

International Current Affairs

**July
2024**

1. ANTONIO COSTA OF PORTUGAL ELECTED PRESIDENT OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL

- Former Prime Minister of Portugal **Antonio Costa** has been elected as the new **President of the European Council** of the European Union. **Antonio Costa will replace Charles Michel of Belgium** and take charge on 1 October 2024.
- The European Council also selected **Estonian Prime Minister Kaja Kallas** as the next **High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**.

2. TURKEY TRIUMPHS AS FATF GREY LIST STATUS REVOKED

- **Turkish Finance Minister Mehmet Simsek** announced that Turkey has been **removed from the FATF 'grey list'** after recent evaluations of the country's progress on **money laundering and terrorist financing**.
- The decision, declared at the FATF plenary meeting in Singapore, marks a significant milestone for Turkey, which had been placed on the grey list in 2021.

3. LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES OFFICIALLY REMOVES HEZBOLLAH FROM LIST OF TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.

4. HURRICANE BERYL

- A lot of people are wondering why the victorious Indian team is not returning to India sooner.
- This is because of **Hurricane Beryl in Barbados** in Atlantic Ocean. It has grown into 'extremely dangerous' Category 4 storm and has shut down all airport services. So the Indian team is forced to stay in the hotel.
- **Hurricane Beryl** grew to an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 hurricane set to cause massive **damage across the Caribbean's Windward Islands, which form part of the West Indies and comprise Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago**.
- **Hurricanes are also known as cyclones or typhoons in different parts of the world**
- In the Atlantic Ocean and eastern North Pacific, they are called hurricanes, while in the northwestern Pacific, they are referred to as typhoons, and in the South Pacific and Indian Ocean, they are known as cyclones.



5. TALIBAN PARTICIPATES IN THE 3RD UN CONFERENCE ON AFGHANISTAN AT DOHA

- **For the first time, the Taliban, who rules Afghanistan, participated in the United Nations Conference on Afghanistan.**
- The third United Nations Conference on Afghanistan was held in **Doha, the capital of Qatar**.

6. UNESCO AND K-POP GROUP SEVENTEEN LAUNCH "GOING TOGETHER – FOR YOUTH CREATIVITY AND WELL-BEING" INITIATIVE

- UNESCO Director-General **Audrey Azoulay** appointed 13 members of South Korean K-pop group **Seventeen** as **UNESCO's first Goodwill Ambassadors for Youth**.
- She announced the launch of "**Going Together – for Youth Creativity and Well-Being**", an ambitious joint grant programme for youth projects around the world.



7. JAPAN INTRODUCES HOLOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY IN NEW BANKNOTES

8. DICK SCHOOF: EX-SPY CHIEF SWORN IN AS DUTCH PRIME MINISTER



9. STEVE FOSSETT BECAME THE FIRST PERSON TO FLY AROUND THE WORLD ALONE

- **Steve Fossett** became the first person to fly around the world alone, nonstop in any kind of aircraft in just under 15 days in the **Spirit of Freedom** balloon.
- The **solo flight circumnavigation** lasted 13 days, 8 hours, 33 minutes.

10. INDIA, MYANMAR COMPLETES FIRST TRANSACTION EXCEEDING RS 1 CRORE UNDER THE RUPEE-KYAT SETTLEMENT MECHANISM

- **India and Myanmar** pioneered a new bilateral trade payment system as the **Yangon office of Punjab National Bank** completed the first transaction exceeding **Rs 1 crore** for a shipment of pulses under the **Rupee-Kyat Settlement Mechanism**.

- The initiative aims to streamline trade transactions between India and Myanmar, enhancing efficiency by eliminating complexities associated with exchange rates through direct payment in local currencies.

11. EAM DR. S. JAISHANKAR TO LEAD INDIAN DELEGATION AT SCO SUMMIT IN ASTANA

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit
- The SCO summit takes place from July 3-4 in Astana, the capital city of Kazakhstan.
- Kazakhstan took over the SCO presidency from India, which was the president last year.
- India hosted the SCO summit virtually in July 2023

12. BELARUS JOINS SCO 10TH MEMBER, PM MODI SKIPS SUMMIT MEETING IN ASTANA

- The Eurasian country of Belarus was admitted as the 10th full member of the SCO. The Indian Prime Minister skipped the meeting, and India was represented by the External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar.
- Observer Status: Afghanistan and Mongolia

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

- Secretariat of the SCO, headquartered in Beijing, China
- Established in 2001.
- 10 current members of the SCO - China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iran, and Belarus
- Iran became a full member in 2023, under the Indian Presidency of the grouping.
- Belarus is an NEW MEMBER state and is gain full membership.

13. INDIA CHAIRS 'COLOMBO PROCESS' MEETING AT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE LEVEL IN GENEVA

- India chaired its first meeting as Chair of the 'Colombo Process' at the Permanent Representative Level Meeting in Geneva, marking a significant moment in regional migration cooperation.
- The Colombo Process, comprising 12 Asian member states, focuses on enhancing governance and opportunities for overseas employment.
- Under India's leadership, priorities include financial sustainability, membership expansion, and collaboration with regional bodies like the Abu Dhabi Dialogue.

14. INDIA HOSTS 46TH UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE SESSION

- The nation is set to host the 46th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee from July 21-31, 2024.
- This prestigious gathering will take place at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, bringing together delegates from around the world to discuss and decide on matters of global cultural significance.

15. CHINA BUILDS NEW PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN VANUATU

- China has constructed a new presidential palace in Vanuatu, symbolizing the strengthening relationship between the two nations.
- The Vanuatu Prime Minister, Charlot Salwai, inaugurated the new building, which is part of a broader project that includes a new finance ministry and renovations to the foreign affairs department.



16. KEIR STARMER: THE NEXT BRITISH PRIME MINISTER

17. LAOS GEARS UP TO HOST 57TH ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING

- Laos's authorities have discussed preparations for the 57th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings, scheduled to take place in the Laos capital Vientiane from July 21 to 27.

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)

18. HUNGARY TAKES OVER ROTATING PRESIDENCY OF EU COUNCIL FOR 6 MONTHS

- Hungary has taken over the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union (EU) Council from Belgium on July 1, 2024 in Brussels, Belgium
- Motto of Hungary's EU Presidency is Make Europe Great Again.

- Hungary Capital: Budapest
- Currency: Forint
- President: Tamás Sulyok
- Prime Minister: Viktor Orbán



- 7 priorities set up by Hungary include - enhancing the EU competitiveness, reinforcing European defence policy, EU enlargement, stemming illegal migration, shaping the future of a cohesion policy, formulating a farmer-oriented EU agricultural policy and addressing European demographic challenges.

EU Council

- **Treaty of Maastricht:** Under this treaty the European Council acquired a formal status
- **Members:** heads of government of the 27 EU member states, the European Council President and the President of the European Commission.
- **Headquarters:** Brussels, Belgium.

19. MODERATE MASOUD PEZESHKIAN ELECTED AS THE NEW PRESIDENT OF IRAN

- Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian, a reformist candidate and Heart surgeon, known for his pro-India and anti-Pakistan stance, has been elected as Iran's new president.

Islamic Republic of Iran

- The modern country of Iran was earlier known as **Persia**.
- Iran is an Islamic country, but the majority of its population is **Shia Muslims**.
- **Supreme Leader:** Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei

- **President:** Masoud Pezeshkian
- **Capital:** Tehran
- **Currency:** Iranian Rial.

20. CHINESE GEOLOGISTS DISCOVERED TWO NEW MINERALS IN NORTHERN CHINA

- Chinese geologists have discovered two new minerals at the **world's largest rare-earth mine** in northern China.
- The two new niobium-scandium minerals, named **Oboniobite** and **Scandio-fluoro-eckermannite**, were discovered in the **Bayan Obo deposit** in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.
- Niobium and scandium are both extremely rare strategically critical metals.
- Niobium is mainly used in **special steels**, superconducting materials and aerospace industries,
- Scandium is widely used in **aluminumscandium alloys** and solid oxide fuel cells.
- The new minerals contain valuable elements that have significant applications in fields such as new materials, new energy, information technology, aerospace, national defense and military industry, and are of great significance to the country's economic and social development.

21. PHILIPPINES AND JAPAN STRENGTHEN SECURITY TIES WITH NEW AGREEMENT

- The **Philippines and Japan** has taken a big step in their security relationship.
- **They signed a new deal that allows their military forces to enter each other's countries more easily. This comes at a time when there are growing concerns in the Indo-Pacific region.**

22. ELISA DE ANDA MADRAZO ASSUMES FATF PRESIDENCY FOR 2024-2026**23. NATO SUMMIT: BIDEN HOSTS HISTORIC MEETING WITH STRONG SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE**

- The **NATO summit**, hosted by **President Joe Biden** in **Washington, DC** from July 9 to 11, marks a pivotal moment for the alliance.
- **It will include Sweden as a new member**, highlighting NATO's expansion and unity amidst global challenges.
- **Biden aims to strengthen support for Ukraine**, with announcements expected to **bolster military, political, and financial aid**.
- The summit, commemorating **NATO's 75th anniversary**, underscores its role in Euro-Atlantic security and collective defense against evolving threats.

**NATO(NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANISATION)**

- It was established on April 4, 1949, with the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty in Washington, D.C. by 12 founding member countries from Europe and North America.
- **Its aim was to block expansion by the Soviet Union in Europe after World War II**
- NATO has 32 members across Europe and North America
- **Recent most members – Sweden (2024) & Finland (2023)**

24. PM MODI TO RECEIVE RUSSIA'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN HONOUR FOR "OUTSTANDING SERVICE"

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** ceremoniously presented with the **Order of St Andrew the Apostle the First-Called**, which was bestowed on him in the year 2019 at St Catherine's Hall of the Moscow Kremlin.

25. PM MODI JOINTLY CHAIRED 22ND INDIA-RUSSIA ANNUAL SUMMIT WITH RUSSIAN PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Moscow on July 8-9 for a two day official visit, marking **his first trip to Russia in nine years**, since 2015.
- Mr. Putin accepted a direct request from **PM Modi to discharge Indians "misled" into military recruitment serving at the warfront with Ukraine.**
- PM Modi paid tribute at the **'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the Kremlin Wall, in Moscow - dedicated to the Soviet soldiers who lost their lives during World War II.**
- This was followed by Mr. Modi's address to the Indian diaspora in



Moscow where he hailed Russia as India's 'all-weather friend'/sukhdukh ka saathi"

- PM Modi has announced that India will set up two new consulates in the Russia cities of Kazan and Yekaterinberg.
- **India's Ambassador to Russia - Vinay Kumar**
- Building a new architecture of stable and efficient transport corridors - **Chennai-Vladivostok (Eastern Maritime) Corridor and the International North-South Transport Corridor**
- 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.

About Russia

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

26. INDIA AND RUSSIA AIM FOR \$100 BILLION TRADE

- **India and Russia** have set a target to increase **bilateral trade to \$100 billion by 2030**, emphasizing **economic collaboration in energy, trade, manufacturing, and fertilizers**.
- Discussions included balancing trade, reducing non-tariff barriers, and exploring an **India-Eurasian Economic Union Free Trade Area**.

27. SINGAPORE APPROVES USE OF 16 INSECTS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

- **Singapore's food regulator** has **approved about 16 species of insects** such **grasshoppers, superworms, crickets, mealworms, and silkworms for human consumption**.
- The much-awaited announcement has come as a cheer for the industry, which has been promoting the supply and catering of insects grown in **China, Thailand and Vietnam in Singapore**.

28. MOUNT ETNA AND STROMBOLI VOLCANOES IN ITALY ERUPTED

- **One of the world's most active volcanoes, Etna and Stromboli in Italy** have spewed hot ash and lava.
- **Mount Etna** is located on the island of Sicily in the southern part of Italy and **Stromboli** is on the Aeolian Island.

29. PHILIPPINES CHOSEN TO HOST CLIMATE 'LOSS AND DAMAGE' FUND BOARD

- The Philippines has been chosen to host the **board of the "Loss and Damage" fund created by U.N. talks**, marking another step towards providing financial help for countries **to recover and rebuild from the impact of global warming**.
- **COP27 in Egypt in 2022**, establish a U.N. **"loss and damage" fund** dedicated to addressing irreparable climate-driven damage from drought, floods and rising sea levels, but did not decide on detail.
- Philippine President **Ferdinand Marcos Jr**

30. NARENDRA MODI, THE FIRST INDIAN PM TO VISIT AUSTRIA AFTER 41 YEARS

- In the second leg of his European countries visit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Austria after his successful two-day visit to Russia.
- After **41 years**, an Indian Prime Minister visited Austria, the last visit being Indira Gandhi's in 1983.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit also coincided with the **75th anniversary** of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- India and Austria established diplomatic relations in 1949.
- The first Indian Prime Minister to visit Austria was Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1955.
- Indira Gandhi had the distinction of visiting Austria twice, in 1971 and again in 1983.
- Narendra Modi is the third Indian Prime Minister to visit Austria.



Republic of Austria

- Austria is a landlocked country that lies in **South Central Europe**.
- Austria and Switzerland are the two neutral countries in Europe.
- Austria is a member of the European Union and is part of the EuroZone.

- Capital: Vienna
- Currency: Euro
- President : **Alexander Van der Bellen**

31. COLOMBO SECURITY CONCLAVE WELCOMES BANGLADESH AS FIFTH MEMBER

- **Bangladesh** was officially welcomed as the **fifth member State of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)**
- **India, Mauritius, Maldives and Sri Lanka** welcomed **Bangladesh** into the grouping at the **8th Deputy National Security Adviser (DNSA) level meeting** hosted **virtually by Mauritius**.
- Seychelles participated as an Observer State at the meeting.
- Member States agreed that the **7th National Security Advisers (NSA) level** meeting of the CSC will **be held in India later this year**.

