022. Surya Ganguly and Neelash Saha scored as many points as the champion, but finished in second and third place on tie-breaks.
- 62. M. V. MURALIKRISHNA, A RENOWNED BADMINTON COACH FROM VISHAKHAPATNAM, NAMED COACH OF INDIAN TEAM FOR PARALYMPICS GAMES IN PARIS**
- 63. INDIA SPINNER ASHWIN QUESTIONS RTM (THE RIGHT TO MATCH) RULE AHEAD OF IPL 2025 AUCTION**
 - RTM is a rule through which franchises can retain a player, who represented them in the previous season and whom they didn't retain before the auction, if they match the highest bid placed by a franchise during the auction.
 - The RTM rule was first introduced in 2014 and has not been used in IPL auctions since 2018.
- 64. SHANNON GABRIEL WEST INDIES FAST BOWLER, DAWID MALAN, ENGLAND'S FORMER TOP-RANKED T20 BATTER, RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET**
- 65. V SRIRAMULU WINS 3 GOLD MEDALS AT WORLD MASTERS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP IN SWEDEN**
 - Mr. Sriramulu, aged 101 years, clinched gold in javelin, discus and shotput in the world Masters Athletics Championship
- 66. TEAM INDIA WINS 1 GOLD, 4 SILVER MEDALS AT INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD ON ASTRONOMY**
 - 17 International Olympiad on Astronomy (IOAA) happened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 - India was placed in the eighth position
 - Winner - Iran (5 golds)
- 67. MANISH NARWAL SECURES SILVER IN MEN'S 10M AIR PISTOL SH1 EVENT AT PARIS PARALYMPICS 2024**
- 68. AVANI LEKHARA BREAKS PARALYMPIC RECORD**
 - Para shooter Avani Lekhara created history, by becoming the first Indian woman to win two gold medals at Paralympics.
 - Avani, who became the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic Games gold medal during the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event at the Tokyo 2020 edition, retained her title in Paris
 - This is Avani's third medal at the Paralympic Games. She had also won a bronze medal in the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 event in Tokyo.
- 69. BANGLADESH CROWNS NEW CHAMPION OF SAFF U-20 CHAMPIONSHIP**
 - Bangladesh has been crowned the new champion of the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U20 Championship football tournament after defeating hosts Nepal in the final
 - This is the first time that Bangladesh has won this Championship.
 - India had won SAFFU-20 in 2019, 2022 and 2023.
- 70. NATASHA WINS IBSF WORLD UNDER-21 WOMEN'S SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP**
- 71. SHOOTING RANGE ESTABLISHED IN GWALIOR, MADHYA PRADESH IN THE NAME OF OLYMPIC MEDALIST MANU BHARKER**



Awards

August 2024

1. IIT-KHARAGPUR BESTOWS PICHAI WITH DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, WIFE ANJALI DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD IN SAN FRANCISCO

- IIT-Kharagpur bestowed the honour on Pichai for his work towards “digital transformation, affordable technology, and pathbreaking innovations”.

2. JITENDRA SINGH CONFERRED THE PRESTIGIOUS “LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD”

- In a ceremony to mark the International Meet of leading medical celebrities, professionals and Medicos from all over the country and abroad, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was conferred the prestigious “Lifetime Achievement Award”



3. ANDHRA PRADESH RECEIVES JEEVANDAN AWARD

- For the first time, Andhra Pradesh received the Jeevandan Award in recognition of its services in organ donations and awareness campaigns.

4. 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 the first Indian President to visit the South Pacific island nation of Fiji.

5. 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.
- 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).
- The award consists of a medal and a citation; no cash prize is awarded.

6. NEKARA RATHNA AWARD TO SANJEEV SHETTIGAR AND SOMAPPA JATHANNA

- The Kadike Trust, working for the revival of traditional Udupi saris, has chosen Sanjeeva Shettigar and Somappa Jathanna for its Nekara Rathna awards in recognition of their lifetime contribution to weaving



7. ANANT DARSHAN SHANKAR RECEIVES M.S. SWAMINATHAN ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AWARD

- Established one of the largest conservation networks of wild medicinal plants.
- The Norman Borlaug – 1998 , Padmashri - 2011

8. GOVINDRAJAN PADMANABHAN TO BE HONOURED WITH FIRST VIGYAN RATNA AWARD

9. B. JEYAMOHAN AWARDED FIRST “BOOK BRAHMA SAHITYA PURASKARA”

- Tamil and Malayalam writer B. Jeyamohan was awarded the inaugural Book Brahma Sahitya Puraskara - 2024, at the three-day Book Brahma Literature Festival.
- The award is given to an Indian language writer and carries a purse of ₹2 lakh.
- He is acclaimed for authoring Venmurasu(The White Drum), the world's longest novel
- Book Brahma, a Kannada literature and book catalogue portal



10. ISRO CHAIRMAN S. SOMNATH GETS HONORARY DOCTORATE

- Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot bestowed the honorary doctorate awarded by Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Belgagavi and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad on ISRO Chairman S. Somnath.

11. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FROM KALINGA PRIZE

- The Science and Technology Ministry has withdrawn its contribution to the prestigious UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science
- Former Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has protested the withdrawal and requested the restoration of support.
- About the UNESCO Kalinga Prize for Popularisation of Science
 - ✓ UNESCO's oldest award, instituted through a donation by Odisha's former Chief Minister
 - ✓ Instituted by his father legendary Biju Patnaik in 1952.
 - ✓ The prize winner is selected by UNESCO's Director-General on the recommendation of a five-member jury

- UNESCO Kalinga Prize is the only international award from India in the field of popularisation of science
- 12. ANDHRA PRADESH WINS INDIAN WIND POWER ASSOCIATION'S GREEN ENERGY CHAMPION AWARD FOR 2023-24**
- 13. RGIA CLINCHES BEST AIRPORT AWARD FOR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR**
- The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad has once again been recognized as the Best Airport at the prestigious India Travel Awards, marking its third consecutive win in this category.
- 14. BEYPORE RESPONSIBLE TOURISM PROJECT IN KERALA BAGS ICRT GOLD AWARD**
- The Comprehensive Responsible Tourism (CRT) project being implemented by the Kerala Tourism in Beypore has won the Gold award of the International Centre for Responsible Tourism, India Chapter, (ICRT India) for 2024.
- The award in the 'Employing and upskilling local community' category has been given
- 15. PREZ MURMU CONFERS NATIONAL GEOSCIENCE AWARD TO 21 GEOSCIENTISTS**
- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious 2023 National Geoscience Awards to the winners at a ceremony in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee, Emeritus Scientist, INSA, was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- National Young Geoscientist Award 2023 to Dr. Ashutosh Pandey, Assistant Professor, Pondicherry University.
- 16. TOP GLOBAL RANKING FOR RBI GOVERNOR RECOGNITION OF HIS LEADERSHIP**
- Mr. Das has been ranked as the top central banker globally for the second consecutive year by the US-based Global Finance magazine.
- This is recognition of his leadership at the RBI and his work towards ensuring economic growth and stability.
- 17. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU CONFERS RASHTRIYA VIGYAN PURASKAR AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN**
- The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu presented the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar-2024 at an award ceremony held at Gantantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- In the first edition of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar, 33 awards were presented to distinguished scientists in four categories - Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva, and Vigyan Team.
- The Vigyan Ratna Award, given to the scientists who have made lifetime contributions in any field of Science and Technology, was presented to Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan, a pioneer of molecular biology and biotechnology research in India.
- The Vigyan Shri Awards, - to 13 scientists for their path-breaking research in their respective domains.
- The Vigyan Yuva-SSB award - to 18 scientists.
- The Vigyan Team Award, given to a team of 3 or more scientists for making ground-breaking research contributions in any field of science and technology, was given to the team of Chandrayaan-3 for the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 lander near the south pole of the moon.
- 18. UNION MINISTER GIRIRAJ SINGH PRESENTS HANDICRAFTS EXPORTS AWARDS**
- The awards given away by the Hon'ble Minister included the Top Export Award for 2019-20 and 2020-21, both were bagged by M/s C.L. Gupta Exports Ltd, Amroha (Uttar Pradesh);
- Following which, senior and veteran exporter, Mr. Muzafar Hussain was honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award'.
- The Handicrafts exports during the year 2023- 24 was Rs. 32,759 Crores (US \$ 3,956 Million) registering a growth of 9.13% in rupee term
- 19. MOU BETWEEN DARPG, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND PUBLIC SERVICE DEPARTMENT**
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India and Public Service Department, Prime Minister's Department, Government of Malaysia signed MoU on 'Co-operation in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms' for a period of five years
- The Memorandum of Understanding aims that the two countries endeavour to take necessary steps to encourage and promote co-operation in the areas like Providing Citizen Centric Services through digital platform;
- 20. KERALA TOURISM PRESENTED PATA GOLD AWARD 2024**
- Kerala Tourism was presented the globally acclaimed Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024 at a function in Bangkok for its online contest 'Holiday Heist' in the Digital Marketing Campaign category



Cinema

Current Affairs

**August
2024**

1. "KING KHAN" RECEIVES LIFETIME AWARD AT LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL

2. 70TH NATIONAL FILM AWARDS 2024

- The award winners were announced by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B)
- Honouring the best films and cinematic achievements of the year 2022.
- The winners will be felicitated by President Droupadi Murmu in a ceremony in October 2024.
- First handed out in 1954, these awards were known as the State Awards. In those years, only the best films in different regional languages were recognised and awarded.
- Nargis was the first actor to win Best Actress for her performance in Raat Aur Din.
- Uttam Kumar won the Best Actor award for Anthony Firingee and Chiriyakhana in the same year.
- Special Mentions – Manoj Bajpayee in Gulmohar, and Sanjoy Salil Chowdhury for Kadhikan.
- Ponnaiyin Selvan: 1 - won the most awards (four)

3. RAJ KAPOOR'S ICONIC FILM 'AWARA' TO PREMIERE IN 4K AT TORONTO FILM FESTIVAL 2024

- The restoration effort has been spearheaded by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and the National Film Archive of India.
- The restoration project is a part of the National Film Heritage Mission.

