

# International Current Affairs

**May  
2024**

## 1. NEPALESE CLIMBER PURNIMA SHRESTHA CONQUERS MOUNT EVEREST THRICE IN A SINGLE SEASON

- Nepalese climber Purnima Shrestha has achieved the extraordinary accomplishment of climbing Mount Everest three times during the current season.
- She had already climbed eight other 8,000-meter peaks, including the formidable K2 (8,611 m), Kanchenjunga (8,586 m), Lhotse (8,516 m), Makalu (8,481 m), Manaslu (8,163 m), Dhaulagiri (8,167 m), and Annapurna I (8,091 m).
- Additionally, another significant record was set by Kami Rita Sherpa, who achieved the remarkable feat of climbing Everest for the 30th time.

## 2. ALLAMAYE HALINA NAMED NEW PM OF CHAD

- Chad, a north-central African nation, has witnessed a significant transition in leadership as Mahamat Idriss Deby was sworn in as the country's new president.
- Deby's ascension to power marks the end of three years of military rule in the oil-rich but impoverished nation.
- Official currency in Chad is the Franc de la Coopération financière en Afrique (Central African CFA) (XAF), and the official languages are French and Arabic.



## 3. SAUDI ARABIA APPOINTS FIRST AMBASSADOR TO SYRIA SINCE 2012

- Saudi Arabia announced the appointment of its first ambassador to Syria since severing ties with Damascus in 12 years.
- Faisal al-Mujfel's appointment as the kingdom's first ambassador to Syria since 2012.

## 4. LITHUANIAN PRESIDENT GITANAS NAUSÉDA RE ELECTED FOR ANOTHER TERM

### About Lithuania

- Lithuania is located in north-eastern Europe and is the largest of the three Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
- They are called Baltic countries because they lie along the Baltic Sea.
- Lithuania became part of the Soviet Union in 1944.
- It became a member of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation in 2004.



## 5. MORE THAN 670 PEOPLE KILLED IN MUDSLIDE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA(MOUNT MUNGALO)

- According to the United Nations agency International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than 670 people have died in a remote village in the Pacific country of Papua New Guinea due to a massive landslide that has buried the whole village
- India announces 1 million dollar aid to Papua New Guinea

### Papua New Guinea

- Papua New Guinea is an island country situated in the Southwestern Pacific Ocean.
- It was administered by Australia and became independent in 1975.
- However, the British Monarch is the head of Papua New Guinea.
- Head of State: King Charles III of Britain.

Prime Minister: James Marape  
Capital: Port Morsley  
Currency: Kina



## 6. WHO ORGANIZED 'WALK THE TALK' YOGA SESSION PROGRAM IN GENEVA

- To mark the upcoming occasion of International Yoga Day, the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Geneva Switzerland and the World Health Organization (WHO) organized a 'Walk the Talk' yoga session event at the Place des Nations.
- Union Health Secretary Apoorva Chandra, WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and other senior officials of the Indian delegation attended the event and re-energized themselves with yoga asanas.



## 7. FRANCE CONDUCTS FIRST SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF ASMPA-R NUCLEAR AIRLAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE

- France conducted the first evaluation firing of its new air launched nuclear cruise missile, the Advanced Medium-Range Air-to Ground Strategic Missile (ASMPAR).
- It is an inertial-guided, air-to surface missile possibly guided by terrain-mapping and a preprogrammed onboard computer.
- The motor assembly includes a solid-propellant engine that turns on after the missile is released from the aircraft.



## 8. INDONESIA'S MOUNT IBU ERUPTED AGAIN

- A volcano on the isolated Indonesian island of Halmahera erupted dramatically, shooting a grey ash cloud into the sky.
- Mt. Ibu erupted, spewing ash 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) high and flashing purple lightning around its crater,
- The Ibu volcano is an active stratovolcano located along the NW coast of Halmahera Island in Indonesia.
- Stratovolcano is also called a composite volcano.
- Ibu's activities follow a series of eruptions of different volcanoes in Indonesia, which sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and has 127 active volcanoes.



## 9. WORLD CLOCKS MAY SOON SKIP A SECOND AS EARTH SPINS FASTER

- For the first time in history, timekeepers around the world may have to consider subtracting a second from our clocks in a few years, because the planet is spinning a little faster than before.
- Clocks may need to skip a second - called a "negative leap second" - around 2029, according to a study in the journal Nature
- For thousands of years, the Earth has been generally slowing down, with the rate varying from period to period
- The slowdown is mainly due to the effect of tides, which are caused by the pull of the moon



## 10. SPAIN JOINS INTERNATIONAL SOLAR ALLIANCE AS 99TH MEMBER

### About International Solar Alliance

- India and France conceived the idea of the International Solar Alliance as part of the effort to mobilize the countries to use solar energy to counter global warming and climate change.
- The Indian prime minister Narendra Modi and the French president Françoise Hollande agreed to set up the International Solar Alliance during the sidelines of the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris in 2015.
- Members of the ISA
- 119 countries have till date signed the ISA Framework Agreement. 99 countries have ratified and submitted the necessary International Solar Alliance Instrument of Ratification to become a full member.
- Headquarters of ISA: Gurugram, Haryana
- Director General - Ajay Mathur

## 11. NORWAY, SPAIN, AND IRELAND TO RECOGNISE PALESTINIAN STATE

- According to the Palestinian Authority, 142 out of the 193 member countries of the United Nations already recognise a state of Palestine. It includes many West Asian, African and Asian countries.
- Algeria was the first country in the world to recognise a two-state solution, the Palestinian state.
- India was amongst the first countries in the world to recognise the Palestinian state.



## 12. IOCL EXPORTS PREMIUM FUEL XP100 TO SRI LANKA

- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) has marked a significant milestone by exporting its first-ever consignment of 100 octane premium fuel, XP100, to Sri Lanka.
- The high-quality fuel, designed for premium high-end vehicles, was shipped from the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust in Mumbai.

## 13. SERUM INSTITUTE OF INDIA SENT THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT OF MALARIA VACCINE SENT TO AFRICA

- The Serum Institute of India (SII) achieved an important milestone with a shipment of the first set of R21/Matrix-M Malaria vaccine in seven-eight countries in Africa.
- The flag-off function of R21/Matrix-M™ malaria vaccine took place in the facility of Serum Institute of India in Pune.

## 14. CHINESE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE IMPOSED BAN ON AMERICAN COMPANIES DUE TO SELLING ARMS TO TAIWAN

- The Chinese Ministry of Commerce said that it would prohibit some US companies on imports and export activities related including selling to China, weapons to Taiwan, and would prevent them from making new investment in China.



### 15. ELON MUSK LAUNCHES STARLINK SATELLITE INTERNET SERVICE IN INDONESIA

- Elon Musk traveled to Indonesia's resort island of Bali on Sunday to launch Starlink satellite internet service in the world's largest archipelago nation.
- Starlink was launched at **three Indonesian health centres** on Sunday, including two in Bali and one on the remote island of Aru in Maluku.
- Indonesia is the third country in Southeast Asia where **Starlink will operate**.
- Neighboring **Malaysia** issued the firm a license to provide internet services last year, while a **Philippine**-based firm signed a deal with SpaceX in 2022.
- Starlink is also used extensively in **Ukraine**, where it is employed by the military, hospitals, businesses and aid organisations.



### 16. MOHAMMAD MOKHBER APPOINTED AS IRAN'S ACTING PRESIDENT

- Mohammad Mokhber, Iran's first vice president, becomes interim president following the 'tragic' demise of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash.
- He is expected to serve as **caretaker president for some 50 days** before mandatory presidential elections in Iran.
- Currently, **Ali Khamenei** is the Supreme leader of Iran.



### 17. ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN AGREE ON DISPUTED BORDER SECTIONS IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH

- Armenia and Azerbaijan had agreed a deal on disputed sections of their shared border, a new step towards normalising ties between the historic rivals.
- The deal between the two Caucasus nations, both former Soviet republics, includes the return to Azerbaijan of four border villages seized by Armenia in the 1990s.

#### Background of the Dipute:

- **Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked area in the South Caucasus** that has been the center of a long-running dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan ever since the Soviet Union broke up.
- **The area is mostly made up of native Armenians, but it is officially part of Azerbaijan.** Since the late 1980s, there have been random acts of violence in the area.
- Armenia and Azerbaijan fought two wars, in the 1990s and in 2020, for control of the then-contested breakaway region of Nagorno Karabakh.
- **Azerbaijan had demanded the return of the four villages as a condition for a peace deal after decades of conflict.**

### 18. VO VAN THUONG NAMED NEW VIETNAM PRESIDENT

### 19. HELICOPTER CARRYING IRANIAN PRESIDENT EBRAHIM RAISI 'CRASHES' IN EAST AZERBAIJAN

- According to the Iranian news agency, IRNA, Raisi met his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev earlier on 19 May 2024 and inaugurated **Qiz Qalasi Dam** jointly built by the two sides.
- Travelling with Raisi was Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, the governor of Iran's East Azerbaijan province and other officials.



### 20. ANMOL RAI, A TRANSWOMAN CROWNED AS MISS PINK NEPAL 2024 IN, KATHMANDU

- Now, Rai will represent Nepal in the **Miss International Queen 2024** competition, to be held in Thailand this year.
- **Miss Pink trans beauty pageant is a traditional pageant for the Nepali transgender community held in Nepal**
- Nepal has become the first country in South Asia to allow same-sex marriage, a step towards implementing gender equality and preventing discrimination towards LGBTQ people.



### 21. SLOVAKIA PRIME MINISTER ROBERT FICO SHOT AFTER GOVERNMENT MEETING

- **#Slovakia's** Prime Minister Robert Fico was shot after a government meeting and is being treated in hospital, the country's state news agency reported Wednesday.
- **#Fico** previously served as Slovakia's prime minister for more than a decade, first between 2006 and 2010 and then again from 2012 to 2018. He was forced to resign in March 2018 after weeks of mass protests over the murder of investigative journalist

### 22. MELINDA FRENCH GATES RESIGNS AS GATES FOUNDATION CO-CHAIR

- **Melinda French Gates** will **step down as co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**, the non-profit org. she and her ex-husband Bill Gates founded and built into one of the **world's largest philanthropic organizations over the past 20 years**.

### 23. INDIA GRANTS \$ 1 MILLION HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO FLOOD HIT KENYA

- The government of India has announced humanitarian assistance worth \$ one million to the government of Kenya to deal with the devastation caused by the floods in the country.
- More than 267 people in the country have been killed by the devastating flood, which has displaced more than 3, 80, 00 people in the country.

#### Republic of Kenya

- The Republic of Kenya is a country in East Africa. It is famous for its scenic landscape and its wildlife.
- It gained independence from England in 1963.
- The United Nations Environment Programme headquarter is situated in Nairobi.

President: William Ruto  
Capital: Nairobi  
Currency: Kenyan Shilling



### 24. RUSSIA'S CONTROVERSIAL OIL AND GAS DISCOVERY IN BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

- Russia has claimed to have discovered massive oil and gas reserves in the British Antarctic Territory, a region currently protected under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty.
- According to evidence submitted to the Commons Environment Audit Committee, the reserves uncovered by Russian research ships contain around 511 billion barrels worth of oil, a staggering amount equivalent to approximately 10 times the North Sea's output over the last 50 years.

### 25. CHINA SURPASSES US TO BECOME INDIA'S TOP TRADING PARTNER IN FY24

- According to the latest figures released by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), in the fiscal year 2024, India's bilateral trade with China totalled \$118.4 billion, with imports rising by 3.24% to \$101.7 billion and exports increasing by 8.7% to \$16.67 billion.
- Conversely, trade between India and the US experienced a slight decline. Two-way trade totalled \$118.3 billion in FY24, with Indian exports dropping by 1.32% to \$77.5 billion and imports decreasing by 20% to \$40.8 billion.
- The UAE, with trade worth \$83.6 billion, was ranked the third largest trading partner of the India, followed by Russia at \$65.7 billion, Saudi Arabia at \$43.4 billion and Singapore at \$35.6 billion.

### 26. INDIA-OMAN COLLABORATION ON SHARK AND RAY RESEARCH IN ARABIAN SEA

- To bolster research and conservation efforts concerning sharks and rays in the Arabian Sea, India and Oman are set to embark on a joint initiative.
- This collaboration aims to enhance understanding, promote conservation, and facilitate capacity building in elasmobranch research, with a particular focus on the Arabian Sea region.
- This workshop, jointly organized by CMFRI and Oman's Marine Science and Fisheries Centre,

### 27. INDIA CONTRIBUTES \$500,000 TO UN COUNTER-TERRORISM TRUST FUND

- India has reaffirmed its dedication to the global fight against terrorism by contributing \$500,000 to the UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund (CTTF). Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, delivered the contribution to Under Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov.
- This financial support adds to India's ongoing commitment, totaling \$2.55 million, aimed at bolstering multilateral efforts against terrorism.

### 28. CHAD MILITARY DICTATOR IDRISSEDEBY WIN'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION REPUBLIC OF CHAD

- Chad is a landlocked country situated in north-central Africa
- It is the fifth largest country in Africa in area.
- President is the head of the state and the head of the government in Chad.
- The president has a six-year term, and a person can be president for only two terms.
- Capital: N'Djamena
- Currency: CFA franc
- President: MahamatIdrisDebyltno

### 29. EU ADOPTS FIRST LAW AGAINST VIOLENCE TOWARDS WOMEN

- The sweeping law aims to protect women in the 27-nation EU from gender-based violence, forced marriages, female genital mutilation and online harassment.
- It sets minimum sentences, ranging from one year to five years in prison, depending on the crime.
- Under the rules, if the victim is a child, spouse or ex spouse, the punishment can be more severe.
- EU states must transpose the rules into national law within three years.

### 30. INDIA, 3RD-HIGHEST SOLAR POWER GENERATOR IN THE WORLD, OVERTAKES JAPAN

- Due to rapid growth in installed solar power capacity, India became the third-largest solar power generator in 2023.
- The 5th "Global Electricity Review" report published by the United Kingdom-based global think tank Ember said that India, which was ranked ninth in 2015, jumped to third position in 2023, overtaking Japan



### 31. VLADIMIR PUTIN SWORN IN AS RUSSIAN PRESIDENT FOR A NEW SIX-YEAR TERM

- Russia is the world's **largest country by area**. It is a **Eurasian country that geographically lies in both Europe and Asia**.
- However, it is considered to be a European country.
- The Modern Russian Federation came into being in 1991 after the dissolution of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) or the Soviet Union.

Capital: **Moscow**  
Currency: **Rouble**  
President: **Vladimir Putin**  
Prime Minister: **Mikhail Mishustin**

### 32. JOSE RAUL MULINO WINS PANAMA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

- Panama is famous for its Panama Canal, which connects the **Pacific Ocean** with the **Atlantic Ocean** and is an important global maritime trade route.
- **The Panama Canal is an 82 km long man-made canal that was controlled by the United States.**
- Capital: **Panama City**
- Currency: **Balboa**
- **President** : Laurentino Cortizo

### 33. FLIRT: NEW COVID-19 VARIANTS INCREASE CONCERN IN US

- A series of COVID-19 variants within the Omicron JN.1 lineage, known as **FLiRT**, including the **KP.2** and **KP 1.1** variants, is rapidly spreading in the United States, exhibiting new mutations which increase their contagiousness.
- The symptoms are largely **similar to those of other Omicron infections** and hospitalisation rates remain low.

### 34. BAJAJ AUTO TO LAUNCH WORLD'S FIRST CNG-POWERED BIKE

- The CNG-powered bike is to be named **Bruzer 125 CNG**.
- The company will start with an initial capacity of 20,000 CNG motorcycles.
- **There is no other CNG motorcycle in the world at the moment.**

**Bajaj Managing Director** - Rajiv Bajaj  
**Founder** - Jamnalal Bajaj  
**Headquarters** - Pune, Maharashtra

### 35. NEPAL INTRODUCE NEW RS 100 CURRENCY NOTE FEATURING INDIAN TERRITORIES

- The Indian territories featured on Nepal currency - **Lipulekh, Limpiyadhura, and Kalapani**.
- Nepal completed the process to update the country's political map by incorporating three strategically important areas **Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas by amending its Constitution**
- Notably, both nations have included this region in their official maps, even though it is under India's administration.
- Nepal shares a border of over 1,850 km with five Indian States — **Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.

### 36. INDIA LODGES PROTEST WITH CHINA OVER ITS INFRA DEVELOPMENT IN SHAKSGAM VALLEY

- India has lodged a strong protest with China for carrying out construction activities in the **Shaksgam valley**
- **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson RandhirJaiswal said that the Shaksgam valley is a part of India and New Delhi never accepted the so-called China-Pakistan boundary pact of 1963 through which Islamabad "unlawfully" attempted to cede the area to Beijing.**
- **The Shaksgam Valley, or Trans Karakoram Tract**, is part of the Hunza-Gilgit region of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and is a disputed territory claimed by India but controlled by Pakistan.
- However, **Article 6 of the Pak-China agreement** clearly stated that "the two parties have agreed that after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the sovereign authority concerned will reopen negotiations with the Government of the People's Republic of China, on the boundary as described in Article Two of the present agreement.

### 37. ALEJANDRA MARISA RODRIGUEZ (60) CROWNED MISS UNIVERSE BUENOS AIRES

- **Alejandra Marisa Rodríguez, 60**, has won the title of **Miss Universe for the province of Buenos Aires 2024**.
- **She becomes the first woman of her age to win such a prestigious beauty pageant.**
- The Miss Universe organization last year announced that it would no longer have age limits for pageant contestants.

### 38. HINGLAJYATRAIN PAKISTAN: HINDU PILGRIMS CLIMBED MUD VOLCANOES AS PART OF A THREE-DAY PILGRIMAGE

- Located in Balochistan's **Hingol National Park**, **HinglajYatra** is a **three-day pilgrimage** and **Pakistan's largest Hindu festival**.
- **Hinglaj Mata Temple** is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas in the Shaktism denomination of Hinduism
- More than 1,00,000 Hindus are expected to participate.
- **Muslim-majority Pakistan is home to 4.4 million Hindus, just 2.14% of the population**

### 39. BRITAIN'S ASTRAZENECA ADMITS THAT ITS CORONA VACCINE 'COVISHIELD' MAY CAUSE RARE SIDE EFFECTS

- AstraZeneca is facing a **class action lawsuit in Britain** over claims that its vaccine **caused a number of cases of deaths and serious injuries**.
- Victims are demanding damages of up to **£100 million in 51 cases in the UK High Court**.
- British pharma giant AstraZeneca has admitted that its Covid vaccine 'Covishield' may cause rare side effects.
- The vaccine manufacturer has said in court documents that **Covishield can cause blood clots and lower platelet counts**.
- Covishield, developed by **AstraZeneca and Oxford University**, was produced by the Serum Institute of India and widely administered in the country during the pandemic.

### 40. ARGENTINE SCIENTISTS UNVEIL DISCOVERY OF SPEEDY 90-MILLION-YEAR-OLD HERBIVORE DINOSAUR

- **Paleontologists from Argentina** have revealed the unearthing of a novel medium-sized herbivorous dinosaur, **Chakisaurusnekul**, which thrived approximately 90 million years ago during the Late Cretaceous period in **present-day Patagonia**.

**41. SRI LANKA HANDED OVER THE RENOVATION PROJECT OF 'KANKESANTHURAI PORT' TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

- Recognizing the importance of the project, India has promised to cover the entire estimated cost of the project.
- This decision not only addresses the infrastructural needs of the port but also underlines the strength of bilateral cooperation between Sri Lanka and India.
- Earlier a joint venture between an Indian and a Russian firm has won a 30-year contract to manage Sri Lanka's Mattala Rajapaksa International Airport, located near Hambantota.
- The airport, once described as "the world's emptiest airport"

**42. TAAMJA' BLUE HOLE (TJBH): WORLD'S DEEPEST BLUE HOLE DISCOVERED IN MEXICO**

- Researchers have discovered the **world's deepest blue hole in Mexico**, but they haven't reached its bottom yet.
- Located in Chetumal Bay at the southeast corner of the Yucatan Peninsula.
- The site named TaamJa' Blue Hole (TJBH) is now the **deepest known underwater sinkhole in the world**.
- TJBH extends at least 1,380 feet (420 metres) below sea level.

**43. UNESCO RECOGNIZES FEMINIST UTOPIAN NOVEL SULTANA'S DREAM AS PART OF "MEMORY OF THE WORLD"**

- Sultana's Dream, the utopian novel of a world without men written by Bengali author Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain in 1905 British India (no Bangladesh), has been recognised by UNESCO as part of its Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Committee (MOWCAP)
- The Memory of the World Programme of the UNESCO aims to facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage, particularly in areas affected by conflict and/or natural disaster.

**44. CHINA TO LAUNCH CHANG'E-6 LUNAR PROBE CARRYING PAKISTAN'S ICUBE-Q MISSION**

- China is set to launch the **Chang'e-6** lunar probe on a **round trip to the Moon**, marking a significant advancement in their space exploration.
- The mission aims to gather soil and rock samples from the far side of the Moon, providing crucial insights into its early evolution and the inner solar system.
- **Pakistan** is set to launch its maiden **lunar mission, ICUBE-Q**, aboard China's Chang'e-6 probe.
- Developed in collaboration with China's Shanghai University and Pakistan's **Institute of Space Technology (IST)**, ICUBE-Q carries optical cameras to capture images of the lunar surface.

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# National News

## Current Affairs

**May  
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### 1. Sanchar Saathi Initiative: Home Ministry & DoT crackdown on fake SMS

- The Department of Telecommunication (DoT), in association with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, has initiated a strong crackdown on the menace of fraudulent SMS (Short Messaging Service) under the Sanchar Saathi Initiative.
- Eight SMS headers that were being used by cyber criminals to target unsuspecting mobile phone owning customers have been blocked by the government.

#### Sanchar Saathi Initiative

- The Sanchar Saathi Initiative was launched by the Union Communication Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on 16 May 2023 in New Delhi.
- The Sanchar Saathi portal has been developed by the Department of Telecommunication to empower mobile subscribers, increase awareness about citizen-centric initiatives of the Government and strengthen their security.



### 2. KIA bags Green Airports Recognition-2024 award

- The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has bagged the silver award in the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific & Middle East 'Green Airports Recognition (GAR) 2024'.
- The KIA bagged the silver award in the category of airports handling between 15 million and 35 million passengers a year.
- The theme for the Green Airports Recognition 2024 is 'Biodiversity and nature-based solutions'.
- The recognised airports have been awarded in three categories – platinum, gold, and silver
- The airports are bracketed into four categories: over 35 million passengers a year, between 15 million and 35 million passengers, between 8 million and 15 million passengers, and less than 8 million passengers a year.
- The other Indian airports to win the GAR 2024 are:
- New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (silver) in airports handling over 35 million passengers a year category and
- Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport (silver) in airports handling less than 8 million passengers a year category.

### 3. FIRST HYDROGEN PLANT OF GAIL INAUGURATED IN VIJAIPUR, MP

- The government of India-owned GAIL (India) Limited's first green hydrogen plant has become operational at Vijaipur in Madhya Pradesh.
- This marks the entry of India's largest natural gas transmission and Distribution Company in the green fuel business.
- The first green hydrogen plant of GAIL at Vijaipur uses a 10 MW proton exchange membrane (PEM) electrolyser which has been imported from Canada



### 4. SOUTH KASHMIR'S MUNEEB AMIN BHAT INDUCTED INTO NASA'S 'HALL OF FAME'

- Kashmiri techie Muneeb Amin Bhat, hailing from Jangalpura village in Kulgam district in South Kashmir, has received the prestigious recognition by entering the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) 'Hall of Fame' for his remarkable contribution in detecting data breach vulnerabilities.



### 5. RUSSIAN NUCLEAR AGENCY ANNOUNCED TO PROVIDE NEXT GENERATION NUCLEAR FUEL TO INDIA

- Russia has announced that it will supply next-generation nuclear fuel to its strategic partner this summer.
- Apart from this, Russia is ready to help India in building high capacity nuclear power units at a new site in addition to the nuclear power project at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.
- Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation Director General Alexey Likhachev made the offer during a meeting with Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Ajit Kumar Mohanty in Seversk, Russia.



## 6. MUMBAI GIRL KAAMYA KARTHIKEYAN BECOMES YOUNGEST INDIAN TO SUMMIT MT EVEREST FROM NEPAL SID

- **16-year-old Kaamyia Karthikeyan** is a class 12 student from Mumbai.
- She and her father Cdr S Karthikeyan successfully summited Mt. Everest (8,849 m) – making her the youngest Indian & the second youngest girl in the world to summit Mt Everest from the Nepal side.
- Kaamyia has completed 6 summits out of all seven continents and aims to climb Mt. Vinson Massif in Antarctica this December to become the youngest girl to accomplish the '7summits challenge'.

### Seven Summits

Asia: Mount Everest	South America: Aconcagua	North America: Denali
Africa: Mount Kilimanjaro	Europe: Mount Elbrus	Antarctica: Mount Vinson
Australia (and Oceania): Kosciuszko		

### 16YO Kaamyia Karthikeyan and her father successfully summit Mt. Everest



## 7. UTTAR PRADESH TOPS IN ADDITION OF TRANSMISSION LINE IN 2023-24

- According to the recently released statistics of the Central Electricity Authority, Uttar Pradesh emerged as the number one state in terms of the addition of transmission lines by state transmission companies in 2023-24
- Second GUJARAT, third TAMIL NADU, fourth ANDHARA PRADESH

## 8. MISSION ISHAN: STREAMLINING INDIA'S AIRSPACE FOR ENHANCED EFFICIENCY

- India is embarking on Mission ISHAN, aimed at consolidating its fragmented airspace management into a single, unified system headquartered in Nagpur.
- This move promises to revolutionize air traffic management, benefitting both airlines and passengers.