Colombo Security Conclave

- The CSC initially known as the Trilateral for Maritime Security Cooperation, started with India, Maldives, and Sri Lanka, in 2011.
- 2020 -Mauritius was added as a member of the grouping.
- A **permanent secretariat, based in Colombo**, was established in 2021

People's Republic of Bangladesh

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

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

32. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION LAUNCHES AN ONLINE PLATFORM CALLED 'MEDEVIS'

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has introduced an online platform called **MeDeVIS (Medical Devices Information System)**
- The first global **The MeDeVIS open access clearinghouse for information** on medical devices.
- The **MeDeVIS platform** covers **2301 types of medical devices** that are used for a wide range of health issues, including **reproductive, maternal, and newborn and child health, non-communicable diseases** such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes as well as infectious diseases such as COVID-19.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

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

33. THE FIRST WOMAN CHIEF JUSTICE OF LAHORE TAKES OATH

- **Justice Aalia Neelum**, took oath as the **Chief Justice of the Lahore High Court (LHC)** of Pakistan (Lahore), making her the first woman to be elevated as the court's top judge.
- **Punjab Governor Sardar Saleem Haider Khan** administered the oath of office to her. Punjab province's **first woman Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz** was also present in the oath-taking ceremony.



34. 800-YEAR-OLD REMAINS OF CHIMU CIVILIZATION DISCOVERED IN PERU

- In Peru, 800-year-old remains of the Chimu civilization, a pre-Inca society, have been found.
- The **remains of eleven individuals** were found buried with necklaces, earrings and bracelets, making them likely to be from wealthy families.



35. INDIA TO SIGN AND RATIFY HIGH SEAS TREATY ON MARINE CONSERVATION UNCLOS

- **UN Convention on Laws of the Seas, or UNCLOS**, adopted in 1982 and effective from 1994, is vital for environmental protection, maritime boundaries, marine resource rights, and dispute resolution.
- It has been ratified by over 160 countries and maintains order and fairness in using the world's oceans.
- Demarcations of territorial waters, and EEZs are a result of 1982 UNCLOS
- The Indian government would soon **sign and ratify the High Seas Treaty**.
- This international treaty, under the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)**, aims to protect marine biodiversity in the high seas through international cooperation.
- High seas are areas **outside the national jurisdiction** of any country because of which the treaty is also known as the agreement on **Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdictions (BBNJ)**.

36. GOVERNMENT TO OBSERVE JUNE 25 AS 'SAMVIDHAANHATYA DIWAS' TO COMMEMORATE EMERGENCY

37. K P SHARMA OLI APPOINTED NEPAL'S NEW PRIME MINISTER

- **K P Sharma Oli** was appointed Nepal's Prime Minister for the third time.
- Oli, 72, **succeeds Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda** who lost the vote of confidence in the House of Representatives

38. FINLAND PASSED LAW TO BLOCK ASYLUM SEEKERS CROSSING FROM RUSSIA



39. INDIAN SAND ARTIST SUDARSHAN BAGS GOLD MEDAL IN INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTURE CHAMPIONSHIP

- Renowned sand artist **Sudarsan Pattnaik** won the **Golden Sand Master award** at an international championship in **Russia**.
- The event, International Sand Sculpture Championship was **organised in St Petersburg** at the iconic **Peter and Paul Fortress**. The **world's 21 master sculptors** participated in the event.

40. PM MODI BECOMES MOST FOLLOWED GLOBAL LEADER ON X WITH OVER 100 MILLION FOLLOWERS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has achieved a significant milestone on **social media platform X**, surpassing **100 million followers**.
- This milestone solidifies his position as the **most followed global leader on X**, far ahead of other world figures such as **US President Joe Biden, Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed, and Pope Francis**.

41. ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS REPORT, INDIA'S POPULATION WILL BE 1.7 BILLION IN THE 2060S

- According to the **United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024** report, India's population is projected to reach **1.7 billion in the early 2060s**, after which it will decline by **12%..**
- At present, According to the **United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024** India's population is estimated to be around **145 crores**.
- **China**, currently the world's second most populous country, will see a major decline in population between 2024 and 2054 (20.4 crores).
- According to the report, with a population of 38.9 crores in 2054, **Pakistan will overtake America to become the world's third largest country in terms of population.**

42. ROBERTA METSOLA RE-ELECTED AS EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT PRESIDENT

- **Roberta Metsola**, a prominent **Maltese politician**, has secured a historic **second term as President of the European Parliament**, making her the first woman to achieve this feat in the EU assembly's history.

43. PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME WINS THE FOURTH TERM AS RWANDAN PRESIDENT**Rwanda**

- **Rwanda is a landlocked country in East Central Africa.** The country is also known as the **land of a thousand hills.**
- Rwanda is part of the **Sub-Saharan African region.**

Capital: **Kigali**Currency: **Rwandan franc**President: **Paul Kagame****44. EAM JAISHANKAR INAUGURATES MAITREE UDYAN IN PORT LOUIS, MAURITIUS**

- Dr. Jaishankar inaugurated the **India-Mauritius Maitree Udyan** in Port Louis, the capital city of Mauritius.
- This park, whose name translates to "**Friendship Garden**," stands as a testament to the **enduring relationship between the two nations.**
- **Mauritius is an archipelago** in the **Indian Ocean** near the eastern African coast. It is an **African country.**

About MauritiusCapital: **Port Louis**Currency: **Mauritian Rupee**Prime Minister: **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth****45. INDIA'S FIRST OVERSEAS JAN AUSHADI KENDRA OPENS IN MAURITIUS**

- EAM Jaishankar also inaugurated the **first Jan Aushadi Kendra** outside India at Grand Bois in Mauritius in the presence of the prime minister of Mauritius, Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.
- The **Mediclinic**, set up with Indian assistance, will provide secondary health care for 16,000 people in the Grand Bois area.
- Cheap generic medicines are provided at the **Jan Aushadhi Kendra.**

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan AushadhiKendras:

- These are set up under **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya JanaushadhiPariyojana**, which was launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** in **November 2008.**
- **Objective:** To provide **quality medicines at affordable prices** for all, particularly the poor, so as to reduce out-of-pocket expenses in healthcare.
- These Kendra's provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

46. PAK, DENMARK, GREECE, PANAMA & SOMALIA GET SEAT ON UN SECURITY COUNCIL

- The **United Nations General Assembly** has elected **Pakistan, Somalia, Panama, Denmark, and Greece** as the new non-permanent members of the **United Nations Security Council.**
- For a **two-year term starting 1 January 2025 and end on 31st December 2027.**
- Will replace **Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Ecuador and Switzerland.** These countries' terms will end on 31st December 2024.
- The newly elected members will join **Algeria, Guyana, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia** as the other non-permanent members of the **UN Security Council.**

47. USA ANNOUNCES TO DEPLOY LONG-RANGE MISSILES IN GERMANY FROM THE YEAR 2026

- For the first time since the 1990s, the **United States has announced to deploy long-range weapons in Germany from the year 2026.** This was agreed upon at the most recent NATO summit in Washington
- **Weapons planned for deployment by 2026 include Tomahawk cruise missiles**, which have proven their effectiveness over the past 30 years - most recently against Houthi rebels in Yemen

48. GEVRA&KUSMUNDA COAL MINE INCLUDED IN WORLD'S 10 LARGEST COAL MINES

- **Two coal mines in Chhattisgarh, Gevra and Kusunda**, have been included in **WorldAtlas top ten coal mines of the world.**
- These two coal mines in Chhattisgarh account for about 10 % of the country's annual coal production, and their combined coal production was more than 100 million tons in 2023-24.
- **Indonesia** dominates the **top ten coal mines list**, with four mines, and the **United States Black Thunder Mine** has been ranked the world's largest coal mine.
- **China** is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal and **India is the second largest producer.**
- The United States of America has the **largest known coal reserves in the world.**

Top Ten Coal Mines of the World

According to WorldAtlas.com, the following is the list of the top coal-producing coal mines of the world.

Rank in the World	Coal Mines	Country
1	Black Thunder Mine	United States of America
2	Gevra Coal Mine	Chhattisgarh, India
3	North Antelope Rochelle Mine	United States of America
4	Kusmunda Coal Mine	Chhattisgarh, India
5	Northern Shaanxi Mine	China

Rank in the World	Coal Mines	Country
6	Sangatta Mine	Indonesia.
7	Belchatow Mine	Poland
8	FTB Project	Indonesia
9	Tutupan Mine	Indonesia
10	Borneo Indobara Mine	Indonesia

49. GERMAN URSULA VON DER LEYEN REELECTED EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT

European Union

- The origin of the European Union lies in the creation of a **free trade area in 1952** between six Western European **countries—Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and West Germany**—named the **European Coal and Steel Community**.
- The Treaties of Rome 1957 converted it into the European Economic Community.
- The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 created the European Union, which came into force on 1 November 1993.
- The Maastricht Treaty aims to further European countries' political and economic integration by establishing a common currency (euro), a unified foreign and security policy, and common citizenship rights.
- The Parliament sits at Luxembourg, Brussels(Belgium) and Strasbourg (France)
- Members: 27 countries.
- Headquarters: **Brussels (Belgium)**.



50. WHAT IS BLUE SCREEN OF DEATH?

- **Mostly Windows 10 users** around the world are facing massive outages owing to a **new Crowdstrike update**, which is leading to **PCs getting stuck on the recovery screen**.
- Reports suggest that the latest issue on **Windows** has led to massive outages across **Airports, companies, banks and government offices** across the world.

51. ELON MUSK ANNOUNCED TO MOVE THE HEADQUARTERS OF SPACEX AND X TO TEXAS AND AUSTIN RESPECTIVELY

52. IVORY COAST JOINS UN WATER CONVENTION AS 10TH AFRICAN NATION

- Ivory Coast (Côte d'Ivoire) has recently become the **53rd Party to the 1992 UN Water Convention**, (the 1992 UN Water Convention) officially known as the **Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes**.
- This accession marks Ivory Coast as the **10th African nation to join the treaty**.
- The move highlights a growing trend among African nations to enhance cooperative water management amidst increasing water stress and climate change impacts.

53. MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL SYMBOL 'MALAYAN TIGER' DECLARED ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION AS ITS NUMBER DROPPED TO 150

- The scientific name of the tiger is **Panthera tigrisjacksonii / Panthera tigrismalayensis**.
- It is commonly found in the Straits of Johor on Peninsular Malaysia as well as on the island of Singapore, eight feet long, it can weigh up to 130 kg.



54. BIDEN WITHDREW FROM 2024 US PRESIDENTIAL RACE

- President Joe Biden, citing concerns about his mental acuity and ability to defeat Donald Trump, ended his re-election campaign and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris.
- Kamala Harris, if nominated, would be the **1st Black and Asian American woman to run for the U.S. presidency**.

55. CHINA UNVEILS WORLD'S FIRST CARBON FIBER HIGH-SPEED TRAIN

- China has built the **world's first passenger train made from carbon fibre**, a material that makes it much lighter and more energy-efficient than conventional trains.
- The metro train – known as **Cetrovo 1.0** or the **Carbon Star Rapid Transit** – was unveiled in **Qingdao**, in the eastern province of **Shandong**.

56. ISRAELI PARLIAMENT APPROVES BILL TO LABEL U.N. RELIEF AGENCY UNRWA AS A TERROR ORGANIZATION

- The Israeli parliament gave preliminary approval to a bill that declares the main United Nations relief organisation for Palestinians a terrorist organisation and proposes to sever relations with the body.
- The vote against the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) is the latest step in a Israeli push against the agency, which Israeli leaders have accused of collaborating with the Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza

- **UNRWA** provides education, health and aid to millions of Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.
- It has long had tense relations with Israel but relations have deteriorated sharply since the start of the war in Gaza

57. **SANYA MALHOTRA BECOMES HMD GLOBAL'S BRAND AMBASSADOR AHEAD OF ITS FIRST-EVER SMARTPHONE LAUNCH IN INDIA**

The Finnish company is going to launch its **first smart phone series** on July 25 in India.



58. **AZERBAIJAN'S COP29 CLIMATE FINANCE ACTION FUND**

- **Azerbaijan, hosting COP29 from November 11 to 22 this year**, has announced the creation of a **Climate Finance Action Fund (CFAF)**.
- This fund will be raised from fossil fuel producers to support green projects in developing countries and help member nations meet the **1.5°C temperature target**.
- The **CFAF aims to mobilize both public and private sectors**, with Azerbaijan as the founding contributor.
- It plans to attract **\$1 billion** and secure at least **10 contributing countries**.

59. **JULY 21 WAS THE WORLD'S HOTTEST DAY IN AT LEAST 84 YEARS: EUROPEAN CLIMATE AGENCY**

- The Earth experienced its hottest day in at least 84 years, with the global average temperature reaching a record high of **17.09 degrees Celsius** on July 21, according to the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- This follows a series of record-breaking temperatures -- June marked the 12th consecutive month of global temperatures reaching or exceeding the **1.5 degrees Celsius** threshold.
- **Every month since June last year has been the warmest on record.**

60. **RESEARCHERS DISCOVER 'DARK OXYGEN' PRODUCTION ON SEAFLOOR**

- Researchers have found that **metallic minerals on the deepocean floor can produce oxygen in complete darkness**, a process that challenges long-held beliefs about the origins of life and the role of photosynthesis.
- **Polymetallic nodules**, which are naturally occurring mineral masses found on the ocean floor, made up of metals like manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, and lithium, can generate oxygen through electrochemical activity even in the absence of light.