National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)

- Launched in 2017, NFHM is the prestigious mission of Government of India, for preservation, conservation, digitization and restoration of rich cinematic heritage of the country.
- National Film Archive of India (NFAI) is the nodal organization, established by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 1964



Summits & conferences

August 2024

1. AJIT DOVAL LEADS INDIA AT THE 4TH BIMSTEC SECURITY CHIEF MEETING

- 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

2. 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
- "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.

3. OPERALIA, THE GLOBAL OPERA COMPETITION, TO BE HELD IN INDIA FOR THE FIRST TIME

- Mumbai Operalia—one of the world's biggest opera singing competitions—is coming to Mumbai's National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA)

4. 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
- Rajinder Singh, Head of the Department of National Disaster Management Authority, representing the government of India, assumed the chairmanship of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center.

5. UNION MINISTER GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT INAUGURATES 'STATE MUSEUM CONCLAVE' ON UPCOMING YUGA YUGEN BHARAT MUSEUM

- To discuss the development of the 'Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum'.
- The event, organized by the Ministry of Culture, is taking place from August 1-3 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- Covering 154,000 square meters, it will be the largest museum in the world.
- The museum will be developed through adaptive reuse in collaboration with France, leveraging their expertise from similar projects like the Louvre.

6. INDIA ELECTED VICE-CHAIR OF IPEF'S SUPPLY CHAIN COUNCIL

- India has been elected as vice-chair of the supply chain council, one of the three bodies set up by the 14-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) bloc.
- Supply Chain Council (SCC): USA (Chair), India (Vice-Chair)
- Crisis Response Network (CRN): Republic of Korea (Chair), Japan (ViceChair)
- Labor Rights Advisory Board (LRAB): USA (Chair), Fiji (Vice-Chair)

7. 4TH RASHTRIYA HINDI VIGYAN SAMMELAN 2024 HELD IN BHOPAL

- The 4th edition of the Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was held in the Madhya Pradesh capital, Bhopal, .
- The theme of the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was "Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal."
- 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.



8. INDIA TO HOST 3RD EDITION OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT

- India will be hosting the third edition of the Global South Summit, around August 17.
- The summit, which will take place in virtual mode, will be chaired by PM Modi alongside the meetings at ministerial level
- These include PM Modi inaugurating the Global South Center of Excellence, known as 'Dakshin' — meaning the South — which will work as an interface for forging stronger collaboration between global south countries.



9. "VIRAASAT", 10TH NATIONAL HANDLOOM DAY BEGINS AT HANDLOOM HAAT, NEW DELHI

- The series "VIRAASAT"— the "Exclusive Handloom Expo" is a continuation of celebrations held during previous year around the National Handloom Day.

- This year, the **10th National Handloom Day** will be celebrated on 7th August.
- The event **focuses on the glorious tradition** of Handloom and Handicrafts.
- It also provides market connect to the handloom weavers and artisans.

10. CDS, GENERAL ANIL CHAUHAN CHAIRED AN APEX LEVEL TRI-SERVICE FINANCIAL CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI

- The conference was aimed to enhance cohesion and synergy in financial issues of the Armed Forces and saw the participation of senior officials from Ministry of Defence, Controller General Defence Accounts among others.

11. JAKARTA HOSTS 5TH AITIGA JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING

- The **5th AITIGA Joint Committee meeting**, marking a significant milestone in ASEAN-India economic cooperation, took place in **Jakarta**.
- The discussions aimed at reviewing and enhancing the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- 1967 – ASEAN was established (Bangkok Declaration)
- Founding Fathers of ASEAN are: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- The motto of ASEAN is “One Vision, One Identity, One Community”.
- 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day.
- ASEAN HQ – Indonesia, Jakarta.

Who are the Member Nations?

1. Indonesia
2. Malaysia
3. Philippines
4. Singapore
5. Thailand
6. Brunei
7. Vietnam
8. Laos
9. Myanmar
10. Cambodia
11. Timor Leste (newly added)

12. 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 Business Summit meeting of BIMSTEC has been organised by the **Ministry of External Affairs** in association with the **Confederation of Indian Industries (CII)**.

BIMSTEC IN RECENT NEWS

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.
 - ❖ **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.
- **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)**
- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) is a regional organization which was founded as **BIST-EC (Bangladesh India Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation)** on **6 June 1997**.
- Initially, it consisted of Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand. In **1997**, it was expanded to include Myanmar. In **2004**, Nepal and Bhutan joined the organisation, taking the total membership of the BIMSTEC to seven.

Secretariat: **Dhaka, Bangladesh**
Secretary General - **Indra Mani Pandey of India**

13. UP INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW IN GREATER NOIDA

- The state government will organise the second edition of the **Uttar Pradesh International Trade Exhibition** from **September 25 to 29** at the **India Exhibition Mart** in **Greater Noida**.
- The theme for this year's exhibition has been titled “**Unique Platform of Sourcing**.” The event is aimed at showcasing the state's “**craft, cuisine, and culture**” to a global audience, drawing entrepreneurs, manufacturers, and traders from around the world,
- **Vietnam** is participating as a partner country in this year's trade show



14. JUICE MISSION SETS TO BREAK RECORDS WITH LUNAR-EARTH FLYBY

- The JUICE mission of the European Space Agency is set to complete a new manoeuvre and break two records.
- This is the first time the spacecraft will use two objects to carry out a gravity assist maneuver, and for the first time, it will also attempt **Lunar-Earth flyby**.
- This move called a **Lunar-Earth gravity assist**, will use both the Moon and Earth to help change the spacecraft's speed and direction

15. U.S. FDA APPROVES FIRST NASAL SPRAY TO TREAT DANGEROUS ALLERGIC REACTIONS

- U.S. health officials, approved a nasal spray to treat severe allergic reactions, the first needlefree alternative to shots like EpiPen.