## 9. 'LET'S MOVE INDIA' CAMPAIGN CELEBRATES OLYMPIANS BOUND FOR PARIS

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has launched the "Let's Move India" campaign in collaboration with the Reliance Foundation and the Abhinav Bindra Foundation.
- The initiative aims to celebrate the Olympians heading to the upcoming Paris Olympics and encourage everyone to participate in physical activity.

## 10. THIRUVANANTHAPURAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LEADS NATION WITH ZERO WASTE TO LANDFILL ACCOLAD

- Thiruvananthapuram International Airport has made history as the first airport in India to achieve the prestigious recognition of zero waste to landfill (ZWL).
- This commendation comes from the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII-ITC) Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Development, confirming the airport's commitment to environmentally responsible practice



## 11. BRO'S PROJECT VIJAYAK IN LADAKH SUCCESSFULLY USED INDIGENOUS REJUPAVE ROAD CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY

- In Ladakh, Project Vijayak of the Border Roads Organization (BRO) in Kargil has successfully used Rejupave road construction technology. Developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Road Research Institute (CSIRCRI) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- Rejupave was used to construct high altitude bituminous roads in low and sub-zero temperatures on the Dras-Umbala-Sanku Road, located in Dras, the second coldest inhabited place in the world.
- Project Vijayak was launched by BRO in 2010. Project Vijayak, along with Project Himank is responsible for the construction and maintenance of critical road infrastructure in Ladakh.

## 12. FSSAI FINDS NO ETHYLENE OXIDE TRACES IN MDH AND EVEREST SPICES

- Samples of spices of two major brands MDH and Everest were tested in 28 accredited laboratories by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- Last month, they started taking samples of spices in powder form of all brands, including MDH and Everest, from across the country in view of quality concerns flagged by Hong Kong and Singapore.

### Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) were set up in 2008 under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006.
- FSSAI is a statutory body which is under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- FSSAI has been created to lay down science-based standards for food and to regulate its manufacture, storage, distribution, sale, and import to ensure the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Regional Offices: Delhi, Guwahati, Mumbai, Kolkata, Cochin and Chennai

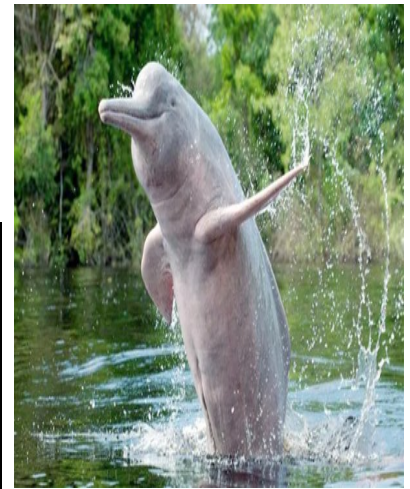


### 13. OVER 4000 GANGETIC DOLPHINS IN INDIA :INDIAN WILDLIFE INSTITUTE

- According to a recent report by the **Wildlife Institute of India**, there are more than 4000 dolphins in the Gangetic River basin. Out of the 4000 river dolphins found in the **Ganga River and its tributaries**, **more than 2000 are found in Uttar Pradesh alone**. In Uttar Pradesh, the dolphins are mainly found in the **Chambal River**.
- Ganges river dolphin also known as **blind dolphin**, **Ganges Susu** or Hihu's scientific name is **Platanista gangetica**.
- **Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary** in Bhagalpur, Bihar, has been set up to protect the species.
- The Prime Minister has announced **Project Dolphin in 2019** under the Arth Ganga part of the Namami Ganga Project.
- **The aim is to double the population of Dolphins by 2030.**

#### **Wildlife Institute of India**

- The Wildlife Institute of India was established in 1982 as an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Forest and Climate Change.
- The Institute was set up to train government and non-government personnel conduct research, and advice on matters of conservation and management of wildlife resources. It mainly conducts research on wildlife and its management across the country.
- Headquarters: Dehradun, Uttarakhand



### 14. MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS WARNED ABOUT THE NEW FORM OF CYBERCRIME 'DIGITAL ARREST'

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a warning about the increase in '**digital arrest**' scams, where cyber criminals take the form of government officials to withdraw money from the victims without thinking.
- **The Cyber Crime Coordination Center of India (i4C)** is actively combating this organized online economic crime in **collaboration with Microsoft**.



### 15. JYOTI RATRE, 55, BECOMES OLDEST INDIAN WOMAN TO CONQUER MOUNT EVEREST

- Jyoti Ratre, an entrepreneur and fitness enthusiast from Madhya Pradesh, has become the oldest Indian woman to conquer Mount Everest.
- Guided by Lakpa nurbu Sherpa, Ming nurbu Sherpa and Pasang tenzing Sherpa
- 1. Avatar Singh Cheema
- 2. Bachendri Pal
- 3. Malavath Poorna



### 16. FSSAI WARNS AGAINST USING CALCIUM CARBIDE FOR FRUIT RIPENING

- **The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has asked traders and food business operators **not to use 'calcium carbide'** the banned product (under the Regulation of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales Regulations, 2011) for ripening of fruits.
- **Calcium carbide, commonly used for ripening fruits like mangoes**, releases acetylene gas, which **contains harmful traces of arsenic and phosphorus**.
- There are chances **that calcium carbide may come in direct contact with fruits during application and leave residues of arsenic and phosphorus on fruits**
- **Can cause serious health issues such as dizziness, frequent thirst, irritation, weakness, difficulty in swallowing, vomiting and skin ulcers**, etc
- Ethylene, a naturally occurring hormone in fruits, regulates the ripening process by initiating and controlling a series of chemical and biochemical activities.

#### **About Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**

- It is an **autonomous body** established under the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**, Government of India.
- The FSSAI has been established **under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**, which is a **consolidating statute related to food safety and regulation in India**.
- H.Q - Delhi

### 17. SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR RECEIVES FIRST STAMP RELEASED COMMEMORATING COMPLETION OF 200 YEARS OF INDIAN ORIGIN TAMILS IN SRI LANKA

- **Taken by British to Sri Lanka**, the Malaiyaha (Hill Country) Tamils, or Indian-origin Tamils have borne the brunt of several injustices — from being stripped of citizenship to working in inhumane conditions.
- **The Citizenship Act of 1948 stripped the community of its citizenship**, making its members stateless.
- **The Sirima-Shastri Pact, signed in 1964** between prime ministers Lal Bahadur Shastri and Sirimavo Bandaranaike, repatriated at least half a million Indian-origin Tamils to India.

## 18. ICMR WARNS AGAINST MISUSE OF NON-STICK TEFLON COOKWARE

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has cautioned that overheating in cracked and scratched teflon-coated nonstick pans can emit large volumes of poisonous fumes and dangerous chemicals into meals (when cooked at a high temperature of over 170 degrees Celsius), potentially **causing lung ailments and cancer**.
- Hyderabad-based National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), which functions under ICMR has instead asked **people to use eco-friendly cookware, such as earthen pots and coating-free granite stone utensils**.
- Polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), commonly known as Teflon, is a synthetic chemical comprising carbon and fluorine atoms.
- It was first created in the 1930s and provides a nonreactive, nonstick, and almost frictionless surface to utensils.

## 19. ICE CREAM MAN OF INDIA' RAGHUNANDAN KAMATH DIES AT 70

- Fondly known as the "Ice Cream Man of India", founder of Naturals Ice Cream **Raghunandan Srinivas Kamath** passed away.
- Kamath first founded the ice cream brand in Mumbai

## 20. IIT DELHI - ABU DHABI TO COMMENCE ITS FIRST ACADEMIC SESSION IN 24-25

- The first international campus of IIT Delhi will commence its first academic session in 2024-25 in **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. Initially, the IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi campus will offer undergraduate courses
- IIT Madras has set up a campus in Zanzibar, Tanzania, which commenced its academic season in 2023-24.



### About United Arab Emirates (UAE)

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is an Arab country located in the Arabian peninsula of West Asia.
- Seven emirates came together to form the present UAE. It consists of **Abu Dhabi, Sharjah, Dubai, Ajman, Umm al-Qaywayn, Ras al-Khaimah and Al-Fujairah**.
- The UAE, in its present form, came into existence in 1971.
- UAE is an Arab country with a Muslim population.
- **Abu Dhabi is the largest of the emirates and is the centre of the UAE oil industry.**

Prime Minister: **Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum**  
Capital: **Abu Dhabi**  
Currency: **Dirham**

## 21. MUKESH AMBANI AND GAUTAM ADANI IN WORLD'S TOP 15 SUPER RICH LIST

- **Mukesh Ambani** and **Gautam Adani** have been included in the top 15 world's super-rich list of the **Bloomberg Billionaires Index**.

Rank	Person	Wealth	Country	Industry
1	<b>Bernard Arnault</b>	\$220 billion	France	Consumer
2	<b>Jeff Bezos</b>	\$207 billion	United States	Technology (Amazon)
3	<b>Elon Musk</b>	\$190 billion	United States	Technology (Tesla)
4	Mark Zuckerberg	\$168 billion	United States	Technology (Meta)
5	Larry Page	\$156 billion	United States	Technology (Alphabet)
6	Bill Gates	\$154 billion	United States	Technology (Microsoft)
7	Sergey Brin	\$148 billion	United States	Technology (Alphabet)
8	Steve Ballmer	\$145 billion	United States	Technology (Microsoft)
9	Warren Buffet	\$138 billion	United States	Diversified (Berkshire Hathaway)
10	Larry Ellison	\$138 billion	United States	Technology (Oracle)
11	Micheal Dell	\$138 billion	United States	Technology (Dell)
12	<b>Mukesh Ambani</b>	\$110 billion	India	Energy (Reliance Industries)
13	Carlos Slim	\$106 billion	Mexico	Diversified
14	<b>Gautam Adani</b>	\$ 100 billion	India	Industry
15	Bettencourt Meyers	\$99.9 billion	France	Consumer (L'Oreal)



## 22. CENTRE ISSUES FIRST SET OF CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATES UNDER CAA TO 14 APPLICANTS

- **Over two months** after notifying rules for the **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)**, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued the **first set of citizenship certificates under the law to 14 persons**.
- The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) was passed on December 11, 2019 to amend the Citizenship Act of 1955.



- CAA sought to fast-track the process of granting Indian citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians—but not Muslims—who migrated to India before 31st December 2014 owing to religious persecution in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh.

### 23. RAJASTHAN'S FIRST WOMEN MINISTER KAMLA BENIWAL (CONGRESS PARTY) NO MORE

#### FIRST WOMENS

- **Shanno Devi** was the first woman speaker of a state Legislative Assembly. She was elected the speaker of the **Haryana Legislative Assembly**( from 6 December 1966 to 17 March 1967)
- The first woman speaker of the Lok Sabha was **Meira Kumar** from 4 June 2009 to 5 June 2014.
- **Sarojini Naidu**, the Nightingale of India, was the first woman governor of India. She was appointed as the governor of the United Provinces from 15 August 1947 to 2 March 1949. On 26 January 1950, the name of the United Provinces was changed to Uttar Pradesh.
- **Sucheta Kriplani** became the first woman chief minister of a state when she was appointed as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (1963-1967).
- **Indira Gandhi** was the first woman Prime Minister of India. She became the Prime Minister in 1966.
- **Pratibha Patil Singh** was the first woman President of India (2007 to 2012)
- **Amrit Kaur** was the first female cabinet minister in India. She was the minister of Health in the Nehru government from 16 August 1947 to 1957.



### 24. FORMER INDIAN ARMY OFFICER WAIBHAV ANIL KALE KILLED IN RAFAH

- Former Indian Army officer, **Colonel (retd.) Waibhav Anil Kale** was killed in Gaza after his vehicle came under attack in **Rafah, Gaza**. Waibhav Anil Kale was presently employed with the United Nations as a staff member of the **United Nations Department of Safety and Security (DSS)** in Gaza.

### 25. NATION'S BIGGEST SKILL COMPETITION, INDIA SKILLS 2024 INAUGURATED

- The **four-day** nation's biggest skill competition, **IndiaSkills 2024**, commenced in New Delhi on 15 May 2024. The inaugural ceremony was held at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi.
- The skilling competition will test students' skills across India in **61 categories** from 15 -18 May 2024 and offer youth a platform to showcase their talent at national and international levels.
- The four day IndiaSkills Competition 2024 has been organised by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)**. NSDC is an apex skill development agency under the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

### 26. INDIA TO OPERATE A TERMINAL OF IRANIAN CHABAHAH PORT FOR NEXT 10 YEARS

- **India and Iran** have signed an agreement under which India will operate the strategically important **Shahid Beheshti terminal of Chabahar Port of Iran for the next 10 years**.
- Till now India operated the Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar on a short term contract which was renewed periodically .**This is the first international terminal which will be operated by India.**



### 27. OPERATION SADBHAVANA: INDIAN ARMY'S SUPPORT FOR NORTH SIKKIM'S REMOTE COMMUNITIES

- Under **Operation Sadbhavana**, the Indian Army's Trishakti Corps demonstrated unwavering support for North Sikkim's remote communities in Naga and Rangrang villages.
- Following a devastating glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF), the Corps distributed essential relief materials
- Additionally, a medical camp provided critical healthcare services to over 150 patients

### 28. EAM DR S JAISHANKAR INAUGURATES ARBITRATION BAR OF INDIA (ABI) IN DELHI

- External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** Inaugurated the **Arbitration Bar of India at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi**
- **Arbitration is a form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) that is used to resolve disputes outside of the courts.**
- It involves the intervention of a third party, known as an arbitrator, who is chosen by the parties involved in the dispute.



### 29. BSNL ANNOUNCES TO START 4G SERVICES ACROSS INDIA FROM AUGUST 2024

- In line with the "**Atmanirbhar**" policy, it will start 4G services across the country from August 2024 using completely indigenous technology. BSNL officials claim to have recorded a **maximum speed of 40-45 megabits per second** on the 4G network, which has been launched during the pilot phase in the premium spectrum band of 700 megahertz (MHz) as well as in the 2,100 MHz band.
- **The company has launched 4G services in Punjab using technology developed indigenously by a consortium led by IT company TCS and state-run telecom research organization C-DOT and has onboarded around 8 lakh customers.**

### 30. KRISHIKALP LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST ACCELERATOR PROGRAM FOR FARMER PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS IN BENGALURU

- **Krishikalpa**, a non-profit organization, has launched India's first accelerator program for **farmer producer organizations** in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NABARD** has provided financial support for this initiative.
- This will help FPOs to connect to markets and resources. Krishikalpa will also help in developing entrepreneurial skills, supply chain management and providing market orientation training to the members of the FPO.

### 31. SRI LANKA INKS 20-YEAR POWER PURCHASE DEAL WITH ADANI GREEN ENERGY

- The **Sri Lankan government** has approved an agreement with **Adani Green Energy**, led by **Gautam Adani**, for the development of **wind power stations** in **Mannar** and **Pooner**. The agreement was given the green light by the Sri Lankan cabinet.
- Under the **power purchase agreement**, which has duration of **20 years**, Adani Green Energy will be paid **8.26 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh)** for the electricity generated from the wind power stations.



### 32. BORDER ROADS ORGANISATION TO START WORK ON SHINKU LA TUNNEL

- It is an upcoming motorable tunnel under the **16,580 feet high Shinku-La pass** between **Himachal's Lahaul valley** and **Ladakh's Zaskar valley**.
- It is located on the **Nimmu-Padam-Darcha Road link**. The road will be the first all-weather road **connecting Ladakh to the rest of the country**
- After completion, the **4.1-kilometre-long Shinku-la tunnel** will be the world's highest tunnel at **16580 feet**, surpassing China's **Mila tunnel**. The tunnel is likely to be **completed by 2025**

### 33. IAF CONDUCTED 'BAMBI BUCKET' OPERATION TO DOUSE NAINITAL FOREST FIRE

- The Indian Air Force had deployed its **Mi-17 V5 helicopter** to undertake **Bambi Bucket** operations to douse the forest fires near **Nainital**.
- The helicopter used a "**Bambi Bucket**", also known as a **helicopter bucket** or a **helibucket**, to collect water from **Bhimtallake, located near Nainital**, and poured it over the burning forests.
- Bambi bucket is a specialised apparatus designed for aerial firefighting purposes and was introduced in 1983.
- It was invented by a Canadian man, **Don Arney**. In 2017, he was inducted into the **Inventors Hall of Fame** for this invention
- It allows the helicopters to transport volumes of water underneath the aircraft and disperse it.

### 34. PAYTM PRESIDENT AND COO BHAVESH GUPTA RESIGNS

- The Company has accepted his resignation, and he will be relieved on **May 31, 2024**
- **Varun Sridhar** appointed as CEO of Paytm Services Pvt Limited.
- **Rakesh Singh** appointed as CEO of Paytm Money.
- **Vijay Shekhar Sharma** - Founder & CEO, of Paytm
- Parent organization: **One97 Communications**
- Founded: **August 2010**

### 35. CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST TO START HARVARD PROGRAM

- **Chandigarh University** signs **MoU** with **Harvard** to offer a **Harvard University collaborative business management program**, aligning with India's **New Education Policy** for international academic partnerships.
- Under the collaboration, **Chandigarh University** students will be taught by the faculty of **Harvard University's Business School** for a semester under this online **MBA programme**.
- **Chandigarh University's** students to be graded with **Harvard University** students, **get placements at top global firms**
- **CU Chancellor** - **Satnam Singh Sandhu**

### 36. AIR INDIA LAUNCHES AIRBUS A350-900 ON DELHI-DUBAI ROUTE, MARKS INTERNATIONAL DEBUT

- **Air India** commenced operations of its brand-new **Airbus A350-900 aircraft** on the busy **Delhi-Dubai route**, marking the flagship plane's international debut.
- With this, **Air India** becomes the only carrier to operate the **A350** between **India and Dubai**.

### 37. INDIAN ARMY AND PUNITBALAN GROUP COLLABORATE TO DEVELOP INDIA'S FIRST CONSTITUTION PARK

- **The Indian Army and the PunitBalan Group** joined hands to inaugurate the nation's **first Constitution Park** in **Pune**.
- The ceremony, led by **Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh**, emphasized the importance of citizens honoring their duties outlined in the **Constitution** to drive India towards development by **2047**.

### 38. INDIAN WOMAN SARPANCH WILL REPRESENT THE COUNTRY IN THE PROGRAM OF UNITED NATIONS POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION IN NEW YORK

- **Three women sarpanches** from **Tripura, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh** will represent India at an event under the aegis of the ongoing **57th meeting** of the **Commission on Population and Development (CPD)** in **New York, United States of America**.
- This program will be organised by **ministry of panchayat and UNFPA**.

### 39. ISRAEL EMBASSY LEADS DELHI NCR 'MILLION MIYAWAKI' MISSION

- The Embassy of Israel in India, in collaboration with the **Million Miyawaki Foundation**, has officially joined the '**Million Miyawaki**' project, a community-led initiative aimed at improving air quality in Indian cities through mass afforestation in tight urban spaces

- Under this project, efforts are made at planting a million trees in Delhi-NCR
- Focus on creating **forest-like Miyawaki plantations**.
- **Miyawaki Method** was named after Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, this method involves planting two to four different types of indigenous trees within every square metre.
- The methodology was developed in the 1970s, with the basic objective to **densify green cover within a small parcel of land**

#### **40. INDIA TO TRAIN BANGLADESHI'S CIVIL SERVANTS FOR THE NEXT 5 YEARS**

- The government of India has signed an agreement with the government of **Bangladesh** to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to train **1500 Bangladeshi officers from 2025 to 2030**.
- The agreement was signed by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)**, the **government of India** and the **Bangladeshi Ministry of Public Administration, Government of Bangladesh**.

##### **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.

Prime Minister: **Sheikh  
HasinaWajed**  
Capital: **Dhaka**  
Currency: **Taka**



# State News

## Current Affairs

**May  
2024**

### 1. ASSAM GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLATFORM 'DRIMS' DEVELOPED WITH THE HELP OF UNICEF

- Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) has launched Disaster Reporting and Information Management System (DRIMS), a digital platform for online reporting of damage caused during various disasters, so that assistance distribution to the affected people can be done in less time.
- The platform developed in collaboration with UNICEF efficiently captures key impact indicators of damage during disasters, helping to quickly deliver relief and rehabilitation grants to affected beneficiaries.
- It also tracks damage to crops, loss of livestock, etc., thereby expediting recovery efforts after a disaster.



### 2. MANIPUR TAKES STEPS TO SAVE ENDANGERED MEITEI PONIES

- To protect the endangered Manipuri Pony, government allotted 30 acres of grassy fields at Lamphelpat, Imphal West where they can freely roam and graze.
- The Manipur State Government has been taking up various measures to protect the Manipuri Pony or Meitei Sagol which is closely tied to the state's history & culture.
- The Manipur government declared the Manipuri Pony as an Endangered Breed in 2013



\* {CAPITAL – Imphal} \* {C.M - N. Biren Singh} \* {Governor -Anusuiya Uikey}\*

### 3. HP CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER RELEASES CYCLING T-SHIRT WITH MESSAGE FOR VOTER AWARENESS

- Chief Electoral Officer, Maneesh Garg here today released the Cycling T-Shirts with a 'message to Vote'.
- The State election icon Jaspreet Paul, who is an avid cyclist and a professional photographer from Mandi has been assigned the task to spread voter's awareness and encourage the people especially the youth through his cycling expeditions and rallies with his team in different parts of the State
- The world's highest polling booth at Tashigang village (15,256 feet) in district Lahaul and Spiti.



### 4. GLYPTOTHORAXPUNYABRATAI: NEW CATFISH SPECIES DISCOVERED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH

- Recently, the ICAR-NBFGR (National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources, Lucknow) discovered a new catfish species in the waters of Arunachal Pradesh, India and named it as **Glyptothoraxpunyabratai**.
- The species was collected from **Tung Stream, a tributary of the Tissa River, in the Brahmaputra River basin.**
- Most catfish are found in freshwater but a few are marine.
- **Most species of catfish are nocturnal.**

### 5. UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES PIRUL LAO PAISEPAO CAMPAIGN

- The Uttarakhand government has launched the **Pirul Lao-PaisePao** campaign to contain the raging forest fire in the state.
- The Supreme Court recently expressed concern about the raging forest fire in the state, which has already killed five people.
- **The forest fires have already destroyed trees, medicinal plants and wildlife in the area, besides creating air pollution due to thick smoke and soot.**

### 6. HEALTH ALERT IN KERALA AS FIVE WEST NILE CASES REPORTED

- The Kerala government's health department has confirmed five cases of **West Nile fever** in the state's three districts.
- As a precaution, State Health Minister Veena George has ordered all district health authorities to be vigilant and to take mosquito control measures by stepping up pre-monsoon cleaning drives and surveillance activities.
- West Nile fever is caused in humans infected with West Nile Virus.
- The first case of West Nile fever was detected in Kerala in 2011

**7. GURUGRAM ADMINISTRATION ROPES IN YUZVENDRACHAHAL TO BOOST VOTER TURNOUT**

- The authorities have roped in **India cricketer YuzvendraChahal**, as well as popular singers **MD DesiRockstar** and **Naveen Punia**, as brand ambassadors.

**8. MANIPUR GOVERNOR ANUSUIYAIKEY INAUGURATES 'SCHOOL ON WHEELS'**

- **Manipur, Governor AnusuiyaUikey** inaugurated 'School on Wheels' at a ceremony held in Imphal.
- The initiative which is being implemented by VidyaBharatiShikshaVikashSamiti Manipur **aims to reach out to the students in the relief camps in the State.**
- The school bus is equipped with a library, computers and sports items with a teacher and visits relief camps in different places in the State.

**9. UTTARAKHAND TOURISM ANNOUNCED INDIA'S FIRST ASTRO TOURISM CAMPAIGN NAMED 'NAKSHATRASABHA'**

- The **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board** has teamed up with **Starscapes**, an astro-tourism company, to **introduce NakshatraSabha**, a pioneering initiative aimed at offering a comprehensive astro-tourism experience.
- **NakshatraSabha** is an innovative astro-tourism initiative launched by the **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board and Starscapes**, aimed at **providing a comprehensive celestial experience**
- The initiative aims to attract astronomy enthusiasts, adventurers, and travellers to Uttarakhand, fostering engagement with the cosmos while enjoying the state's natural beauty.

**10. ANDHRA PRADESH'S BAPATLA POLICE DEVELOP SAMARTH APP TO SWIFTLY MOBILISE FORCES DURING POLLS**

- **SAMARTH - Security Arrangement Mapping Analysis Response Tracking Hub mobile app**
- **The mobile app clearly demarcates and maps critical and common polling stations and enables police officers to quickly address any incidents at polling stations or other locations**
- The SAMARTH app incorporates election rules, information related to various laws, training material, and orders given by the above authorities from time to time and can be viewed by 2,000 policemen who use the app at any time.