61. **CHILDREN AT RISK AS NEW MPOX VARIANT HITS CONGO**

- **Mpox, which was first identified over 50 years ago**
- **Mpox, a viral infection that can spread through close contact, is usually mild but can lead to death in some cases.** It causes flu-like symptoms and pus-filled lesions on the body.
- The current mpox outbreak in Congo has already seen around **27,000 cases** and claimed more than **1,100 lives**, most of them children, since the beginning of 2023.
- **It began with the spread of an endemic strain, known as Clade I.**
- **But the new variant, known as Clade Ib, appears to spread more easily through routine close contact, as seems to be the case among children.**
- **Another mpox variant, Clade IIb, prompted an international health emergency when it spread globally in 2022.**
- In Congo, **there are no vaccines or specific treatments for mpox** available outside of clinical trials.

62. **FIRST STAMP ON RAM LALLA UNVEILED BY EAM S.JAISHANKAR IN VIENTIANE**

- One postal stamp depicted **Ram Lalla's idol** from Ayodhya, and the other was released to commemorate **Lord Buddha** from Luang Prabang. Luang Prabang is the ancient capital of Lao.
- External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** unveiled the first postage stamp on Ram Lalla of Ayodhya during his three-day visit to Vientiane, the capital city of the Lao People's Democratic Republic,
- In Laos, Ramanaya is known as **Ramakien** or the story of **Phra Lak Phra Ram**, and it is performed during important cultural events.



63. **VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT NICOLAS MADURO HAS WON THE ELECTION FOR A THIRD TERM IN OFFICE**

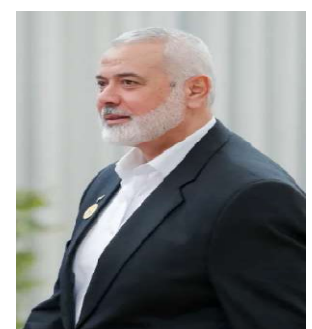
64. **JIA RAI: YOUNGEST & FASTEST PARA-SWIMMER TO CROSS THE ENGLISH CHANNEL**

- **16-year-old Jiya Rai of Mumbai** became the youngest and the fastest para swimmer in the world to cross the English Channel
- She covered the entire distance in a new world record time of **17 hours and 25 minutes** for a para swimmer.

65. **BHUTAN GETS HIGHEST FOREIGN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION IN UNION BUDGET 2024-25**

66. **HAMAS POLITICAL CHIEF ISMAIL HANIYEH ASSASSINATED IN IRAN**

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



67. ANNUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT OF QUAD COUNTRIES TO BE HOSTED BY INDIA IN 2024**68. JAPAN'S SADO GOLD MINE GAINS UNESCO STATUS****69. TURKEY PARLIAMENT APPROVES CONTROVERSIAL STRAY DOG EUTHANASIA LAW**

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

70. UNION MINISTER NITIN GADKARI ATTENDS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF IRANIAN PRESIDENT DR. MASOUD PEZESHKIAN

- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari
- Both sides emphasized the importance of Chabahar Port in strengthening bilateral and regional trade.
- The snap elections in Iran were necessitated by the tragic death of former President Ebrahim Raisi

71. INDIAN GOVERNMENT DONATES \$85 MILLION TO WHO'S GTMC JAMNAGAR

- The **Ministry of Ayush**, Government of India, has signed an agreement with the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** of the United Nations to provide **\$85 million** to the **WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre (GTMC)** in Jamnagar, Gujarat, over a **10-year period (2022-2032)**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the foundation stone of the GCTM on **19 April 2022** in Jamnagar in the presence of **WHO Director Tedross Ghebreyesus** and Mauritian Prime Minister **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth**.

72. NELSON MANDELA LEGACY SITES INSCRIBED AS UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE

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

73. INDIA -US SIGN AGREEMENT TO CURB ILLEGAL TRADE IN INDIAN ANTIQUITIES

- **India** and the **United States of America** have signed a **Cultural Property Agreement** to stop the illegal trade in Indian antiquities in the **United States of America (USA)**.
- The agreement was signed on the sidelines of the **46th session of the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Cultural and Educational Organizations (UNESCO)** in **New Delhi**
- Since **1976**, India has repatriated **358** antiquities, of which **345** have been retrieved since **2014**.

**74. PIYUSH GOYAL LAUNCHES 'INDIA@100: ENVISIONING TOMORROW'S ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE' BOOK BY PROF. K V SUBRAMANIAN****75. PM MODI PRAISES PARIMAL NATHWANI'S BOOK 'CALL OF THE GIR' ON ASIATIC LIONS & CONSERVATION EFFORTS**

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

National News

Current Affairs

July
2024

1. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU ADDRESSES JOINT SESSION OF BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

- All executive power is vested in the President of India.
- The Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister aids and advises the President who exercises her powers in accordance with such advice.
- Article 87 of the Constitution of India states that the President will address both Houses of Parliament at two instances:
 1. The beginning of the first session after each general election
 2. The beginning of the first session of each year.
 3. The President will also inform Parliament of the reasons for its summons.



Motion Of Thanks On President's Address

- A motion is a formal proposal made by a member in a House of Parliament to initiate a debate or a decision on a matter.
- The Motion of Thanks is a parliamentary procedure in which a formal motion is presented to express gratitude or appreciation for the President's Address to both Houses of Parliament.
- Both Houses of Parliament initiate the discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's address
- At the end of the discussion, the motion is put to vote.
- The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha adopt separate motions thanking the President for the address.
- The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the House. Otherwise, it amounts to the defeat of the government.
- It is one of the ways through which the Lok Sabha can also express a lack of confidence in the government.

2. UNION MINISTER JITAN RAM MANJHI, LAUNCHES TWO NEW INITIATIVES ON WORLD MSME DAY IN NEW DELHI

- MSME Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM)' initiative - aimed at helping small businesses participate in online trade using the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) platform.
- The second initiative, named 'Yashaswini', is a mass awareness campaign to support informal women-led businesses by giving more access to capital and more trade opportunities with large corporations to formalize them.

3. CENTRAL RAILWAY HAS INSTALLED A FLOATING SOLAR PLANT

- The Central Railway has installed a floating solar plant of 10 MWp capacities in the Igatpuri Lake (Maharashtra) located in the Western Ghats, a first-of-its-kind initiative by the Indian Railways.
- Central Railway has always played an active role in opting for clean & renewable energy for its traction requirements and has taken various bold and revolutionary steps to fulfil the same.
- Moving towards its ultimate goal of zero carbon emission by 2030



4. INDIA TO CONDUCT 21ST LIVESTOCK CENSUS

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, inaugurated a workshop to discuss the preparation for the 21st Livestock Census in New Delhi.
- The ministers also launched a mobile application for data collection
- The Livestock Census has been conducted in the country periodically since 1919-20. Since then it has been conducted once every 5 years.
- It covers all domesticated animals and their headcounts.

20th Livestock Census report

- It covered all domesticated animals and its headcounts for total 16 species of animals
- The total Livestock population is 535.78 million in the country showing an increase of 4.8% over Livestock Census-2012.
- The total number of Cattle in the country is 193.46 million in 2019 showing an increase of 1.3 % over previous Census.
- A decline of 6% in the total indigenous cattle population has been observed.

5. MOSPI LAUNCHES ESANKHYIKI PORTAL FOR ENHANCED DATA ACCESS

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has introduced the eSankhyiki portal to revolutionize data accessibility and user experience.

- This initiative aims to centralize and streamline access to key national statistical data, supporting planners, policymakers, researchers, and the public.

6. WORLD'S LARGEST 'YUG YUGIN BHARAT SANGRAHALAYA' TO BE BUILT IN INDIA WITH THE COOPERATION OF FRANCE

- Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that India's new National Museum 'Yug Yugin Bharat Sangrahalaya' will be built in north and South Blocks under the Central Vista Redevelopment Project, which aims to revitalize India's central administrative area located near Raisina Hill in New Delhi.

7. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA, HARDEEP SINGH PURI UNVEIL CEREMONIAL DRESS AND PLAYING KIT FOR PARIS OLYMPICS

- India will be sending a contingent of close to 120 athletes to the Olympics
- Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports
- Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas

The three kits include

1. The playing kit designed by JSW Inspire,
2. The ceremonial dress designed by Tarun Tahiliani-owned TASVA
3. Performance shoe and travel gear by PUMA

8. AIR INDIA TO SET UP SOUTH ASIA'S LARGEST FLIGHT TRAINING SCHOOL IN AMRAVATI

9. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES SIX MONTHS MATERNITY LEAVE EVEN IF MOTHER IS CONCEIVED THROUGH SURROGACY

- Under a significant amendment to the Central Civil Services (Leave) Rules, 1972, commissioning mothers who opt for surrogacy will now be entitled to 180 days of maternity leave.
- This amendment will also allow commissioning mothers who have less than two surviving children to get child care leave, a major change from the previous 50-year-old rule.
- Under the amended rules, commissioning fathers have also been provided with 15 days of paternity leave.

10. PARLIAMENT SESSION CONCLUDES AS BOTH HOUSES ADJOURN SINE DIE

- After general elections for the 18th Lok Sabha, the First Session of Lok Sabha and 264th Session of Rajya Sabha were called from 24th and 27th June, respectively.
- Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period i.e. without naming a day for reassembly.
- The power of adjournment sine die lies with the presiding officer of the House.

11. NITI AAYOG TO LAUNCH 'SAMPOORNATA ABHIYAN'

- NITI Aayog is launching 'Sampoornata Abhiyan', a 3-month campaign from 4th July – 30th September 2024,
- To undertake a sustained effort to achieve saturation of 6 key indicators in Aspirational Districts and 6 key indicators in Aspirational Blocks across the country.
- 'Sampoornata Abhiyan' seeks to achieve saturation in each of the 6 identified indicators in the 112 Aspirational Districts and 500 Aspirational Blocks under the Aspirational Districts Programme and Aspirational Blocks Programme.



Aspirational Districts Programme

- Launched in January 2018 by Hon'ble Prime Minister Aims to quickly and effectively transform 112 districts across the country.

Focuses on five themes:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) Health & Nutrition | 2) Education |
| 3) Agriculture & Water Resources | 4) Financial Inclusion & Skill Development |
| 5) Infrastructure Progress in measured on 81 indicators of development | |

Aspirational Blocks Programme

- Launched in January 2023 by Hon'ble Prime Minister
- Aims for saturation of essential government services in 500 Blocks (329 Districts) across the country

Focuses on five themes:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) Health & Nutrition | 2) Education |
| 3) Agriculture & Allied Services | 4) Basic Infrastructure |
| 5) Social Development | |

- Progress is measured on 40 indicators of development

12. UNION MINISTER G KISHAN REDDY LAUNCHES NIRMAN PORTAL

- Union Minister for Coal and Mines, Shri G Kishan Reddy launched a portal "Noble Initiative for Rewarding Mains Aspirants of National Civil Services Examination (NIRMAN)" in New Delhi.
- In alignment with the vision "Mission Karmayogi" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi
- this is a unique CSR scheme by Coal India Limited for meritorious youth of its operating districts who have qualified the Preliminary round of UPSC examination (for Civil Services & Forest Service) in 2024.
- The scheme is aimed towards providing support of Rs 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh) to the Preliminary examination qualified candidates with annual family income less than 8 lakhs and belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, female or third gender; who are permanent residents of any of the 39 operational districts of CIL.

13. IGNOU LAUNCHES MA PROGRAMME IN BHAGAVAD GITA STUDIES

14. COMMITTEE HEADED BY BISWANATH GOLDAR CONSTITUTED TO REVISE THE BASE YEAR OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTS

- Recently, a committee was constituted by the Ministry of Statistics and Price Index, Producer Price Index and Consumer Price Index (MoSPI) to review the revision of the base year for the National Accounts.
- At present, the base year is 2011-12 but it has been proposed to revise it to 2020-21.
- The initiative aims to make economic analysis and policymaking more accurate by reviewing existing databases and incorporating new data sources.

15. ARUNACHAL, ASSAM DISTRICTS MARKED BEST IN PREVENTING DRUG ABUSE AMONG CHILDREN

- Assam's Darrang and Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh have been recognised as two of the best 30 performing districts in implementing a joint action plan on the "prevention of drugs and substance abuse among children and illicit trafficking".
- The plan was prepared by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and the Narcotics Control Bureau and released in February 2021.

16. UNION MINISTER G. KISHAN REDDY INAUGURATES DMF GALLERY IN SHASTRI BHAWAN

- Union Minister of Mines, G. Kishan Reddy inaugurated the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Gallery at Shastri Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The gallery showcases products from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana and those supported by mining companies under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.
- The DMF Gallery features products created by SHGs from various districts, with a current focus on items from Keonjhar and Koraput SHGs in Odisha.

17. NCPCR DECLARES MICA MINES IN JHARKHAND 'CHILD LABOUR FREE'

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) declared the mica mines of Jharkhand 'child labour-free' at an event in Koderma, Jharkhand
- This is the first-ever successful endeavour to cleanse a supply chain of child labour in mica mining.
- Working children up to 14 years of age are called child labour in India.



National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body which was set up under the provisions of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005.
- The NCPCR came into existence in 2007
- The NCPCR comes under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development. .
- The NCPCR also has to ensure the rights of the children as provided by the Right to Education Act, 2009, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, POCSO Act 2012.
- Children up to 18 years of age are considered a child by the NCPCR.
- NCPCR consists of one chairperson and 6 members, of which two are women.
- Chairperson: Priyank Kanoongo

Production of Mica

- China is the largest producer of Mica in the world.
- India is the eighth-largest producer of Mica in the world.
- India is the largest exporter of Mica in the world, followed by China.
- Andhra Pradesh is the largest mica producer in India, followed by Rajasthan.

18. FIVE AND A HALF CRORE TREES WILL BE PLANTED IN MP UNDER EK PED MAA KE NAAM CAMPAIGN STARTED BY PM MODI

- The Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign in Madhya Pradesh is being started from the birth anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee.
- The "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign is being run in all the cities and villages of the state till July 15.