- Anaphylaxis occurs when the body's immune system develops a sudden, unexpected reaction to a foreign substance, such as food, insect stings or medications.
 - Common symptoms include hives, swelling, itching, vomiting and difficulty breathing.
 - 16. INDIA'S FIRST METHANE EATING BACTERIA "METHANOTROPHS" DISCOVERED IN VETAL TEKDI MINE, MAHARASHTRA**
 - 17. 6TH INDIA-AUSTRALIA MARITIME SECURITY DIALOGUE HELD IN CANBERRA**
 - In an effort to strengthen the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, India and Australia hosted two important bilateral meetings.
 - Australia hosted the 6th India-Australia Maritime Security Dialogue in its capital city of Canberra to strengthen cooperation in ensuring maritime security. India hosted the 14th meeting of the India-Australia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in New Delhi.
 - Cooperation in counter-terrorism is an important pillar of the India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
 - 18. DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR INAUGURATES THE 17TH DIVYA KALA MELA IN RAIPUR**
 - Dr Virendra Kumar, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, inaugurated the 17th Divya Kala Mela in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh
 - The Divya Kala Mela was started by the government of India in 2022 to economically empower disabled (Divyang) artists by providing market access to their products. It also aims to develop their skills.
 - The week-long Mela will be held from 16 August to 23 August 2024
 - 19. PM MODI INAUGURATES 3RD VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT**
 - India hosted the first Voice of Global South Summit in a virtual format from 2 to 13 January 2023. Following the summit's success, India organised the second Voice of Global South Summit on 17 November 2023.
 - "An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future" is the theme of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit.
 - The theme reflects the agenda of the summit, which will discuss issues like conflicts, food and energy security crises, and climate change, which is a major challenge for the Global South.
-
- What is Global South?**
- ✓ Global South is a loose term that refers to poor and developing countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Oceania. It is contrasted with the Global North, which includes rich and developed countries in Europe, North America, Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand.
 - ✓ The Global North dominates the Global South through political and economic exploitation.
 - ✓ American political activist Carl Oglesby is given credit for coining the term 'Global South' in 1969.
- 20. CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA AND SYCHELLES INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE LAW AND TECHNOLOGY IN KERALA**
- 21. 77TH PM GATI-SHAKTI MEETING EVALUATES INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ACROSS RAILWAYS, ROADS, AVIATION, AND PORTS**
 - The 77th meeting of the Network Planning Group (NPG) under the PM GatiShakti initiative was convened in New Delhi.
 - The meeting focused on evaluating six important infrastructure projects from Ministry of Railways (MoR), Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) were evaluated for their alignment with the principles of integrated planning outlined in the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (NMP).
- 22. AMIT SHAH CHAIRS SEVEN LWE AFFECTED STATE'S MEETING IN RAIPUR**
 - Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, chaired a review meeting on Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) and an inter-state coordination meeting in Raipur, Chhattisgarh,.
 - Speaking on the occasion, Amit Shah said that the central government is committed to eradicating Left-Wing Extremism (Naxalism) from the country before March 2026.
 - The meeting was attended by seven states- Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Telangana.
- 23. 2ND INDO-RUSSIAN COMMISSION MEETING ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN MOSCOW**
 - 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.
 - Both countries agreed to continue exchanging best practices and lessons learned in Disaster Management and cooperating in emergency management during 2025-26.
 - In 2016, New Delhi hosted the first meeting held.
- 24. INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATIONS BEGINS TWO DAY CONFERENCE ON THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GURU PADMASAMBHAVA IN NALANDA, BIHAR**
- 25. PM CHAIRS 44TH PRAGATI INTERACTION**
 - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, chaired the meeting of the 44th edition of PRAGATI, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments
 - This was the first meeting in the third term.

Reports & Indices

August 2024

1. RUDRAPRAYAG IN UTTARANCHAL WAS RANKED FIRST ON ISRO 'LANDSLIDE ATLAS'

- National-level database created by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in 2023 based on exposure to landslides in terms of "key socio-economic parameters."
- In ranking 147 districts in India for their exposure to landslides in terms of key socio economic parameters, 13 of Kerala's districts feature in the top 50.
- Wayanad ranked 13th, while Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode ranked third, fifth, seventh and tenth respectively
- The ISRO database covered "seasonal, event-based and routewise" landslide inventories for the 1998-2022 periods.

2. INDEX OF EIGHT CORE INDUSTRIES FOR JUNE 2024

- The Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) recorded a provisional increase of 4.0% in June 2024 compared to June 2023. Positive growth was noted in the production of Coal, Electricity, Natural Gas, Steel, Fertilizers, and Cement.
- The final growth rate for March 2024 stands at 6.3%, with a cumulative growth rate of 5.7% from April to June 2024.

Weightage and Composition

The Eight Core Industries, which account for 40.27% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), include:	
Cement (5.37%)	Coal (10.33%)
Crude Oil (8.98%)	Electricity (19.85%)
Fertilizers (2.63%)	Natural Gas (6.88%)
Petroleum Refinery Products (28.04%)	Steel (17.92%)

3. NEARLY A QUARTER OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS SUFFER PARTNER VIOLENCE, WHO STUDY

- Around a quarter of adolescent girls who have been in relationships have endured physical or sexual violence, a World Health Organization study, calling for more prevention actions.
- The WHO analysis published in the Lancet medical journal was based on surveys from thousands of adolescent girls aged between 15 and 19 from 154 countries and areas.
- It showed that 24% of them had been subjected to intimate partner violence at least once, with 16% reporting it in the past year.
- The data was based on surveys conducted between 2000 and 2018.
- Rates were highest in Oceania followed by Africa, with 49% of girls reporting intimate partner violence in Papua New Guinea and 42% in Democratic Republic of Congo, the analysis showed.
- The lowest rate was Europe where 10% reported incidents.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION
WHO chief General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
The World Health Organization (WHO), established in 7 April 1948
Membership: WHO currently has 194 member States
Headquarter - Geneva, Switzerland

4. INDIA RETAINS EIGHTH POSITION IN GLOBAL AGRICULTURE EXPORTS IN 2023

- India held onto its position as the world's eighth-largest exporter of agricultural products in 2023, despite a decline in exports from \$55 billion in 2022 to \$51 billion.
- This stability comes amid a general decrease in agricultural exports among seven of the top ten exporting nations.

5. RIL TOP-RANKED INDIAN COMPANY ON THE 2024 FORTUNE GLOBAL 500 LIST

Sr. No	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

WALMART LEADS THE FORTUNE 500 GLOBAL LIST

- 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.

Following is the list of the 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

Rank	Country	Company
6	China National Petroleum	China
7	Apple	United States
8	UnitedHealth Group	United States
9	Berkshire Hathaway	United States
10	CVS Health	United States

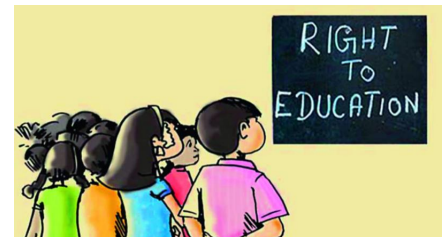
6. AMBANI FAMILY WEALTH 10% OF INDIAN GDP: BARCLAYS-HURUN INDIA REPORT

- 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- are valued at **\$460 billion**, which is equivalent to Singapore's GDP.

7. PUNJAB, TELANGANA, KERALA AND WEST BENGAL HAVE NOT IMPLEMENTED RTE

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**.
- **Education is on the concurrent list,(42 CAA 1976)** and the state government has the power to make rules under the Right to Education Act



8. INDIAN RAILWAYS TO ROLL OUT KAVACH 4.0

- The **Union Ministry of Railways** is set to **fast-track the deployment** of the latest version of its indigenous anti-collision system, **Kavach 4.0**, with plans to issue tenders for installation in **20,000 locomotives** this year.
- The Ministry intends to release two major tenders, each covering **10,000 locomotives**, aiming to finalise one by October 2024.

9. RBI RANKED 12 IN SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND INSTITUTE LIST OF RICHEST CENTRAL BANKS

RBI (RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)

- The RBI was established in 1934, under the Reserve Bank of India Act.
- The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton Young Commission.
- Though privately owned initially, it was **nationalized in 1949** and since then fully owned by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- India's central bank and regulatory body responsible for regulation of the Indian banking system.
- **RBI@90**, a program marking 90 years of RBI (2024)



10. NIRF RANKING 2024: IIT MADRAS BAGS TOP SPOT IN OVERALL CATEGORY; IISC BENGALURU TOPS UNIVERSITIES CATEGORY

- **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** is a ranking methodology adopted by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, to rank institutions of higher education in India.
- The framework was approved by the former Ministry of Human Resource Development (now the Ministry of Education) and launched by the Minister on 29 September 2015.

11. RELEASE OF PUBLICATION "WOMEN AND MEN IN INDIA 2023"

- Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (**MoSPI**), Government of India, released the **25th issue of its publication titled "Women and Men in India 2023"**
- India's population is projected to reach **152.2 crore by 2036**, with an increase in the female percentage to **48.8% from 48.5% in 2011**
- It presents data disaggregated by gender, urban-rural divide, and geographical region, which helps to understand the disparities that exist between different groups of women and men.

- Age-specific fertility rates for women aged 20-29 have decreased between 2016 and 2020, while rates for women 35-39 have slightly increased.
- Notably, India has achieved a major milestone in reducing its Maternal Mortality Ratio to 97 per lakh live births in 2018-20, putting it on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goal target of 70 by 2030.
- Female labor force participation has seen a substantial increase, rising from 23.3% in 2017-18 to 37% in 2022-23, though still considerably lower than male participation rates.
- Both infant and under-5 mortality rates have shown consistent decline, with the gender gap in these rates narrowing significantly.

12. INDIAN AIRLINE VISTARA GETS TOP SPOT IN SOUTH ASIA IN BEST GLOBAL AIRLINE 2024

World Airline Awards 2024, by Skytrax

Rank 2024	Airline Name	Global Hub	Rank 2023
1	Qatar Airways	Qatar	2
2	Singapore Airlines	Singapore	1
3	Emirates	UAE (Dubai)	4
4	ANA All Nippon Airways	Japan	3
5	Cathay Pacific Airways	Hong Kong	8

Rank 2024	Airline Name	Global Hub	Rank 2023
6	Japan Airlines	Japan	5
7	Turkish Airlines	Turkey	6
8	EVA Air	Taiwan	9
9	Air France	France	7
10	Swiss International Air Lines	Switzerland	12

13. AMUL TOPS GLOBAL FOOD BRAND RANKINGS IN 2024

- Amul has been named the world's strongest food brand in Brand Finance's Global Food & Drinks Report 2024. With a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 91 and a valuation of \$3.3 billion, Amul achieved an 11% increase in brand value from 2023.
- Amul's impressive BSI score of 91 out of 100 and brand value of \$3.3 billion
- Hershey's, which shared the AAA+ rating with Amul, saw a slight dip in its brand value, placing it second.
- Nestlé remains the most valuable food brand globally at \$20.8 billion, despite a 7% decline.
- Lay's has moved up to the second position with a \$12 billion valuation.
- In the non-alcoholic beverage sector, Coca-Cola leads, followed by Pepsi.

14. THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE (IISc), BANGALORE RANKED BEST INSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY

- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has been listed in the 401-500 rank globally while it topped in the list of Indian universities, according to the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2024.
- The Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) has been ranked the second best institution and the first among private institutions in the country

Appointment

August 2024

1. PCB CHAIRMAN MOHSIN NAQVI SET TO BECOME NEXT ACC PRESIDENT

- Pakistan Cricket Board's incumbent chairman Mohsin Naqvi is set to become the next president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) later this year as per its rotation policy, for a two-year term.
- BCCI secretary Jay Shah is the incumbent ACC president, having got one-year extension in January this year for a third consecutive term.

2. 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)**.
- **She is the first woman to hold this prestigious post in the Indian Army's Medical Services.**
- Lt General Sadhna Saxena Nair is a third-generation member of a family which has served in the Indian Armed Forces in various capacities for the last seventy years

3. SANJAY SHUKLA ASSUMES CHARGE AS MD OF THE NATIONAL HOUSING BANK

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**.
- **Headquarters of NHB: New Delhi**

4. LIEUTENANT GENERAL VIKAS LAKHERA HAS OFFICIALLY ASSUMED THE ROLE OF THE 22ND DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE ASSAM RIFLES

- **Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera**, AVSM, SM, has officially assumed the role of the 22nd director general of the **Assam Rifles** – the **oldest paramilitary force in India**, often referred to as the **"Sentinels of the Northeast"**.
- Headquarters: Shillong, Meghalaya
- Founded in 1835

5. 1990-BATCH IPS DALJIT CHAUDHARY APPOINTED BSF DIRECTOR GENERAL

- The **Sashastra Seema Bal Director General Daljit Singh Chawdhary** will hold the additional charge of the Border Security Force following the premature repatriation of incumbent Nitin Agrawal, a government order said Saturday.



6. BOEING HAS ANNOUNCED THE APPOINTMENT OF KELLY ORTBERG AS ITS NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

7. SENIOR INFORMATION SERVICE OFFICER DHIRAJ SINGH WAS APPOINTED AS THE DIRECTOR OF THE FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF INDIA, PUNE

- Currently the additional director general in the Press Information Bureau in-charge of media and communications of the Prime Minister's Office.
- Singh succeeds Sandeep Shahare to the post.
- Singh is also the author of the book 'Modern Masters of Cinema: A Personal Pantheon'



8. PRAVEENA RAI APPOINTED AS MD AND CEO OF MCX

9. SENIOR IAS OFFICER T.V SOMANATHAN APPOINTED CABINET SECRETARY



10. RAJ KUMAR CHAUDHARY TAKES HELM AS CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NHPC LTD.

11. KWATRA TAKES CHARGE AS INDIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE US

- Former Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra has taken charge as Indian ambassador to the US, succeeds Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

12. IRS OFFICER RAHUL NAVIN NEW DIRECTOR OF ENFORCEMENT DIRECTORATE (ED)

Directorate of Enforcement or ED

- In 1956, the government of India established the Directorate of Enforcement (ED). The ED is under the administrative control of the Department of Revenue, Union Ministry of Finance.
- It is the sole agency that enforces the criminal provisions of the;
- **Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2022**. ED has the power to seize the property earned from money laundering activities and also prosecute the person accused of money laundering.

- Under the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018**, the ED has the power to seize the property of persons **who have committed economic crimes in India and have fled from India**.
- Civil provisions of the **Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) 1999**.
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**

13. RANA ASHUTOSH KUMAR SINGH ASSUMES ROLE AS MD AT SBI

14. FORMER INDIAN ALL ROUNDER DODA GANESH APPOINTED AS HEAD COACH OF KENYA CRICKET TEAM FOR 2026 T 20 WORLD CUP.

15. IAS OFFICER RAJESH KUMAR APPOINTED NEXT DEFENCE SECRETARY BY ACC

- **Important Appointment to Remember (Government of India)**
- **Cabinet Secretary - T V Somnathan**. It is the highest administrative post in the central government.
- **Home Secretary - Ajay Bhalla**
- **Foreign Secretary - Vikram Misri**

16. CHAIRMAN OF MAHINDRA GROUP ANAND MAHINDRA WAS APPOINTED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NEWLY-ESTABLISHED YOUNG INDIA SKILLS UNIVERSITY IN TELANGANA

17. PARVATHNENI HARISH APPOINTED AS INDIA'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

18. ASHOK KUMAR SINGH TAKES OVER DIRECTOR GENERAL, ESIC (EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION) UNDER MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT

19. JAY SHAH TO BE NAMED YOUNGEST EVER ICC CHAIRMAN

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah is all set to replace the incumbent Greg Barclay as the new chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC)
- Indians who have chaired the ICC. Jagmohan Dalmiya (1997 to 2000) , Sharad Pawar (2010-2012) as presidents & N Srinivasan (2014 to 2015) , Shashank Manohar (2015 to 2020) as chairman.

20. GOVIND MOHAN TO TAKE CHARGE AS UNION HOME SECRETARY

- Senior IAS officer Govind Mohan on August 22, will take charge as the new Union Home Secretary from Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who completes his **five year tenure** at the sensitive post,

21. KC VENUGOPAL APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

22. USIBC APPOINTS FORMER JOURNALIST, PUBLIC RELATIONS EXECUTIVE AS INDIA MANAGING DIRECTOR

- The U.S.–India Business Council (USIBC) has appointed Rahul Sharma, a former journalist and public relations executive, as its India-based Managing Director
- USIBC, a part of the US Chamber of Commerce, America's largest industry association; has over 200 firms who have interests in between the US and India, and will mark its 50 year anniversary in 2025.

23. RAJESH NAMBIAR NAMED NASSCOM PRESIDENT-DESIGNATE, SUCCEEDS GHOSH

24. ICC TO GET NEW FEMALE DIRECTOR AS INDRA NOOYI'S SIX YEAR TERM ENDS

- The International Cricket Council is on the lookout for a new female independent director after PepsiCo head Indra Nooyi's six-year tenure came to an end last month.

25. SANJEEV RAINA APPOINTED ITBP ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR GENERAL

26. ARUN AGARWAL NAMED CHAIRMAN OF TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

- 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.

27. LAURENT FREIXE HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NESTLÉ.

28. SENIOR IPS OFFICER B. SRINIVASAN APPOINTED AS DG OF NSG

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**.
- ❖ Operational Headquarters: **Manesar, Haryana**
- ❖ Motto: **Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha**

29. SATISH KUMAR NAMED NEW CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF RAILWAY BOARD

- Mr. Kumar will replace Jaya Verma Sinha, is the first lady Chairperson of the Railway Board

30. SENIOR IPS OFFICERS APPOINTED TO KEY POSITIONS IN CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES

- **Daljit Singh Chaudhary**, a distinguished IPS officer of the 1990 batch from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the new **Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF)**.
- **Rajwinder Singh Bhatti** as the **Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**

31. VICE ADMIRAL CR PRAVEEN NAIR TOOK OVER AS COMMANDANT, INDIAN NAVAL ACADEMY



Books & Authors

August 2024

1. BOOK ON SOUTH ASIAN MIGRATION TO BE RELEASED SOON

- A book titled 'South Asia Migration Report 2024: Remittances, Resilience and Rehabilitation',
- Set to be launched soon, argues for freedom of mobility for migrants within the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- Edited by migration expert S. Irudaya Rajan, Chair of the International Institute for Migration and Development, India.

2. BOOK LAUNCH SPOTLIGHT: '75 GREAT REVOLUTIONARIES OF INDIA'

- Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh attended the launch of '75 Great Revolutionaries of India,' a book by MP Bhim Singh



3. AIR CHIEF MARSHAL V R CHAUDHARI LAUNCHES FIRST COMIC BOOK ON INDIAN AIR FORCE HEROES

- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari; Chief of the Air Staff, Indian Air Force launched the first Comic Book in the series "Heroes of the Indian Air Force", titled "Heroes of the Indian Air Force-Vol. I"
- The first story in the book, 'Find your Calling' is about the Life of the legendary IAF Marshal Arjan Singh.
- The second story is titled the 'Boyra Boys' and is about the epic Battle of Boyra, fought during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

Economics

Current Affairs

August 2024

1. RBI HIKES UPI LIMIT FOR TAX PAYMENTS TO RS 5 LAKH PER TRANSACTION

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the UPI limit for tax payments from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 5 lakh per transaction.
- This move aims to boost digital payments, facilitate larger transactions, and reduce reliance on cash providing convenience to taxpayers and encouraging digital payment adoption.