**11. FOREST FIRE SITUATION INUTTARAKHAND'SKUMAON AND GARHWAL DIVISIONS**

- **Uttarakhand has recorded the highest number of large forest fires and the highest number of fire alerts in the country in the last seven days (April 23-30), according to the data of the Forest Survey of India (FSI).**
- Uttarakhand reported 3,338 fire alerts and 201 large forest fire incidents in the last seven days compared to 11 large forest fire incidents in the same period last year.
- **The state was followed by Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.**

# Science & Technology

**May  
2024**

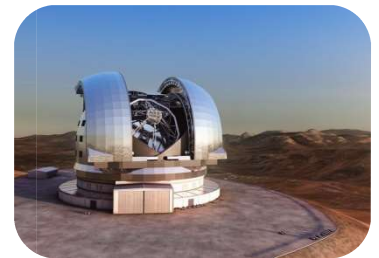
## 1. PAVING WAY FOR ALL-WEATHER & ALL-TIME IMAGING, BENGALURU SPACE FIRM TESTS SAR ON HAPS PLATFORM

- Bengaluru-based space startup **GalaxEye** Tuesday successfully tested its synthetic aperture radar (SAR) technology on a subscale **high-altitude pseudo-satellite (HAPS)** developed by the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL)
- With this achievement, **GalaxEye becomes the world's first private entity to conduct SAR trials on the HAPS platform.**
- HAPS are **high-altitude, solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** that operate in the stratosphere about 20 kilometres above ground level.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) and GalaxEye, which aims to explore the development, integration, and testing of SAR payloads for HAPS
- The SAR, meanwhile, is a technique for producing fine-resolution images from a resolution-limited radar system



## 2. ASTRAZENECA'S \$1.5 BILLION INVESTMENT IN SINGAPORE: ADVANCING CANCER TREATMENT

- AstraZeneca, a leading pharmaceutical company, announced plans to construct a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Singapore with a focus on producing **antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs)**, a promising class of **cancer-fighting medications.**
- AstraZeneca is building a pioneering **\$1.5 billion** manufacturing plant in Singapore to produce advanced cancer-fighting drugs known as **antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs).**



## 3. TOKYO UNIVERSITY INAUGURATED THE WORLD'S HIGHEST ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY 'ATACAMA'

- The University of Tokyo's **Atacama Observatory (TAO)** is inaugurated. It is now the highest astronomical observatory in the world (elevation of 18,500 feet), surpassing even the famous Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA), which has an altitude of 16,570 feet.
- **MIMIZUKU** (Mid-Infrared Multifield Imager for Exploring the Unknown Universe): Used to study planet formation and the origin of materials.
- **SWIMS** (Simultaneous-Color Widefield Infrared Multi-Object Spectrograph) aims to understand the evolution of galaxies.

## 4. USA'S DUKE HUMAN VACCINE INSTITUTE SUCCESSFULLY TESTED HIV VACCINE

- In a major step forward for **HIV vaccine development**, researchers at the **Duke Human Vaccine Institute** have successfully induced broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) against HIV through **vaccination for the first time.**
- **Broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs)** are antibodies that can recognize and neutralize many strains of HIV. They have been seen as a potential key to an HIV vaccine but are difficult to produce in humans.



## 5. INDIA'S ASTROSAT MAKES UNUSUAL DISCOVERY AROUND BLACK HOLE IN DEEP SPACE

- **AstroSat**, India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory, has made a significant discovery regarding the **black hole binary source Swift J1727.8-1613.**
- A team of astrophysicists from U R Rao Satellite Centre (**URSC**), along with collaborators from IIT Guwahati, University of Mumbai, and Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (**TIFR**), reported this finding in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (**MNRAS**).
- This behaviour, called '**aperiodic modulation**,' caused X-rays to show a repeating pattern known as **Quasi-periodic Oscillations (QPO)**. This is the first time such a pattern has been observed in this system.



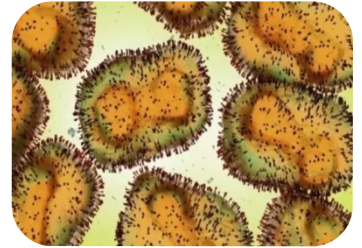
### BLACKHOLE

- A black hole is a region in space where the gravitational pull is so strong that nothing, not even light, can escape from it. This intense gravitational field is created when a massive star collapses under its own gravity at the end of its life cycle.



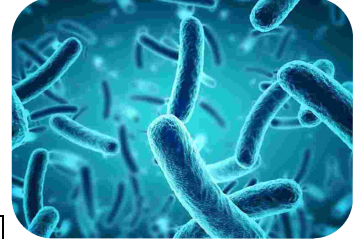
## 6. KERALA GIRL DIES FROM BRAIN-EATING AMOEBA AFTER DIP IN POND

- ❖ Kerala, a five-year-old girl died after swimming in the contaminated water of a pond. The girl, who bathed in the pond, is said to have died due to a rare infection caused by a brain-eating amoeba.
- ❖ The girl, afflicted by amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare brain infection caused by a free-living amoeba found in contaminated waters, died in Malappuram district of Kerala.
- ❖ The main symptoms of the disease are fever, headache, vomiting, and seizures. All infected patients have lost their lives due to the disease so far, as the mortality rate for this rare brain infection is 100 percent.



## 7. SCIENTISTS DISCOVER 1.5 BILLION-YEAR-OLD "GIANT" VIRUSES IN YELLOWSTONE

- Giant viruses dating back 1.5 billion years were found in Yellowstone's geothermal springs, which scientists claim could reveal the conditions under which life formed on Earth.
- The viruses are labeled as 'giant' because they have extremely large genomes compared to regular viruses and pose no risk to humans.



### Yellowstone National Park

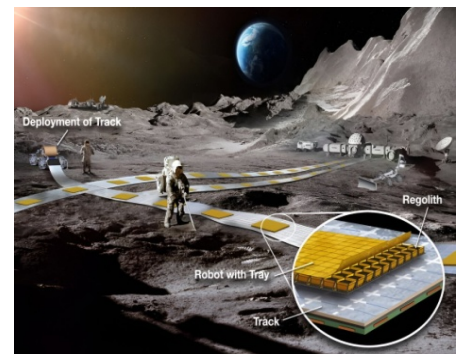
- Yellowstone National Park, located in the western United States
- **World's First National Park: On March 1872, Yellowstone became the first national park in the world.**
- UNESCO World Heritage Site: Yellowstone's significance extends beyond national borders—it was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978.

## 8. HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK IN KERALA: 12 DEATHS SO FAR, 4 DISTRICTS ON ALERT

- Kerala is seeing its worst outbreak of the Hepatitis A virus in recent years, with the state reporting 1,977 confirmed cases and 12 deaths in the first four-and-a-half months of this year.
- State Health Minister Veena George has put out an alert for the four districts – Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur and Ernakulam – from where the most number of cases were reported.
- ❖ Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus (HAV), and is transmitted through contaminated food and water, or through direct contact with an infectious person.
- ❖ It can be an acute (short-term) infection or a chronic (longterm) infection.
- ❖ Generally, most people recover from hepatitis A with no permanent liver damage. In rare cases, hepatitis A can cause liver failure.

## 9. NASA ANNOUNCES PLAN TO BUILD FIRST RAILWAY SYSTEM ON MOON

- NASA has unveiled its ambitious plan to construct the first lunar railway system, known as FLOAT (Flexible Levitation on a Track), and designed to revolutionize payload transport on the Moon.
- This innovative system aims to provide reliable, autonomous, and efficient transportation essential for the daily operations of a sustainable lunar base, aligning with NASA's Moon to Mars initiative and mission concepts like the Robotic Lunar Surface Operations 2 (RLSO2)
- FLOAT is envisioned as a robotic transport system designed to support daily operations on the lunar surface
- The FLOAT system utilizes unpowered magnetic robots that levitate over a 3-layer flexible film track.
- These tracks consist of a graphite layer for passive floating using diamagnetic levitation
- FLOAT is poised to play a pivotal role in NASA's Artemis program, which aims to return astronauts to the moon for the first time since 1972. With a target landing date of September 2026,



## 10. NASA AND JAXA FORGE AHEAD WITH XRISM DESPITE INSTRUMENT GLITCH

- NASA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have decided to operate an instrument on the X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) satellite as-is for at least the next year and a half, despite encountering an issue affecting one of its instruments.
- This decision showcases the agencies' determination to push forward with this groundbreaking X-ray astronomy mission.

## 11. SAIL-BHILAI TO SET UP CHHATTISGARH'S FIRST 15-MW FLOATING SOLAR PLANT

- The Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP), a key unit of the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) situated in Chhattisgarh, is set to inaugurate the state's premier floating solar project.
- This venture marks a pivotal moment in Chhattisgarh's journey towards renewable energy and underscores BSP's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint while promoting eco-friendly initiatives.
- Collaborating with NTPC-SAIL Power Supply Company Limited (NSPCL), a joint venture between National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and SAIL, BSP aims to leverage expertise and resources to bring the project to fruition.



## 12. HANUMAN AI: INDIA'S REVOLUTIONARY GENERATIVE CHATBOT PLATFORM BY 3AI HOLDING LIMITED

- **Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)** platform Hanuman AI has been launched in India.
- It was launched by the Abu Dhabi-based AI investment company **3AI Holding Limited and SML India**.
- Hanuman AI is a generative artificial intelligence chatbot like ChatGPT. It answers all of your queries and questions.
- It is a special GenAI chatbot which comes with 98 global languages including 12 Indian languages. This GenAI platform is launched with the aim to help in the development of the country in the field of technology.



## 13. ISRO SUCCESSFULLY TESTS LIQUID ROCKET ENGINE 'PS4' MANUFACTURED WITH 3D PRINTING TECHNOLOGY IN TAMIL NADU

- **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** announced a major achievement, saying that it has successfully tested the **liquid rocket engine 'PS4'** manufactured using **Additive Manufacturing (AM) technology or 3D printing** in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu
- **Private partner Wipro 3D joins hands with ISRO to successfully complete hot testing of 3D printed PS4 engine.** ISRO redesigned the conventionally manufactured PS4 engine to make it compatible with additive manufacturing technologies, a process known as Design for Additive Manufacturing (DFAM)



## 14. ASTRONOMERS FINALLY DETECT A ROCKY PLANET WITH AN ATMOSPHERE

- The planet, called **55 Cancri e or Janssen**, is about 8.8 times more massive than Earth, with a diameter about twice that of our planet.
- The planet is located in our **Milky Way galaxy** about **41 light-years from Earth**, in the constellation **Cancer**
- It orbits its star at **one-25th the distance between our solar system's innermost planet Mercury and the sun**
- This is one of the **hottest-known rocky exoplanets**
- This planet - **apparently with a surface of molten rock** - **offers no hope for habitability.**
- The planet is **probably tidally locked**, meaning it perpetually has the same side facing its star, much like the moon does toward Earth.
- Infrared observations using two instruments aboard the **James Webb Space Telescope** indicated the presence of a substantial - if inhospitable - atmosphere
- The atmosphere is likely rich in **carbon dioxide or carbon monoxide**, but can also have other gases such as **water vapor and sulfur dioxide.**

## 15. ISRO COMPLETES KEY TEST FOR INDIA'S FIRST SEMICRYOGENIC ENGINE

- ISRO conducted the first ignition trial for **SCE-200 (semicryogenic engine-200)** at the semi-cryo integrated engine test facility (SIET) located in the ISRO propulsion complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, TN
- The space agency is developing a semi-cryogenic engine which works on a propellant combination of liquid oxygen and kerosene and is aimed at enhancing the payload capability of launch vehicle **Mk III (LVM3)** and future launch vehicles.

### Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was set up by the government of India on **15 August 1969**.
- ISRO was earlier known as the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR), which was set up by the Government of India in 1962.
- ISRO comes under the Department of Space (DOS), Government of India.
- **Vikram Sarabhai** the founder of ISRO was its first chairman.

Headquarters:  
**Bengaluru**  
Chairman:  
**S.Somanath**

## 16. MINDGROVE COMPANY LAUNCHES INDIA'S 1ST COMMERCIAL MCU CHIP

- **Mindgrove Technologies**, an IIT Madras incubated startup has launched **India's first indigenous high-performance microcontroller chip with high-performance SoC, Secure IoT**
- **IoT security (internet of things security)** is the technology segment focused on safeguarding connected devices and networks in IoT
- **SoC - security operations center** is responsible for protecting an organization against cyber threats.

## 17. INDIAN-AMERICAN ASTRONAUT SUNITA WILLIAMS SET FOR THIRD SPACE FLIGHT

- **Sunita Williams** is ready to fly into space for the third time, as the pilot aboard **Boeing's Starliner** spacecraft in its first crewed test flight.
- **Boeing's Starliner** will blast off from Cape Canaveral in Florida.
- **Starliner** will carry Williams, 58, and Butch Wilmore to the International Space Station in low-earth orbit.

## 18. GERMAN COMPANY HYIMPULSE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED THE ROCKET "SR75" POWERED BY PARAFFIN FUEL FOR THE FIRST TIME

- German company **HyImpulse** successfully launched "SR75" a paraffin fuel/candle wax powered rocket capable of carrying commercial satellites on a test suborbital flight into space for the first time from **Koonibba, Australia**.
- Paraffin could be used as a cheap and safe alternative fuel for rockets, reducing satellite transportation costs by up to 50%, **HighImpulse** said.

- By the end of next year, it plans to launch "SL-1", a larger, multi-stage rocket capable of deploying satellites weighing up to 600 kilograms into low Earth orbits.
- Paraffin, also known as liquid paraffin, paraffin oil or kerosene, is a combustible hydrocarbon liquid that is burned as a fuel. Paraffin fuel refers to a mixture of different types of hydrocarbons with the chemical formula  $C_nH_{2n+2}$ ; Paraffin in particular is a group of alkanes.

#### 19. INDIGENOUS BOMBER UNMANNED AIRCRAFT DEVELOPED BY BENGALURU FIRM

- **Flying Wedge Defence**, a city based defence and aerospace technology firm unveiled the **FWD-200B** unmanned aircraft.
- The firm claimed that it is **India's first indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft**.
- The **FWD-200B** has a **payload capacity of 100 kgs** and is classified as a **MALE Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (Medium-altitude Long-endurance)**
- The **Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)** consists of **optical surveillance payloads** and is integrated with **missile-like weapons for precision air strikes**.
- **With a max speed of 200 kts/370 kmph**, it has an endurance capacity of 12-20 hours.
- "The **FWD-200B** can carry a maximum takeoff **weight of 498 Kgs** in addition to this, it holds a ground control station (GCS) range of **200 kms**.

#### 20. DURGA 2: INDIA'S VERY OWN LASER WEAPON BEING DEVELOPED BY DRDO COULD BE TESTED SOON

- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has sought **USD 100 million** from the **Ministry of Defence** to develop a high-power laser weapon, named **Directionally Unrestricted Ray-Gun Array (DURGA) II**, a lightweight directed energy weapon (DEW).
- It is a **100-kilowatt lightweight DEW** and **can be used by armed forces**.
- It aims to provide the Indian armed forces with **cutting-edge technology capable of neutralising various threats, including drones, missiles, and artillery shells**.

#### 21. MICRON'S VENTURE IN INDIA: ROLLOUT OF FIRST INDIA-MADE CHIPS

- **Micron India's Sanand unit** gears up to unveil its inaugural batch of domestically manufactured **semiconductor chips** in **2025**, with a focus on global exportation.

#### 22. OLDEST EVIDENCE OF EARTH'S MAGNETIC FIELD FOUND IN ROCKS

- The **Geologists at MIT and Oxford University** collected rock samples from the **Isua Supracrustal Belt in Greenland**, a region known for its ancient rock formations.
- The researchers determined that the rocks bear the oldest remnants of Earth's early magnetic field, about **3.7 billion years old**, with a magnitude of at least **15 microtesla**.
- **Today, Earth's magnetic field measures around 30 microtesla**.

#### 23. WORLD'S FIRST PERSONALISED MRNA VACCINE FOR MELANOMA UNDERGOING TRIALS

- **To revolutionise skin cancer treatment by offering a permanent cure**.
- **Melanoma**, the leading cause of skin cancer deaths globally, affects approximately **1,32,000 people annually**.
- The **new vaccines called mRNA-4157 (V940)** are individually tailored for each patient, instructing their immune system to target cancer cells and prevent the disease from recurring.

#### 24. DRDO SUCCESSFULLY TEST SMART MISSILE SYSTEM FOR INDIAN NAVY

- The **defence research and development organisation (drdo)** successfully tested the next-generation **supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART)** system from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha**.
- The **SMART (Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo)** system is a **next-generation missile-based lightweight torpedo delivery system** being developed by **DRDO for the Indian Navy**. It is likely to boost the anti-submarine capability of the Indian Navy.
- The **SMART missile system** comprises a **long-range supersonic missile carrier that can travel up to 643 km**, a **lightweight torpedo with a range of 20 km**, and a **50 kg high-explosive warhead as the payload**.
- **DRDO** has developed an indigenous torpedo, **Varunastra**. It is a ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo that was inducted into the Indian Navy in 2016.

##### About DRDO

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation is the leading research and development establishment of the government of India.
- It was set up in 1958 under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- DRDO was set up to develop advanced defence technology to make the Indian armed forces self-reliant in weapon systems.
- **DRDO** has developed various missiles like **Agni**, **Prithvi**, **main battle tank Arjun**, **multi-barrel rocket launcher**, **Pinaka**; **air defence system**, **Akash**; a wide range of **radars and electronic warfare systems**; etc.,
- **Chairman of DRDO: Dr Samir V Kamath**

#### 25. LAUNCH OF 6TH AMMUNITION CUM TORPEDO CUM MISSILE BARGE, LSAM 20 (YARD 130)

- The **Indian Navy** launched the **6th barge, LSAM 20 (Yard 130)**, as part of an **11-barge project**, constructed by **M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd**, boosting transport and logistics for naval operations.
- A barge is defined as **flat-bottomed marine vessel that's mainly used for cargo transportation**. They don't move independently like a boat; they float and are towed or tugged by other vessels.
- **Chief of the Naval Staff: Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi**.



# Artificial Intelligence

**May  
2024**

## 1. CHINA AGAINST CHATGPT; INTRODUCES ITS OWN SECURE AI SYSTEM ROOTED IN XI JINPING'S IDEOLOGY

- China's top internet authority has **introduced a language model rooted in President Xi Jinping's political philosophy**, described as a "secure and reliable" closed AI system, according to a report by the South China Morning Post.
- It is officially called **"Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era."** This plan includes detailed instructions on how to follow China's political, social, and economic rules.
- This LLM was released by the **China Cyberspace Research Institute**, which is part of the **Cyberspace Administration of China**.
- It focuses on **creating a safe and reliable AI environment** by using data that comes from China and has been accepted by the government.



## 2. MICROSOFT UNVEILS AI-ENHANCED 'COPILOT+' PCS WITH UNIQUE 'RECALL' FUNCTIONALITY

- Microsoft has introduced a new category of personal computers, **'Copilot+ PCs,'** featuring advanced AI capabilities to compete with Alphabet and Apple.
- These devices, developed in collaboration with **Acer and ASUSTeK Computer**, aim to perform AI tasks locally without relying on cloud data centers.

## 3. DD KISAN TO LAUNCH TWO AI ANCHORS AI KRISH AND AI BHOOMI ON 26TH MAY 2024

- Doordarshan Kisan is going to become the **first government TV channel of India, with AI anchor**. These anchors are that they can **speak in fifty languages of the country and abroad**.
- Doordarshan Kisan, established on May 26, 2015, by the **Government of India**, is the **only TV channel in the country dedicated solely to farmers**.



## 4. SWIGGY PARTNERS WITH "SHIELD" FOR ENHANCED FRAUD PREVENTION

- **Swiggy collaborates with SHIELD to bolster its fraud prevention capabilities using SHIELD's device-first risk AI platform.**
- It will enable Swiggy to reduce promo abuse, including the exploitation of platform discounts, sign-up incentives, referral bonuses and monopolization of limited-time deals to reduce promo abuse and prevent fraudulent practices within the Delivery Partner's ecosystem.
- Enhanced fraud detection allows Swiggy to concentrate resources on genuine users, improving overall platform integrity.

## 5. EUROPEAN COUNCIL APPROVES THE FIRST WORLDWIDE AI ACT

- European Union (EU) Commission has given their final approval to the bloc's **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act**, subjecting high-risk AI applications to stricter regulation.
- The EU Commission will have the power to **fine companies that breach the AI Act as much 35 million euros (\$38 million) or 7% of their annual global revenues — whichever is higher.**
- **The European Council is one of the seven principal institutions of the European Union (EU)** and plays a crucial role in defining the general political direction and priorities of the Union.
- The AI Act has adopted a risk-based approach - subjecting higher-risk AI applications to stricter regulation.
- The law prohibits applications of AI that are considered **"unacceptable"** in terms of their risk level. Such applications feature so-called **"social scoring"** systems that rank citizens based on aggregation and analysis of their data
- They also include applications of **AI in financial services and education, where there is a risk of bias embedded in AI algorithms.**



## 6. TCS UNVEILS GLOBAL AI CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN FRANCE

- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has announced the creation of a **Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in the French capital, Paris.**
- The announcement was made during the prestigious **"Choose France Summit"** hosted by President Emmanuel Macron, underscoring TCS's commitment to the French market and the global AI landscape.

**7. MICROSOFT'S AI AND CLOUD BOOST: €4 BILLION INVESTMENT IN FRANCE**

- **Artificial intelligence (AI)** and cloud computing, tech giant **Microsoft Corp.** has announced plans to invest a staggering **€4 billion** (approximately **\$4.3 billion**) in building **cloud and AI infrastructure** in **France**.
- Microsoft's investment aims to create a **vibrant AI ecosystem** in France. The company aims to **train a million people** and provide support to **2,500 startups** by 2027.
- **This initiative aligns with France's strategic focus on developing AI as a key area of growth and innovation.**

**8. NASA NAMES FIRST CHIEF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER**

- NASA Administrator Bill Nelson on Monday named **David Salvagnini** as the agency's **new chief artificial intelligence (AI) officer**.

**9. UKRAINE LAUNCHES WORLD'S FIRST AI DIPLOMAT 'VICTORIA XI'**

- Ukraine has introduced 'Victoria Shea', the world's first AID diplomat to provide an official statement.
- Interestingly, the accent and voice of the AI diplomat is based on **Ukrainian singer and TV celebrity Rosalie Nombre**.
- She was created by a team **called The Game Changers** who had previously created content related to the war in Ukraine.

**10. MEET PAIGPT, INDIA'S FIRST CONVERSATIONAL AI CHATBOT FOR UPSC ASPIRANTS**

- **The app aims to revolutionise government exam aspirants' research and learning experience.**
- **PAiGPT was developed by Pinak Ai**, a bootstrapped Indian company harnessing the power of generative AI and democratising technology for non-urban cities
- **The app's functioning is similar to Perplexity AI and Google Gemini**, PAiGPT's ability to provide trending topics and the option to create multiple-choice questions based on the available information makes it relevant for UPSC aspirants.

**11. INDIA TODAY'S AI ANCHOR SANA WINS GLOBAL MEDIA AWARD**

- **India Today Group's AI anchor Sana** won two awards at the International News Media Association Global Media Awards held in London:
- **'Best Use of AI in Customer-Facing Products'** category
- **'Best in South Asia for AI-Led Newsroom Transformation'** award
- **John McCarthy**, the father of AI

**12. GOOGLE DEEPMIND UNVEILS NEXT GENERATION OF DRUG DISCOVERY AI MODEL**

- **Google Deepmind has unveiled the third major version of its "AlphaFold" artificial intelligence model**, designed to help scientists design drugs and target disease more effectively.

# Defence


**8822-010101**

## 1. DR SAMIR V KAMAT'S TENURE AS DRDO CHIEF EXTENDED FOR ONE YEAR

- The **Appointment Committee of the Union Cabinet** headed by the **Prime Minister** has approved an extension of **one year** for the Secretary of the Department of Defence, Research and Development and Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), **Dr Samir V Kamat**.

### About DRDO

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation is the leading research and development establishment of the government of India.
- It was set up in 1958 under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- DRDO was set up to develop advanced defence technology to make the Indian armed forces self-reliant in weapon systems.
- **DRDO has developed various missiles like Agni, Prithvi, light combat aircraft Tejas, main battle tank Arjun multi-barrel rocket launcher, Pinaka; air defence system, Akash; a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems; etc.,**
- Chairman of DRDO: **Dr Samir V Kamath**



## 2. CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF INAUGURATES FIRST- EVER EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE SYSTEM OF IAF AT CHAF BENGALURU

- An **Emergency Medical Response System (EMRS)**, was inaugurated by Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari at Command Hospital Air Force Bangalore (CHAFB).
- The **EMRS is a first of its kind 24/7 telephonic medical helpline** for serving IAF personnel and their families across India.



## 3. CDS GEN ANIL CHAUHAN ATTENDS EXERCISE CYBER SURAKSHA – 2024

- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan** attended the 'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024', emphasizing the critical importance of enhancing India's cyber defence capabilities.
- **Conducted by the Defence Cyber Agency** this comprehensive cyber defence exercise aims to **bolster collaboration and integration among military and national agencies, advancing the nation's cyber defence readiness.**

## 4. MOS AJAY BHATT HAILS PROJECT UDBHAV, SAYS IT FOCUSES ON MAKING ARMY 'FUTURE-READY'

- **culmination of Project Udbhav**, which aims to promote indigenous discourse in the Army by integrating India's ancient strategic acumen into a contemporary military domain with a focus on making the force "future ready".
- The project is a **collaboration of the Indian Army and Delhi-based think-tank United Service Institution of India (USI).**

## 5. MONITOR LIZARD VEHICLE UNDERGOES PLA TRIALS

- The **Monitor Lizard all-terrain vehicle (ATV)** developed by Chinese company **Sichuan Jinjia Special Equipment Technology (SJSET)** is undergoing trials with the **People's Liberation Army (PLA)**, a company representative of SJSET.