19. RETIRED JUDGE BRIJESH SHRIVASTAVA COMMISSION TO PROBE UTTAR PRADESH'S HATHRAS STAMPED

20. THE VIZHINJAM PORT IS ALL SET TO RECEIVE ITS FIRST MOTHERSHIP

- With the completion of the first phase of the country's first exclusive transshipment port, the Vizhinjam Port is all set to receive its first mothership.
- It is India's first deepwater container transshipment port, being built by Adani Vizhinjam Ports Private Ltd.
- Location: It is located at Vizhinjam, a coastal town in Thiruvananthapuram District, Kerala.

21. LOK SABHA SPEAKER OM BIRLA TO LEAD INDIAN DELEGATION TO BRICS PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

- Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, will head a prominent Indian parliamentary delegation to the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia.
- The forum aims to explore the role of parliaments in advancing global development and security through multilateral cooperation.



- The forum's theme is 'The Role of Parliaments in Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security'.

BRICS

- BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation that originally consisted of four countries: Brazil, Russia, India, and China.
- British economist **Jim O'Neill**, working for Goldman Sachs, coined the acronym BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) in **2001**. He believed that these countries would dominate global economic growth by 2050.
- The **first foreign minister's** meeting of the BRIC countries was held in New York in 2006.
- The **first summit meeting** of the leaders of the BRIC countries was held in June 1996 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.
- The group's name was changed to BRICS after **South Africa joined the group in 2010**.
- With the addition of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, the total number of BRICS members has **reached 10**.
- Russia will host the **16th annual BRICS summit** from 22 to 24 October 2024
- The next BRICS foreign ministers' meeting will be held on the margins of the 79th United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York starting on 10 September 2024. **Brazil** will host the meeting as it will be the next chairman of BRICS after Russia.

22. ANAND MARRIAGE ACT

- The National Commission for Minorities held a video conference meeting with 18 States/UTs on July 8 to discuss the implementation and registration of Sikh marriages under the Anand Marriage Act.
- Meghalaya, Jharkhand, Maharashtra reported implementation of the Act in their respective States while remaining States/UTs have assured to implement the Act within two months' time.
- The Anand Marriage Act was enacted in 1909 during British colonial rule in India.
- In 2012, the Parliament passed the Anand Marriage (Amendment) Bill, bringing Sikh traditional marriages under the purview of legal recognition.
- The Act designates Sikh religious leaders (granthi) as authorized marriage officers to solemnize Sikh marriages.
- It also allows for civil officers to act as marriage registrars for Sikh marriages.
- While the central government approved the amendments, it was left for individual states and Union territories to frame respective rules for the registration of Anand marriages.

23. AIR INDIA WELCOMES FIRST A320 NEO AIRCRAFT

- Tata Group-owned Air India welcomed its first narrow-body aircraft Airbus A320 Neo
- This introduction marks the first time Air India is offering premium economy on its narrow-body aircraft.
- The A320 Neo is expected to enter service in August 2024.

24. HAJ COMMITTEE NOW UNDER MINORITY AFFAIRS MINISTRY

- The government has designated the **Ministry of Minority Affairs** as the nodal ministry for the Haj Committee, taking over from the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
- This change includes new rules and the nomination of officers from various ministries to the committee.

25. MUSLIM WOMAN ENTITLED TO MAINTENANCE FROM HUSBAND AFTER DIVORCE: SUPREME COURT

- In the case of **Mohd Abdul Samad v. the State of Telangana, 2024**, the Supreme Court (SC) of India said that a Muslim woman is entitled to maintenance from her husband under **Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure**.
- He has contended that a divorced Muslim woman is not entitled for maintenance under Section 125 of CrPC and has to invoke the provisions of the **Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986**.
- The Court held that this **right of a Muslim woman** is in addition to the right under the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act 1986.
- The bench comprised **Justices BV Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih**

26. SECOND PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION OF 'WORLD'S LARGEST RAMAYAN TEMPLE' BEGINS IN BIHAR

- The second phase of construction of the "world's largest Ramayan temple" began in **East Champaran district of Bihar**.
- Spread over an area of 3.76 lakh sq.ft. began in June 2023 and is expected to be complete in 2025.
- With a **length of 1080 feet**, the Viraat Ramayan Mandir will be **three times bigger** than the Ram Temple in Ayodhya (360 feet).
- There will be **22 sanctum sanctorum for different deities** in the temple complex.
- There will be a **total of 12 shikhars** in the temple, with the main shikhar being 270 feet tall.
- Similarly, the **Ayodhya temple's height is 161 feet**, while the **Viraat Ramayan Temple will have height of 270 feet**.



27. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES COUNTRY'S FIRST SCIENTIFIC DEEP DRILLING MISSION OF 6 KM DEPTH IN KOYNA

- The **Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL)** in Maharashtra, a specialized institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences Government of India**, has been authorized to execute India's only scientific deep-drilling program

- Under BGRL, the project aims to drill the earth's crust to a depth of 6 km and conduct scientific observations and analysis to help expand the understanding of reservoir-triggered earthquakes in active fault zones in the KoynaWarna region of Maharashtra

28. JNU TO INTRODUCE CENTRE ON HINDU, BUDDHIST AND JAIN STUDIES

29. NITISH SINGH OF UP CONQUERED MOUNT KINABALU, CLIMBED IT IN 19 HOURS AND HOISTED THE TRICOLOR

- International mountaineer Nitish Singh left for Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in Malaysia, when the rain subsided.
- He conquered it and hoisted the tricolor there.

30. EAST INDIA'S FIRST DISABLED VARSITY AT RANCHI: JHARKHAND

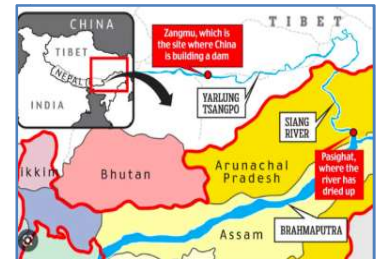
- The Jharkhand government is working on a plan to open eastern India's first university for physically challenged students in Ranchi (Jharkhand) a minister.
- The proposed university will offer education according to the needs of students with disabilities.
- The department proposed a 'Navothan Scholarship Scheme', under which the government will reimburse the full course fee (up to a maximum of Rs 10 lakh per year) of meritorious orphan and physically challenged students of the state,

31. GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH 'AGRI FUND FOR START-UPS & RURAL ENTERPRISES' (AGRISURE)

- The Government of India is set to launch the 'Agri Fund for Start-Ups & Rural Enterprises' (AgriSURE) to support start-ups and agripreneurs through investments in sector-specific, sector-agnostic, and debt Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), as well as direct equity support to start-ups working in agriculture and allied sectors.
- This initiative aims to foster innovation and sustainability in India's agricultural sector through the establishment of a Rs 750 crore Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).
- NABARD also launched the AgriSUREGreenathon 2024.

32. ARUNACHAL PRADESH'S 'UPPER SIANG HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT' BEING OPPOSED

- Two anti-dam activists from Arunachal Pradesh were taken into preventive custody ahead of Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar's visit to the state.
- The Upper Siang Project is a proposed 11,000 MW hydroelectric project on the Siang River in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Siang originates near Mount Kailash in Tibet, where it is known as the Tsangpo.



33. PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI INAUGURATES INS TOWERS IN MUMBAI

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the INS Towers at the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) Secretariat in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex.
- This new facility is set to serve as a modern hub for the newspaper industry in Mumbai, addressing the evolving needs of INS members.

34. INDIA LAUNCHES FIRST NATIONAL TOLL-FREE ANTI-NARCOTICS HELPLINE

- India is set to launch its first national toll-free anti-narcotics helpline, '1933', alongside an email service under the name MANAS (Madak PadarthNisedhAsuchna Kendra).
- Helpline aims to provide a user-friendly platform for citizens to report drug-related crimes and seek assistance 24x7.
- MANAS will address various drug-related issues including trafficking, illegal sale, storage, manufacturing, and cultivation of narcotics

35. INDO-TIBETAN BORDER POLICE SEIZES 108 KG GOLD AT CHINA BORDER UNDER 'OPERATION JAZBA

- Recently, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) arrested two persons near the China border in East Ladakh under Operation Jazba for smuggling 108 kg of gold biscuits from China

Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBPF)

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

36. TIZU - ZUNKI RIVER TO BOOST NAGALAND'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced the harnessing of TizuZunki River for cargo and passenger transport, alongside plans to develop Doyang River Lake with community jetties and ferries to boost tourism.
- This river is a part of the National Waterway 101.

The Tizu River forms an important drainage system in the eastern part of Nagaland.

- It originates from the central part of Nagaland state and runs through a northeast direction, and confluences in the Chindwin River of Myanmar, which further enters into Irrawaddy River - the largest river of Myanmar
- The Zunki River which is the tributary of Tizu, starts from the north-eastern part.

37. NITI AAYOG LAUNCH 'GEARSHIFT CHALLENGE' FOR ZERO EMISSION TRUCK ADOPTION

- NITI Aayog, in collaboration with IIM Bangalore, Smart Freight Centre India, CALSTART/Drive to Zero, and WRI India, announced the launch of the NITI GearShift Challenge as part of the e-FAST India initiative.
- This pioneering hackathon aims to foster innovative business models for the adoption of zero-emission trucks in India, addressing the nation's pressing economic and environmental challenges.
- Road freight accounts for 55% of India's annual diesel consumption and nearly 40% of CO2 emissions from road transport. There is an urgent need to transition to more sustainable solutions.

38. RETIRED SCIENCE PROFESSOR FROM TAMIL NADU K. CHOKALINGAM HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS HANS VON HEIN TEAGUE AWARD

- The award is instituted by the World Society of Victimology (WSV), which is a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization with Special Category consultative status with the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council of the United Nations) and the Council of Europe.
- Victimology - the study of the victims of crime and the psychological effects of their experience.
- First Asian and Indian to be given this award.

39. INS DELHI GETS BEST SHIP OF EASTERN FLEET AWARD

- At the annual 'Fleet Awards Function-2024' held in Visakhapatnam.
- INS Kavaratti was given the award for the Best Ship in Corvettes/ offshore patrol vessel (OPVs)/ landing ship, tank (LSTs)
- INS Shivalik, INS Sumedha and INS Sumitra were adjudged the most spirited ships of the Sunrise Fleet (known as the 'Sword Arm' of the Eastern Naval Command) while carrying out a wide variety of challenging missions over the last one year.

40. RPF RESCUED 84,119 CHILDREN UNDER OP. NANHE FARISHTHEY IN LAST 7 YEARS

- The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has rescued 84,119 Children at risk in stations and trains, preventing them from falling into harm's way from the various zones of the Indian railways in the past seven years.
- Operation Nanhe Farishtey was launched by the RPF in 2018 to take care of the children who were perceived as at risk within the railway station premises

Railway Protection Force

- The Railway Protection Force was established on the recommendation of the **High Power Committee**, which the government of India established in 1954. The then Director of the Intelligence Bureau, **B N Mullik**, was head of the committee.
- Based on the recommendation of the committee, the **Railway Protection Force Act was enacted in 1957.**
- **In 1985, the act was amended**, and the Railway Protection Force was made one of the **Central Police Organisations and given the status of an Armed Forces.**
- The RPF comes under the administrative control of the **Union Ministry of Railways.**

41. UGC'S ASMITA PROJECT: 22,000 INDIAN LANGUAGE BOOKS TO TRANSFORM HIGHER EDUCATION

- The **Ministry of Education** and the **University Grants Commission (UGC)** unveiled an ambitious project aimed at enriching the landscape of Indian language literature in higher education.
- This groundbreaking initiative, known as **ASMITA (Augmenting Study Materials in Indian Languages through Translation and Academic Writing)**, sets out to develop an impressive 22,000 books in Indian languages over the next five years.
- **ASMITA** represents a collaborative effort between the **UGC** and the **Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti**, a high-powered committee under the Ministry of Education

42. SCINDIA LAUNCHED NE-RACE PORTAL, MOBILE APP FOR FARMERS IN NORTHEAST

- **Union Minister for the Development of the North East Region Jyotiraditya Scindia** launched the **North East Region Agri Commodity E-Connect (NERACE)**.
- An online global platform for **North East Farmers** designed to benefit the farmers of the region and help position it as a hub of high-value horticultural products in the international market.

43. ICAR'S 'FOUNDATION AND TECHNOLOGY DAY' CELEBRATION IN NEW DELHI

- The Council's key initiatives - '100 Days 100 Varieties', '100 Days 100 Technologies', and 'One Scientist One Product'.
- **One Scientist-One Product'** programme will improve research in the field of agriculture and animal husbandry.
- At the beginning of every year, the scientist or a group of scientists will have to identify the product, and the ICAR will map the scientist's or the group's work. **The scheme will work for five years.**
- **This year, prioritising seed hubs for high-yielding oilseeds and pulses varieties.**
- **The ICAR is also working to develop 100 new seed varieties and 100 farm technologies in 100 days as part of the Centre's 100-day action plan.**
- **ICAR establishment year: 16 July 1929**
- **Director of ICAR: Himanshu Pathak**

44. INDIAN NAVY LAUNCHES ITS FLAGSHIP NATIONAL LEVEL QUIZ COMPETITION, THINQ2024

- The theme of **THINQ2024** - is '**Viksit Bharat**'
- The contest is open to all students from Class 9 to 12 across the country in hybrid mode in four stages

45. MINISTER OF STATE FOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP JAYANT CHAUDHARY LAUNCHED 'SKILL INDIA DIGITAL HUB - SIDDHA' PORTAL

- **RLD MP and Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary** said that the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has created the **SIDH (Skiing India Digital Hub)** portal, through which beneficiaries will get complete information about all the schemes running for them.
- To ensure that every Indian gets access to quality skill development, relevant opportunities and entrepreneurship support.