2. MPC VOTES TO KEEP REPO RATE UNCHANGED FOR THE 9TH CONSECUTIVE TIME

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%

3. RBI ASKS BANKS TO PROVIDE SHORT TERM CROP LOANS TO FARMERS

- The Reserve Bank of India has extended the Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS) for short-term loans for agriculture and allied activities availed through Kisan Credit Card this financial year.
- The Reserve Bank has asked banks to provide short term crop loans and short term loans for allied activities including animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, beekeeping etc.
- Upto an overall limit of 3 lakh rupees to farmers at an interest rate of 7 percent.
- The interest rate subvention for lending institutions is 1.5% for the financial year 2024-25.

RBI (RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)

- The RBI was established in 1934, under the Reserve Bank of India Act.
- The bank was set up based on the recommendations of the 1926 Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance, also known as the Hilton Young Commission.
- Though privately owned initially, it was nationalized in 1949 and since then fully owned by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- India's central bank and regulatory body responsible for regulation of the Indian banking system.

4. WHAT IS THE 'YEN CARRY TRADE'?

- ✓ Carry Trade: Borrowing money in a country with low-interest rates and investing it in a country with higher interest rates to make a profit.
- ✓ The yen carry trade, a popular investment strategy involving borrowing yen at low interest rates to invest in higher-yielding assets, has faced a significant setback.
- ✓ Japan's recent interest rate hike has led to a sharp appreciation of the yen, causing substantial losses for investors who had leveraged this strategy.
- ✓ This event has triggered global market volatility, particularly impacting Japan's stock market.

5. DELOITTE PREDICTS INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH BETWEEN 7% AND 7.2% IN FY25

- ✓ FY25 GDP Growth Forecast
- ✓ Deloitte India: 6.60%
- ✓ World Bank: 6.60%
- ✓ IMF: 6.80%
- ✓ S&P Global Ratings: 6.80%
- ✓ ADB: 7%
- ✓ Fitch: 7%



6. 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.

7. INDIAN RAILWAYS AND NCRTC LAUNCH 'ONE INDIA-ONE TICKET' INITIATIVE

- Indian Railways and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have partnered to promote the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative, aiming to streamline travel for passengers using both **mainline railway services** and **Namo Bharat** trains.
- This collaboration will enable a unified booking system, allowing commuters to seamlessly travel between **Indian Railways** and **RRTS** services.

8. AMAZON INDIA AND GENTARI PARTNER TO EXPAND EV DELIVERY FLEET

- 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**.

9. DECLINE IN FDI IN INDIA'S FOOD PROCESSING SECTOR IN 2023-24

- **Foreign direct investment (FDI)** in India's food processing sector experienced a significant decline of **30% in the fiscal year 2023-24**, totaling **Rs 5,037.06 crore**, down from **Rs 7,194.13 crore** in **2022-23**.

10. GOVERNMENT INITIATES ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION INTO STEEL IMPORTS FROM VIETNAM

Vietnam

- Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country which is a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- It is a communist country which is ruled by the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Capital: Hanoi
Currency: Dong
President: To Lam
Prime Minister : Pham Minh Chinh

11. BANDHAN BANK LAUNCHES AVNI SAVING ACCOUNT FOR WOMEN CUSTOMER

- The Avni savings account targets relatively well-off women, as the minimum average quarterly balance requirement is **Rs 25,000**.



12. PHONEPE'S 'CREDIT LINE ON UPI'

- Walmart backed fintech firm PhonePe launched Credit Line on UPI on its platform.
- The new feature allows merchants to offer their customers a Credit Line as a payment option at the time of checkout through PhonePe Payment Gateway (PG).
- Users can link their Credit Line on UPI, by linking their phone number and the bank from which they availed the credit line with the Phonepe App's UPI service.

Banking
Finance

13. JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK SWEEPS 4 AWARDS AT 2ND ICC EMERGING ASIA BANKING CONCLAVE

- ✓ Best Small Finance Bank, India,
- ✓ Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up),
- ✓ Best Performance on Asset Quality,
- ✓ Best Performance on Risk Management.

14. MOODY'S UPS INDIA'S 2024, 2025 GROWTH FORECAST

- Moody's Ratings has revised its real GDP growth forecast for India, raising it to **7.2% for the financial year 2024**, up from a previous estimate of **6.8%**, and to **6.6% for 2025**, from an earlier projection of **6.4%**.
- The upgrade is attributed to strong, broad-based growth fueled by resilient private consumption and improved business conditions.



Environment

Current Affairs

August 2024

1. PROJECT TIGER TO DISPLACE 5.5 LAKH TRIBALS, SAYS RIGHTS GROUP REPORT

- The displacement per tiger reserve increased exponentially after 2021, from 5,000 per protected area to 48,333, the report released on the International Tiger Day said
- A 967% increase in displacement over the pre-2021 period.
- The report titled 'India's Tiger Reserves: Tribals Get Out, Tourists Welcome
- **No tigers were found in five tiger reserves** – Sahyadri (Maharashtra), Satkosia (Odisha), Kamlang (Arunachal Pradesh), Kawal (Telangana), and Dampa (Mizoram) but a total of 5,670 tribal families were displaced from these five tiger reserves

2. HOTTER KALAHARI DESERT MAY STOP HORN BILLS BREEDING BY 2027

- In the Kalahari, air temperatures have already risen more than 2°C in a few decades.
- The effects of air temperature and drought on the breeding output of southern yellow-billed hornbills (*Tockus leucomelas*) in Africa's Kalahari Desert over a decade period, from 2008 to 2019.
- These birds are still common across much of central and eastern southern Africa.
- In India: India is home to nine species of hornbills

3. GOVERNMENT DECLARES ADICHUNCHANAGIRI IN KARNATAKA AND CHOOLANNUAR IN KERALA AS PEACOCK SANCTUARY

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Mr. Bhupender Yadav said that the Central Government has declared Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannuar in Kerala as Peacock Sanctuary.
- Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary is situated in Nagamangala Taluk of Mandya District. It was first notified in 1981 and finally declared in 1999.
- Choolannur Pea Fowl Sanctuary or Mayiladumpara, as it is locally known, is located in Palakkad district. It was declared as a peacock sanctuary in 1996.

4. NEELAKURINJI BECOMES A 'THREATENED SPECIES,' OFFICIALLY

- The endangered purple bloom of the Western Ghats, Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), was recently added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
- The latest global assessment confirms its threatened status in the Vulnerable (Criteria A2c) category of the IUCN
- Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), the purplish flowering shrub, which blooms once in 12 years

5. NANJARAYAN, KAZHUVELI & TAWA RESERVOIR NEWLY ADDED RAMSAR SITES

- Three new sites -Nanjaraayan 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

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 18 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
- 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.

6. CABINET EXTENDS PM JI-VAN YOJANA IMPLEMENTATION BY 5 YEARS, TO INFUSE FURTHER FUNDS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved extension of modified Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana for another five years, that is, till 2028-29.
- The cabinet also approved further investment of Rs 1,969 crore into the programme
- The scheme aims to provide remunerative income to farmers for their agriculture residue, address environmental pollution, create local employment opportunities, and contribute to India's energy security and self-reliance.

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana

- It was notified in March 2019.
- Financial Outlay: Rs. 1969.50 crore for the period 2018-19 to 2023-24.
- Financial Assistance: Rs. 150 crore per project for commercial projects and Rs. 15 crore per project for demonstration projects.

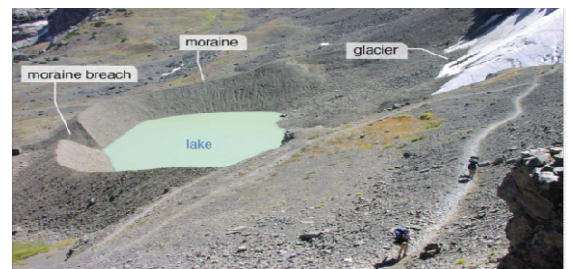
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
- Biofuels are renewable fuels derived from organic sources, such as plants, agricultural and forest residues, algae, and animal waste.
- Under the scheme, the first 2G Ethanol Project set up by Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Panipat, Haryana.
- The other 2G commercial projects being set up by BPCL, HPCL and NRL at Bargarh (Odisha), Bathinda (Punjab) and Numaligarh (Assam) respectively, are also nearing completion
- They are measured on scales called the
 - ✓ **Moment Magnitude Scale (MMS)**, measures the movement of rock along the fault. It accurately measures larger earthquakes
 - ✓ **Richter scale** (magnitude scale) - energy released - 0-10.
 - ✓ **Mercalli scale** (The intensity scale) - visible damage - 1-12.
 - ✓ **Earthquake waves:** An earthquake generates seismic waves that penetrate the Earth as **body waves (P & S)** or travel as surface waves (**Love and Rayleigh**)
 - ✓ **P-waves** move faster and are the first to arrive at the surface. These are also called 'primary waves', similar to sound waves, travel through gaseous, liquid and solid materials
 - ✓ **S-waves** arrive at the surface with some time lag. These are called secondary waves, can travel only through solid materials.
 - ✓ The body waves interact with the surface rocks and generate a new set of waves called **surface waves. (more destructive)**

7. IN A FIRST, FOREST DEPT LAUNCHES LESSER FLORICAN CENSUS IN KUTCH

- **Lesser Florican Census 2024:** Gujarat Forest Department launched the first-ever census to estimate the population of lesser floricans in Kutch's grasslands.
- **Area:** Around 150 forest staff, NGO volunteers, and birdwatchers participated, covering areas like the Lala-Budiya Great Indian Bustard (GIB) Sanctuary and parts of Banni, one of Asia's largest grasslands.
- **Significance:** While population estimation of lesser floricans is regularly conducted in Blackbuck National Park (Velavadar), this is the first time it's being done in Kutch, which is unique for hosting three bustard species — GIB, lesser floricans, and Houbara bustards together.