- The company developed tracked Monitor Lizard – which weighs 17 tons – to meet the PLA's requirements for a lightweight ATV that the service **intends to deploy in high-altitude and cold mountainous regions,**
- **Monitor Lizard is an armoured dual-body vehicle and its rear body can be fitted with various types of modules.**
- The vehicle can be used as an armoured personnel carrier (APC), command-and-control vehicle, logistics vehicle, or rescue vehicle
- **Monitor Lizard has a payload capacity of 8 tons.** The ATV can attain a maximum speed of up to 50 km/h in high-altitude areas with a floating speed of 5 km/h.

## 6. SECOND EDITION INDIA – AUSTRALIA – INDONESIA TRILATERAL MARITIME SECURITY WORKSHOP (TMSW) CONDUCTED AT KOCHI

- The **2nd edition of India – Australia – Indonesia Trilateral Maritime Security Workshop (TMSW)** was conducted from 15 – 17 May 24, at **INS Dronacharya, Kochi, India.**
- The **Theme of the workshop** was '**Indian Ocean Region: Collaborative Efforts to Enhance Regional Maritime Security**', which was chosen to discuss ongoing maritime security challenges and opportunities for collaboration between the three maritime neighbours in the region.





- The Workshop was conducted under the aegis of Headquarters Southern Naval Command and witnessed participation of delegates from the three participating Navies.

## 7. INDO-RUSSIAN JOINT VENTURE HANDED OVER 27,000 AK-203 ASSAULT RIFLES TO INDIAN ARMY

- The Indian Army has started receiving the Russian AK-203 assault rifles after the deal with Russia saw back-to-back delays, partly due to the war in Ukraine and payment delays.
- As many as 27,000 rifles have been handed over to the Army so far by the Indo-Russian joint venture established at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh,



## 8. US MARINES EYEING POLARIS MRZR ATVS, DEPLOYED BY INDIAN ARMY FOR OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY

- The US Marines and the Indian Army is both leveraging Polaris MRZR ATVs to enhance their operational capabilities.
- Polaris has developed an MRZR Alpha variant capable of powering off board systems, nearing production, and a heavy-payload variant undergoing tests with the Marine Corps and U.S. Special Operations Command.
- The ability of these light vehicles to generate electricity for radars, networks, and weapons has been a primary focus for the Marines over the past year
- Polaris created a 1-kilowatt exportable power system that can be added to existing vehicles and a 5-kilowatt system for new vehicles.



- ❖ The missile has a launch mass of about 36.8 tonnes and a throw weight of 1,150 kg.
- ❖ Bulava has a maximum range of 8,300 km (5,160 miles) and a payload of up to 10 multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles, or MIRVs, capable of delivering nuclear warheads to different targets

## 9. INDIAN AIR FORCE TESTS BHISHM PORTABLE HOSPITAL FOR AIRDROP IN AGRA

- The Indian Air Force recently conducted a test in Agra for the BHISHM portable hospital, a crucial component of "Project BHISHM" aimed at providing rapid and comprehensive medical assistance during emergencies.
- These portable cubes, part of a broader initiative, can cater to up to 200 casualties, emphasizing swift response and extensive care.

## 10. INDIA FRENCH MILITARY EXERCISE SHAKTI 2024 TO BE HELD IN MEGHALAYA

- Joint military Exercise Shakti between the Indian and the French forces will be held at the Joint Training Node of the Indian Army in Umroi, Meghalaya. The opening ceremony of the 7th edition of Exercise Shakti
- The military exercise between the Indian Army and the French Army is a biennial exercise which started in 2011 and is conducted alternately in India and France.
- The main aim of the 7th edition of the Shakti exercise will be to develop the capacity of both forces for joint planning on developing strategies and tactics for a war-like situation.
- Varuna and Garuda Military exercises between India and France
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and France-based Safran Helicopter Engines SAS have formed a joint venture, Safhal Helicopter Engines Pvt Ltd, to collectively design, develop, certify, produce, sell, and support helicopter engines.

## 11. CHINA'S 3RD AIRCRAFT CARRIER FUJIAN COMPLETES 8-DAY MAIDEN SEA TRIAL

- China's third aircraft carrier, *Fujian*, has successfully completed its 8-day maiden sea trials. *Fujian* is an 80,000-tonne supercarrier with electromagnetic catapult for launching aircraft, making China the second country after the U.S. to field a supercarrier with this technology.

## 12. INDIAN ARMY AND IAF CONDUCT JOINT EXERCISE IN PUNJAB

- The Indian Army's Kharga Corps, under the aegis of the Army's Western Command, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise with the Indian Air Force (IAF) at multiple locations in Punjab.
- The exercise aimed to refine processes and validate the employment of attack helicopters in support of mechanized operations in developed terrain.
- The exercise, titled "Gagan Strike-II," incorporated various force multipliers, including Apache and ALH-WSI helicopters, Unarmed Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), and Special Forces of the Indian Army.
- The primary objective was to validate the use of these assets in support of ground offensive operations by strike corps, along with live firing by helicopters as demanded by mechanized forces during offensive maneuvers.

## 13. ARMY LOOKS AT CREATING NEW UNIT 'OPFOR' TO PLAY ROLE OF ENEMY IN MILITARY EXERCISES

- The Indian Army is reportedly in the process of establishing a new unit called OPFOR, or "opposing forces," aimed at stimulating adversarial roles during military exercises and wargame training.
- Similar concepts are already in use in countries like the United States.
- Plan for OPFOR unit awaits final approval from Army hierarchy
- The proposed OPFOR unit will be formed from existing military units and will mirror the weapons, operating methods, and tactics of potential adversaries.



# Sports

## Current Affairs

**May**  
**2024**

### 1. CHARLES LECLERC MAKES HISTORY WITH MONACO GRAND PRIX TRIUMPH



➤ Charles Leclerc, the Ferrari driver, has achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first Monegasque driver to win the Monaco Grand Prix since Louis Chiron in 1931, ending a drought of 92 years.

### 2. DIPKA KARMAKAR CREATES HISTORY WINS GOLD AT ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

- Dipa Karmakar of Tripura became the first ever Indian gymnast to win a gold medal in any Asian Championships.
- Dipa won the gold medal in the women's vault individual final at the Asian Women's Artistic Gymnastics Championships defeated Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (North Korea) Kim Son-hyang won the silver medal with 13.466 points 2024 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



### 3. PV SINDHU LOSES TO CHINA'S WANG IN THE MALAYSIA MASTERS

- Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu of India failed to win the BWF Malaysia Masters 2024 Badminton title.
- She lost in the women's singles final to the People's Republic of China's Wang Zhi Yi, played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

### 4. KHELO INDIA SPORTS HOSTEL AND ARMY GIRLS SPORTS COMPANY'S FIRST BATCH INAUGURATED IN PUNE

- The first batch of Khelo India Sports Hostel and Army Girls Sports Company was inaugurated on at the Army Sports Institute in Pune.
- Khelo India Sports Hostel is a visionary initiative determined and funded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, which has now been integrated into the Army Sports Institute.
- This state-of-the-art facility is designed to provide world-class facilities and training opportunities for athletes of Khelo India, which aims to raise their performance at both national and international levels.



### 5. INDIA'S SIMRAN SHARMA WINS GOLD MEDAL AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIP IN KOBE, JAPAN

- Simran clinched the gold in the women's 200m T12 event
- India concluded their World Para Athletics Championships journey securing a total of 17 medals, including 6 golds, propelling them to the 6th position in the standings

### 6. BARCELONA BEATS LYON AND RETAINS WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE CROWN



### 7. ICC NAMES SHAHID AFRIDI AS MEN'S T 20 WC 2024 BRAND AMBASSADOR

- The International Cricket Council (ICC), the world cricket governing body, has appointed Pakistan's Shahid Afridi as the brand ambassador of the forthcoming 9th ICC Men's T20 World Cup.
- The tournament will be co-hosted by the West Indies and the United States of America from 1 to 29 June 2024.
- Shahid Afridi joins Indian Yuvraj Singh, Chris Gayle of West Indies, and Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt as brand ambassadors for the event.



## 8. MARIYAPPAN THANGAVELU AND SUMIT ANTIL(JAVELIN THROW) WINS GOLD AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

- In the men's T63 high jump, Mariyappan secured gold.
- He had won gold earlier in the Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2021 Paralympics.
- Sumit Antil successfully defended his F64 javelin throw world title at the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan.



## 9. EKTA BHYAN SECURES GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN' F51 CLUB THROW COMPETITION AT WORLD PARA ATHLETIC C'SHIPS

- India's Ekta Bhyan secured gold medal in the women' F51 club throw competition at the World Para Athletic Championships at Kobe in Japan
- India ended their **World Para Athletics Championships** campaign with unprecedented 17 medals.
- India finished with 17 medals (6 gold, 5 silver, 6 bronze) to be at sixth place in the standings.
- This is India's best-ever performance, having surpassed the earlier record medal haul of 10 medals (3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze) in the 2023 edition in Paris.



### India's six gold winners are:

1. Deepthi Jeevanji (women's 400m T20)	2. Sachin Khilari (men's shot put F46)
3. Sumit Antil (men's javelin F64)	4. Thangavelu Mariyappan (men's high jump T63)
5. Ekta Bhyan (women's club throw F51)	6. Simran (women's 200m T12 event)

## 10. MANCHESTER CITY WINS HISTORIC FOURTH IN ROW TITLE AT PREMIER LEAGUE

- Manchester City won its fourth straight Premier League title, making it the first team to achieve this feat.
- Manchester City's earlier three consecutive Premier League titles: 2021, 2022, 2023.
- The Premier League is the top professional football (soccer) division in England and is widely regarded as one of the most competitive and popular football leagues in the world.



## 11. ATALANTA WINS THE EUROPA LEAGUE ENDS BAYER LEVERKUSEN'S UNBEATEN RUN

- The Italian football club **Atalanta BC** defeated the German football club **Bayer Leverkusen** 3-0 in the final of the 2023-24 UEFA Europa League, played at the **Aviva Stadium in Dublin, Republic of Ireland**,
- The defeat ended Bayer Leverkusen's 51-match unbeaten record.



## 12. KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS WIN IPL 2024

- Kolkata Knight Riders won their third IPL title, beating SunRisers Hyderabad by eight wickets in the IPL 2024 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on 26 May 2024.

## 13. SACHIN KHILARI DEFENDS GOLD AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS, INDIA SURPASSES BEST-EVER TALLY



- India's **Sarjaro Khilari** defended his gold medal in the men's shot put F46 category with an Asian record at the World Para Athletics Championship, Kobe, Japan
- India, now have 11 medals, 5 of them gold.
- They bettered their previous best tally of 10 (3 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze) in the 2023 edition in Paris.

## 14. MAX VERSTAPPEN TRIUMPHS AT EMILIA ROMAGNA GRAND PRIX 2024



- **Max Verstappen**, the defending Formula 1 World Champion, showcased his prowess on the track by clinching a hard-fought victory at the **Emilia Romagna Grand Prix 2024**.
- The Dutchman held off a spirited challenge from McLaren's rising star, **Lando Norris**, to secure his 5<sup>th</sup> win of the season.



### 15. AUSTRALIA AND UZBEKISTAN TO HOST AFC WOMEN'S ASIAN CUP IN 2026 AND 2029 RESPECTIVELY

- Australia and Uzbekistan have been confirmed as hosts of the 2026 and 2029 editions of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup, respectively.
- Uzbekistan will become the first Central Asian country to host this tournament.
- The 20th edition of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022, hosted by India, and won by China.

### 16. NISHAD KUMAR, PREETHI PAL WIN MEDALS AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

- The Indian team picked up its first medals in the World Para Athletics Championships in Kobe, Japan with:
- High jumper Nishad Kumar winning a silver and
- 200 metres Runner Preethi Pal winning a bronze.



### 17. DEEPTHI JEEVANJI SETS WORLD RECORD, WINS GOLD AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

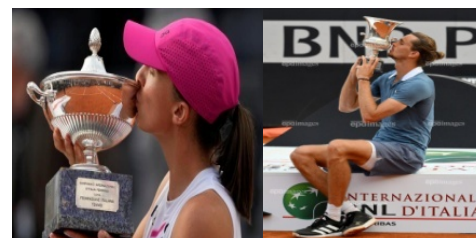
- Indian para athlete Deepthi Jeevanji sets a world record and wins gold in the women's 400m T20 at the Para Athletics World Championship 2024 in Kobe, Japan, clocking 55.06 seconds

### 18. PUMA INDIA BECOMES SPONSOR OF ATHLETICS FEDERATION OF INDIA

- PUMA India has signed a multi-year agreement with the Athletics Federation of India to supply performance kits, speed suits and travel gear exclusively to Indian athletes in track and field, jump, throw, cross country running and marathon in domestic and international tournaments.
- With the partnership, many international stars such as Neeraj Chopra (javelin throw), Kishore Kumar Jena (javelin throw), Parul Chaudhary (steeplechase), Subha Venkatesan (4x 400m relay), Murali Sreeshankar (long jump), Jyoti Yarraggi (hurdles), Priyanka Goswami (race walk) and Jeswin Aldrin (long jump) will benefit from PUMA's gear at sporting events.

### 19. ALEXANDER ZVEREV AND IGA SWIATEK WIN SINGLES TITLE OF ITALIAN OPEN

- Alexander Zverev won the single title of the Italian Open tennis tournament, while the women's singles title was won by the world no.1 player Iga Swiatek. This was the second Italian open title for Alexander Zverev, while it was the third Italian title for Iga Swiatek.
- German Alexander Zverev defeated the first-time Masters finalist Nicolas Pietrangeli of Chile
- World no.1 Iga Swiatek of Poland defeated Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus to win her 21st career title.



### 20. NIKHAT ZAREEN AND MINAKSHI CLINCH GOLD MEDALS AT ELORDA CUP IN KAZAKHSTAN

- In Boxing, Nikhat Zareen and another boxer Minakshi clinched gold medals at the Elorda Cup 2024 in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- Nikhat in the women's 52 kg category
- Minakshi in the women's 48 kg event.
- The Indians concluded their Elorda Cup 2024 campaign with 12 medals, including two gold, two silver and eight bronze medals.



### 21. CHIRAG SHETTY-SATWIKSAIRAJ RANKIREDDY WIN THAILAND OPEN 2024 BADMINTON FINAL

- The world No. 3 Indian badminton pair beat their 29th-ranked opponents Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi of China on 19 May 2024 for their eighth title on the BWF World Tour.
- This was the second title of the 2024 badminton season for Chirag and Satwik and the second Thailand Open title.
- Chirag and Satwik lost the Malaysia Open and India Open finals earlier this year before winning the French Open in March.
- Now, with 9200 ranking points from the tournament, the Indian badminton players are expected to regain the world No. 1 rank next week.

### 22. CRISTIANO RONALDO TOPS FORBES' LIST OF THE WORLD'S HIGHEST-PAID ATHLETES

- According to Forbes' list, which was released on 16 May 2024, Ronaldo earned \$260 million over the last 12 months, \$200 million from his club contract with Al-Nassr and \$60 million in off-field earnings.
- Spain's celebrated golfer Jon Rahm has moved up to take the second spot behind Ronaldo with earnings amounting to \$218m.
- Lionel Messi secured the third spot on the list, earning a total of \$135 million.



### 23. SCOTLAND CRICKET TEAM UNVEILS T20 WORLD CUP JERSEY WITH NANDINI DAIRY BRAND LOGO

- The Scotland cricket team unveiled its new ICC T20 World Cup jersey with Karnataka Milk Federation's (KMF) Nandini logo.
- The Nandini brand, which is a household name in Karnataka, is sponsoring Scotland and Ireland teams in the forthcoming T20 World Cup.
- The tournament is set to begin from June 2 in the West Indies and the USA.



## 24. 2027 FIFA WOMEN'S WORLD CUP WILL BE HELD IN BRAZIL

- The first Women's World Cup, which was approved by FIFA, took place in China in 1991. The 2023 tournament, which held in Australia and New Zealand

## 25. SUNIL CHHETRI ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT FROM INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

- **Sunil Chhetri**, India's **most decorated footballer** has announced his retirement from **international football**.
- The **FIFA World Cup Qualifier** game against **Kuwait** in **Kolkata** on **June 6** will be his last appearance for the national team.
- In 2022, FIFA honoured him with a documentary titled "**Captain Fantastic**," celebrating his journey and achievements.

## 26. MANIKA BATRA BECOMES FIRST INDIAN WOMAN PADDLER TO BREAK TOP-25 WORLD RANKINGS; NOW AT NO. 24

Revision (1<sup>st</sup> oct, 2023)

- Avinash Sable won the first gold medal for India in the steeplechase and Silver in 5000 metre at the 2022 Asian Games.

## 27. ABHA KHATUA SETS NATIONAL RECORD WINNING GOLD IN WOMEN'S SHOT PUT AT NATIONAL FEDERATION CUP ATHLETICS COMPETITION

- **Abha Khatua** from Maharashtra has set a national record and won gold medal in **Women's Shot Put** with a massive throw of **18.41 metres** at **National Federation Cup Athletics Competition** in **Bhubaneswar**.

## 28. P SHYAAMNIKHIL OF TAMIL NADU BECOMES INDIA'S 85TH CHESS GRANDMASTER

- Tamil Nadu's **P Shyaamnikhil** became India's **85th chess Grandmaster (GM)**. The 31-year-old chess prodigy, who started his career at the age of eight, finally secured his third and final GM norms at the 2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament. **R Vaishali** was the 84th Indian GM.

### Chess Grandmaster of India

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

## 29. INDIAN GYMNAST SRISHTI KHANDAGALE WINS SILVER AT ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

- In **Trampoline**, India's **Srishti Khandagale** scripted history by becoming the first ever Indian to win a medal at the Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championships.
- She clinched the silver medal in **Women's Individual Age group category** at the **6th Asian Trampoline Gymnastics Championship** held in **Hong Kong, China**.

## 30. K M DEEKSHA BREAKS 1500M NATIONAL MARK IN LA MEET

- **K M Deeksha**, from **Madhya Pradesh**, ran the distance in **4:04.78**, bettering the Previous record of **4:05.39** set by **Harmilan Bains** in 2021.



## 31. JORGE MARTIN WINS 2024 FRENCH MOTO GP

- **Jorge Martin** of **Pramac Ducati** emerged victorious in the nail-biting **2024 French MotoGP**.
- The Spaniard fended off fierce challenges from **Marc Marquez** and **Francesco Bagnaia** to claim the top spot on the podium.



## 32. PARA POWERLIFTING WORLD CUP 2024: SAKINA KHATUN SECURES 2 BRONZE MEDALS IN THAILAND

- She secured the medals in the **Best Lift** and **Total Lift** categories.
- In the **Women's up to 67 kg event**, another Indian, **Kasthuri Rajamani** earned the bronze
- Earlier in the **Men's up to 65 Kg category**, India's **Ashok Malik** secured the gold medal with a personal best lift of **197 kg**,
- In the **Men's up to 49 kg category**, **Parmjeet Singh** claimed the silver.

## 33. JAPAN DEFEATED PAKISTAN TO WIN THE 30TH SULTAN AZLAN SHAH TROPHY

- **Japan** won its maiden **Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey trophy** by defeating **Pakistan** (Pakistani team, also popularly called the **Green Shirts**) **4-1** in the penalty shoot-out in the final. The final was played at the **Azlan Shah Stadium** in **Ipoh, Malaysia**,
- India is currently ranked **6th in the world**, and the highest-ranked team in this year's **Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy** was **New Zealand, which is currently ranked 10th in the world**.
- India has been a regular participant in the **Sultan Azlan Shah Tournament**.
- India has won the **Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy** 5 times in **1985, 1991, 1995, 2009, 2010**.
- This time, the Indian team skipped the tournament as they were more focused on preparing for the **2024 Paris Olympics**, which start on **26 July 2024**.

## 34. ANANDANA, COCA-COLA INDIA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCE THEIR FIRST PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE

- In line with **Coca-Cola India's** commitment to sports, the threeyear collaboration underlines its role in positively shaping the sports and gender equality landscape.
- The partnership also aligns with the company's **#SheTheDifference** campaign, an celebrate, uplift initiative and to support women.

- This strategic partnership aims to uplift women's hockey by tackling essential components such as specialized coaching, provision of training equipment, nutritional support and organizing camps and tournaments to promote development.

### 35. NEERAJ CHOPRA FINISHES SECOND IN DOHA DIAMOND LEAGUE, KISHORE JENA NINTH

- Neeraj Chopra finished second in his season-opening appearance at the Diamond League in Doha on Friday.
- Czech Republic's **JakubVadlejch**, last season's Diamond League Trophy winner, finished first with a throw of 88.38m, with Chopra finishing just an incredible 2 cm behind, at 88.36m.

### 36. MUMBAI CITY FC REGAIN THE INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE CROWN OVER MOHUNBAGAN SG

- **Mumbai City FC beat MohunBagan Super Giant** at the Salt Lake Stadium to emerge as the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 Cup Winners at the final in Kolkata.

ISL 2023-24 Season Awards	
Golden Glove	PhurbaLachenpa (Mumbai City FC)
Golden Boot	DimitriosDiamantakos (Kerala Blasters FC)
Player of the League	DimitriosPetratos (MohunBagan Super Giant)

### 37. 36TH LA LIGA TITLE FOR REAL MADRID FOOTBALL CLUB

- The Spanish football club **Real Madrid** has been crowned the **La Liga 2023-24 season title** after **beating Cadiz 3-0**.
- In the other match, who had a bearing on the title, the Girona football club defeated Barcelona 4-2 to ensure that Real Madrid won its **36th La Liga title**.
- Real Madrid, also known as **Los Blancos**

### 38. IGASWITEK, ANDREYRUBLEV WINS THE MADRID OPEN TENNIS SINGLES TITLE

- **World no.1 women's tennis players IgaSwiatek** and **AndreyRublev** won the women's and men's singles titles at the 2024 Madrid Open, respectively.
- This was the first Madrid Open title for IgaSwiatek of Poland **defeated Aryanasabalenka of belarus**, while it was the second Madrid Open title for AndreyRublev**beating Felix Auger**.
- The Madrid Open was a 1000-event, which means that the winners of the men's and women's titles will receive 1000 ranking point.
- **The Spanish women duo** of **Sara Sorribes** and **Cristina Bucsa** defeated the pair of **BarboraKrejckikova** (Czech Republic) and **Laura Siegemund** (Germany)
- **In the men's doubles**, **Jordan Thompson (Australia)** and **Sebastian Korda (United States)** defeated **Adam Pavlesak (Czech Republic)** and **Ariel Behra (Uruguay)**

### 39. CHINA WINS BOTH THOMAS AND UBER CUP BADMINTON TITLES

- The Chinese badminton team confirmed its domination of the sport by winning both the men's **Thomas Cup** and the **women's Uber Cup**. The final of the 2024 BWF Thomas and Uber Cup was played in the Chinese city of **Chengdu**
- **China defeated Indonesia 4-1** to win the Thomas Cup for the **11th time**.
- The **Chinese women's team** defeated **Indonesia 3-0** to win the Uber Cup for the **16th time**

### 40. LANDO NORRIS STORMS TO MAIDEN F1 VICTORY AT ELECTRIFYING MIAMI GRAND PRIX

- **LandoNorris** of **McLaren** clinched his **first-ever Grand Prix victory** in a pulsating showdown at the **Miami Grand Prix**
- The race witnessed an intense battle for supremacy, with **Max Verstappen** of **Red Bull Racing** pushing Norris to the limits

### 41. JAPAN WIN 2024 MEN'S AFC U-23 TITLE BY BEATING UZBEKISTAN IN FINAL

- **Japan** defeated **Uzbekistan** in the final to win the Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup for the second time. **Japan had earlier won the tournament title in 2016**.
- In the final match played at the **Jassim bin Hamad Stadium** in Doha, Qatar, Japan won by a solitary goal and also qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics
- **Gold for Japan, Silver for Uzbekistan, and Bronze for Iraq**

### 42. INTERNATIONAL CHESS FEDERATION AWARDS GRANDMASTER TITLE TO INDIAN CHESS PRODIGY VAISHALI RAMESH BABU

- Grandmasters must achieve a 2500 rating and three norms to earn the title, but it is not instantly conferred.
- **Indian Chess Prodigy, Vaishali Ramesh Babu**, has **officially been awarded the title of Grandmaster by FIDE**, the International Chess Federation.
- This makes **Vaishali the third Indian female Grandmaster**, joining **Koneru Humpy** and **HarikaDronavalli**.
- She and her brother, **RameshbabuPraggnanandhaa**, became the **world's first Grandmaster brother-sister duo**.
- **Vaishali is the 84th Indian grandmaster**. In January, she was presented with the **Arjuna Award**.

### 43. POWERLIFTERGAURAV SHARMA AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE BY US UNIVERSITY FOR SPORTS EXCELLENCE

- **PowerlifterGaurav Sharma** had won two gold medals at the 2016 World Powerlifting Championships in England.
- In 2007, he won four gold medals at the Commonwealth Championships in New Zealand.

### 44. PSG WINS A RECORD 12TH FRENCH FOOTBALL LIGUE-1 TITLE

- **Paris Saint-Germain** football club was confirmed as the champion of the **2023-24 Ligue-1 Season**. It was the club's record 12th title. Paris Saint-Germain has won the last three consecutive titles and eight in the last ten years.
- Paris Saint-Germain was crowned the champion after its closest rival, Monaco, lost 3-2 to Lyon.



**45. PAKISTAN APPOINTED GARY KIRSTEN AS ODI AND T20I HEAD COACH**

- The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed World Cup-winning Gary Kirsten as their head coach for ODIs and T20Is, while former Australian pacer Jason Gillespie will take over that role in Test cricket.
- Gary Kirsten, former South Africa opener, was the head coach of the Indian cricket team which won the 2011 World Cup under MS Dhoni.