45. STATES CANNOT TINKER WITH SCHEDULED CASTES LIST, SUPREME COURT HOLDS

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the states cannot make changes to the Scheduled Caste List published under Article 341 of the Constitution.
- Any inclusion or exclusion of any caste, race or tribe or part of or group within the castes, races or tribes has to be, by law made by the Parliament, and not by any other mode or manner,”
- The judgment came in a challenge by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Vichar Manch, Patna, to a July 1, 2015 notification issued by the Bihar government, on the basis of the recommendation of the State Backward Commission to merge the Extremely Backward Class of Tanti-Tantwawith the Scheduled Caste of Pan/Sawasi in the Scheduled Castes List.
- The merger would enable the Tanti-Tantwa to claim the benefits of Scheduled Castes.



46. INDIAN OIL LAUNCHES HIGH-SPEED CAR RACING FUEL STORM-X

- Indian Oil partnered with Madras Motor Sports Club to supply STORM-X for the Indian National Racing Championship.
- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (Indian Oil) was formed in 1964 through the merger of Indian Oil Company Ltd. (Estd. 1959) and Indian Refineries Ltd. (Estd. 1958).
- India's highest ranked Energy PSU in Fortune-500 list of 2023 (Rank 94)

47. GOOGLE TO LAUNCH TOOL TO MAKE INDIAN AGRICULTURE DATA DRIVEN

- At the Google I/O Connect Bengaluru 2024, Google announced the upcoming launch of the Agricultural Landscape Understanding (ALU) Research API (application programming interface).
- Farmers face numerous challenges, including accessing subsidies, securing capital, improving crop yields, and expanding market access.
- The ALU API seeks to mitigate these issues by utilizing artificial intelligence and remote sensing technologies to map individual farm fields across India.
- The tool can get into such granular details to provide for crop type, field size, distance to water, distance to road and distance to market.

48. PGIMER TO SET UP INDIA'S FIRST MEDICAL INSTITUTIONAL MUSEUM

- India's first museum within a medical institution to be set up at Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh
- Dedicated to chronicling its illustrious history and contributions to medical science.
- The ambitious project honours the vision of the late Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, the then chief minister of Punjab, and the distinguished medical educationist of the combined state of Punjab, supported by the first Prime Minister of India, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru
- Established in 1962 and granted autonomy under an Act of Parliament in 1967, PGIMER operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

49. LOK SAMVARDHAN PARV: KIREN RIJJU INAUGURATES, IN NEW DELHI

- As part of its 100 days' programme, the Ministry of Minority Affairs is organising "Lok Samvardhan Parv" to showcase the schemes, programmes and achievements of the Ministry.
- It also highlighting the activities undertaken in convergence with partner organisations and success stories under its various schemes.
- The Lok Samvardhan Parv is a celebration of the Ministry's work towards the welfare and development of minority communities in India.

50. MADHYA PRADESH TOPS IN PM SVANIDHI SCHEME AS BEST PERFORMING STATE

- Madhya Pradesh has been recognized as the 'Best Performing State' under the Prime Minister SVANidhi scheme, which supports urban street vendors with collateral-free loans up to ₹50,000.
- The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry announced this accolade, with Assam securing the second position in the 'Best Performing States – Innovation and Best Practices Award' category.

DAY-NULM and SPARK Rankings

- **DAY-NULM:** The National Urban Livelihood Mission received recognition.
- **Kerala:** Ranked highest in the Systematic Progressive Analytical Real Time Ranking (SPARK) category.
- **Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan:** Secured second and third positions, respectively

51. AIRBUS AND TATA TO DEBUT INDIA'S FIRST H125 HELICOPTER BY 2026

- Airbus and Tata are joining forces to manufacture India's first H125 helicopter, which is set to roll out by 2026.
- This partnership aligns with India's Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative and reflects Airbus's commitment to investing in the Indian aerospace market despite regulatory challenges



52. CAPTAIN SUPREETHA C.T. BREAKING BARRIERS AT SIACHEN GLACIER

- Gender equality and women's empowerment in the Indian Armed Forces, Captain Supreetha C.T. has etched her name

in history by becoming the **first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence** to be operationally deployed at the **Siachen Glacier**

53. UTTARAKHAND BECAME THE FIRST STATE IN THE COUNTRY TO LAUNCH 'GROSS ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT INDEX'

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the **Gross Environmental Product-GEP Index** in the capital Dehradun. The development of the ecosystem in Uttarakhand will now be assessed through the GEP index
- Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to launch the Gross Environmental Product (GEP) to assign monetary value to its four natural resources - air, water, forest and soil

54. GOVT. LAUNCHES NATIONAL LANDSLIDE FORECASTING CENTRE, PORTAL AND APP

- To mitigate the hazards of landslides and provide early warning to the people affected by them, the government of India has set up the **National Landslide Forecasting Centre** at Kolkata and launched the **Bhusanket Web Portal** and **Bhooskhalan Mobile App**.
- The government plans to set up a string of landslide forecasting centres in all the landslide-prone states by 2030.
- The National Landslide Forecasting Centre, **Bhusanket Web Portal** and **Bhooskhalan Mobile App** was inaugurated by the **Union Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy**, on 19 July 2024 at Kolkata.
- The National Landslide Forecasting Centre has been set up at the **Geological Survey of India (GSI) Dharitri Campus, Salt Lake City, Kolkata**, and West Bengal.

Geological Survey of India

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) was set up in 1851 to find coal-bearing areas for the Railways.
- Currently, the main function of the Geological Survey of India is to create and update the national mineral resource assessment and geoscientific information.
- It comes under the **Union Ministry of Mines**.
- Headquarters: **Kolkata**
- Regional Offices of GSI: **Lucknow, Jaipur, Nagpur, Hyderabad, Shillong and Kolkata**
- Director General of GSI: **Janardan Prasad**

55. DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY TO OBSERVE SHIKSHA SAPTAH FROM 22 JULY

- The Department of School Education and Literacy will observe Shiksha Saptah starting on 22nd July, which will continue until the 28th of July.
- The aim of Shiksha Saptah is to promote collaboration and the impactful educational reforms introduced by National Education Policy 2020 among students, educators, and stakeholders.
- During the week theme based days will be observed.
- It includes Teaching-Learning Material Day, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Day, Sports Day and Cultural Day.

56. ALL GOVT BUILDINGS TO BE SOLARISED BY 2025 UNDER PM SURYA GHAR YOJANA

- Tata Power Company's subsidiary Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) and NHPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NHPC-REL) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to install rooftop solar projects across government buildings of Central ministries, states, and Union Territories.
- The initiative, under the **PM Surya Ghar Yojna Scheme**, aims for complete solarisation of government-owned buildings by December 2025

57. PAN INDIA ROLLOUT OF U-WIN PORTAL SOON

- Government is soon to start the countrywide rollout of **U-WIN**, an online vaccine management portal for childhood vaccination — similar to CoWIN used during the Covid-19 pandemic.

What is U-WIN? How does it work?

- Children, up to the age of six years, and pregnant mothers are registered on U-WIN
- Upon registration, records of all 25 shots given to a child — and the two given to pregnant mothers — can be added.
- The platform also sends SMS reminders to parents before their children are due for the next dose.
- The digital vaccine certificate — which can be downloaded by parents does away with the need to maintain the physical vaccination booklet, and allows one to get vaccinated anywhere in the country.
- U-WIN itself can be used to locate the nearest vaccination centre, and book an available slot.

58. CENTRE DENIES SPECIAL CATEGORY STATUS TO BIHAR

- The Centre said that special status to any state is given on certain parameters and the request of **Bihar for Special Category Status** was denied in 2012.

What is Special Category Status (SCS)?

- SCS is a classification given by the Centre to assist development of states that face geographical and socio-economic disadvantages.
- This classification was done on the recommendations of the Fifth Finance Commission in 1969.
- Status was first accorded to Jammu and Kashmir, Assam and Nagaland in 1969
- Constitution does not make a provision for SCS.

The Gadgil formula

- The issue of special category status was initially discussed in a National Development Council (NDC) meeting held in 1969.
- During this session, the DR Gadgil Committee proposed a formula for distributing central assistance to state plans in India.
- Before this, there was no dedicated formula for fund allocation, and grants were allocated based on individual schemes.

Benefits of Special Category Status:

- The Centre pays 90% of the funds required in a centrally-sponsored scheme to special category status states as against 60% or 75% in case of other states, while the remaining funds are provided by the state governments.
- Unspent money in a financial year does not lapse and is carried forward.
- Significant concessions are provided to these states in excise and customs duties, income tax and corporate tax.
- 30% of the Centre's Gross Budget goes to Special Category states.

59. MIZORAM'S AIZAWL TO BECOME THE FOURTH CAPITAL IN NORTHEAST INDIA TO GAIN RAILWAY CONNECTIVITY

- The city of Aizawl in Mizoram will be the fourth capital in Northeast India to have train service by July 2025.
- Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is laying the new Broad Gauge (BG) track up to Sairang, near Aizawl
- Assam's main city of Guwahati (adjoining capital Dispur), Tripura capital Agartala, and Arunachal Pradesh's Naharlagun (adjacent to capital city Itanagar) are already connected with the railway network.

Project Overview

- Bairabi-Sairang railway project goes from Bairabi to Sairang in Mizoram's Aizawl District and is 52 km long.
- This project, which started in 2008-2009 and cost about Rs 8,213.72 crore, is meant to improve transportation in the area.

60. SC TO ORGANISE SPECIAL LOK ADALAT FROM 29TH JULY TO 3RD AUGUST 2024

- In a significant move to clear pending cases and promote amicable settlements, the Supreme Court will organise Special Lok Adalat from 29th July to 3rd August 2024.
- This initiative marks a milestone in the Supreme Court's 75th year of establishment.
- Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has appealed to citizens whose cases are pending before the Apex Court to take benefit from this initiative.

About Lok Adalat:

- It is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms in India.
- It is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at the pre-litigation stage are settled/compromised amicably.
- The Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- Lok Adalats can be organized at the district, state, and national levels.
- Lok Adalat can make awards/decisions, which are deemed to be a decree of a civil court and are final and binding on all the parties concerned.
- Provided that any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under the law shall not be settled in Lok Adalat.
- The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, was amended in 2002 to provide for the establishment of the Permanent Lok Adalats to deal with cases pertaining to public utility services like transport, postal, telegraph, etc.
- These have been set up as permanent bodies and consists of a Chairman and two members

61. NATIONAL JAL JEEVAN MISSION ACHIEVES HISTORIC MILESTONE OF PROVIDING TAP WATER CONNECTIONS TO 15 CRORE RURAL HOUSEHOLDS ACROSS COUNTRY

- From 3 crore in 2019 to 15 crore in a short span of 5 years.
- The mission was announced in 2019, with the aim to provide tap water supply to every rural home by 2024.
- Till 25th July 2024, 8 States and three Union Territories have achieved 100 per cent coverage.
- This includes Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Andaman and Nicobar Islands

62. NTPC VIDYUT VYAPAR NIGAM LTD. TO SET UP GREEN CHARCOAL PLANT IN HARYANA

- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVTNL) will set up two green charcoal plants in Gurugram and Faridabad, Haryana.
- These plants will convert municipal waste into charcoal or green coal.
- An agreement was signed between the NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited and the Municipal Corporations of Gurugram and Faridabad
- Each plant will cost Rs 500 crore. .
- The green charcoal will be used in power producing thermal plant which uses coal as a raw material.
- India's largest waste-to-charcoal plant is in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, and it can process 600 tonnes of waste daily.
- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited –
- Headquarters: New Delhi , Chief Executive Officer (CEO): N K Sharma

63. INDIAN OIL CORP. AND INDIAN NAVY PARTNERED FOR HYDROGEN E-MOBILITY

- Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) handed over a green hydrogen fuel cell bus to the Indian Navy to promote hydrogen and fuel cell technology for heavy-duty emobility.
- The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between both entities in the presence of Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of Naval Staff S M Vaidya, Chairman Indian Oil.

64. HUMAYUN TOMB MUSEUM

- The "country's first" sunken museum at the magnificent Humayun's Tomb complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Delhi
- To be inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on July 29.
- Showcases the legacy of Mughal emperor Humayun, including lesser-known facets of his life, and the heritage of the Nizamuddin area over the last seven centuries.
- The tomb of Humayun was built by his widow, Biga Begum (Hajji Begum), in 1569-70, 14 years after his death, according to a portal of the ministry of culture.
- The museum's collection of 700 exquisite artefacts and is managed by Archeological Survey of India (ASI) and is apart of 300-acre Humayun's Tomb-Sunder Nursery-Nizamuddin Basti area.



65. COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP RELEASED FOR 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF KARGIL VIJAY DIWAS

66. GOVT SETS A TARGET TO OPEN 25,000 PMBJKS BY 31ST MARCH 2027 ACROSS INDIA

- Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs)
- These are set up under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana, which was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in November 2008.
- Objective: To provide quality medicines at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor, so as to reduce out-of-pocket expenses in healthcare.

67. CSIR LAUNCHES NATIONAL MISSION ON SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING SOLUTIONS

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) launched a National Mission on Sustainable Packaging Solutions.
- The mission, funded by CSIR, aims to develop solutions for sustainable packaging demands, including development of packaging materials, smart recycling and reuse methods to turn the packaging industry - **smart, affordable and reliable with advanced testing and monitoring facilities**
- The project will also see the establishment of the country's pioneering biodegradability testing and monitoring centre.

68. SUDIPTA SENGUPTA, RELEASED HER MEMOIR "BREAKING ROCKS AND BARRIERS"

- A new book chronicling the work and adventures of **Sudipta Sengupta**, a pioneering geologist mountaineer.
- Sengupta was part of the **Third Indian Expedition to Antarctica** that ran from December 3, 1983, to March 25, 1984.
- "Breaking Rocks and Barriers", published by HarperCollins India.
- Ministry of Education will celebrate the fourth anniversary of the implementation of the **National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)** with **Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS), 2024** at **Manekshaw Centre Auditorium** in New Delhi.