8. NDMA TO MONITOR 189 HIGH-RISK GLACIAL LAKES TO PREVENT DISASTERS

- Following disasters inflicted by overflowing glacial lakes in the Himalayas, the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has finalised a list of 189 "high-risk" glacial lakes for mitigation measures to reduce the risk emanating from them.
- The **National Glacial Lake Outburst Floods Risk Mitigation Programme (NGRMP)** was approved by the Centre.
- Glacial lakes are water bodies formed from melting glaciers.
- Glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs) are sudden releases of water and sediment from lakes blocked by natural barriers like moraines or glacier ice.
- India has around 7,500 glacial lakes in the Himalayas,



9. UN CHIEF ISSUES 'SOS' FOR PACIFIC ISLANDS WORST HIT BY WARMING OCEAN

- **SOS - Save Our Seas** – on rising sea levels
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that ocean temperatures are rising in the Pacific Islands at three times the rate worldwide, and its population was "uniquely exposed" to the impact of rising sea levels.
- The report released by the World Meteorological Organization showed ocean temperatures in the South West Pacific is increasing at up to three times the rate worldwide.
- The Pacific Islands can expect additional sea level rise of 15 cm (5.9 inches) by 2050 and 30 days a year of coastal flooding.
- A "loss and damage" fund to help poor nations cope with costly climate disasters was approved at last year's U.N. climate summit.

Loss and damage fund

- It was first announced during COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.
- The formal agreement at the 19th Conference of the Parties (COP 19) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw, Poland, in 2013, led to the establishment of the L&D fund.
- The World Bank will oversee the loss and damage fund in the beginning, with the source of funds being rich nations, such as the US, the UK and the EU, as well as some developing countries.

10. THE BALD IBIS, A BIRD SPECIES ONCE EXTINCT IN EUROPE, HAS NOW MADE A COMEBACK.

- The distinctive **northern bald ibis**, hunted essentially to extinction by the 17th century, was revived by breeding and rewilding efforts over the last two decades, from zero to almost 300.
- The feat moved the species from a "critically endangered" classification to "endangered"



11. WHAT IS ALPKARAKUSH KYRGYZICUS?

- A new dinosaur species named Alpkarakush kyrgyzicus has been recently discovered, which walked the region of Kyrgyzstan in Central Asia around 165 million years ago.
- It is a new species of large theropod dinosaur discovered
- Alpkarakush kyrgyzicus is also the first large Jurassic predatory dinosaur ever unearthed between central Europe and East Asia.



Cultural

Current Affairs



8822-010101

1. ADI KRITHIKA FESTIVAL CELEBRATED WITH DEVOTIONAL ECSTASY IN ANDHRA PRADESH & TAMIL NADU

- At temples dedicated to Lord Subramanya Swamy across Tirupati district, Andhra Pradesh.
- Celebrated at the end of July or beginning of August, this festival is dedicated to Lord Murugan, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.

2. BHOTO JATRA CONCLUDED IN NEPAL

3. 'CHINAR BOOK FESTIVAL' KICKS OFF IN SRINAGAR TO PROMOTE READING AMONG YOUTH

- The aim of inculcating a habit of book reading among the youth, a week-long national event titled 'Chinar Book Festival' commenced at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) in Srinagar.
- This festival organised by National Book Trust (NBT)
- The festival, first of its kind in Kashmir

4. PEOPLE OF HINDU AND BUDDHIST COMMUNITY IN NEPAL ORGANIZED "JANAI PURNIMA" FESTIVAL



Geographical Indicator

**August
2024**

1. INDIA'S FIRST GI-TAGGED FIG JUICE EXPORTED TO POLAND

- India has made a breakthrough by exporting its first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland.
- This follows the successful export of commercial quantities of Purandar figs to Hong Kong, showcasing the potential of Indian agricultural products in global markets.



MoU / Agreement

August 2024

1. INDIA AND SAINT CHRISTOPHER & NEVIS SIGN MOU ON SPORTS COOPERATION

- India and Saint Christopher & Nevis have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the field of sports.
- The agreement was formalized by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, India's Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Dr. Denzil Douglas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Christopher & Nevis.
- This MoU outlines several key areas of collaboration aimed at improving sports infrastructure, training, and management between the two nations.



2. MEA, NSIL SIGN MOU FOR GRANT ASSISTANCE FOR THE LAUNCH OF MUNAL SATELLITE

- The Ministry of External Affairs and ISRO's commercial arm New Space India Limited (NSIL) signed an agreement to grant assistance for the launching of the Nepal-built Munal satellite.
- The satellite aims to build a vegetation density database of the earth's surface.
- "This satellite is expected to be launched soon on NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle,"



3. 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).
- It envisages the exchange of expertise between the two sides on issues related to improving MSME participation in the global marketplace through mutual visits as well as webinars and workshops on topics including access to trade and export finance; technology and digital trade; green economy; and trade facilitation.



4. PRASAR BHARATI AND SANSAD TV SIGN MOU FOR ENHANCED COLLABORATION AND CONTENT SHARING

- in the presence of Sansad TV CEO Rajit Punhani and Prasar Bharati CEO Gaurav Dwivedi
- the MoU will facilitate content and program sharing, telecast of Sansad TV on Prasar Bharati's OTT platforms, and the use of training facilities

5. TWO-DAY INDIA-EU REGIONAL CONFERENCE BEGINS IN NEW DELHI

- The European Union, in collaboration with the Global Counter-Terrorism Council and the Ministry of External Affairs, has organised a two-day EU-India Track 1.5 Conference on combating terrorist content online.
- This regional conference aims to address the multifaceted challenges posed by violent extremism in the digital sphere.
- Ambassador of the European Union to India Hervé Delphin

6. GAIL AND PETRON TO ESTABLISH 500 KTA BIO-ETHYLENE PLANT IN INDIA

- 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.
- This initiative will involve a 50:50 joint venture, where both companies will conduct feasibility studies to evaluate the technical and financial viability of the project before seeking investment approval.

7. TATA POWER SOLAR SYSTEMS, ICICI BANK PARTNER TO FINANCE SOLAR UNITS

- 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.

8. GOLDMAN SACHS LOWERS INDIA'S 2024 AND 2025 GDP GROWTH FORECASTS

- Goldman Sachs has revised India's GDP growth forecasts for 2024 and 2025, anticipating slower expansion due to reduced government expenditure and other economic factors. The bank now projects a growth rate of 6.7% for 2024 and 6.4% for 2025, down by 20 basis points each from previous estimates

9. MUMBAI RANKS 2ND, NEW DELHI 3RD IN GLOBAL PROPERTY PRICE INDEX

- Manila ranked first with a 26 per cent annual rise during the quarter.
- Mumbai and Delhi are at the second and third positions, among 44 cities globally in annual price rise of prime residential properties during the June quarter, Knight Frank report.
- The annual price growth across the 44 cities globally slowed to 2.6 per cent in the second quarter of the 2024 calendar year, from 4.1 per cent in the preceding quarter, real estate consultant Knight Frank report
- Prices declined in Vienna by 3.2 per cent, while rates in Bangkok fell 3.9 per cent. Wellington ranked last in the list

10. BHARTI AIRTEL ANNOUNCES CONTENT PARTNERSHIP WITH APPLE

- Bharti Airtel has unveiled a new content partnership with Apple, set to offer exclusive Apple Music and Apple TV+ deals to customers in India later this year.
- As part of this collaboration, Apple TV+ will be integrated into Airtel's Xstream video-streaming service available through premium Wi-Fi and postpaid plans. Additionally, Airtel's Wynk Premium music-streaming service will offer special deals for Apple Music subscribers.