**46. NEW ZEALANDER COLIN MUNRO RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET** →**47. KENYAN DOMINANCE AT TCS WORLD 10K BENGALURU**

- The 16th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru witnessed Kenyan runners Peter Mwaniki (28:15) and Lilian Kasait (30:56) emerging victorious in the international elite men's and women's categories,

**48. INDIAN PLAYERS CAPTURED BOTH MEN'S AND WOMEN'S DOUBLES TITLES AT MALE: ASIAN CARROM CHAMPIONSHIP**

- In the 6th Asian Carrom championship, Indian players captured both the Men's and Women's doubles titles at Male in Maldives.
- In Men's doubles - Indian duo K Srinivas and Mohammed Ghufra
- Women's doubles - India's Aakanksha Kadam and Shainy Sebastian

**49. BAJRANG PUNIA PROVISIONALLY SUSPENDED BY WRESTLING AUTHORITIES**

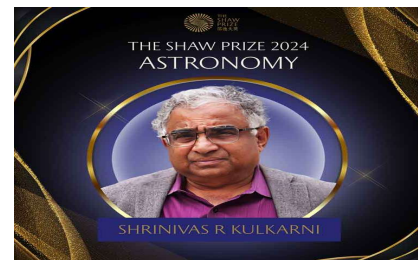
- NADA (National Anti Doping Agency) had suspended Bajrang for his 'refusal' to give his sample during the selection trials for Olympic qualifiers in Sonapat.
- As per United World Wrestling (UWW) records, Bajrang has been suspended until December 31, 2024, for "being provisionally suspended" by NADA "for alleged antidoping rule violation (ADRV)."

# Awards

## May 2024

### 1. INDIAN-ORIGIN PROFESSOR SHRINIVAS R KULKARNI WINS SHAW PRIZE IN ASTRONOMY

- The annual Shaw Prize in Astronomy will be awarded to US professor of astronomy Shrinivas R. Kulkarni, who is of Indian descent
- For his groundbreaking research on millisecond pulsars, gamma-ray bursts, supernovae, and other variable or transitory astronomical events.
- "The Shaw Prize consists of three annual prizes: Astronomy, Life Science and Medicine, and Mathematical Sciences, each bearing a monetary award of USD 1.2 million.



### 2. E-RICKSHAW DRIVER ARTI OF UP CONFERRED UK'S WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AWARD

- An 18-year-old woman E-rickshaw driver from the Bahraich district of Uttar Pradesh, Arti, has been conferred with the Amal Clooney Women's Empowerment Award by the King of the United Kingdom, Charles III.
- The award ceremony was held at Buckingham Palace, London, England.
- Arti arrived at Buckingham Palace in a Pink E-rickshaw, which she received under the Mission Shakti scheme of the Uttar Pradesh government.



### 3. GERMAN AUTHOR JENNY ERPENBECK WINS INTERNATIONAL BOOKER PRIZE FOR FICTION FOR 'KAIROS'

- German author Jenny Erpenbeck and translator Michael Hofmann won the International Booker Prize for fiction for "Kairos," the story of a tangled love affair during the final years of East Germany's existence.
- International Booker Prize recognizes fiction from around the world that has been translated into English and published in the U.K. or Ireland.
- The 50,000 pounds (\$64,000) in prize money is divided between author and translator.
- Erpenbeck is the first German winner of the International Booker Prize and Hofmann is the first male translator to win since the prize launched in its current form in 2016.



#### Indian International Booker Prize Laureate:

Year	Author	Work
1971	V.S. Naipaul	In a Free State
1981	Salman Rushdie	Midnight's Children
1997	Arundhati Roy	The God of Small Things
2006	Kiran Desai	The Inheritance of Loss
2008	Aravind Adiga	The White Tiger
2022	Geetanjali Shree	Tomb of Sand

### 4. NTPC GETS GLOBAL RECOGNITION FOR TALENT DEVELOPMENT, SECURES 3RD RANK AT ATD BEST AWARDS 2024/NTPC

- NTPC has achieved a milestone by securing the 3rd rank globally at the ATD BEST Awards 2024, this being the highest ranking among all Indian companies.
- Notably, NTPC is the only PSU to have received this prestigious award seven times in the past eight years.
- The ATD BEST Awards, established by the Association for Talent Development (ATD), USA, is one of the most esteemed international recognitions in the field of Learning and Development (L&D)

### 5. CHANDRAKANT SATIJA HONOURED WITH GLOBAL EXCELLENCE AWARD 2024

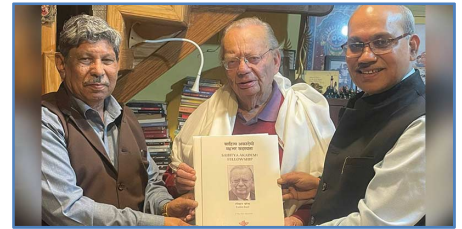
- Chandrakant Satija, the renowned educationist and Founder/CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, was honored with the Global Excellence Award 2024.

## 6. HINDUSTAN SHIPYARD LIMITED'S CMD HEMANT KHATRI HONORED WITH 'PSU SAMARPAN AWARD'



## 7. RUSKIN BOND AWARDED SAHITYA AKADEMI FELLOWSHIP

- Eminent author **Ruskin Bond** has been awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Fellowship**, the highest honour given by the literary organisation.
- **Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kashik** presented the honour
- He has been honoured with **Padma Shri in 1999** and **Padma Bhushan in 2019**, and the **Sahitya Akademi Bal Sahitya Puraskar in 2012**.
- His notable works include *Vagrants in the Valley*, *Once upon a Monsoon Time*, *Angry River*, *Strangers in the Night*, *All Roads Lead to Ganga*, *Tales of Fosterganj*, *Leopard on the Mountain* and *Too Much Trouble*.



## 8. DR. SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN HONOURED WITH HONORARY DOCTORATE BY MCGILL UNIVERSITY

- **Dr. Soumya Swaminathan**, a globally renowned leader in public health and infectious diseases, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals to receive an honorary degree from Canada's prestigious **McGill University** during the spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.



## 9. UNESCO GUILLERMO CANO PRIZE 2024 AWARDED TO PALESTINE JOURNALISTS IN GAZA

- **Palestinian journalists** covering the **crisis in Gaza** have been named laureates of the **2024 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**

## 10. PURNIMA DEVI BARMAN GETS THE 'GREEN OSCAR' WHITLEY GOLD AWARD 2024

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

## 11. DR. BINAMODI HONOURED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

- **Dr. BinaModi**, Chairperson and Managing Director of **Modi Enterprises – KK Modi Group**, was honoured by the esteemed Vice President of India, **JagdeepDhankar**, for her 'Outstanding Contribution to the cause of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**'.
- **DR.BINA MODI** supporting the education of young girls through initiatives like **Project Khushi**



# Cinema

## Current Affairs

May  
2024

### 1. INDIAN FILM 'SUNFLOWERS WERE THE FIRST ONES TO KNOW' WINS LA CINEF FOR BEST SHORT AT CANNES 2024

- Indian filmmaker **Chidananda S Naik's** short film 'Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know' won the 1st prize in the 27th La Cinef category of the 77th Cannes Film Festival
- Chidananda S. Naik is a student at Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. **Cannes will give a grant of 15,000 euros for the first prize**
- Actor **Anasuya sengupta** becomes the first indian actor to won the uncertain regard prize for the best actress for the film **THE SHAMELESS** at the **CANNES FILM FESTIVAL**



### 2. DEEPIKA PADUKONE BECOMES THE ONLY INDIAN STAR TO FEATURE ON DEADLINE'S GLOBAL DISRUPTORS 2024 LIST



### 3. INDIA TO HOST BHARAT PARV AT CANNES FILM FESTIVAL FOR THE FIRST TIME

- 77th annual Cannes Film Festival is taking place from 14 to 25 May 2024 at Cannes in France. India is participating in the 12-day event.
- India will host a Bharat Parv at the Cannes Film Festival for the first time.
- The Bharat Pavilion at Cannes will serve as a platform for the Indian film community to engage in various activities.
- The official poster and trailer of the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2024 will also be unveiled at the Bharat Parv.

# Summits & conferences

**May  
2024**

## 1. LEADERS OF CHINA, JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA HELD THE NINTH TRILATERAL SUMMIT IN SEOUL

- The leaders of China, Japan and South Korea met in Seoul on 27 May 2024 for their ninth trilateral summit. This is the first summit to be held between the nations in four years.
- South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang held a trilateral summit for the first time in more than four years.
- They aim to increase the number of people-to-people exchanges to 40 million by 2030 through exchanges in culture, tourism and education.



## 2. 10TH WORLD WATER FORUM 2024

- Theme of Water for Shared Prosperity
- Organized by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the World Water Council.
- The Forum is the world's largest event organized, since 1997, every three years with a different host country.
- Saudi Arabia was appointed as the country to host the 11th Water Forum in 2027



## 3. INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY WAS HELD IN VIENNA

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) organized the Fourth International Conference on Nuclear Safety (ICONS) in Vienna, Austria from 20 to 24 May.
- Its objective was to discuss measures to further strengthen global nuclear security and promote knowledge sharing among countries.

## 4. 2ND EDITION OF AI SUMMIT IN SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

- Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom co-hosted 2nd AI summit in Seoul on 21-22 May.
- Leaders from government, industry, and civil society to discuss global collaboration on AI safety, innovation, and inclusivity.
- It discussed concerns such as job security, copyright and inequality
- The first global AI summit was held in Britain in November 2023, and the next is due to take place in France, likely in 2025.
- South Korean Prime Minister - Han Duck-soo



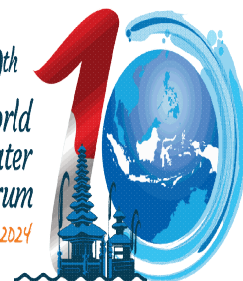
## 5. 10TH WORLD WATER FORUM STARTED IN BALI, INDONESIA

- Indonesian President Joko Widodo officially inaugurated the 10th World Water Forum at the Bali Nusa Dua Convention Center (BNDCC),
- Jokowi discussed the Bali Subak Irrigation System, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2012.
- Theme - "Water for Shared Prosperity."
- It will be held at 2 places; Venue Bali Collection and Tsunami Shelter Plaza Kuta. This forum is held every three years since its inauguration in 1997.



REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

10th  
World  
Water  
Forum  
Bali 2024



## 6. CONFERENCE ON ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE HELD IN GUWAHATI

- Ministry of Law and Justice to organise two day Conference titled 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System', in association with the Government of Assam in Guwahati.
- To generate awareness about the recently enacted three new criminal laws to overhaul the criminal justice system in the country.
- The first conference of the series was held in New Delhi on 20th April 2024.
- As notified, these new criminal laws are to take effect from 1st July 2024:

- The **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**; the **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023** and the **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023**, will replace the earlier criminal laws namely, the **Indian Penal Code 1860**, the **Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973** and the **Indian Evidence Act, 1872**.

## 7. INAUGURAL AFRICA CLEAN COOKING SUMMIT HELD IN PARIS

- To provide clean cooking options for the more than 1 billion people in Africa who currently rely on fuels such as charcoal and wood
- The Summit drew more than 1,000 delegates from nearly 60 countries to address the health and climate impacts of cooking using open fires and basic stoves.
- It has raised \$2.2 billion in pledges from governments and the private sector.
- Using fuels such as agricultural waste and animal dung in this way is the **second-biggest cause of premature death in Africa**, mostly of sub-Saharan women and children



## 8. MAIDEN INDIAN PAVILION SET UP AT THE WORLD HYDROGEN ENERGY SUMMIT

- India has set up its maiden pavilion at the **World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition 2024**. The Pavilion was set up by the **Union Ministry of New & Renewable Energy**, and it was inaugurated by the Secretary of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, **Bhupinder Singh Bhalla**
- The World Hydrogen Summit 2024 is being held in **Rotterdam**, Netherlands,
- The World Hydrogen Summit and Exhibition has been organised by the **Sustainable Energy Council** in partnership with the **Netherlands government**, the **province of Zuid-Holland**, the **City of Rotterdam** and the **Port of Rotterdam**.



## 9. 26TH ASEAN-INDIA SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING IN NEW DELHI

- The **26th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting** took place in **New Delhi**, co-chaired by Secretary (East) **Jaideep Mazumdar** and Permanent Secretary **Albert Chua** of **Singapore**.
- Discussions encompassed the three pillars of engagement—political-security, economic, and socio-cultural—reviewing ASEAN-India relations as outlined in the **ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025)**.

### 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)

## 10. INDIA TO HOST THE 46TH ANTARCTIC TREATY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

- India will host the **46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM 46)** and the **26th Meeting of the Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP 26)** from May 20 to 30, 2024, in **Kochi, Kerala**.
- The **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research**, Union Ministry of Earth Science, will host the meeting. Over 350 delegates from more than 60 countries are expected to attend the 46th ATCM and 26th CEP meetings.

### FACTS ABOUT ANTARTICA

- **5 LARGEST CONTINENT.**
- CONTINENT DIVIDED INTO EAST ANTARTICA(GREATER ANTARTICA), WEST ANTARTICA(LESSER ANTARTICA)
- **LONGEST RIVER- ONYX**
- **LARGEST LAKE- VOSTOK**
- ANTARTICA TREATY SIGNED IN 1959. **INDIA SIGNED THE ANTARTICA TREATY IN 1983**
- **INDIAN ANTARTIC BILL 2022 PROPOSES TO SET UP INDIAN ANTARTICA AUTHORITY (IAA) UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES.**

## 11. ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER 7000-YEAR-OLD PREHISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN SERBIA

- Archaeologists have recently discovered a **7000-year-old pre-historic settlement** near the **Tamiš River** in northeastern **Serbia**.
- The settlement is believed to date back to the late Neolithic period and spans roughly 11-13 hectares
- **Serbia, a landlocked country in Southeast Europe.**
- The capital city is **Belgrade**.
- Currency is the **Serbian dinar**



# Reports & Indices

**May  
2024**

## 1. INDIA JUMPS TO 39 RANK IN WEF TRAVEL & TOURISM DEVELOPMENT INDEX 2024

- India was ranked **36** out of **119** countries. India's overall score is **4.25** in the recently released **Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024** by the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**.
- **The United States of America** was ranked **no.1**, while **India** was the **topmost-ranked country in South Asia**.
- The Travel and Tourism Development Index is a **biennial report** released by the World Economic Forum (WEF). The first Index was released in 2022.

### World Economic Forum

- **The World Economic Forum** is a non-profit international think tank that was set up by German Klaus Schwab of Germany in 1971 to promote Public-Private Cooperation.
- headquartered in Cologny, Switzerland

## FLYING HIGH

Rank	Country	Score
1	US	5.24
2	Spain	5.18
3	Japan	5.09
4	France	5.07
5	Australia	5.00
6	Germany	5.00
7	United Kingdom	4.96
8	China	4.94
9	Italy	4.90
10	Switzerland	4.81
39	India	4.25

Source: 2024 Travel & Tourism Development Index by WEF

## 2. 9TH EDITION OF FORBES 30 UNDER 30 ASIA LIST RELEASED

- Forbes released its ninth edition of the "**30 Under 30 Asia**" list celebrating **300 young entrepreneurs**, leaders, and trailblazers under 30 who are driving innovation and transforming industries across the Asia-Pacific region.
- **86 Indian** on the list.

## 3. TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION YOUNG UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2024

- The rankings list the **world's best universities** that are 50 years old or younger.
- This year the ranking included over 670 universities from across the globe.
- **The 2 Indian universities have ranked in the top 100 list.**
- Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala - 81st
- Anna University, Chennai - 96<sup>th</sup>
- **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore tops the league table for the 2nd year in a row.**

Rank 2024	Rank 2023	Institution	Country/region
1	1	Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	Singapore
2	3	Paris Sciences et Lettres – PSL Research University Paris	France
3	2	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Hong Kong
4	6	City University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
5	12	Université Paris-Saclay	France
6	8	Institut Polytechnique de Paris	France
7	4	Hong Kong Polytechnic University	Hong Kong
8	15	Sorbonne University	France
9	14	Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH)	South Korea
10	13	Maastricht University	Netherlands

## 4. WORLD WILDLIFE CRIME REPORT 2024

- **3rd edition of the UN World Wildlife Crime Report 2024** by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- Earlier editions were published in 2016 and 2020
- **The report provides an updated focus on trends in the illegal trade in wildlife species listed in the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).**
- The seizure data in the report documents illegal trade in 162 countries and territories during 2015–2021
- **The report noted that the intercepted illegal wildlife trade — as a proportion of all wildlife trade — saw an increase from 2017 onwards.**
- According to the findings, the proportion of wildlife crimes peaked in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Worst Affected - Rhino horns comprised the largest share of the illegal wildlife market, constituting 29 percent.** Following closely were pangolin scales at 28 percent and elephant ivory at 15 percent.

### Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):

- CITES was signed on 3 March 1973 and entered into force on 1 July 1975.
- **With 184 Parties (183 countries + the European Union)**, it remains one of the **world's most powerful tools for wildlife conservation through the regulation of international trade in over 40,900 species of wild animals and plants.**

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):**

- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that was established in 1997 as part of the UN reform.
- It is **headquartered in Vienna, Austria**.
- The UNODC is mandated **to assist member states in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism**.

**5. HINDU POPULATION SHARE FELL 7.8% BETWEEN 1950-2015 IN INDIA, MUSLIMS UP 43.15%: EAC-PM PAPER**

- The report has been released by the **Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM)**.
- The paper titled '**Share of Religious Minorities: A Cross-Country Analysis (1950-2015)**'.
- The share of the **majority Hindu population** decreased by 7.82% between 1950 and 2015 (from 84.68% to 78.06%).
- The share of **Muslim population in 1950 was 9.84%** and increased to 14.09% in 2015 — a 43.15% increase in their share."
- The share of **Christian population** rose from 2.24% to 2.36% — an increase of 5.38% between 1950 and 2015.
- The share of **Sikh population** increased from 1.24% in 1950 to 1.85% in 2015 — a 6.58% rise in their share,
- The share of the **Parsi population** in India witnessed a stark 85% decline, reducing from 0.03% share in 1950 to 0.004% in 2015.

**6. MUMBAI & DELHI AMONG 50 WEALTHIEST CITIES OF WORLD: HENLEY & PARTNERS**

- In a reflection of the continued economic growth in India, two Indian cities, **Mumbai** and **Delhi**, have been included for the first time in the top 50 world's wealthiest cities of the world.
- Mumbai was ranked **24th**, and Delhi was **37th** in the world in the Wealthiest Cities Report 2024 which was released recently.
- The United States has 11 cities in the top 50 and three in the top 10 cities.

**7. WORLD PRESS FREEDOM INDEX 2024 ANNOUNCED, INDIA RANKED 159TH OUT OF 180 COUNTRIES**

- **World Press Freedom Index** published annually by **Reporters without Borders (RSF)**, India finds itself at a concerning position, **ranking 159th out of 180 countries**. This marks a slight improvement from its **previous rank of 161**, yet it still underscores significant challenges faced by journalists in the country.
- Surprisingly, India trails behind its neighboring nation **Pakistan**, which holds the **152nd position**, while **Sri Lanka stands at 150th place**.
- **Norway** topped the ranking, while **Denmark** was on the second rank in World Press Freedom Index. **Sweden** ranked third on the list.

**8. INDIAN EDTECH STARTUP 'EMERITUS' GETS TOP POSITION IN TIME'S GLOBAL EDTECH RANKING 2024**

- A new global ranking of the 250 top edtech companies has been released by **TIME** and **Statista**. Indian edtech startup Emeritus has topped TIME magazine's ranking of "**World's Top Edtech Companies 2024**".
- **Emeritus was founded in 2015 by Ashwin Damera and Chaitanya Kalipatnapu**.
- The United States leads the TIME rankings with 91 entries, followed by China with 25 companies and the United Kingdom with 16 firms.

**9. INDIA'S SCALAR ACADEMY HAS BEEN RANKED AMONG TIME WORLD'S TOP EDTECH RISING STARS OF 2024.****10. Kathmandu Tops The List Of Cities With Unhealthy Air In The World**

- According to **IQAir**: The air quality in Kathmandu was at the top of the list of cities with '**unhealthy air**' in the world.
- In terms of pollution, Kathmandu, New Delhi, Chiang Mai in Thailand, Hanoi in Vietnam, Bangkok in Thailand and Dhaka in Bangladesh are ranked first, second, third, fourth and fifth respectively.

# Appointment

## May 2024

### 1. VICE ADMIRAL GURCHARAN SINGH TAKES COMMAND OF NDA

- Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh assumed the appointment of Commandant, National Defence Academy from Vice Admiral Ajay Kocchar in Pune.
- NDA is a prestigious military academy that trains officers for the Indian Armed Forces, including the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- Location: Khadakwasla, near Pune, Maharashtra.
- Motto : Seva Paramo Dharma (Service Before Self)



### 2. SANJIV PURI, ITC MD ELECTED CII PRESIDENT FOR 2024-25

- Chairman and Managing Director of ITC, Sanjiv Puri, has been elected as the President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for 2024-25

Apart from the CII, the other important business lobby groups in India are

- Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)- President Sanjay Nayar
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) -Dr. Anish Shah is the President for 2023-2024
- National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)- Debjani Gosh, President of NASSCOM since 2018



### 3. VISA APPOINTS SUJAIRAINA AS INDIA COUNTRY MANAGER

### 4. SANJAYA KUMAR MISHRA TO HEAD GST APPELLATE TRIBUNAL

### 5. KAREENAKAPOOR KHAN APPOINTED UNICEF INDIA'S NATIONAL AMBASSADOR

### 6. KRISHNA ELLA TAKES OVER PRESIDENCY OF THE INDIAN VACCINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

- The Indian Vaccine Manufacturers Association (IVMA) has announced that Krishna Ella, cofounder and executive chairman of Bharat Biotech, will be the association's new president for 2 years from April 2024.
- Mr. Ella is taking over the presidency from Adar C. Poonawala (CEO of the Serum Institute of India), who held the post from 2019 to March 2024.

### 7. JUSTICE DINESH KUMAR TAKES CHARGE AS THE SAT PRESIDING OFFICER

- Justice (retired) Dinesh Kumar took charge as the Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT).
- The government of India appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar for a four-year term.

### 8. CHINA APPOINTED XU FEIHONG AS ITS NEW ENVOY TO INDIA

- Chinese President Xi Jinping has appointed senior diplomat Xu Feihong as the new Ambassador to India after an unusually long delay of 18 months amid frozen relations between the two countries over the eastern Ladakh military standoff.



### 9. PUTIN REAPPOINTS MIKHAIL MISHUSTIN AS RUSSIA'S PRIME MINISTER, AS VLADIMIR PUTIN BEGAN HIS FIFTH PRESIDENTIAL TERM IN RUSSIA

- Russia is the world's largest country by area. It is a Eurasian country that geographically lies in both Europe and Asia.
- However, it is considered to be a European country.
- The Modern Russian Federation came into being in 1991 after the dissolution of the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republic) or the Soviet Union.

Capital: Moscow  
Currency: Rouble  
President: Vladimir Putin  
Prime Minister: Mikhail Mishu stin

### 10. L&T ELEVATES R SHANKAR RAMAN AS PRESIDENT IDASHISHA NONGRANG BECOMES FIRST WOMAN DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE (DGP) OF MEGHALAYA

- Idashisha Nongrang is a member of the 1992 batch of the Indian Police Service.
- She will succeed Lajja Ram Bishnoi upon his retirement on May 19, 2024.
- Hailing from the Khasi community, Nongrang currently serves as the Director General of Meghalaya Civil Defence.



### 11. DILEEP SANGHANI ELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF IFFCO

- IFFCO Established Year: 1967
- IFFCO Headquarters: New Delhi, India.



# Economics

## Current Affairs

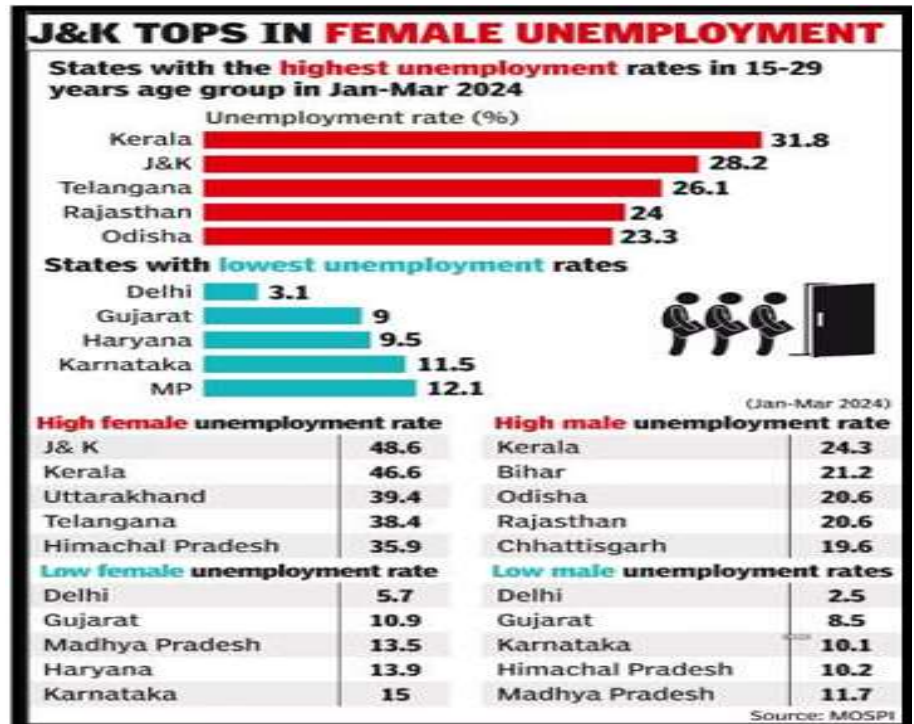
May  
2024

### 1. INDIA'S HIGHEST TRADE DEFICIT WITH CHINA IN THE YEAR 2023-24

- India has recorded a trade deficit, the gap between imports and exports, with nine of its top 10 trading partners, including China, Russia, Singapore and Korea, in 2023-24,

### 2. ACCORDING TO PLFS SURVEY, KERALA IS THE TOP STATE IN YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN THE QUARTER JANUARY-MARCH 2024

- According to the latest Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) released by the Statistics Ministry, Kerala recorded the highest unemployment rate among the 15-29 age groups in urban areas in the January-March quarter of 2024, while Delhi had the lowest unemployment rate.
- The survey, which covered 22 states and union territories, identified Jammu and Kashmir, Telangana, Rajasthan and Odisha as other states with high unemployment rates in this age group.
- The overall unemployment rate for the 15-29 age group was 17 percent for the January-March period, up from 16.5 percent the previous quarter, but slightly lower than the 17.3 percent reported in the same period in 2023.