69. INDIA'S AVERAGE DATA BREACH COST TOPPED \$2 MILLION IN 2023: RBI REPORT

- The average cost of a data breach in India jumped 28% between 2020 and 2023 reaching \$2.18 million, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) report on currency and finance
- The industry-wise distribution of cyber attacks shows that **the automotive industry is the most vulnerable to such incidents**
- **The banking and financial services sector, governed by well-defined regulations, is relatively protected from such attacks**
- **Phishing attacks are the most common**, with a 22% share, followed by 16% for stolen or compromised credentials
- The rise in attacks comes as **India has seen significant growth in the digital economy, which currently accounts for about 10% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and is expected to double to 20% by 2026.**
- India leads the world in real-time payments, accounting for 48.5% of the global market



70. IN A FIRST, PERIYAR TIGER RESERVE INSTALLS WIND TURBINE IN ITS FORESTS FOR POWER GENERATION

- Periyar Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Thekkady has installed a wind turbine to generate power for real-time monitoring cameras and Wi-Fi connectivity within its forests.
- Until now, these sections have relied on solar power for wireless communication and for operations at the forest section offices.

71. INDIAN DESTINATIONS ON TIME'S 'WORLD'S GREATEST PLACES OF 2024'

- **TIME** magazine has highlighted three Indian destinations in its prestigious list of 'World's Greatest Places of 2024.
- The **Museum of Solutions (MuSo)** in Mumbai is a **unique children's museum** known for its theme-based exhibits and immersive learning experiences
- **Manam Chocolate**, established by **Chaitanya Muppala**, brings Indian craft chocolates to the global stage.
- **NAAR**, a fine dining restaurant led by **Chef Prateek Sadhu**, is located at the **Amaya boutique hotel** in Himachal Pradesh.

72. INDIA BAGS RIGHT TO OPERATE MONGLA PORT IN BANGLADESH

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 4th Indian city to get a **World Craft City certificate**
- Kashmir is the fourth Indian city to be included in the **World Craft City list** of the **World Crafts Council**.
- **Jaipur of Rajasthan** and **Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu** was included in 2015, and **Mysore in Karnataka** was included in 2018.
- While Jaipur, Mamallapuram, and Kashmir have received the **World Craft City tag**, Mamallapuram has been recognised for its stone craft (**World Craft City for Stone Carving**).



81. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCHED

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

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

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

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

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

Key Features:

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

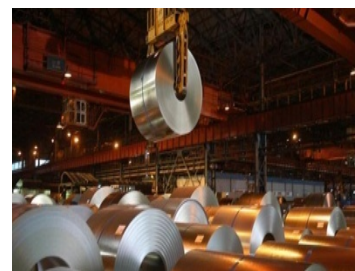
84. CEA APPROVES HYDRO-PUMPED STORAGE PLANT IN ODISHA AND KARNATAKA

- Under the provisions of the **Electricity Act 2003**, any company intending to set up a hydro-generating station requires the concurrence of the **Central Electricity Authority**
- The 2000 MW Sharavathy Hydro-Pumped Storage plant is being developed on the **river Sharavathy** in the **Shimoga district** of Karnataka.
- The **Rs 8000 crore 2000 MW Sharavathy project** is the country's **largest pump storage power generation unit**. This mega project, backed by the government of Karnataka, is expected to solve the state's power crisis.
- The **600 MW Upper Indravati Pumped Storage Plant** will be built in the **Kalahandi district** of **Odisha**.
- It will be **built on the Indravati River** near the existing **Indravati Hydel project** and will use the released water of the Upper Indravati Reservoir.

85. INDIA BECOMES WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST ALUMINIUM PRODUCER

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

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



87. INTRODUCTION OF ELECTRONIC HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

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

88. HINDUSTAN ZINC LAUNCHES ASIA'S FIRST GREEN ZINC BRAND “ECOZEN”

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

State News

Current Affairs

July
2024

1. ENEMY AGENTS ORDINANCE (JAMMU & KASHMIR)

- Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) R R Swain said those found assisting militants in J&K should be tried by investigating agencies under the Enemy Agents Ordinance, 2005.
- The J&K Enemy Agents Ordinance was first issued in 1917 by the then Dogra Maharaja of J&K.
- It is referred to as an 'ordinance' since laws made during the Dogra rule were called ordinances.
- After Partition in 1947, the ordinance was incorporated as a law in the erstwhile state and was also amended.
- The Law has been used only occasionally so far. Penalty is either death/life imprisonment or 10 years of rigorous imprisonment & a fine.
- It is for those who are an enemy agent or, aid the enemy, or to impede the military or air operations of Indian forces or to endanger life or is guilty of promoting civil violence
- The trial under the Enemy Agents Ordinance is conducted by a special judge who is appointed by the "government in consultation with the High Court" Under the ordinance; the accused cannot engage a lawyer to defend herself unless permitted by the court.

2. HIMACHAL ALL SET TO LAUNCH EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE EDUCATION TUTOR SCHEME

- The Himachal Pradesh government is all set to launch the 'Himachal Pradesh Early Childhood Care and Education Tutor Scheme'.
- To providing quality early childhood education and ensuring the holistic development of children between the age of 3 and 6 years.
- The State government is also launching Rajiv Gandhi Day Boarding School in every Assembly constituency.

3. UTTARAKHAND TO STUDY RISK POSED BY 13 GLACIAL LAKES DURING MONSOON

- The Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Department (USDMA) is set to do a vulnerability study of the 13 glacial lakes, five of them in "high risk zone"
- The study aims to provide data to help avoid calamities such as lake outbursts.
- Of the 13 lakes, the high risk ones are in Darma, Lasaryanghati, and Kutiyangti valley in Pithoragarh district, and Vasudhara Tal lake of Dhauliganga basin in Chamoli district

4. ASSAM WITNESS PROTECTION SCHEME, 2024

- Assam Cabinet gave approval to the state's first-ever witness protection scheme.
- This is in line with Section 398 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, to ensure protection of witnesses against imminent threats during the investigation and trial of any cases.
- A witness can apply for Witness Protection through a Competent Authority that is set up in each district.
- The Competent Authority will be chaired by the District and Sessions Judge
- The Head of the Police in the District and an officer not below the rank of the ADC will be its members.
- The Witnesses will be categorized as A, B & C as per threat perception. Constitution of Witness Protection Fund under the scheme.
- The Assam government set up rules for the Assam Witness Protection Scheme in 2020

5. BHAJAN LAL SHARMA LAUNCHES MUKHYA MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI AT TONK

- The Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma launched the state government's Mukhya Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi at the Krishi Upaj Mandi in Tonk.
- The chief minister released Rs 650 crore as the first installment to around 65 lakh farmers of the state.
- The eligible farmers of the state will receive the benefits under the state scheme along with the Rs 6000 per year paid by the central government under the PM-KISAN scheme.

Features of the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

- It is an income support scheme launched by the state government to boost the income of the eligible farmers of the state.
- Under the Mukhya Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi the eligible farmers will receive Rs 2000 per year.
- They will receive money in three installments - Rs 1000, Rs 500 and Rs 500.

6. ANDHRA PRADESH CM CHANDRABABU NAIDU LAUNCHES NTR BHAROSA PENSION

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu launched the NTR Bharosa pension scheme in the state on 1 July 2024 by personally delivering the pension amount to a beneficiary at their house.



- The NTR Bharosa Scheme is a social security scheme of the Andhra Pradesh government
- 7. MAHARASHTRA TO LAUNCH 'MUKHYAMANTRI MAJHI LADKI BEHEN YOJANA' TO PROVIDE MONTHLY ASSISTANCE OF ₹1,500 FOR WOMEN**
 - In a move aimed at empowering women, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar announced the launch of the 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Behen' (CM my beloved sister) scheme.
 - The initiative, launched during the presentation of the state budget in the Maharashtra Assembly, will provide a monthly allowance of ₹1,500 to all women in the state between the ages of 21 and 60 from July 2024
- 8. UTTAR PRADESH NIRMAN BILL-2024**
 - In a bid to make Uttar Pradesh a one trillion dollar economy, the Uttar Pradesh government passed draft of Uttar Pradesh Nodal Investment Region for Manufacturing (Construction) Area Bill (NIRMAN)-2024.
 - This draft of the Bill is to make a **Special Investment Region (SIR)** through which the big investors of the country and the world can be attracted to invest in UP
 - **At least four such SIRs will be created in UP**, which will be in the four geographical areas of the state.
 - The state has around 20 thousand acres of land bank available.
 - **This type of Act is currently in place in three states, which include Gujarat, Rajasthan and Karnataka.**
 - In this way, **UP will become the fourth state to implement such a law.**
 - The SIRs are major investment regions where cluster development takes place and the power vested in the state government or other departments is **decentralised at the authority level.**
 - The proposal for signing a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** was also approved in the cabinet.
 - **UP has have established the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority, for which an area of 5,000 hectare has been kept, similarly a large area will be kept in the SIR**
 - **On lines of Bharat Mandapam in Delhi, a big convention centre or multipurpose hall will be built in Lucknow and Varanasi where people associated with MSME will be able to display their products**
- 9. VISAKHAPATNAM POLICE COMMISSIONER LAUNCHES 'MUKHA MUKHI' PROGRAMME**
 - **To interact directly with people in their colonies, learn about their issues and address them efficiently.**
- 10. CM MOHAN YADAV LAUNCHES 'LOKPATH MOBILE APP' FOR PUBLIC**
 - **Bhopal**, Chief Minister **Dr. Mohan Yadav** has said that our aim is to make all departments as accountable as possible towards the public.
 - **Lokpath Mobile App** prepared by the Public Works Department is being launched with a view to continuously moving forward on the path of public welfare by adopting a more transparent and accountable working system towards the public.
- 11. MAHARASHTRA BAGS THE BEST AGRICULTURE STATE AWARD FOR 2024**
 - **The 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee has announced that Maharashtra has won the Best Agriculture State Award for 2024.**
 - The announcement was made by the 15th Agriculture Leadership Awards Committee, headed by **Justice P Sathasivam**, former Chief Justice of India and Governor of Kerala.
 - The Maharashtra government has launched the **country's largest bamboo mission** covering 21 lakh hectares
- 12. UTTAR PRADESH GOVT TO ESTABLISH 'MITRA VAN' ALONG NEPAL BORDERS**
 - **The Yogi Adityanath government is launching 'Mitra Van' under the Vriksharopan Jan Abhiyan-2024, focusing on enhancing greenery along the Uttar Pradesh and Nepal border.**
 - **This effort includes coordination with representatives from Nepal to jointly participate in plantation activities.**
- 13. TATA POWER LAUNCHES 'GHAR GHAR SOLAR' INITIATIVE IN UTTAR PRADESH**
 - **Tata Power Solar Systems Limited has launched the 'Ghar Ghar Solar' initiative in Uttar Pradesh, starting from Varanasi, aimed at providing every home with clean energy through rooftop solar solutions.**
 - **This initiative promises substantial financial savings and environmental benefits for residents.**
 - Residents can avail a maximum subsidy of up to **Rs. 1,08,000 on rooftop solar installation**, combining Central and State Government subsidies
- 14. RAJASTHAN TO BECOME FIRST STATE TO ADOPT A ROAD SAFETY ACTION PLAN FOR 10 YEARS**
 - **The action plan, to be accompanied by a government policy, will be aimed at reducing road accidents in the State by 50% till 2030.**
 - **The World Bank would render assistance to the State government in the preparation of an action plan**
 - **The action plan will be implemented in three stages: first from 2025 to 2027, second from 2027 to 2030 and the third from 2030 to 2033**
 - **It will lay emphasis on different aspects of speed limit, safe distance, traffic signals, use of road barriers, pedestrian safety, and use of seatbelts, helmets, and vehicle insurance.**



15. PUNJAB GETS ITS FIRST PLANT CLINIC & SOIL TESTING LABORATORY IN MOGA

- The clinic will provide free soil testing and plant disease diagnosis services to farmers.
- Moga district is among the aspirational districts of the country and this clinic equipped with modern equipment is a part of development by NITI Aayog in the area.

District Moga - founder bhai Moga Singh Ji		
Famous place		
Nestle company	Kamal park	Gurdwara Dina Sahib
Gurdwara daroli bhai ke	Mega food park	Geeta bhawan
Gurudwara Gurusar		



16. KARNATAKA BECOMES SECOND STATE IN THE COUNTRY TO INTRODUCE GIG WORKERS BILL

- The Karnataka government published the draft Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, making it the second Indian state to take such a step, the first being Rajasthan.
- The bill seeks to regulate the social security and welfare of platformbased gig workers in the state and is expected to be tabled in the monsoon session of the assembly

17. MAHARASHTRA ANNOUNCES FREE HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY FOR EWS, SEBC, OBC GIRLS

- The Maharashtra government has announced another women-oriented policy, making higher education free for girls belonging to the Economically Weaker Section (EWS), socially and Economically Backward Classes (SEBC), and Other Backward Classes (OBC).
- This initiative, aimed at promoting women's education

18. UTTAR PRADESH DEFENCE CORRIDOR BOOSTS INDUSTRIAL GROWTH

- The Uttar Pradesh government has secured over 154 defence manufacturing deals worth Rs 25,000 crore, marking a significant stride in bolstering India's defence production capabilities.
- These initiatives are part of the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC), spanning Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, and Agra districts.
- Companies like Adani Defence, BrahMos Aerospace, and Tata Technologies are among the major stakeholders investing in projects totaling nearly Rs 8,000 crore.
- Projects like the Kalashnikov AK-203 rifle assembly in Amethi and the upcoming BrahMos missile manufacturing facility in Lucknow further solidify Uttar Pradesh's role in India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.