11. TCS LAUNCHES PACE STUDIO IN PHILIPPINES TO BOOST DIGITAL INNOVATION

- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has launched its fifth Pace Studio in Manila, Philippines, to drive digital innovation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- This new facility will showcase advanced TCS platforms and technologies, providing a collaborative space for clients to develop tailored solutions.

12. U.S. AND PERU STRENGTHEN TIES FOR CRITICAL MINERAL COOPERATION

- The United States and Peru have signed an agreement to enhance cooperation in the sector of critical minerals.
- The memorandum, signed in Lima.
- It aims to boost governance, investment, and global supply chain security for critical mineral resources.
- The agreement outlines plans to enhance governance, attract investments, and secure global supply chains in the critical mineral resources sector,

Obituaries

August 2024

1. FORMER INDIAN CRICKETER AND COACH ANSHUMAN GAEKWAD PASSES AWAY

- In 2018, the BCCI honoured him with the C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.
- In 2023, his autobiography 'Guts Amid Bloodbath' was released.



2. FORMER ENGLAND BATTER GRAHAM THORPE PASSES AWAY

3. INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCER DR. YAMINI KRISHNAMURTHY, PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 84.

- Krishnamurthy displayed unparalleled talent in Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi
- She was bestowed with the Padma Shri in 1968 and the Padma Bhushan in 2001, Padma Vibhushan in 2016, which are among the highest civilian awards of India.
- She was also conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1977.
- Krishnamurthy published her autobiography, "A Passion For Dance" in 1995



4. BUDDHADEB BHATTACHARJEE, FORMER W.B CHIEF MINISTER, PASSES AWAY

5. K NATWAR SINGH, FORMER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER AND AUTHOR OF 'ONE LIFE IS NOT ENOUGH', DIES AT 93

- Singh, who was a diplomat before joining politics, had served as the External Affairs Minister from 2004-05 as part of then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's Cabinet.
- He was also appointed as India's Ambassador to Pakistan from 1980 to 1982, a particularly critical period in Indo-Pakistani relations.



6. LAST PARADESI JEWISH WOMAN IN KOCHI, QUEENIE HALLEGUA, DIES AT 89

7. RACHAEL LILLIS, VOICE ACTOR FOR MISTY AND JESSIE FROM 'POKÉMON', DIES AT 46

8. RENOWNED DRDO SCIENTIST RAM NARAIN AGARWAL, FATHER OF AGNI MISSILES, PASSES AWAY AT 84

- He played a crucial role in the long-range ballistic missile programme in the country and was the first Programme Director of the Agni missiles and was also known as Agni Man.



9. FORMER CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF GENERAL SUNDARARAJAN PADMANABHAN PASSED AWAY

10. JAPANESE WOMAN, AGED 116, SET TO BECOME WORLD'S OLDEST PERSON

- The title of the oldest living person now belongs to Japan's Tomiko Itooka, born on 23 May 1908, who is currently 116
- The oldest ever recorded was Frenchwoman Jeanne Calment, who lived to be 122 years and 164 days old.



IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	FACTS
1 August	World Wide Web Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This day commemorates the birth of the World Wide Web and serves as a reminder of the transformative impact it has had on our lives. ➤ Tim Berners-Lee was employed for the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland in 1989, he developed the World Wide Web.
3 August	India observes 14th Organ Donation Day	
6 August	Hiroshima Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Every year, August 6 is observed solemnly as Hiroshima Day around the world and this year will be the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city in the final year of World War II. ➤ The Manhattan Project, commissioned by the US, created two atomic bombs where the first one, called 'The Little Boy' was dropped in the city of Hiroshima on August 6 and the moment an American B-29 bomber dropped it on the city, an estimated 90,000 to 140,000 people were killed
7 August	National Javelin day 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Javelin Day serves as a meaningful tribute to Neeraj Chopra's accomplishments, symbolizing the heights that can be achieved through hard work and determination in(tokyo olympics gold for india in javelin)
7 August	10th National Handloom Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 10th National Handloom Day will be celebrated by min of textiles on 7th August 2024 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Hon'ble Vice President of India will be the Chief Guest on the occasion ➤ Award Catalogue and Coffee Table Book- "Parampara-Sustainability in Handloom Traditions of India" will be released by the Hon'ble Vice President of India. ➤ Theme : "weaving sustainable future"
8 August	Quit India Movement Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The day witnessed nationwide campaign of civil disobedience against British rule in India, the Quit India Movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi on this day in 1942. ➤ The movement was met with widespread arrests and repression, but it ultimately helped to pave the way for India's Independence in 1947.
9 August	Nagasaki day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>On this date in 1945, a U.S. B-29 bomber dropped a nuclear bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, killing some 39,000 men, women, and children on the day of the bombing and an estimated 80,000 by the end of the year</i> ➤ Just three days after the destruction of Hiroshima, the United States dropped 'Fat Man', the second atomic bomb. This attack was made. in the city of Nagasaki, Japan. ➤ Little Boy was a bomb made of uranium, while Fat Man was a bomb made of plutonium.
10 August	World Lion Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For 2024, the theme is "Lions in the Balance: Protecting Their Future. ➤ World Lion Day was first celebrated in 2013, initiated by the global conservation organization, Lion Aid. ➤ The day was created to address the alarming decline in lion populations across Africa and to encourage a global dialogue about their conservation ➤ Lion's scientific name is 'Panthera Leo'.
10 August	World Biofuel Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ World Biofuel day is celebrated on August 10th every year to commemorate the work of Sir Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of diesel engines. ➤ He has been credited with the discovery of the use of vegetable oil in general, and peanut oil in particular, in place of fossil fuels for the functioning of mechanical engines ➤ The theme for World Biofuel Day 2024 is "Sustainable Biofuels: Reducing Waste, Feeding Energy." ➤ This theme emphasizes the importance of developing and utilizing

		biofuels in a sustainable manner to ensure long-term environmental benefits
12 August	International Youth Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The United Nations declared in 1999 that August 12 would be the annual International Youth Day. It was based on a suggestion to the UN General Assembly made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon on December 17, 1999. It was first celebrated on August 12, 2000, and since then, the day has been used to educate the general public. ➤ In 2024, the selected theme is 'From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development'.
12 August	World Elephant Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Every year since 2012, 12 August is observed around the world as World Elephant Day ➤ Elephants are also called Pachyderms. The word was first used by French naturalist Georges Cuvier in the 1700s to denote hoofed animals with very thick skin. Elephants, hippopotamuses, rhinoceroses, horses, pigs, etc., are examples of Pachyderms ➤ “Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance” as the theme of World Elephant Day 2024. ➤ Elephant Reserves in India ➤ The government of India launched Project Elephant in 1992 as a centrally sponsored project to protect elephants. Under Project Elephant, reserves were created for the elephants. ➤ As per the 2017 census, there were 27,312 elephants in India, the highest in Asia. ➤ At present, there are 33 elephant reserves in 14 major elephant states of India. ➤ 33rd Elephant Reserve: Terai Elephant Reserve in Uttar Pradesh (notified in 2022). ➤ First Elephant Reserve: Singhbhum Elephant Reserve of Jharkhand (notified on 26 September 2001). ➤ States having maximum Elephant Reserves: Odisha and Tamil Nadu 5 each. ➤ Elephant Conservation In India ➤ The legal protection for elephants is as follows: ➤ The elephant has been included in Schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. Any animal which is included in Schedule 1 enjoys absolute protection. ➤ Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has included the elephants in its Appendix I. ➤ CITES is a multilateral treaty which seeks to regulate trade in animals and wildlife and protect them from overexploitation. India is a member of CITES. ➤ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed elephants as an endangered species.
13 August	World Organ Donation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This year, 2024, the slogan for World Organ Donation Day is "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!" ➤ This slogan aims to raise awareness about the critical need for organ donation and inspire individuals to consider becoming organ donors.
14 August	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in Indi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced to observe this day in 2021. ➤ The Partition of India in 1947 was a pivotal moment in South Asian history, leading to the division of British India into two independent countries: India and Pakistan.
15 August	Independence Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This day marks the historic moment in 1947 when India achieved freedom from British colonial rule after a prolonged struggle. ➤ It is a time to honour the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought tirelessly for the country's independence. ➤ The theme or slogan for the 78th Indian Independence Day 2024 is