### 3. SMARTPHONES BECOME INDIA'S FOURTH LARGEST EXPORT ITEM WITH 42% GROWTH

- The report said that this growth jump could be attributed to the government's successful production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the sector.
- It added that [PLI](#) in the smartphones segment has pushed India to second position, only behind China, among the world's largest mobile phone manufacturing countries.



### 4. INDIAN STOCK MARKET BECOMES THE 5TH LARGEST STOCK MARKET IN THE WORLD WITH \$5 TRILLION CAPITALIZATION

- India's market capitalization has increased to \$5 trillion. This feat was achieved less than six months after crossing the \$4 trillion mark, reflecting the country's strong economic resilience and investor confidence.



### 5. INDIA RECORD POSITIVE GROWTH AMONG TOP 5 WORLD STEEL PRODUCER IN APRIL

- According to the World Steel Association, India is the only country amongst the world's top five crude steel-producing countries to record **positive growth** in production during April 2024.
- India, which is the second largest producer of crude steel in the world, recorded a growth rate of 3.9 per cent in April 2024 as compared to April 2023.

#### Status of Steel production

- India is the world's **second-largest** producer of crude steel in the world after China.
- India has the distinction of being the **largest producer of sponge iron** in the world.
- After China and the United States of America, India is the world's **third-largest** user of finished steel.

#### AT WORLD LEVEL CRUDE STEEL STATUS

- |           |          |
|-----------|----------|
| 1. CHINA  | 2. INDIA |
| 3. JAPAN  | 4. USA   |
| 5. RUSSIA |          |

## 6. PHONEPE LAUNCHES UPI IN SRI LANKA FOR INDIAN TOURISTS

- PhonePe announced that it has enabled UPI payment acceptance in collaboration with LankaPay, Sri Lanka's national payment network.
- Indians travelling to Sri Lanka can now make payments using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) by scanning the LankaQR code.
- Their account will be debited in INR, showing the currency exchange rate.
- This alliance for PhonePe is facilitated through LankaPay's partnership with NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL).

## 7. SBI BECOMES THE FIRST BANK AS TRADING, CLEARING MEMBER OF IIBX

- Secured the distinction of being the first bank to become a trading-cum-clearing (TCM) Member of India International Bullion Exchange at the GIFT City in Gujarat.
- This milestone enables SBI's IFSC Banking unit (IBU) Gift City to conduct trades on the IIBX platform and settle them on behalf of its clients
- SBI Chairman - Dinesh Kumar Khara

## 8. INDIA'S URBAN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECLINES TO 6.7% IN MARCH QUARTER

- The 22nd Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) revealed that the unemployment rate among individuals aged 15 years and above in urban areas of India decreased to 6.7% in the January-March 2024 period.
- The survey offers insights into various labor force indicators, including unemployment rate, worker population ratio (WPR), and labor force participation rate (LFPR) based on the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach.
- The unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 years and above in urban areas saw a slight decline to 6.7% in January-March 2024 from 6.8% a year earlier.
- Among females aged 15 years and above, the unemployment rate dropped to 8.5% in January-March 2024 compared to 9.2% in the same quarter of the previous year
- Conversely, among males, the unemployment rate increased marginally to 6.1% in January-March 2024, up from 6% in the corresponding period of the previous year.

### Labour Force Participation Rate

The LFPR is calculated as the percentage of the population in the labor force, comprising both employed and unemployed individuals.

- ❖ The LFPR in urban areas for individuals aged 15 years and above rose to 50.2% in January-March 2024, marking an increase from 48.5% in the same period a year ago.

## 9. MOODY'S FORECASTS INDIAN ECONOMY TO EXPAND AT 6.6% IN FY25

## 10. ICICI BANK INTRODUCES UPI FOR NRIS USING INTERNATIONAL MOBILE NUMBERS

- ICICI Bank has launched UPI for NRIs in 10 countries, enabling global mobile number use without switching to Indian numbers.
- Non-Residential External (NRE) and Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) Accounts are the two major categories of accounts available for you, as an NRI.
- Ten countries - USA, UK, UAE, Canada, Singapore, Australia, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

## 11. P-NOTE INVESTMENTS IN INDIAN MARKETS SOAR TO NEARLY 6-YEAR HIGH

- Investments through participatory notes (P-notes) in the Indian capital markets reached a staggering Rs 1.5 lakh crore marking the highest level in nearly six years. This surge in P-note investments, encompassing Indian equity, debt, and hybrid securities, has been driven by the strong performance of the domestic economy.
- Participatory notes (P-notes) are financial instruments issued by registered foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to participate in the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly.

## 12. SETU UNVEILS SESAME, INDIA'S FIRST BFSI-FOCUSED LARGE LANGUAGE MODEL

- Setu, a leading Indian fintech company and part of the Pine Labs Group, has unveiled Sesame, India's first Large Language Model (LLM) specifically designed for the banking, financial services, and insurance (BFSI) sector.
- Developed in collaboration with indigenous AI research firm Sarvam AI, this groundbreaking initiative marks a significant milestone in the adoption of advanced AI technologies in the financial services industry.

## 13. RBI LAUNCHES 'FLOATING RATE BONDS' MATURING IN 2034

- The Government of India has introduced a Floating Rate Bond (FRB) maturing in 2034, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced 8% interest rate for the Floating Rate Savings Bond (FRSB) 2034.
- This bond offers a variable interest rate that resets every six months, reflecting market conditions.
- The interest rate is based on the average yield of recent auctions for short-term government debt (called Treasury bills). Basically, it moves with market conditions.

## 14. FI SECURES NBFC LICENSE FROM RBI: EXPANDING FINANCIAL SERVICES OFFERINGS

- Fi, a neobanking startup, backed by investors such as Peak XV and Temasek, has obtained a non-banking finance company (NBFC) license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), enabling it to provide loans from its own books.
- This development aligns with the trend seen among fintech startups in recent years, where acquiring NBFC licenses facilitates direct lending and asset base establishment

### 15. OECD RAISES THE INDIAN ECONOMY GROWTH RATE FORECAST TO 6.6% IN 2024-25

Agency / Organisation	GDP forecast for 2024-25	GDP forecast for 2025-26
Reserve Bank of India	7%	
World Bank	6.6%	6.5%
International Monetary Fund	6.8%	6.5%
Asian Development Bank	7%	7.2%
Moody's	6.8% (January to December 2025)	-
Morgan Stanley	6.8%	-
S&P Global	6.8%	7%
United Nations	6.6(January to December 2025 )	-
OECD	6.6 %	6.6%
Fitch Rating	7.0%	-
CRISIL	6.8%	-
Citi Bank	6.8%	
Standard Chartered Bank	7.0%	

### 16. ICICI BANK JOINS INDIA'S TOP 5 COMPANIES WITH MARKET CAP SURPASSING RS 8 TRILLION

- The elite club of India's top five companies by market capitalization is led by **Reliance Industries** with a staggering Rs 19.8 trillion, followed by **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** at Rs 14 trillion.
- Among banks, **HDFC Bank** holds the top position with a market capitalization of Rs 11.6 trillion, while **State Bank of India** stands at Rs 7.4 trillion.

### 17. CORE SECTOR GROWTH MODERATES TO 5.2% IN MARCH

- The growth of India's core sectors slowed to **5.2% from February's 7.1%**, primarily due to the statistical effect of a high base. However, sequentially, there was a notable increase of 9.9%, marking the highest growth in a year.

Core Sectors of the Indian Economy	
The eight-core sectors of the Indian economy are:	
1. Electricity	2. Coal
3. Steel	4. Cement
5. Refinery products	6. Natural gas
7. Crude oil	8. Fertilizers

### 18. DELOITTE INDIA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: FY24 AND FY25 GDP GROWTH PREDICTIONS

- **Deloitte India** has revised its GDP growth forecasts for FY24 and FY25, with a significant increase in projections. The consultancy anticipates a robust **GDP growth of 7.6-7.8% for FY24**, up from the previous estimate of **6.9-7.2%**.
- Looking ahead to FY25, Deloitte expects GDP to expand by **6.6%**, driven by strong economic activity **fueled by rising consumption expenditure**.

### 19. THOMAS COOK INDIA INTRODUCES TCPAY: A GAME-CHANGER IN INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFERS

### 20. INDIA'S INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION GROWTH SLOWS TO 4.9% IN MARCH 2024

- India's industrial production growth rate decelerated to **4.9% in March 2024** compared to **5.7% in February**, as per data from the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation**.
- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** for FY24 stood at 5.8%, up from 5.2% in the previous year. In March 2023, industrial output had grown by 1.9%.





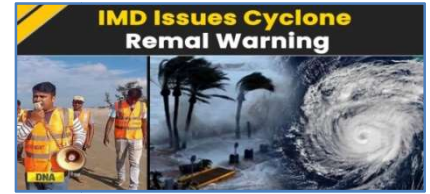
# Environment

## Current Affairs

**May  
2024**

### 1. IMD ISSUES ALERT FOR CYCLONE REMAL

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a warning for a potential severe tropical cyclonic storm that could impact the coasts of West Bengal and Bangladesh in the next couple of days.
- **This will be the first cyclone developing in the North Indian Ocean basin this year.**
- The name '**Remal**' is given by **Oman**



#### Cyclone

- Cyclones are rapid **inward air circulation around a low-pressure area**.
- The air circulates in an anticlockwise direction in the Northern hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern hemisphere.
- Cyclones are usually accompanied by **violent storms and bad weather**.

**There are two types of cyclones:**

1. **Tropical cyclones**
2. **Extra Tropical cyclones** (also called temperate cyclones or middle latitude cyclones or Frontal cyclones or Wave Cyclones).

### 2. OLDEST KNOWN HUMAN VIRUSES DISCOVERED IN 50,000-YEAR-OLD NEANDERTHAL BONES

- Neanderthals were an extinct species or subspecies of archaic humans that lived in Eurasia until approximately 40,000 years ago.
- **Neanderthals coexisted with early modern humans (Homo sapiens) in Europe and Asia for several thousand years.**
- They were well adapted to cold, glacial environments.
- Researchers have long wondered if our closest extinct relatives might have succumbed to **viral infections that plague modern humans today**.
- **The discovery of ancient DNA from three viruses found in 50,000- year-old Neanderthal bones, unearthed at Chagyrskaya cave in Russia offers new information in this regard.**
- Based on these results, it seems that Neanderthals were able to get diseases that people get today.
- Long enough ago that **humans could have carried pathogens from Africa and passed them on to Neanderthals in Europe.**

### 3. CHINESE POND HERON BIRD SEEN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN UTTARAKHAND

- For the first time this **bird has chosen Kotdwar area of Lansdowne Forest Division for breeding.**
- The **Chinese pond heron (Ardeola Bacchus)** is an East Asian freshwater bird of the heron family. It is one of six species of birds known as "**pond herons**" (genus *Ardeola*)



### 4. SCIENCE ALERT: 'DOOMSDAY GLACIER' MELTING AT A TERRIFYING RATE

- Antarctica's "**Doomsday Glacier**" is melting twice as fast than scientists previously thought, because of warm ocean water that is infiltrating miles beneath its surface
- **The Thwaites Glacier, which is nicknamed the Doomsday Glacier** because of its potential to massively increase sea levels is located in West Antarctica. It is one of the world's fastest-changing and most unstable glaciers.
- Previous research found that the glacier has been melting rapidly since the 1980s — contributing to a 4% rise in global sea levels with the loss of hundreds of billions of tons of ice.
- If the glacier completely melted, it could raise sea levels by as much as **2 feet (60 centimeters)**.



#### **FACTS ABOUT ANTARTICA**

- **5 LARGEST CONTINENT.**
- CONTINENT DIVIDED INTO EAST ANTARTICA(GREATER ANTARTICA), WEST ANTARTICA(LESSER ANTARTICA)
- **LONGEST RIVER- ONYX**
- **LARGEST LAKE- VOSTOK**
- ANTARTICA TREATY SIGNED IN 1959. **INDIA SIGNED THE ANTARTICA TREATY IN 1983**
- **INDIAN ANTARTIC BILL 2022 PROPOSES TO SET UP INDIAN ANTARTICA AUTHORITY (IAA) UNDER THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES.**

## 5. NEW JUMPING SPIDER SPECIES DISCOVERED IN SHENDURNEY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- Researchers from Kerala and Tamil Nadu has discovered two new species of jumping spiders in Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the southern Western Ghats.
- The new species are *Habrocestum shayadri* and *Irura Shendurney*
- The findings have been published in the peer-reviewed European Journal of Taxonomy



## 6. NO MINING WITHIN 1-KM RADIUS AROUND TIGER HABITATS: SC TO RAJASTHAN

- The Supreme Court told authorities in Rajasthan that there cannot be any mining activity within 1-km radius of critical tiger habitats.
- The court, in a judgment, had said that mining within 1-km from the boundary of a national park or a wildlife sanctuary shall not be permissible. It added, "as such the prohibition... will be automatically applicable even to the critical tiger reserves".
- According to the court, Section 38XA of Wildlife Protection Act 1972 shows that tiger reserves stand on a higher pedestal than wildlife sanctuaries and national parks.

### The Sariska Tiger Reserve

- It is located in the Alwar district of Rajasthan.
- It is well nestled in the Aravali Hills, covering an area of 800 sq km.
- Sariska was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and was declared the tiger reserve later in 1978, making it a part of India's Project Tiger.
- It is the first reserve in the world to successfully relocate tigers.

## 7. ANCIENT BRANCH OF NILE RIVER UNCOVERED NEAR EGYPTIAN PYRAMIDS

- For many years, archaeologists have thought that ancient Egyptians must have used a nearby **waterway to transport materials such as the stone blocks needed to build the pyramids on the river.**
- A research team from the **University of North Carolina Wilmington** has discovered that the pyramids are likely to have been built along a long-lost, ancient branch of the **River Nile - which is now hidden under desert and farmland.**
- The river branch - named the **Ahramat branch**, with "ahramat" meaning pyramids in Arabic - was roughly 64km (39 miles) long and between 200-700m (656-2,296 ft) wide.
- The **Ahramat branch flowed near a staggering 31 pyramids**, including the iconic Giza pyramid complex. This close proximity indicates that the river served as a vital transportation route.
- The **River Nile was the lifeline of Ancient Egypt** - and remains so to this day.
- The longest river in the world and is called the father of African rivers.



## 8. UAE LAUNCHES 10-YEAR BLUE RESIDENCY VISA FOR ENVIRONMENTALISTS

- The UAE Cabinet has announced a new 10-year Blue Residency visa for individuals who have made exceptional contributions to protecting the environment.
- This includes members of international organisations, international companies, associations, non-governmental organisations, and global award winners.
- The visa has been introduced in alignment with the national directives declared by UAE, to designate 2024 as the year of sustainability.



## 9. SEI WHALES RETURN TO ARGENTINA AFTER CENTURY

- Giant blue-grey sei whales that vanished from Argentina's Patagonian coast a century ago due to hunting are starting to flourish once again, demonstrating how species can recover when measures to protect them are put in place.
- During the 1920s and 1930s, sei whales faced intense hunting pressure, primarily from whaling operations in and around Argentine waters.
- Sei whales, scientific name "*Balaenoptera borealis*," are the third largest rorqual after blue and fin whales.



## 10. DRY ARAL SEA HAS MADE CENTRAL ASIA DUSTIER, WITH IMPACTS ON GLOBAL CLIMATE, SAYS STUDY

- The Aral Sea, the world's fourth-largest lake until the early 1960s, dried up after that decade in Soviet Central Asia and became a byword for environmental disaster later, almost on the lines of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.
- The Aral was fed by the two great rivers of Central Asia — the **Amu Darya (Oxus in Antiquity)** and the **Syr Darya (Jaxartes)** — flowing from the Pamir and Tien Shan mountain ranges of High Asia, respectively.
- Now, a new study has found that the desert which emerged due to the drying up of the lake, has made Central Asia a much dustier place.
- "The drying up of the Aral Sea has made **Central Asia dustier by 7 per cent over the past 30 years.** Between 1985 and 2015, dust emissions from the growing desert almost doubled from 14 to 27 million tonnes.

### 11. INDIA, KENYA TO DISCUSS CHEETAH SOURCING FOR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- INDIA is likely to host a delegation of Kenyan officials later this month to explore the possibility of sourcing cheetahs from Kenya for the next phase of Project Cheetah
- The Gandhi Sagar wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh was chosen as the second site for reintroduction of cheetahs last year.
- Project Cheetah, India's ambitious attempt to introduce African cheetahs in the wild in the country, was launched in September 2022
- Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district is home to 27 cheetahs (13 adults and 14 cubs) translocated from Namibia and South Africa. 10 cheetahs have died so far owing to illnesses and infections.
- As part of Project Cheetah, India plans to introduce 8 to 14 cheetahs annually for five years, subject to availability.

#### Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

- It is situated in northwestern Madhya Pradesh, with one of its boundaries running along the border of Rajasthan.
- The sanctuary was notified in 1974
- River Chambal flows through the sanctuary, dividing it into two parts.

### 12. MAHARASHTRA GEARS UP FOR TIGER TRANSLOCATION TO SAHYADRI RESERVE

- Maharashtra forest department is gearing up for translocation of a few tigers from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) in Chandrapur to Sahyadri Tiger reserve.
- The Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR) is one of only five tiger reserves in the country — Kaval in Telangana, Kamlang in Arunachal Pradesh, Dampa in Mizoram and Satkosia in Odisha being the other four — with zero tigers within the reserve.
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had cleared the translocation plan in October 2023. Final go-ahead from the Union Environment Ministry is awaited.

#### Sahyadri Tiger Reserve (STR):

- located in the Sahyadri Ranges of the Western Ghats
- Notified in 2010 by amalgamating the Chandoli national park and Koyna wildlife sanctuary.
- Includes the area around the Koyna Dam, Warna River.

#### Tiger reserves of Maharashtra:

- Melghat Tiger Reserve
- Pench Tiger Reserve
- NawegaonNagzira Tiger Reserve
- TadobhaAndhari Tiger Reserve
- Sahyadri Tiger Reserve
- Bor Tiger Reserve



# Cultural

## Current Affairs

May  
2024

### 1. IDOL WING CID TO BRING BACK 'DANCING KRISHNA' IDOL FROM THAILAND

- Idol Wing CID (IW-CID) of Tamil Nadu police will bring back an antique Chola-era bronze idol of 'Kaliya Kalki' also called as Kaliya Narthana Krishna (Dancing Krishna) which was stolen several years ago and now recovered from Bangkok.
- The present value of the idol is \$3.5 million.
- The rare variant of the bronze idol was handed over by the Fine Arts Department of Thailand.



### 2. MADE-IN-INDIA CHERRAPUNJI GIN SECURES TOP HONOUR AT GLOBAL SPIRITS MASTERS COMPETITION

- Cherrapunji Eastern Craft Gin, a homegrown spirit from Meghalaya has won the top honor at the Global Spirits Masters competition.
- This gin outshined 110 brands from 55 countries to claim the top spot.
- It was featured at the London Wine Fair, in the United Kingdom, showcasing the flavors of Northeast India to the global spirits industry
- Key ingredients include the GI-tagged Khasi mandarin from Meghalaya, Assam's GI Tagged kaji nemu (lemon) peel; among other ingredients.



### 3. SIKKIM CELEBRATES SAGA DAWA FESTIVAL

- Sikkim is celebrating Saga Dawa, a festival that falls annually on the 15th day (full moon) of the fourth month of the Northern Buddhist Calendar
- Saga Dawa is considered the most sacred Buddhist festival, commemorating the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana (passing away) of Buddha Shakyamuni.
- This day is also known as the 'Triple Blessed Occasion'.
- Tibetan Buddhist calendar is a lunisolar calendar:



#### Imp. Buddhist festivals in Sikkim:

Festivals	When	Description
Losar (Tibetan New Year):	4th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (May-June)	This festival commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death (parinirvana) of Lord Buddha.
Drukpa Tshechi	6th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (July-August)	Celebrates the first sermon of Lord Buddha at Sarnath.
Pang Lha	15th day of the 7th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar (August-September)	This unique festival is dedicated to Mount Kanchenjunga

#### About Sikkim

- It is bordered by Tibet (China) to the north and northeast, Bhutan to the east, Nepal to the west, and the Indian state of West Bengal to the south.
- Sikkim is the least populous and second smallest among the Indian states.
- Kangchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world, Sikkim shares with Nepal.
- Kanchenjunga National Park, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Influenced by Tibetan culture due to the spread of Buddhism.
- Sikkim stands out for its commitment to organic farming
- Capital - Gangtok

### 4. ARTARA'24 FINE ARTS EXHIBITION & COMPETITION MAKES ITS MARK IN DUBAI

- The event aimed to discover hidden artistic gems, with a particular focus on the Indian talent residing in Dubai.

## 5. GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE LAUNCHES "MILLETS: SEEDS OF CHANGE" EXHIBITION

- **Google Arts & Culture**, in collaboration with **India's Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**, presents an engaging digital exhibition titled **"Millets: Seeds of Change."**
- This exhibition delves into the journey of millets, showcasing their evolution from ancient staples to contemporary superfoods, and emphasizes their nutritional value, role in climate resilience, and potential to address global food security challenges.

## 6. UNESCO RECOGNISES RAMCHARITMANAS, PANCHATANTRA AND SAHṚDAYĀLOKA-LOCANA

- **Ramcharitmanas**, **Panchatantra** and **SahṚdayāloka-Locana** of India is among 20 items of the Asia Pacific region which has been included in the 2024 cycle of the **'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'**.
- **Ramcharitmanas** was written by **Tulsidas** in the 16th century A.D in the **Awadhi dialect**
- **Panchatantra** is one of the oldest collections of fables in the world, composed in Sanskrit. **Vishnusharma**, the court scholar of King Amar Shakti of Mahilaropya, is credited with compiling it.
- **SahṚdayāloka-Locana** has been composed by **Acharya Anandvardhan** in Sanskrit.

## 7. UNESCO (UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION)

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) were founded in 1945 as a specialised agency of the United Nations.
- The main six areas of UNESCO programmes are education, natural sciences, ocean sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information.
- It was set up on 16 November 1945.

<b>Members:</b>	It has 195 Members and 8 Associate Members.
<b>Headquarters:</b>	Paris, France
<b>Director General:</b>	Audrey Azoulay (France)



# Geographical Indicator

**May  
2024**

## **1. GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATION (GI) CERTIFICATE UPON THE TRADITIONAL ARTISANS OF 'KUTCH AJRAKH**

- The Ajrakh is a textile craft, and holds deep roots in the cultural of Gujarat, particularly in the regions of Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch.
- It is a process of hand-block printing on treated cotton cloth.
- Ajrak's nomenclature originates from 'Azrak', meaning indigo, a well-known powerful dye to achieve a bluish effect.
- This craft was introduced to this region over 400 years back by the Sind Muslims.



# MoU / Agreement

**May  
2024**

## 1. GHANA PARTNERS WITH RELIANCE JIO ARM AND OTHERS FOR TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE

- Ghana's Next-Gen Infrastructure Company (NGIC) collaborates with Reliance Jio's subsidiary, Tech Mahindra, and Nokia to bolster its 4G and 5G capabilities.
- With a focus on emulating India's telecom success, Ghana aims to enhance connectivity and digital services across various sectors.

## 2. MAHINDRA & MAHINDRA SIGN MOU WITH MSDE FOR 'DRONE DIDI' PILOT PROJECT

- To boost rural women's empowerment, the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. to conduct two Pilot Projects under the Drone Didi Yojana at Noida and Hyderabad.
- The pilot projects to train women to operate drones for agricultural purposes will be held at the National Skill Training Institute in Noida and Hyderabad.



## 3. INDIA NIGERIA TO SOON FINALISE LOCAL CURRENCY SETTLEMENT SYSTEM AGREEMENT

- India and Nigeria have agreed to an early conclusion of the Local Currency Settlement System Agreement to boost bilateral trade between the two countries.
- Under the local currency settlement system, the trade will be settled in India's local currency and Nigerian local currency, Nigerian naira. This was decided at the 2nd session of the India-Nigeria Joint Trade Committee held in Abuja, Nigeria.