19. UP STATE BIRD SARUS CRANE POPULATION SURGE TO 19,918

- The Sarus crane was declared the state bird of Uttar Pradesh in 2014.
- Uttar Pradesh has the largest population of the Sarus crane in India.
- The Sarus crane is the world's tallest bird which can fly.
- The birds nest in the wetlands area,
- The bird is included in Schedule IV of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

20. UTTARAKHAND RELEASES UNIFORM CIVIL CODE REPORT

- The report of the Uniform Civil Code in Uttarakhand is available to the general public.
- The full report of 1700 pages of the Uttarakhand Civil Code is available in 4 volumes.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami's government had constituted a five-member committee headed by Supreme Court Justice Ranjana Desai to prepare the UCC draft on May 27, 2022.
- The Uttarakhand government passed the Uniform Civil Code Bill on the 7th of February, 2024 and the UCC bill was approved by the president on the 12th of March, 2024.
- The UCC is mentioned in Article 44 of the Constitution as part of the Directive Principles of State Policy that the state should work to establish a uniform civil code for all citizens across India.
- However, the Constitution's framers left it to the government's discretion to implement the UCC.

Exemptions:

- Scheduled tribes (STs) have been exempted from the purview of the bill.
- The tribal population in the state, which is around 3%

21. CM ADITYANATH INAUGURATES UTTAR PRADESH MANGO FESTIVAL

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced on June 12, in Lucknow that the State would be exporting 40 tonnes of mangoes to Japan and Malaysia.
- And for the first time in its 160-year history, Lucknow's famous Dussehri is to be exported to the United States. He was inaugurating the Uttar Pradesh Mango Festival 2024 at Awadh Shilp Gram.



22. RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT WILL LAUNCH 'MUKHYAMANTRI MANGALA PASHU BIMA YOJANA'

- During the budget announcement, Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari announced the **Chief Minister Mangala Pashu Bima Yojana** in the House. Under this scheme, insurance of **Rs 5 lakh each** will be done for milch cows and buffaloes.
- Apart from this, sheep and goats will also be insured. Under this, 21 lakh beneficiaries will be insured.

23. GUJARAT'S PALITANA BECOMES WORLD'S FIRST CITY TO BAN NONVEGETARIAN FOOD

- Palitana, a city in Gujarat's Bhavnagar district, has made history by becoming the **first city in the world to ban the sale and consumption of non-vegetarian food**.
- Eating non-vegetarian food is illegal here.

24. CENTRE EMPOWERS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

- The Centre has strengthened the authority of the **Lieutenant Governor (LG)** of Jammu and Kashmir through amendments to the **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019**.
- The amended rules, effective immediately upon publication in the Official Gazette, significantly enhance the LG's powers, particularly in matters related to transfers, postings of all-India service officers, police, and judicial appointments.
- **Ministry of Home Affairs** amends Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act to give more power to the Lieutenant Governor. Now the elected CM of J&K won't be able to:-
 - 1) Make financial and L&O/Police decisions
 - 2) Appoint J&K AG
 - 3) Provide sanction for prosecution
 - 4) Transfer IAS officers and Administrative Secretaries
- President Droupadi Murmu gives her approval to the amendments.



25. TAMIL NADU PROHIBITION AMENDMENT ACT, 2024 COMES INTO FORCE

- The **Tamil Nadu Prohibition Amendment Act, 2024**, with enhanced punishment term and quantum of fine for offences like manufacture, possession and sale of illicit liquor that endangers lives, has come into force
- Days after over 60 people died following the consumption of **methanol-laced illicit liquor in June**, the chief minister piloted a bill amending the TN Prohibition Act, 1937
- A **maximum punishment of 10 years Rigorous Imprisonment (RI)** and a penalty of up to **Rs 5 lakh** have been stipulated in the Act.
- In case of **death due to consumption of illicit liquor**, then the punishment for bootleggers will be **RI for life** and a fine not less than **Rs 10 lakh**



26. UTTARAKHAND OPENS ITS FIRST-EVER BIRD GALLERY IN DEHRADUN

- This gallery showcases high-resolution images of Uttarakhand's birds
- Uttarakhand has the highest number of bird species reported in India

27. HARYANA ANNOUNCES 10% JOB QUOTA, ₹60,000 SUBSIDY FOR AGNIVEERS

- The **Haryana government** on July 17 announced a **10 per cent quota for Agniveers** in posts of constable, mining guard, forest guard, jail warden and special police officer.
- **Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini** also said the government will offer a **subsidy of ₹60,000 per annum** to the industrial unit that pays an Agniveer a **salary of ₹30,000 per month**.



28. MAHARASHTRA CM EKNATH SHINDE ANNOUNCES LADKA BHAY YOJANA FOR YOUTHS

Feature of the Ladka Bhay Yojana

- The **Ladka Bhay Yojana** is a **job training and stipend scheme** for unemployed male youth.
- An **unemployed youth** will join as an apprentice in the industrial, non-industrial, government and semi-government establishments.
- The **youth will be paid a stipend** from the state government during the training.
- The 12th-pass apprentice will receive **Rs 6,000**, the **diploma holder Rs 8,000**, and those with a **bachelor's degree Rs 10,000 per month**.
- According to CM Shinde, the unemployed youth will gain skills while doing apprenticeships, **which will help them secure a job in the future**. The industrial and non-industrial establishments will get trained manpower.

29. GOVT LAUNCHES OTT PLATFORM HELLO MEGHALAYA

- The **Manns** number about 2,000 and the **Hajongs** have some **42,000 members**. They are two of the five minor communities clubbed together as 'unrepresented tribes' for nomination in **Meghalaya's autonomous tribal councils**.
- The stories that such communities and the three principal matrilineal communities – **Garos, Khasis, and Jaintias** – may have to tell was one of the reasons why **Meghalaya** launched State-owned **Hello Meghalaya**, an **OTT platform primarily for regional languages with a limited reach or small market**

30. ASSAM CABINET TO REPEAL 1935 MUSLIM MARRIAGE ACT

- The Assam Cabinet has approved the repeal of the Assam Muslim Marriages and Divorce Registration Act of 1935 through the Assam Repealing Bill, 2024.
- The 1935 Act allowed underage marriages under specific conditions and provided for voluntary registration of Muslim marriages and divorces. It authorized 94 individuals to perform these registrations
- This decision aims to address child marriage issues and bring parity in the registration of marriages and divorces.

31. STATE GOVT LAUNCHES SHRAMIK BASERA SCHEME FOR LABOURERS

- The Gujarat state government launched the Shramik Basera Scheme 2024. The Gujarat state government introduced the Shramik Basera Scheme 2024 to provide temporary housing facilities to the financially unstable, especially the laborers.
- As per the chief minister of Gujarat state, the government will set up 17 housing structures in Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Vadodara, and Rajkot cities to provide housing facilities to the construction workers and laborers.
- With the help of this scheme, financially unstable construction workers or laborers did not have to worry about housing facilities.

32. "RAJIV GANDHI CIVILS ABHAYAHASTAM" LAUNCHED BY TELANGANA CM

- Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched a unique programme to provide financial assistance to the Civil Services aspirants from Telangana, under which the candidates who qualify for the Mains exams will be provided with ₹1 lakh for preparation.
- This scheme is named "Rajiv Gandhi Civils Abhayahastam". It will be helpful to about 400 candidates from Telangana region who qualify for the Mains every year. Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) will provide the assistance as a part of its 'Nirmaan' programme.



33. HEMANT SOREN GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME FOR WOMEN

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said the government would soon organize village-level camps to enrol women in the financial assistance scheme under which ₹1,000 would be given every month.
- The government has named it Mukhyamantri Behan-Beti Swavalamban Protsahan Yojana, for which the State government has to bear an extra expenditure of roughly ₹400 crore per month

34. TELANGANA: UNIQUE MODEL FOR TB-FREE MUNICIPALITIES UNDER PROJECT SWASTHYANAGARAM LAUNCHED

- The project aimed at achieving TB-free municipalities.
- The model will be implemented in urban settings various Municipal Corporation over a period of 3 years aiming at bringing down one third of TB incidence, and bringing down TB related mortality.

35. ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PASSED THE ARUNACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC EXAMINATION BILL, 2024 UNANIMOUSLY

- The bill on recruitment tests is aimed at providing effective measures to prevent and curb offences of question paper leaks and use of unfair means in examinations for the purpose of recruitment to any post under the state government
- Punishment with imprisonment for a term not less than 3 years, which may be extended to 5 years, and with a fine up to Rs 1 crore.
- provision of debarring convicted candidates for a lifetime from appearing in any recruitment examinations in the state

36. GUJARAT TO ESTABLISH GRIT THINK-TANK

- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel announced plans for the Gujarat State Institution for Transformation (GRIT), modeled after NITI Aayog.
- The initiative aims to support PM Modi's vision of making India a developed nation by 2047.
- Patel introduced the 'Gujarat@2047 Dynamic Document-Roadmap' to achieve a 'Viksit Gujarat' for a 'Viksit Bharat'.

37. GOA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES "GOEMVINAMULY VIJ YEVAJANA" SCHEME TO PROMOTE SOLAR ENERGY

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

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

39. UP ASSEMBLY PASSES AMENDED ANTI-CONVERSION BILL

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

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

- Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna introduced the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the House on July 29.
- The proposed amendment states that if an individual threatens attacks, marries, promises to marry, conspires, or

traffics a woman, minor, or anyone with the intent to convert them, the offense will be classified as among the most serious.

- If any person is found guilty of this offence, there is a **provision of 20 years imprisonment or life imprisonment.**

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

WHAT IS MEKEDATU PROJECT?

The Mekedatu dam is a multi-purpose (drinking water and power) project proposed by karnataka involving the construction of a balancing reservoir near Kanakapura in the Ramanagara district. Once completed, it is expected to supply over 4 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water to Bengaluru city for drinking purposes

- Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, government was ready to discuss with Tamil Nadu regarding the implementation of the **Mekedatu project across river Cauvery**, but the neighbouring state was not coming forward despite it not "causing any problem to them".

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

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

Science & Technology

July
2024

1. ISRO WILL ASSEMBLE CHANDRAYAAN-4 IN SPACE UNDER 'SPADEX MISSION'

- ISRO Chairman S Somanath said that Chandrayaan-4, which is going to **bring back samples from the Moon**, will not be launched in one go and instead, different parts of the spacecraft will be sent into orbit through two launches, and the spacecraft will be assembled in space before going to the Moon
- They are **developing docking capability** (connecting different parts of a spacecraft) in space. **The aim is to launch Chandrayaan-4 by 2027**



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 is involved in science, engineering and technology to use the benefits of outer space for India and mankind.
- 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**

2. SPACEX WINS \$843 MILLION NASA CONTRACT TO DEORBIT ISS

- NASA has awarded SpaceX an \$843 million contract to construct a spacecraft aimed at safely deorbiting the International Space Station (ISS) by around 2030.
- While **SpaceX will build the vehicle**, NASA will oversee its operation and take ownership of the craft once completed

ISS Deorbiting Mission

- **Weighing approximately 430,000 kilograms (950,000 pounds)**, the ISS stands as the largest structure ever constructed in space, symbolizing a **collaborative effort among the United States, Europe, Japan, Canada, and Russia** since its inception in 2000.
- While the US and its partners plan to maintain operations until 2030, Russia's commitment extends only until 2028.
- The ISS will undergo a phased disintegration during re-entry into Earth's atmosphere
- NASA has identified Point Nemo in the Pacific Ocean as the intended landing site for the debris - dubbed the "spacecraft graveyard"

3. WHAT IS SNOWBLIND MALWARE?

- A new banking malware called 'Snowblind' is targeting Android users to steal banking credentials.
- Snowblind is made to get banking login information and make deals without permission.
- They are spread through other platforms or phishing.
- Snowblind is mostly active in Southeast Asia.
- Unlike most Android malware, Snowblind exploits a feature of Linux kernel and the Android operating system called 'seccomp', which stands for 'secure computing' - used to check applications for signs of tampering.
- Snowblind injects a piece of code that loads before seccomp initialises the anti-tampering measures.
- Snowblind can also disable biometric and two-factor authentication, two security features commonly used by banking apps to thwart unauthorised access.



4. ISRO'S ADITYA-L1 COMPLETES FIRST HALO ORBIT

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), announced that India's inaugural solar mission has completed its halo orbit around the Sun-Earth L1 point.
- This significant breakthrough was achieved after a station keeper manoeuvre made its transition into the second halo orbit.
- The Aditya-L1 mission is an Indian solar observatory installed at the Lagrangian point L1 and was launched in September 2023. ISRO observed that the Aditya-L1 spacecraft completed circling the L1 point in the halo orbit in 178 days.
- The Aditya-L1 mission aims to study the Sun's upper atmosphere, focusing on the chromosphere and corona

5. JAPAN LAUNCHES ADVANCED EARTH OBSERVATION SATELLITE 'ALOS-4' ON THIRD FLIGHT OF H3 ROCKET

- Japan launched the Advanced Land Observing Satellite-4 (ALOS-4; also known as DAICHI-4) on H3 from the Tanegashima Space Center.
- ALOS-4 was deployed into low Earth orbit as planned about 16 minutes
- The Advanced Land Observing Satellite, or ALOS-4, primarily performs Earth observation and data collection for disaster response and mapping.
- It is also capable of monitoring military activity such as missile launches with an infrared sensor developed by the Ministry of Defence.