		<p>‘Viksit Bharat,’ which aligns with the government’s vision of transforming India into a Developed Nation by 2047, coinciding with the 100th year of Independence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ India’s first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, delivered the iconic ‘Tryst With Destiny’ speech, declaring India’s independence. ➤ While India marks its independence on August 15, five other nations also celebrate their freedom on this significant date. These include South Korea, North Korea, Bahrain, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Liechtenstein. ➤ Gurdaspur Punjab (Bravest City of Punjab), district remained with Pakistan from August 14 till August 17, however the city, after 72 hours of suspense, burst out in joy on the afternoon of August 17. “It was after the Lahore radio, in its afternoon broadcast on August 17, confirmed that the district was back in India. ➤ At that time, the district comprised four tehsils — Shakargarh, Batala, Pathankot and Gurdaspur. Its boundary stretched from Dera Baba Nanak, located right on the International Border, to Dalhousie in present-day Himachal Pradesh. ➤ Of the four tehsils, Shakargarh went to Pakistan. ➤ British stuck to their original decision, India would have lost control of J&K because the only road that reached Kashmir was through Gurdaspur.
19 August	World Humanitarian Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2008 and was first celebrated in 2009. ➤ 2024 Campaign: #ActForHumanity
19 August	Sanskrit Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The first World Sanskrit Day was celebrated in 1969. ➤ World Sanskrit Day or Vishwa Sanskrit Diwas is celebrated on Purnima Tithi (Full moon) of Shravana month every year. ➤ It serves as a tribute to the birth anniversary of Panini, a distinguished Sanskrit scholar and grammarian. ➤ Sanskrit is among the 22 official languages included in the Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution. ➤ It is also included among 6 Classical languages besides Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia.
20 August	World Mosquito Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ World Mosquito Day is observed on 20 August every year to commemorate the British doctor, Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that 'female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans'. ➤ The theme for World Mosquito Day 2024 is "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world"
22 August	Madras Foundation Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Madras (now Chennai) was founded by the East India Company on August 22. ➤ The company bought it as a piece of land from the local Nayak rulers on this in 1639. ➤ The British Government wanted grant for land on the Coromandel Coast on which the company could build a factory and warehouse for their trading activities.
21 August	UN International Day Of Remembrance And Tribute To The Victims Of Terrorism	
22 August	Formation of Natal Indian Congress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mahatma Gandhi formed the Natal Indian Congress (NIC) on August 22, 1894, in order to fight the discrimination against the Indian traders in Natal, a coastal South African Province. ➤ Natal Indian Congress was an organization that aimed to fight discrimination against Indians in South Africa. ➤ In less than a month, about 300 Hindus, Muslims, Parsees, and Christians became members of the Natal Indian Congress.
23 August	first National Space Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ‘Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga -is the theme of the first National Space Day 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

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Indian Space Programme flag bearer, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), is considered one of the world's best space agencies. ➤ Chandrayaan -3 mission ➤ 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 government of India later renamed the place where the Vikram lander landed as Shiv Shakti Point. ➤ 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.
23 August	Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Pantulu his Birth Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Born on 23 August 1872 in Kanuparthi, Ongole taluk.(A.P) ➤ Authored The Journey of My Life (an autobiography). ➤ Popular advocate in Madras High Court (1907-1920). ➤ Joined the Non-Cooperation Movement after giving up legal practice. ➤ Led a procession against the Simon Commission in 1928, earning the title "Andhra Kesari." ➤ Played a key role in the Quit India Movement. ➤ Became the First Chief Minister of Andhra State in October 1953.
24 August	witnessed the birth of a revolutionary soul, Rajguru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He was a good shooter and was called the 'Gunman' of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) ➤ Shivaram Hari Rajguru was a prominent Indian freedom fighter and revolutionary who played a crucial role in the Indian independence movement against British colonial rule. He was born on August 24, 1908, in a village called Khed near Pune, Maharashtra ➤ He did not share Mahatma Gandhi's faith in non-violent Satyagraha. ➤ One of the most notable events in Rajguru's life was his involvement in the bombing of the Central Legislative Assembly in Delhi along with Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt ➤ In 1929, Rajguru, together with Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev Thapar, faced arrest in connection with the Lahore conspiracy case ➤ On the fateful day of March 23, 1931, Rajguru met his end through execution by hanging in Lahore jail, alongside Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev Thapar
29 August	National Sports Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Sports Day is also known as Rashtriya Khel Divas. ➤ This day marks the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major DhyanChand, who was born in 1905, in a Rajput family in Allahabad. ➤ The hockey wizard brought various laurels to the nation and was part of the Indian hockey team which struck gold in the Olympics of 1928, 1932, and 1936. ➤ He scored more than 400 goals in his career which spanned over 22 years. ➤ Serving as head coach at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala.

- C) To manage hospital resources
D) To track daily attendance of health workers
72. Which state became the first in the country to implement a Disaster Risk Management Insurance Solution (DRTPS)?
A) Nagaland B) Assam
C) Karnataka D) Kerala
73. What is the main feature of the VTLC-2 cocoa variety?
A) Late-bearing with low yields
B) Early-bearing, stable, with resistance to black pod rot and tea mosquito bug
C) Early-bearing with high moisture requirements
D) Late-bearing with medium canopy
74. Which state recently launched the 'HaatiApp' to mitigate humanelephant conflict?
A) Kerala B) Assam
C) Karnataka D) West Bengal
75. The Kakori Train Action was a train robbery, against the British Raj was held on which of the following date ?
a. August 9, 1926 b. August 9, 1924
c. August 9, 1925 d. August 9, 1928
76. Where was the 'Grain ATM' (Annapurthi) launched?
A) Mumbai B) Kolkata
C) Bhubaneswar D) Hyderabad
77. Which of the following sworn as the Bangladesh's new chief justice ?
A. Mohammed Younus B. Refaat Ahmed
C. Mohammed Shahabussin D. None of the above
78. Where did External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurate the Addu Reclamation Project and Addu Shore Protection Project?
A) Colombo, Sri Lanka B) Male, Maldives
C) Addu, Maldives D) Dhaka, Bangladesh
79. Which honor was conferred upon President Droupadi Murmu by Timor-Leste?
A) Order of the Rising Sun
B) Grand-Collar of the Order
C) Legion of Honor
D) Order of Saint Michael and Saint George
80. Which organization registered the world record for the largest-ever Kashmiri folk dance performed by 10,000 young women at the 'Kashur Riwaaj' cultural festival?
A) Guinness World Records
B) World Records Association
C) International Record Registry
D) Universal Records Forum (URF)
81. The Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve become the 3rd tiger reserve of which of the following state ?
A. Jharkhand B. Chattisgarh
C. Madhya Pradesh D. Rajasthan
82. Aman Sehrawat, who recently won bronze medal at Paris Olympics 2024, is associated with which sports?
[A] Boxing [B] Wrestling
[C] Table Tennis [D] Badminton
83. Recently, which three names were given to the underwater structures in the Indian Ocean?
[A] Ashoka, Chandragupt, and Kalpataru
[B] Mahatma, Nehru, and Gandhi
[C] Himalaya, Ganga, and Krishna
[D] Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma
84. Recently, which countries participated in bilateral Air force exercise 'Udara Shakti 2024'?
[A] China and Japan [B] India and Myanmar

- [C] India and Malaysia [D] India and Australia
85. The United Nations declared 12 August as which of the following day ?
A. International Youth Day
B. International Sports day
C. International Tourism day
D. International Water day
86. Which ministry is the nodal body for implementing the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0 scheme', recently seen in news?
[A] Ministry of Urban Development
[B] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
[C] Ministry of Agriculture
[D] Ministry of Rural Development
87. Farakka Barrage, recently seen in the news, is situated on which river?
[A] Ganga [B] Kaveri
[C] Krishna [D] Godavari
88. Who is honored with the first Book Brahma Sahitya Puraskara in 2024?
a) B. Jeyamohan b) M. T. Vasudevan Nair
c) C. N. Annadurai d) Kamala Das
89. Which of the following appointed as the cabinet Secretary of India ?
A. T.V Somanathan Appointed Cabinet Secretary
B. Vikram Misri
C. Giridhar Aramane
D. T. V. Somanathan
90. Which of the following Indian actor Receives Lifetime Award At Locarno Film Festival at Switzerland ?
A. Salman khan B. Shahrukh khan
C. Ajay Devgan D. Aamir khan
91. Which organization is responsible for organizing the Global Pravasi Women's Kabaddi League (GPKL)?
a) International Kabaddi Federation
b) World Kabaddi
c) Holistic International Pravasi Sports Association
d) Global Kabaddi Association
92. Who is the author of the book "75 Great Revolutionaries of India"?
A) Rajiv Gandhi B) Bhim Singh
C) Harivansh Narayan Singh D) Jawaharlal Nehru
93. What is the theme of 'International Youth Day 2024'?
[A] From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development
[B] Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World
[C] Intergenerational solidarity: Creating a world for all ages
[D] Transforming Food Systems: Youth Innovation for Human and Planetary Health
94. Which institute recently issued an advisory to farmers to control 'Fruit Rot Disease' (Kole Roga) in arecanut plantations?
[A] Central Research Institute of Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad
[B] Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasaragod
[C] Central Institute for Arid Horticulture, Bikaner
[D] Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal
95. Which of the following become the 3rd largest tiger reserve of india ?
A. Andhra Pradesh's Nagarjunasagar Srisaillam Tiger Reserve
B. Manas Tiger Reserve
C. Guru Ghasidas Tiger reserve
D. Jim corbett tiger reserve