## 4. NPCI INKS PACT WITH BANK OF NAMIBIA FOR DEVELOPING UPI-LIKE INSTANT PAYMENT SYSTEM

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) overseas arm has signed a pact with the Bank of Namibia (BoN) for developing a Unified Payments Interface (UPI)-like instant payment system for Namibia.
- This strategic partnership aims to enhance digital financial services and bolster real-time Person-to-Person (P2P) and Merchant payment transactions (P2M) in the African nation.

## 5. CAG AND NEPAL'S AUDITOR GENERAL SIGN MOU TO ENHANCE CO-OP IN AUDITING

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), Girish Chandra Murmu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toyam Raya, Auditor General of Nepal to enhance cooperation between the two institutions.

### About the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)

Dr B.R. Ambedkar considered the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) as the 'most important office' under the constitution.

- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the custodian of public finances as well as the controller of the entire financial system of the country.
- It is also called the Guardian of Public Funds.
- Article 148 of the constitution provides for the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- Appointment and Term of the CAG
  - ✓ The President appoints the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
  - ✓ The CAG holds his office:
    - ✓ For a period of 6 years from the date of assumption of office or till the age of 65 years (whichever is earlier).
    - ✓ He can vacate his post anytime by submitting his resignation to the President.

## 6. NHPC LIMITED TO COLLABORATE WITH NORWEGIAN COMPANY FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF FLOATING SOLAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY IN INDIA

- NHPC Limited, the largest organization for hydropower development in India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s Ocean Sun, a Norwegian company operating as a technology provider to the floating solar industry.

### About NHPC Limited

- NHPC Limited (formerly known as National Hydroelectric Power Corp.) is a Government of India Mini Ratna Category I Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power.
- It was incorporated in the year 1975 under the Companies Act, 1956, with the objective of developing hydroelectric power in the country.
- NHPC is a premier organization in the country for the development of hydropower.

## 7. INDIA AND EUROPE TO STRENGTHEN 6G COLLABORATION

- India's **Bharat 6G Alliance** is set to sign a cooperation agreement with Europe's Industry Alliance 6G, following a similar agreement with the US.
- This partnership aims to foster collaboration in **developing 6G technology**.

## 8. INDIAN COAST GUARD INKS MOU WITH HINDALCO FOR INDIGENOUS MARINE-GRADE ALUMINIUM

- The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** and **Hindalco Industries**, a leading industry group, have joined forces to promote the manufacturing and supply of **indigenous marine-grade aluminium** for the construction of ships.
- The collaboration, formalized through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**, aims to enhance India's self-reliance in the shipbuilding sector.

### About DRDO

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation is the leading research and development establishment of the government of India.
- It was set up in 1958 under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- DRDO was set up to develop advanced defence technology to make the Indian armed forces self-reliant in weapon systems.
- **DRDO has developed various missiles like Agni, Prithvi, light combat aircraft Tejas, main battle tank Arjun multi-barrel rocket launcher, Pinaka; air defence system, Akash; a wide range of radars and electronic warfare systems; etc.,**
- Chairman of DRDO: **Dr Samir V Kamath**



# Obituaries

**May  
2024**

## 1. RICHARD SHERMAN, SONGWRITER BEHIND DISNEY HITS, DIES AT 95

- **Richard M Sherman**, one half of the prolific, award-winning pair of brothers who helped form millions of childhoods by penning the instantly memorable songs for **"Mary Poppins"**, **"The Jungle Book"** and **"Chitty Chitty Bang Bang"** — as well as the most-played tune on Earth, **"It's a Small World (After All)"** — has died.
- Sherman, together with his late brother Robert, **won two Academy Awards for Walt Disney's 1964 smash "Mary Poppins"** — best score and best song, **"Chim Chim Cheree."**



## 2. ACTOR BERNARD HILL, KNOWN FOR PLAYING KING THEODEN IN 'THE LORD OF THE RINGS', PASSES AWAY

## 3. PADMS SHRI AWARDEE SURJIT PATAR PASSES AWAY AT 79

- He was the president of the Punjab Arts Council and had also been the president of the Punjabi Sahit Akademi.
- **DOB-(14 January 1945 – 11 May 2024)**
- Patar received the Padma Shri in the field of literature and education in 2012.
- Patar's poetic works include 'Hawa Vich Likhe Harf', 'Hanere Vich Sulagdi Varanmala', 'Patjhar Di Pazeab', 'Lafzaan Di Dargah' and 'Surzameen'.
- The poet and writer have been awarded with the Sahitya Akademi Award, Panchnad Puruskar, Saraswati Samman and the Kusumagraj Literary Award.



## 4. SUSHIL MODI, EX DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER OF BIHAR, DIES AT 72

- Senior BJP leader Sushil Modi died at Delhi's All-India Institute of Medical Sciences on 13 May 2024.
- He was battling cancer and was admitted in the intensive care unit of AIIMS for the last one month.
- The stalwart leader, once the BJP's best-known face in Bihar, had opted out of the ongoing Lok Sabha elections also on account of his health.



## 5. PIONEERING PIG KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT RICHARD SLAYMAN PASSES AWAY



# Polity

## Current Affairs

May  
2024

### 1. SUPREME COURT BANS ED'S ARREST POWERS AFTER TAKING COGNIZANCE OF SPECIAL COURT

- The Supreme Court ruled that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) **loses the power to arrest** an accused after a **special court takes cognizance of a charge sheet** filed under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).
- The decision significantly curtails the ED's power to arrest persons not detained during the investigation phase under the PMLA.
- After taking cognizance of the offense punishable under **Section 4 of PMLA**, the special court takes over the case.
- The court said it cannot accept a situation where the accused is not arrested before lodging the complaint, but after the complaint is lodged and the person appears in compliance with the summons of the trial court, he is taken into custody and forced.
- Such a practice **may violate the right to freedom** guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India.
- The origin of this Directorate goes back to **1st May, 1956**, when an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed in the Department of Economic Affairs for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA), 1947.
- It was headquartered in Delhi, headed by a **Legal Service Officer** as the Director of Enforcement.
- It had two branches – at **Bombay and Calcutta**.
- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate', and another branch was opened at Madras (now Chennai).



#### What is the Structure of ED?

- Hierarchy: The Directorate of Enforcement, with its **headquarters at New Delhi**, is headed by the **Director of Enforcement**.
- There are five regional offices at **Mumbai, Chennai, Chandigarh, Kolkata and Delhi** headed by Special Directors of Enforcement.
- It functions under the **Department of Revenue of the Ministry of Finance**.
- **Rahul Navin**, a 1993-batch IRS officer, has taken charge as the acting director of the ED replacing Sanjay Kumar Mishra, an IRS officer of the 1984 batch.
- **Composition:** It is composed of officers from the **Indian Revenue Service, Indian Police Service and the Indian Administrative Service** as well as promoted officers from its own cadre.
- **Objective:** The Organization is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – **Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)** and the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**.
- Processing cases of fugitive/s from India under the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018**.
- Adjudicating show-cause notices issued under the repealed **FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973)**.
- Sponsoring cases of Preventive Detention under the **Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974 (COFEPOSA)** with respect to FEMA violations.

### 2. INDIA PROPOSES DIGITAL COMPETITION BILL, 2024

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has proposed a new digital competition law that could stop tech giants like Google, Facebook, and Amazon from self-referencing their own services, or using data gathered from one company to benefit another group company.
- The draft law is called the Digital Competition Bill, 2024.
- It has provisions to set presumptive norms to curb anti-competitive practices before they actually take place, and promises to impose heavy penalties — which could amount to billions of dollars — for violations.
- The proposal is similar to the European Union's Digital Markets Act (DMA), which went into complete effect earlier this year.
- Currently, India follows an ex post antitrust framework under the Competition Act, 2002. Regulating after the incidence of market abuse involves delays— by the time the offending company has been penalized, market dynamics change to rule out smaller competitors.
- The proposed framework is a **forward-looking, preventive, and presumptive law (an ex ante framework)**

## IMPORTANT DAY

Date	Important Day	Facts
3 May	World Press Freedom Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every year on May 3, the whole world celebrates Press Freedom Day.</li> <li>➤ The day is commemorated to highlight the significance of press freedom globally and to recognise the challenges encountered by journalists.</li> <li>➤ The day also pays tribute to all the journalists who have lost their lives.</li> <li>➤ In 2024, the theme for World Press Freedom Day is 'A Press for the Planet: Journalism in the Face of the Environmental Crisis.'</li> </ul>
6 May	International No Diet Day	
7 May	Rabindranath Tagore Birth Anniversary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ He was also referred to as '<b>Gurudev</b>', '<b>Kabiguru</b>', and '<b>Biswakabi</b>'.</li> <li>➤ He not only gave the <b>national anthems for two countries, India and Bangladesh</b>, but also <b>inspired a Ceylonese student of his, to pen and composes the national anthem of Sri Lanka</b>.</li> <li>➤ He died on <b>7th August 1941 in Calcutta</b>.</li> </ul>
7 May	World Athletics Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ World Athletics Day is marked on May 7 annually to promote sports participation around the world. The fundamental goal of this day is to instill athleticism in young people.</li> <li>➤ This year the theme for World Athletics Day is – 'World Mile Challenge'.</li> <li>➤ This year's focus is on running, jogging, or walking a mile to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Roger Bannister's (the first man to run a sub-four-minute mile) on May 6, 1954.</li> </ul>
7 May	World Asthma Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ World Asthma Day (WAD) is observed on the <b>first Tuesday of May every year</b>. The day is dedicated to raising awareness about Asthma worldwide.</li> <li>➤ It is organised by the <b>Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)</b>. The GINA strives to empower people suffering from <a href="#">Asthma</a> with the proper education so that they can manage their condition effectively.</li> <li>➤ The theme of World Asthma Day 2024 is 'Asthma Education Empowers'.</li> <li>➤ World Asthma Day was first celebrated in 1998.</li> </ul>
7 May	65th Raising Day Of BRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To celebrate the 65th Raising Day of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), <b>Project Swastikorganised a series of activities in Sikkim</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>BRO was conceived and raised in 7 May, 1960 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru</b></li> <li>➤ It works under the administrative control of the <b>Ministry of Defence</b></li> <li>➤ <b>BRO develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas (in North &amp; North-east) and friendly neighboring countries.</b></li> <li>➤ The organisation motto is <b>ShramenaSarvamSadhyam(everything is achievable through hardwork)</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Headquarters:</b> New Delhi</li> <li>➤ <b>Director-General:</b> Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan</li> </ul>
8 May	World Thalassaemia Day 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>PanosEnnglezos</b>, founder of the Thalassaemia International Federation (TIF), established the World Thalassaemia Day in <b>8 may,1994</b> in memory of his son George, who died due to the disease.</li> <li>➤ <b>The theme of the 2024 World Thalassaemia Day is "Empowering Lives, Embracing Progress: Equitable and Accessible Thalassaemia Treatment for All."</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Thalassaemia is a <b>genetic blood disorder</b>. The disease is passed from the parents to their children. The Thalassaemia patient's <b>body does not produce the required amount of haemoglobin</b>.</li> <li>➤ Haemoglobin is a <b>protein</b> which is an important part of the red blood cells. This creates a condition in the body called <b>anaemia</b>. <b>There is no cure for Thalassaemia</b>. <b>Blood transfusions</b> are used to treat thalassaemia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Normal Haemoglobin Level in a Healthy Human</b></li> <li>• Haemoglobin is measured in <b>grams per deciliter of blood</b>. The ideal haemoglobin level for an average healthy human is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Women:</b> 12.1 to 15.1 gm/dl</li> <li>• <b>Men:</b> 13.8 to 17.2 gm/dl</li> <li>• <b>Children:</b> 11 to 16 g/dl</li> <li>• <b>Pregnant women:</b> 11 to 15.1 g/dl.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9 May	MaharanaPratapJyanti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ MaharanaPratap was a legendary Rajput monarch whose name is associated with bravery.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Maharana Pratap was born on May 9, 1540. His defiance of Akbar and the valour of his faithful horse, Chetak, are well-known.</li> <li>➤ Maharana Pratap hailed from Rajasthan. His father was Maharana Udai Singh II, the reigning monarch of Mewar.</li> <li>➤ Pratap, the eldest of 25 siblings, held the title of Crown Prince.</li> <li>➤ He was the ruler of Mewar, a kingdom in present-day Rajasthan, and his reign is celebrated for his valiant resistance against the Mughal emperor Akbar's expansionist policies. He fought a lot of battles and also instigated the first war of independence for the country.</li> <li>➤ The most famous battle he fought was the <b>Battle of Haldighati</b>, in which he fought against Mughal Emperor Akbar. He was injured in this battle and died on 19 January 1597.</li> </ul>
11 May	National Technology Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ National Technology Day is celebrated annually in India on 11 May. This day is dedicated to recognizing the contributions of innovators, scientists, and engineers, and to promoting scientific and technological innovation in the country.</li> <li>➤ The day was first <b>established in 1998</b> to commemorate the <b>successful nuclear test at Pokharan</b>.</li> <li>➤ <b>The theme for 2024 is 'School to Startups-Igniting Young Minds to Innovate'</b></li> </ul>
12 May	Mother's Day	
12 May	International Nurses Day 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every year, <b>12 May</b> is observed as <b>International Nurses Day</b> as a tribute to <b>Florence Nightingale</b>, who was born on this day.</li> <li>➤ The day is observed to highlight the importance of nurses and the vital role they play in the healthcare sector.</li> <li>➤ <b>The theme for the 2024 International Nurses Day is - 'Our Nurses Our Future, The Economic Power of Care.'</b></li> </ul>
16 May	National Dengue Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every year, National Dengue Day is observed on May 16 to spread awareness about <b>dengue</b>, which is a viral disease caused by mosquitoes.</li> <li>➤ It is a global epidemic, prevalent in over 100 countries, with close to half of the world's population at the risk of contracting it.</li> <li>➤ The theme for the National Dengue Day 2024 is '<b>Dengue Prevention: Our Responsibility for a Safer Tomorrow</b>'.</li> <li>➤ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also plans to conduct several activities to control and prevent the dengue disease. The government distributes mosquito repellents, promotes vaccination, and marks the dengue-affected areas.</li> </ul>
21 May	Anti-Terrorism Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every year on 21 May India celebrates Anti-Terrorism Day to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated by a suicide bomber of the <b>Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)</b> at Sriperumbudur, a village now known as Chennai, on 21 May 1991.</li> <li>➤ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the ban on the <b>Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)</b> for another five years as the group "continues to foster a separatist tendency amongst the masses" and as its affiliates "enhance the support base for the LTTE in India, and particularly in Tamil Nadu," which will impact the territorial integrity of the country.</li> <li>➤ The MHA declared the LTTE an unlawful association under the anti-terror law, the <b>Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Background:</b></li> <li>• Sri Lanka is 74.9 % Sinhalese and 11.2 % Sri Lankan Tamil. Within these two groups, <b>Sinhalese tend to be Buddhist and Tamils tend to be Hindu</b>, displaying significant <b>linguistic and religious</b> divisions.</li> <li>• It is believed that the Tamils arrived in Sri Lanka both as <b>invaders and traders</b> from India's <b>Chola Kingdom</b>.</li> <li>• Some origin stories suggest that the <b>Sinhalese and Tamil communities have experienced tension</b> from the very beginning—not out of cultural incompatibility, but <b>rather out of power disputes</b>.</li> </ul>
22 May	International Day for Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The United Nations has declared 22nd May as the <b>International Day for Biodiversity</b> to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues.</li> <li>➤ To halt or reverse this decline, it is important to change people's roles, activities, and relationships with biodiversity.</li> <li>➤ The IDB 2024 theme "<b>Be part of the plan</b>".</li> </ul>



23 May	Buddha Jayanti or Buddha Purnima	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Buddha Purnima, also known as Buddha Jayanti or Vesak</b>, is celebrated every year on the full moon of the <b>Hindu calendar month Vaishakha</b>.</li> <li>➤ This year, Buddha Purnima will be observed on May 23, 2024 (Thursday).</li> <li>➤ <b>Commemorating the birth, enlightenment and death of Gautama Buddha. It is called Saga Dawa (Dasa) in Sikkim &amp; Ladakh</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Born at Lumbini</b> (present Nepal) in 563 BC as Siddhartha Gautam, to mother <b>Queen Maya and father King Suddhodana</b></li> <li>➤ He was married to Princess Yashodhara and <b>had a son named Rahul</b></li> <li>➤ <b>At the age of 29</b>, he left his house to find the truth of life</li> <li>➤ <b>At the age of 35</b> on the same day of his birth, he attained enlightenment (Nirvana) in Bodh Gaya Bihar under that pipal tree and became Buddha, the Enlightened One.</li> <li>➤ He gave his first sermon to his five companions at the Deer Park in Sarnath near Varanasi. This event was called <b>Dharmachakra-pravartana</b> (Turning the Wheel of Law).</li> <li>➤ He died (<b>Mahaparinirvana</b>) at the age of 80 (483 BCE) in Kushinagar, UP</li> </ul>
24 May	UNGA Proclaimed May 24 as the International Day of the Markhor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>The UN General Assembly celebrates it for the first time in 2024.</b></li> <li>➤ The markhor (Capra falconeri) is an iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia, including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.</li> <li>➤ The markhor is the national animal of Pakistan</li> <li>➤ The greatest threats to the survival of the markhor are habitat loss, illegal hunting, including poaching, and climate change.</li> <li>➤ The markhor was categorized as "near threatened" in 2014 and is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, and has been included in Appendix I to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora since 1992.</li> </ul>
25 May	Africa Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Africa Day is observed to commemorate the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which was established on May 25, 1963.</b></li> <li>➤ The OAU was the precursor to the African Union (AU), which was launched in 2002 to replace the OAU.</li> <li>➤ <b>2024 Africa Day Celebration will focus on women in agriculture.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Kwame Nkrumah was the father of African Union.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>H.Q is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.</b></li> <li>➤ The AU is made up of 55 Member States which represent all the countries on the African continent.</li> </ul>
28 May	World Hunger Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Every year, <b>World Hunger Day is observed on May 28.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Theme – Thriving Mothers. Thriving world.</b></li> <li>➤ The day aims to create awareness about the struggles faced by millions of people who do not have access to proper nutrition</li> </ul>
29 May	International day of United Nation Peacekeepers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Since 1948, more than two million peacekeepers have served in 71 missions, helping countries navigate the difficult path from war to peace. Currently, more than 76,000 peacekeepers from more than 120 countries are deployed in 11 global operations.</li> <li>➤ Theme, "<b>Fit for the Future: Building Better Together.</b>"</li> </ul>

## Important MCQs May Month

1. **'Kamikaze drone' which was in discussion recently is related to?**  
(a) Israel (b) Iran  
(c) Russia (d) China
2. **Which Indian environmentalist has recently been selected for the 'Goldman Prize 2024'?**  
(a) Randeep Hooda (b) Alok Shukla  
(c) Geeta Sabharwal (d) Ratan Tata
3. **Who has recently won a hat-trick of gold medals in the individual, women's team and mixed team events in the Shanghai Archery World Cup-2024?**  
(a) JyotiVennam (b) DeepikaKumari  
(c) Priyansh (d) TarundeepRai
4. **Where was the important fourth session of talks on Global Plastic Treaty held recently?**  
(a) Ottawa (b) Punta Del Este  
(c) Paris (d) Nairobi
5. **Recently India's Abhay Sharma has been appointed as the head coach of which country's cricket team?**  
(a) Canada (b) Uganda  
(c) USA (d) Afghanistan
6. **Who has recently launched upgradeable ATM in India?**  
(a) HDFC Bank (b) Airtel Payments Bank  
(c) Hitachi Payment Services (d) State Bank of India
7. **The recently discussed 'Pt. Lachhu Maharaj Award' is related to?**  
(a) Bharatanatyam (b) Kathak  
(c) Kuchipudi (d) Mohiniyattam
8. **The recently launched book 'The Winner's Mindset' is related to?**  
(a) Sam Pitroda (b) Salman Rushdie  
(c) Duvvuri Subbarao (d) Shane Watson
9. **Where has the announcement of building the world's largest airport terminal been made recently?**  
(a) UAE (b) USA  
(c) China (d) India
10. **Recently, which corona vaccine has been reported to cause blood clotting and low platelet count?**  
(a) Moderna (b) Covishield  
(c) Novavax (d) Sputnik V
11. **Recently, China has launched the first Hangar class submarine built for which country?**  
(a) North Korea (b) Iran  
(c) Pakistan (d) Bangladesh
12. **Where has the 'NilgiriTahr Survey' started recently under the supervision of IUCN?**  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Maharashtra  
(c) Goa (d) Karnataka
13. **Where was the Critical Minerals Summit, 2024 organized recently?**  
(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai  
(c) Bengaluru (d) Kolkata
14. **What is the specialty of 'Rampage Missile' recently inducted into the Indian Air Force and Navy?**  
(a) Surface to surface (b) Surface to Air  
(c) Air to Surface (d) Air to Air
15. **Who is AI anchor Sana, recently honored with the International News Media Association's Global Media Awards, related to?**  
(a) Zee TV (b) AajTak  
(c) India Today Group (d) India TV
16. **Where was the 6th Asian Carrom Championship, 2024 held recently?**  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Maldives  
(c) Bangladesh (d) Nepal
17. **Who has recently topped Time's global edtech ranking 2024?**  
(a) Memrise (b) Emeritus  
(c) Afya (d) Miko
18. **According to IQAir recently, which is the most polluted city in the world?**  
(a) Chiang Mai (b) New Delhi  
(c) Kathmandu (d) Dhaka
19. **Recently the Government of India has got the rights of which country's 'Kankesanthurai Port' renovation project?**  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Bangladesh  
(c) Indonesia (d) Mauritius
20. **Who is the female sarpanch who recently represented the country in the program of the United Nations Population and Development Commission?**  
(a) Supriya Das Dutta (b) Kunuku Hema Kumari  
(c) Neeru Yadav (d) All of the above
21. **Where has DRDO successfully tested long-range 'smart' antisubmarine missile system recently?**  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra Pradesh  
(c) West Bengal (d) Odisha
22. **Where has the first 'National Women's Hockey League 2024' started recently?**  
(a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha  
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh
23. **Who has recently been appointed to the post of Vice Chief of Naval Staff?**  
(a) Krishna Ella (b) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi  
(c) Krishna Swaminathan (d) NarsinghYadav
24. **Recently, who is the first player to make the record of winning most 150 matches in the history of IPL?**  
(a) Ravindra Jadeja (b) Rohit Sharma  
(c) Mahendra Singh Dhoni (d) Dinesh Karthik
25. **The first lunar mission 'ICUBE-Q' to be launched on China's lunar mission 'Chang'e-6' is related to?**  
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) South Africa  
(c) North Korea (d) Pakistan
26. **Which is the host country of the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting?**  
(a) Australia (b) Finland  
(c) India (d) Peru
27. **Who has recently presented evidence of ice in the Moon's poles?**  
(a) NASA (b) ISRO  
(c) Jaxa (d) SpaceX

28. Who has topped the medal tally in the first Gulf Youth Games 2024?  
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) UAE  
(c) Kuwait (d) Qatar
29. Where was the original copy of Raja Ravi Varma's iconic painting 'Indulekha' unveiled recently on his 176th birth anniversary?  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala  
(c) Karnataka (d) Goa
30. Which laser weapon related project has been unveiled by DRDO recently?  
(a) Drag-Mark II (b) Smart II  
(c) Durga II (d) Roux II
31. Where has the Indian Army and PunitBalan Group recently developed Constitution Park?  
(a) Surat (b) Pune  
(c) Bengaluru (d) Kochi
32. Who has recently been appointed to the post of head of the Training Command of the Air Force?  
(a) Dinesh Kumar Tripathi (b) Nagesh Kapoor  
(c) Krishna Swaminathan (d) Harendra Singh
33. Pension Department has recently launched an online portal for government retirees. what is the name of the portal?  
(a) Abhyukt portal (b) Vriddhi portal  
(c) Bhavishya portal (d) Vikas portal
34. Recently, NPCI signed an agreement with which African country for UPI-like instant payment services?  
(a) Namibia (b) Tanzania  
(c) Kenya (d) Nigeria
35. Recently, where was the event titled "Localizing the SDGs: Women in Local Governance in India Lead the Way" organized?  
(a) London (b) Paris  
(c) New York (d) New Delhi
36. Recently, which Indian received the 'Green Oscar' Whitley Gold Award 2024?  
(a) Sandeep Sharma (b) Purnima Devi Barman  
(c) Alice Garg (d) Amrita Devi
37. According to recently released OECD report, what is the expected growth rate of India's economy in 2024-25?  
(a) 5.5% (b) 6.6%  
(c) 7.2% (d) 7.8%
38. Recently, which IIT has been granted a patent for its cost-effective inverter?  
(a) IIT Patna (b) IIT Madras  
(c) IIT Kanpur (d) IIT Bombay
39. Recently, who has been appointed as the Presiding Officer of the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT)?  
(a) Meera Swarup (b) Dheeraj Bhatnagar  
(c) Dinesh Kumar (d) JP Devdhar
40. Red Colobus Conservation Action Plan, recently seen in news, is an initiative of which organization?  
(a) IUCN (b) WMO  
(c) WHO (d) WWF
41. What position has India got in the World Press Freedom Index, 2024?  
(a) 158th place (b) 159th place  
(c) 160th place (d) 161st place
42. Recently, under whose leadership was the United Nations' first international conference on Digital Public Infrastructure organized?  
(a) Britain (b) USA  
(c) Canada (d) India
43. Who has recently been appointed by UNICEF India as its brand ambassador?  
(a) Alia Bhatt (b) Deepika Padukone  
(c) Kareena Kapoor (d) Kirti Sanon
44. Who has recently been awarded the UNESCO Guillermo Cano Award 2024?  
(a) Nigeria (b) Ukraine  
(c) Turkey (d) Palestine
45. Who has recently launched the world's first AI diplomat 'Victoria Xi'?  
(a) Russia (b) USA  
(c) Ukraine (d) UAE
46. Where has the first indigenous unmanned bomber aircraft 'FWD200B' been unveiled recently?  
(a) Surat (b) Pune  
(c) Mumbai (d) Bengaluru
47. Who has been recently appointed to the post of head of the GST Appellate Tribunal?  
(a) Pratima Singh (b) Sanjay Kumar Mishra  
(c) Atanu Chakraborty (d) Krishna Ella
48. Recently, 'AjraKh' textile art of which state has got GI tag?  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat  
(c) Maharashtra (d) Haryana
49. Who has recently been appointed match referee by ICC for the T20 World Cup?  
(a) Javagal Srinath (b) Ajit Agarkar  
(c) Zaheer Khan (d) Harbhajan Singh
50. Where will the Women's T20 World Cup, 2024 to be held?  
(a) South Africa (b) Bangladesh  
(c) England (d) Australia
51. Who has recently successfully launched the rocket "SR75" powered by paraffin fuel for the first time?  
(a) HyImpulse Company (b) SpaceX  
(c) Blueorigin (d) Skyroot
52. Who has recently been announced to be honored with the Honorary Palm d'Or in Cannes 2024?  
(a) Michael Douglas (b) George Lucas  
(c) Meryl Streep (d) Christopher Nolan
53. Where has the new Covid-19 variant 'FLiRT' hit recently?  
(a) China (b) Russia  
(c) USA (d) Brazil
54. Which is the first university in India to recently introduce Harvard University's course in Business Management?  
(a) Birla Institute (b) Kalinga University  
(c) Amity University (d) Chandigarh University
55. Who is the recent winner of Thomas and Uber Cup 2024 in both men's and women's categories?  
(a) India (b) Malaysia  
(c) China (d) Indonesia
56. Who has recently been honored with the Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Award 2024?  
(a) Alok Shukla (b) Purnima Devi Burman  
(c) Bhavi Mehta (d) Randeep Hooda



57. Recently, which country has started free yoga classes for the first time?  
(a) Pakistan (b) Afghanistan  
(c) Bangladesh (d) Maldives
58. Which integrated portal has recently been launched by the Pension Department for government retirees?  
(a) CDP-Suraksha Portal (b) Suvidha Portal  
(c) Bhavishya Portal (d) Saksham Portal
59. Border Road Organization (BRO), recently celebrated its 65th raising day, comes under which ministry?  
(a) Ministry of Civil Aviation  
(b) Ministry of Earth Sciences  
(c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways  
(d) Ministry of Defence
60. What is 'Choline', recently seen in news?  
(a) Nutrient (b) Pesticide  
(c) Virus (d) Invasive plant
61. Pakistan recently launched its first-ever lunar mission, iCube-Qamar, in collaboration with which country?  
(a) Russia (b) India  
(c) China (d) Iran
62. Which country has recently introduced an AI generated spokesperson, named Victoria Shi?  
(a) Russia (b) Iran  
(c) Iraq (d) Ukraine
63. Recently, where was the 26th ASEAN-Indian Senior Officials' meeting held?  
(a) New Delhi (b) Jaipur  
(c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad
64. What is 'MQ-9B Predator', recently seen in the news?  
(a) A technique used to remove pest from crop  
(b) High Altitude Unmanned Aerial Vehicle  
(c) Nuclear Ballistic Submarine  
(d) Earth Observation Satellite
65. Recently, which country clinched Men's AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024 by defeating Uzbekistan?  
(a) China (b) Indonesia  
(c) Japan (d) Kazakhstan
66. Recently, José Raúl Mulino has been elected as the new President of which country?  
(a) Guatemala (b) Cuba  
(c) Panama (d) Nicaragua
67. Where has the Indian Army and Air Force recently conducted the joint exercise 'Gagan Strike-II'?  
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan  
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Punjab
68. Who has recently been selected in the International Reporting category of the Pulitzer Prize for the year 2024?  
(a) New York Times (b) Pro Publica  
(c) The Washington Post (d) Reuters
69. Who has recently signed a 20-year power agreement with Adani Green Energy for wind power stations?  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Maldives  
(c) Nepal (d) Bhutan
70. Where has ISRO recently successfully tested 'Pre-Burner Ignition' under semi cryogenic?  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Karnataka  
(c) Kerala (d) Odisha
71. When has World Thalassaemia Day 2024 been observed recently?  
(a) 5 May (b) 6 May  
(c) 7 May (d) 8 May
72. Where has an alert been issued after the recent cases of West Nile Fever?  
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala  
(c) Maharashtra (d) Karnataka
73. Which is the winning team of Indian Super League 2023-24?  
(a) Kerala Blasters  
(b) Mohun Bagan Super Giant  
(c) Mumbai City FC (d) NorthEast United
74. Lando Norris, who recently achieved the historic first win of his career in the Formula 1 Miami Grand Prix, is related to?  
(a) USA (b) Germany  
(c) Italy (d) Britain
75. Where will the American Predator drone 'MQ-9B' be deployed to monitor the China border?  
(a) Sikkim (b) Assam  
(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Ladakh
76. According to the United Nations Immigration Agency, which country is the first country in the world to cross the \$100 billion mark in global remittances?  
(a) Mexico (b) China  
(c) India (d) USA
77. Who has recently adopted the first law to deal with violence against women?  
(a) European Union (b) African Union  
(c) ASEAN (d) Quad
78. Which is the first IT Company in the world to recently receive ISO 42001:2023 certification for AI?  
(a) HCL Technologies (b) Infosys  
(c) Wipro (d) Accenture
79. What position has India got globally in global energy think tank Amber's Global Electricity Review 2024?  
(a) First (b) Second  
(c) Third (d) Fourth
80. Recently the Governor of which state has been accused of sexual harassment?  
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh  
(c) Rajasthan (d) West Bengal
81. Who has recently been appointed to the post of First Minister of Scotland?  
(a) John Swinney (b) Jose Raul Mulino  
(c) Jeremiah Manele (d) Sheikh Ahmed
82. Where has the Air Force recently launched 'Operation Bambi Bucket'?  
(a) Sikkim (b) Himachal Pradesh  
(c) Uttarakhand (d) Ladakh
83. Who has recently partnered for the first edition of the National Women's Hockey League?  
(a) PhonePe (b) Dream 11  
(c) Coca-Cola India (d) Reliance Jio
84. Recently, which banking, financial and insurance focused fintech company Setu has launched the country's first large language model?  
(a) BharatGPT (b) Irah  
(c) Devika (d) Sesame

85. **Where has Krishikalp recently launched India's first accelerator program for farmer producer organizations?**  
(a) Mohali (b) Bengaluru  
(c) Lucknow (d) Indore
86. **Who has recently been appointed to the post of Prime Minister of Russia?**  
(a) Mikhail Mishustin (b) Vladimir Putin  
(c) John Swinney (d) Jose Raul Mulino
87. **Where has India exported maximum in the financial year 2023-24?**  
(a) United States of America (b) Singapore  
(c) United Arab Emirates (d) China
88. **Where will the 7th joint military exercise 'Shakti 2024' between the Indian and French armies begin?**  
(a) Odisha (b) Maharashtra  
(c) Rajasthan (d) Meghalaya
89. **According to a recent study by Australian firm Compare the Market AU, which is the cheapest passport in the world?**  
(a) UAE (b) India  
(c) South Africa (d) Kenya
90. **Who has recently been appointed as the brand ambassador of the 2024 ICC T20 World Cup**  
(a) Usain Bolt (b) Neeraj Chopra  
(c) Shahrukh Khan (d) Novak Djokovic
91. **Recently which country has appointed 'Colonel Edison Napyo' as its first Defense Advisor to India?**  
(a) Philippines (b) Mauritius  
(c) Papua New Guinea (d) Vietnam
92. **Where was the first Ocean Decade Conference 2024 held recently?**  
(a) Brazil (b) Japan  
(c) Philippines (d) Spain
93. **Where has Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam recently inaugurated the country's first multi-purpose green hydrogen project?**  
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Uttarakhand  
(c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Punjab
94. **When was World Malaria Day 2024 celebrated recently?**  
(a) 22 April (b) 23 April  
(c) 24 April (d) 25 April
95. **Where has the Indian Air Force recently tested 'ROCKS' or 'Crystal Maze 2' ballistic missile?**  
(a) Andaman-Nicobar (b) Odisha  
(c) Rajasthan (d) Goa
96. **India's leading player Saurav Ghoshal, who recently announced his retirement, is related to?**  
(a) Basketball (b) Hockey  
(c) Table Tennis (d) Squash
97. **Who is the first bowler to take 200 wickets in recent IPL history?**  
(a) Dwayne Bravo (b) Jasprit Bumrah  
(c) Yuzvendra Chahal (d) Piyush Chawla
98. **When has the United Nations recently announced to celebrate International Football Day?**  
(a) 25 May (b) 26 May  
(c) 27 May (d) 28 May
99. **Where in South Asia has the majority population declined recently after Myanmar?**  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Nepal  
(c) Pakistan (d) India
100. **Who has recently become the 'official sponsor' of the Sri Lankan team for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024?**  
(a) Nandini (b) Coca Cola  
(c) Amul (d) SBI
101. **Where was 'Matatirtha Aunsi Utsav' organized recently to honor mothers?**  
(a) India (b) Bhutan  
(c) Nepal (d) China
102. **According to the World Bank's 'Recipe for a Livable Planet' report, which country has the highest-emitting agri-food system?**  
(a) USA (b) China  
(c) India (d) Brazil
103. **Who has been recently elected as the President of Chad?**  
(a) Idris Deby (b) Mikhail Mishustin  
(c) John Swinney (d) Jose Raul
104. **'55 Cancri E' which was in discussion recently is related to?**  
(a) Newly discovered planet (b) Spy satellite  
(c) Laser weapon (d) Solar storm
105. **Where was an exhibition named 'Swadesh' showcasing the tribal art traditions of India recently organized?**  
(a) New York (b) New Delhi  
(c) Dubai (d) London
106. **Recently ISRO has successfully tested which liquid rocket engine made with 3D printing technology?**  
(a) ROX-2 (b) PS-4  
(c) Smart-2 (d) Drag-mark-2
107. **Who is the first Indian male wrestler to qualify for Paris Olympics, 2024 recently?**  
(a) Sumit Malik (b) Deepak Punia  
(c) Bajrang Punia (d) Aman Sehrawat
108. **Who has recently launched 'TCPay' for international money transfer?**  
(a) Thomas Cook India (b) Google Pay India  
(c) PhonePe India (d) Razor Pay India
109. **When has National Technology Day 2024 been celebrated recently?**  
(a) 09 May (b) 10 May  
(c) 11 May (d) 12 May
110. **James Anderson, who recently announced his retirement from international cricket, is related to?**  
(a) Australia (b) England  
(c) New Zealand (d) South Africa
111. **When BSNL will roll out at the launch of 4G services across India?**  
(a) July (b) August  
(c) September (d) October
112. **Which is the winning team of the 30th Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy 2024?**  
(a) Pakistan (b) Japan  
(c) Malaysia (d) India
113. **Who has recently made the world record of climbing Mount Everest for the 29th time?**  
(a) Pasang Dawa Sherpa (b) Bachendri Pal  
(c) Kami Rita Sherpa (d) Edmund Hillary
114. **What is the recently discussed 'Camp David Agreement' related to?**  
(a) Israel-Egypt (b) UAE-Israel  
(c) Russia-Ukraine (d) China-USA

115. Who has been recently appointed as the new Chairman of IFFCO?  
(a) Dilip Sanghani (b) R Lakshmi Kanth Rao  
(c) R Shankar Raman (d) Jaya Tripathi
116. Where has it been recently announced to organize the first professional international pickleball league?  
(a) Sri Lanka (b) India  
(c) Japan (d) Malaysia
117. Recently which state has banned the use of Kaner flowers in the temple?  
(a) Maharashtra (b) Goa  
(c) Kerala (d) Karnataka
118. Recently, with who has the Central Government signed an agreement for the 'Drone Didi' pilot project?  
(a) Mahindra & Mahindra (b) Garuda Aerospace  
(c) Hero Moto Corp (d) Ashok Leyland
119. Which is India's revolutionary generative chatbot platform recently launched?  
(a) Devika (b) Irah  
(c) Hanooman (d) Mohammad
120. Where has the Indian Army's Trishakti Corps recently conducted 'Operation Sadbhavana'?  
(a) Assam (b) Sikkim  
(c) Punjab (d) Rajasthan
121. Who has recently announced to build the first railway system 'FLOAT' on the Moon?  
(a) SpaceX (b) ISRO  
(c) NASA (d) Jaxa
122. With whom has Iran recently signed a 10-year long-term contract for the operation of Shahid Beheshti port?  
(a) Pakistan (b) China  
(c) Russia (d) India
123. Who has recently been included in the 'Memory of the World AsiaPacific Regional Register' by UNESCO?  
(a) Panchatantra (b) Ramcharitmanas  
(c) Sahridayaloka-lokan (d) All of the above
124. Recently, where has India organized 'Bharat Parv' for the first time?  
(a) Cannes (b) London  
(c) Geneva (d) Nairobi
125. Who has won the 'Superbet Rapid and Blitz Chess-2024' recently held in Poland?  
(a) Wei Yi (b) Magnus Carlsen  
(c) Praggnanand (d) John Krzysztof Duda
126. Who has been awarded the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship recently?  
(a) Ruskin Bond (b) Salman Rushdie  
(c) Bhavi Mehta (d) Purnima Devi Burman
127. Where was the 26th World Energy Congress held recently?  
(a) Riyadh (b) St. Petersburg  
(c) Abu Dhabi (d) Rotterdam
128. Recently, with whom has the world football governing body FIFA signed an agreement for sponsorship of its tournaments?  
(a) Meta (b) Aramco  
(c) Gazprom (d) Alibaba
129. Where is the 'Mount Erebus' volcano, which was in the news recently due to gold eruption, located?  
(a) Italy (b) India  
(c) Antarctica (d) Ecuador
130. To whom has India exported maximum pharmaceutical products in FY24?  
(a) Brazil (b) USA  
(c) Britain (d) Netherlands
131. When has World Intellectual Property Day 2024 been celebrated recently?  
(a) 23 April (b) 24 April  
(c) 25 April (d) 26 April
132. Who was recently deceased Sudhir Kakkar related to?  
(a) Hockey (b) Music  
(c) Psychology (d) Politics
133. Who has recently been appointed to the post of Chairman of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Wrestling Federation?  
(a) T Rabi Shankar (b) Naima Khatoun  
(c) Narsingh Yadav (d) Kaushik Rajasekhar
134. Who is the first Indian to win the doubles title of the Bavarian International Tennis Championship?  
(a) Yuki Bhambri (b) Rohan Bopanna  
(c) Sumit Nagal (d) Chirag Shetty
135. Recently former Deputy Chief Minister and Senior BJP leader Sushil Kumar Modi was related to which state?  
(a) Gujarat (b) Uttar Pradesh  
(c) Bihar (d) Rajasthan
136. Recently Idashisha Nongrang has been appointed as the first woman Director General of Police of which state?  
(a) Assam (b) Meghalaya  
(c) Manipur (d) Tripura
137. Who has recently been sworn in as the fourth Prime Minister of Singapore?  
(a) Lawrence Wong (b) Idris Deby  
(c) Mikhail Mishustin (d) John Swinney
138. Who has got the top position in the recent Times Young University Rankings 2024?  
(a) Mahatma Gandhi University  
(b) Nanyang Technological University  
(c) Paris Sciences et Lettres  
(d) Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
139. Who has recently launched India's first satellite liability insurance?  
(a) ICICI Prudential (b) HDFC Life  
(c) Tata AIG (d) Max Life Insurance
140. Who has recently launched the world's first 6G device?  
(a) Japan (b) South Korea  
(c) USA (d) China
141. Who has recently announced a 10- year 'Blue Residency Visa' for environmental contributors?  
(a) Australia (b) Oman  
(c) UAE (d) Philippines
142. Recently, what is the estimate of the Indian economy in the year 2024 by the United Nations?  
(a) 6.6% (b) 6.7%  
(c) 6.8% (d) 6.9%
143. Who has topped the recent Access Now global internet shutdown report?  
(a) Palestine (b) India  
(c) Iran (d) Ukraine
144. The recently discussed 'Bulava' intercontinental ballistic missile is related to?



- (a) Russia (b) North Korea  
(c) China (d) Israel
145. **Who has recently been elected as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association?**  
(a) A Y V Krishna (b) Pradeep Rai  
(c) Kapil Sibal (d) N Venu Gopal
146. **Lai Ching-te take oath as the President of which country?**  
(a) Taiwan (b) Mongolia  
(c) Philippines (d) Vietnam
147. **Recently where has the world's highest competition swimming pool started?**  
(a) Norway (b) Canada  
(c) Bhutan (d) Italy
148. **Who has been appointed as the host country of FIFA Women's World Cup 2027?**  
(a) USA (b) Brazil  
(c) Britain (d) China
149. **Recently, with who has the Government of India held the first round of talks on the 'India-Middle East- Europe Economic Corridor'?**  
(a) UAE (b) Saudi Arabia  
(c) Italy (d) France
150. **Recently, Satwiksairaj and Chirag Shetty have won the second male double title of this year in which competition?**  
(a) French Open (b) Thailand Open  
(c) Malaysia Open (d) India Open
151. **Recently, which country's Mount Ibu volcano has witnessed a massive explosion?**  
(a) Australia (b) Japan  
(c) Indonesia (d) Chile
152. **Recently, to whom has the International Finance Corporation provided a loan of \$ 500 million for women microfinance?**  
(a) Axis Bank (b) HDFC Bank  
(c) ICICI Bank (d) Kotak Mahindra Bank
153. **Where has the Conference on Criminal Justice Administration been organized recently?**  
(a) Guwahati (b) New Delhi  
(c) Kolkata (d) Mumbai
154. **When has International Museum Day 2024 been celebrated recently?**  
(a) 16 May (b) 17 May  
(c) 18 May (d) 19 May
155. **Where was India's first all-girls Sainik School inaugurated in January 2024?**  
(a) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh  
(b) Siliguri, West Bengal  
(c) Vrindavan, Uttar Pradesh  
(d) Jaipur, Rajasthan
156. **At which temple was the state-level event for the mass Surya Namaskar, that set a Guinness World Record, held in Gujarat?**  
(a) Dwarkadhish Temple, Dwarka  
(b) Somnath Temple, Saurashtra  
(c) Rukmini Devi Temple, Dwarka  
(d) Modhera Sun Temple, Mahesana
157. **What is the name of the ambitious digitization initiative launched in Kerala to provide government services on a mobile platform?**  
(a) K-Services (b) K-Digital  
(c) K-Smart (d) Kerala-eGov
158. **In January 2024 who has been appointed as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission?**  
(a) Amitabh Kant (b) Rajiv Kumar  
(c) Arvind Subramanian (d) Dr Arvind Panagariya
159. **Where will the Joint Military Exercise 'Desert Cyclone 2024' between India and UAE be held?**  
(a) Rajasthan (b) Abu Dhabi  
(c) Dubai (d) Gujarat
160. **Who did Anahat defeat in the final to win the U-19 girls' title at the Scottish Junior Open squash?**  
(a) Anika Verma (b) Robyn McAlpine  
(c) Sneha Kapoor (d) Aisha Malik
161. **Which community in Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh has recently been granted Scheduled Tribe (ST) status?**  
(a) Jaunsar Bawar (b) Hattee  
(c) Kannets (d) Kolis
162. **PM Modi inaugurated Maharshi Valmiki Airport at which place?**  
(a) Gorakhpur (b) Varanasi  
(c) Kanpur (d) Ayodhya
163. **DRDO celebrated its \_\_\_\_\_ Foundation Day in 2024.**  
(a) 66th (b) 72nd  
(c) 56th (d) 43rd
164. **What is the name of the app that Central Armed Police Forces will switch to for all official communication and document sharing?**  
(a) Signal (b) Sandes  
(c) Suchana (d) Paigam
165. **Where is Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to inaugurate the BAPS Hindu Mandir?**  
(a) Abu Dhabi, UAE (b) Muscat, Oman  
(c) Port Louis, Mauritius (d) Maryland, USA
166. **Who is the current President of Argentina responsible for formally withdrawing the country from BRICS membership?**  
(a) Alberto Fernandez (b) Javier Milei  
(c) Pedro Sanchez (d) Mauricio Macri
167. **Who has unveiled his autobiography "Four Stars of Destiny"?**  
(a) General Manoj Pande  
(b) General M M Naravane  
(c) General Bipin Rawat  
(d) General Dalbir Singh Suhag
168. **India and \_\_\_\_\_ signed the agreement on the construction of future power units of the Kudankulam nuclear plant.**  
(a) Russia (b) France  
(c) Japan (d) Germany
169. **Who will launch India's next-generation heavy communications satellite, GSAT-20, and which rocket will be used for the launch?**  
(a) European Space Agency; Ariane-6  
(b) SpaceX; Falcon-9  
(c) New Space India Limited; Bahuballi  
(d) Arianespace; Ariane-5
170. **Who is the first woman to hold a \$100 billion fortune, as reported by Bloomberg?**  
(a) Francoise Bettencourt Meyers  
(b) Marillyn Hewson  
(c) Safra Catz  
(d) Gail Boudreaux

171. Which Union Territory has become the first in the country to implement the PM Vishwakarma Yojana?  
 (a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Ladakh  
 (c) Puducherry (d) Chandigarh
172. Which smart city in India is developing a green corridor system for timely organ donation and transplantation?  
 (a) Indore, Madhya Pradesh (b) Surat, Gujarat  
 (c) Bhubaneswar, Odisha (d) Raipur, Chhattisgarh
173. In which Indian union territories will the first-of-its-kind multi-sports beach games, is taking place in January 2024?  
 (a) Daman and Diu  
 (b) Dadra and Nagar Haveli  
 (c) Puducherry  
 (d) Lakshadweep
174. Who has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?  
 (a) PT Usha (b) Thomas Bach  
 (c) Raghuram Iyer (d) Utathya Nag
175. Ahmed Awad bin Mubarak has been appointed as the Prime Minister of which country?  
 (a) Zambia (b) Sudan  
 (c) Zimbabwe (d) Yemen
176. To which country did India send humanitarian aid amid a cholera outbreak?  
 (a) Zambia (b) Zimbabwe  
 (c) Tanzania (d) Uganda
177. Where is 6th World Government Summit being held in February, 2024?  
 (a) Dubai, UAE (b) Dortmund, Germany  
 (c) Maryland, US (d) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
178. Who was honored with the 'Lifetime Achievement' award by Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) and Delhi Sports Journalists Association (DSJA)?  
 (a) PT Usha (b) M.S. Dhoni  
 (c) Dutee Chand (d) Lakshya Sen
179. Where are the 1st BIMSTEC Aquatics Championships being held?  
 (a) Mumbai (b) Delhi  
 (c) Kolkata (d) Chennai
180. Who was recently sworn in as the new Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court?  
 (a) Justice Vijay Bishnoi (b) Justice Anand Kumar  
 (c) Justice Meera Sahai  
 (d) Justice Rajendra Kapoor
181. Which state government has initiated a Drugs Free Campaign in February 2024?  
 (a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand  
 (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh
182. Which country has declared a health emergency due to a surge in dengue fever cases in February, 2024?  
 (a) Peru (b) Brazil  
 (c) Bolivia (d) Uruguay
183. The government of which of the following countries has approved a visa-free policy for Indian nationals?  
 (a) Iraq (b) Iran  
 (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Israel
184. RBI decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at \_\_\_\_\_ for the sixth consecutive time.  
 (a) 5.5 per cent (b) 6.5 per cent  
 (c) 4.5 per cent (d) 7.5 per cent

## Answer Key

1-b	2-b	3-a	4-a	5-b	6-c	7-b	8-d	9-a	10-b
11-c	12-a	13-a	14-c	15-c	16-b	17-b	18-c	19-a	20-d
21-d	22-a	23-c	24-c	25-d	26-c	27-b	28-b	29-b	30-c
31-b	32-b	33-c	34-a	35-c	36-b	37-b	38-a	39-c	40-a
41-b	42-d	43-c	44-d	45-c	46-d	47-b	48-b	49-a	50-b
51-a	52-c	53-c	54-d	55-c	56-c	57-a	58-c	59-d	60-a
61-c	62-d	63-a	64-b	65-c	66-c	67-d	68-a	69-a	70-a
71-d	72-b	73-c	74-d	75-c	76-c	77-a	78-b	79-c	80-d
81-a	82-c	83-c	84-d	85-b	86-a	87-c	88-d	89-a	90-a
91-c	92-d	93-c	94-d	95-a	96-d	97-c	98-a	99-d	100-c
101-c	102-b	103-a	104-a	105-c	106-b	107-d	108-a	109-c	110-b
111-b	112-b	113-c	114-a	115-a	116-b	117-c	118-a	119-c	120-b
121-c	122-d	123-d	124-a	125-b	126-a	127-d	128-b	129-c	130-b
131-d	132-c	133-c	134-a	135-c	136-b	137-a	138-b	139-c	140-a
141-c	142-d	143-b	144-a	145-c	146-a	147-c	148-b	149-a	150-b
151-c	152-b	153-a	154-c	155-c	156-d	157-c	158-d	159-a	160-b
161-b	162-d	163-a	164-b	165-a	166-b	167-b	168-a	169-b	170-a
171-a	172-d	173-a	174-c	175-d	176-a	177-a	178-a	179-b	180-a
181-b	182-b	183-b	184-b						