6. NEWSPACE INDIA LTD TO LAUNCH AUSTRALIA'S 'OPTIMUS SATELLITE' UNDER SPACE MAITRI MISSION

- ISRO's commercial arm NSIL said its latest rocket, the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), will make its first dedicated commercial launch when it puts into orbit the 'Optimus satellite' - built by Australia-based Space Machines Company.
- The announcement was made jointly by NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) and Space Machines Company at the India Space Congress organised by the Satcom Industry Association-India, By focusing on debris management and sustainability.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

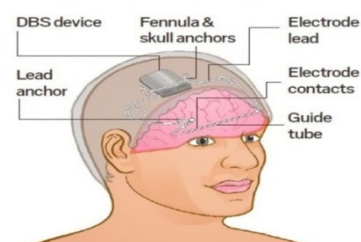
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Headquarters: **Bengaluru**
Chairman: **S.Somanath**

7. UK GETS WORLD'S FIRST BRAIN IMPLANT TO CONTROL EPILEPTIC SEIZURES

- U.K. teenager **Oran Knowlson** has become the first person in the world to receive a brain implant to help control epileptic seizures.
- The deep brain stimulation (DBS) device, which sends electrical signals deep into the brain, has reduced Knowlson's daytime seizures by 80%.
- **Epilepsy**, a condition that leads to recurrent seizures, in which a person experiences tremors in the arms and legs, temporary confusion, staring fits or muscle stiffness. It is caused by abnormal electrical activity in the brain.

DBS BRAIN IMPLANT



8. INDIAN SPACE AGENCY WILL CONDUCT STUDY OF APOPHIS ASTEROID

- ISRO Chairman **S. Somnath** has said that the Indian space agency will conduct a study of **Apophis asteroid**, when it will be closest to Earth in 2029.
- Apophis asteroid will be studied by **Japan, NASA and European space agencies** and ISRO will partner with them.
- Apophis is a **near-Earth asteroid** with a relatively large size (about 335 meters wide).
- Named after the ancient **Egyptian god of chaos and darkness**, it was discovered in 2004
- Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets. They are also called **minor planets**.



9. RUSSIA APPROVES SCHEDULE FOR CREATION OF RUSSIAN ORBITAL STATION BY 2033

10. SPACEX'S POLARIS DAWN MISSION: FIRST COMMERCIAL SPACEWALK

- "Polaris Dawn," a ground-breaking mission, intends to send astronauts farther from Earth (initial orbital altitude of 870 miles) than any previous mission has in more than 50 years.
- The crew of the mission, which will take off on a Falcon 9 rocket from Florida, could spend up to five days in space
- The crew's main goals are to perform high-altitude activities, carry out the first commercial spacewalk, test in-orbit communications, and investigate health effects.



11. UNION MINISTER DR JITENDRA SINGH LAUNCHES INDO-FRENCH LIVER AND METABOLIC DISEASE NETWORK

- Union Minister of Science and Technology (Independent charge) **Jitendra Singh** launched the Indo-French Liver and Metabolic Disease Network (InFLiMeN), a virtual node aimed at preventing and curing metabolic liver diseases, at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in New Delhi.
- The InFLiMeN initiative will address non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD), which can progress to cirrhosis and primary liver cancer.
- Every third Indian has fatty liver, which predates Type 2 Diabetes and other metabolic disorders.
- The initiative aims to understand and manage liver diseases
- The network will also include a joint effort by 11 French and 17 Indian doctors.
- Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPERA) which is supporting this new approach

12. TELECOMMUNICATION ACT 2023

- The Telecommunications Act, 2023, was passed by the Parliament in December 2023, received the assent of the President of India on 24.12.2023
- The Telecommunication Act 2023 aims to amend and consolidate the law relating to development, expansion and operation of telecommunication services and telecommunication networks; assignment of spectrum; and for matters connected therewith.
- It replaced the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Indian Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933, and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.
- Guided by the principles of Samavesh (Inclusion), Suraksha (Security), Vriddhi (Growth), and Tvarit (Responsiveness), the Act aims to achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat (Developed India).
- Will allow the government to take over the control and management of any or all of any telecommunication services or network, in the interest of national security, friendly relations with foreign States, or in the event of war.
- The Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) will become Digital Bharat Nidhi, which can be used for funding research and development, and pilot projects
- Prohibition of use of equipment which block telecommunications, unless permitted by the Central Government.
- Criteria for appointment as Chairperson and Members of TRAI
- Provision of stringent punishment has been made for violators, which ranges from three years jail to a punishment of up to 50 lakh rupees.
- Provision of an effective grievance redressal mechanism

What is Digital Bharat Nidhi?

- NEWS: The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) released draft rules to operationalise the Digital Bharat Nidhi, in a fresh attempt by the central government at increasing telecom connectivity in rural areas.
- Digital Bharat Nidhi would replace the erstwhile Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which is a pool of funds generated by a 5 per cent Universal Service Levy (fee) charged upon all the telecom operators on their Revenue.
- The idea is that this money would be used to fund the expansion of telecom networks in remote and rural areas, where private companies may otherwise resist offering their services due to them not being revenue-generating markets.

13. INDIGENOUS ZORAWAR TANK TO BE INDUCTED IN INDIAN ARMY BY 2027: DRDO

14. ISRO SELECTS 2 GAGANYAAN ASTRONAUTS FOR INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION MISSION UNDER AXIOM-4

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has shortlisted two of its four trained Gaganyaan astronauts for a mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in collaboration with United States' NASA later this year, according to officials in the know of the matter..
- India's own human spaceflight is unlikely to take place before 2025, with the first unmanned flight still to take off.

15. ESTONIA IS THE CLEANEST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDEX 2024

- Estonia is the cleanest country in the list of top 10 cleanest countries in the world by Environmental Performance Index 2024. It is followed by Luxembourg, Germany, Finland, United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Austria, Switzerland and Denmark.
- Known for its lush forests and pristine lakes, Estonia has made significant progress in environmental protection and sustainability. The country excels in waste management, air quality and biodiversity conservation.



16. EUROPE'S ARIANE 6 ROCKET LAUNCHED

- It's a historic day for Europe," declared European Space Agency (ESA) head Josef Aschbacher.
- Philippe Baptiste, head of France's CNES space agency, echoed this sentiment, stating, "Europe is back."
- The successful launch restored Europe's capability to independently send missions into space.
- Europe's new Ariane 6 rocket successfully blasted off for the first time

17. NASA ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF ALIEN-HUNTING TELESCOPE 'HABITABLE WORLDS OBSERVATORY' BY 2040

- NASA has announced to build the alien-hunting telescope 'Habitable Worlds Observatory (HWO)' and launch the telescope around the year 2040. This telescope will search for "a variety of biosignatures" provided by living organisms
- It will find a signal in the atmosphere of a planet in the habitable zone of a star like our Sun within our lifetime.

18. FOUR CHILDREN DIED DUE TO SUSPECTED CHANDIPURA VIRUS INFECTION IN GUJARAT

- In Gujarat's Sabarkantha district
- Chandipura virus is a rare and potentially deadly pathogen that causes fever, flu-like symptoms, and acute encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).
- The virus is transmitted through vectors like mosquitoes, ticks, and sandflies, and can lead to rapid progression of illness, coma, and even death.

19. IIT DELHI AND PRASAR BHARATI TO HOST TWO-DAY ROBOT COMPETITION 'DD-ROBOCON' INDIA 2024 IN DELHI

- At Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi.

- The event will host more than 750 students from over 45 colleges, institutions, and universities in the country.
- **The winning team from DD-Robocon will represent India at the international Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union Robocon 2024, which will take place in QuangNinh, Vietnam.**

20. WORLD'S FIRST' 3D-PRINTED ELECTRIC ABRA BEGINS TRIAL VOYAGE IN DUBAI

- **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** has launched the trial operation of the **world's first electric abra manufactured using 3D printing technology**, in collaboration with the private sector.
- The abra, which can carry 20 passengers, was designed, and built to retain the traditional abra identity.
- The abra was manufactured by **Al Seer Marine Company in Abu Dhabi**, in collaboration with several global companies, including **Mitsubishi of Japan**

21. NASA DEVELOPED MARS SIMULATION MISSION UNDER 'CHAPEA PROJECT

- **NASA** has developed the Mars simulation mission at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, USA under the 'Crew Health and Performance Exploration Analog CHAPEEA Project'.
- **NASA's Mars simulation mission CHAPEA Crew 1** consisted of four volunteers who lived in a Mars-like habitat for more than a year
- **NASA intends to send humans to Mars in the 2030s**



22. NEW HIGH-EFFICACY MALARIA VACCINE LAUNCHED IN COTE D'IVOIRE

- A new high efficacy malaria vaccine co-developed by the Serum Institute of India (SII) and the University of Oxford was officially rolled out
- Cote d'Ivoire in West Africa became the first country to begin administering R21/Matrix-M.
- The vaccine was granted WHO approval last year
- The vaccine leverages Novavax's adjuvant technology and has met the required safety, quality and effectiveness standard

23. ASIAN ELEPHANT TESS GETS WORLD'S FIRST VACCINE FOR HERPES VIRUS

- Until now, there was no vaccine for elephant herpes virus, which is affecting Asian elephants and causing many deaths.
- Now, a zoo in Texas, US has administered the **first ever elephant vaccine for herpes virus to Asian elephant Tess**
- **The mRNA vaccine was created by Baylor College of Medicine.** It was developed by Dr Paul Ling at Baylor College of Medicine

24. MISSY ELLIOTT'S "THE RAIN" SENT TO VENUS BY NASA

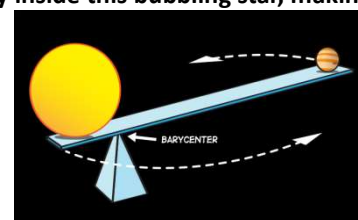
- In a groundbreaking achievement, NASA has transmitted Missy Elliott's 1997 hit song "The Rain (Supa Dupa Fly)" to **Venus, marking the first time a hip-hop song has been beamed into deep space.**
- The transmission was made possible through **NASA's Deep Space Network (DSN)**, from their Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Southern California.
- Traveling at the speed of light, the song covered the vast distance of 158 million miles to Venus, **taking approximately 14 minutes to reach its destination.**

25. DHRUVA SPACE GETS IN-SPACE NOD TO PROVIDE GROUND STATIONS AS A SERVICE

- **Hyderabad-based space engineering solutions provider Dhruva Space** has become one of the first private players in the country to get authorization from Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Center (IN- SPACE) to provide ground stations as a service (GSaaS).
- The approval will enable it to commercially support a wide range of space missions, offer critical ground support, and enable real-time satellite communication and control.

26. EARTH REVOLVES AROUND THE BARYCENTER, NOT THE SUN, ACCORDING TO A NEW NASA STUDY

- The Earth orbits around a barycenter, a point in space near the Sun but not currently inside this bubbling star, making it difficult to say that the planet is orbiting the Sun
- Our initial concepts of planets orbiting perfectly around the Sun may need to be slightly revised. While the Sun is the undisputed dominant force in our solar system
- The reason for this update is the barycenter, which is the center of mass in an orbiting body system



27. "CLASSICAL AND QUANTUM COMMUNICATIONS FOR 6G" IN CHENNAI

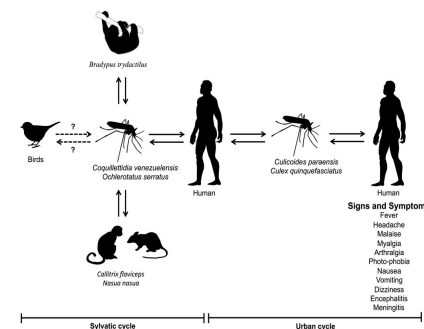
- **Classical and Quantum Communications for 6G** at IITM Research Park, Chennai.
- This is a sub-centre of Telecom Centres of Excellence (TCoE)-India and it will spearhead the development and deployment of 6G technology, promising unprecedented speeds, ultra-low latency, and enhanced connectivity.

28. ESA PREPARES RAMSES MISSION TO STUDY ASTEROID APOPHIS

- The European Space Agency (ESA) has announced a Rapid Apophis Mission for Space Safety (RAMSES) mission to study the Apophis asteroid when it passes by Earth at a very close distance in 2029.
- ESA is the second major space agency to commit a space mission for Apophis, after NASA announced OSIRIS-APEX mission to study the physical changes to asteroid Apophis that will result from its rare close encounter with Earth in April 2029.
- Apophis will come within 32,000 km of the Earth in 2029

29. WHAT IS THE OROPOUCHE VIRUS?

- Brazil has recorded the world's first-ever deaths from Oropouche virus, an unknown disease spread by the bites of infected midges and mosquitoes.
- The symptoms exhibited were similar to those of dengue
- The virus was first discovered in Trinidad and Tobago in 1955 which is transmitted through the bites of midges, although it could be also spread through mosquitoes.
- The cases have been so far reported in parts of South America, Central America and the Caribbean.
- According to the Brazilian health ministry, Brazil has recorded 7,236 cases in 2024.



30. SPACEX AND NASA SET CREW-9 LAUNCH FOR AUGUST 18

- SpaceX and NASA, they plan to launch the space agency's Crew-9 mission to the International Space Station (ISS) no earlier than Aug. 18.
- The announcement comes a day after the Federal Aviation administration cleared SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket to return to space following a rare mid-flight failure earlier this month had grounded it.

31. WHO LAUNCHES PROJECT TO DEVELOP H5N1 VACCINES USING MRNA

- The Argentinian manufacturer Sinergium Biotech will lead this effort leveraging the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) mRNA Technology Transfer Programme.
- The mRNA Technology Transfer Programme, jointly developed by WHO and MPP, was launched in July 2021
- with the aim to build capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) for the development and production of mRNA-based vaccines

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

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

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

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

Artificial Intelligence

July
2024

1. PENCH TIGER RESERVE LAUNCHES FIRST AI FIRE DETECTION SYSTEM

- The Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra has launched an advanced Artificial Intelligence (AI) system for early detection of forest fires.
- The AI-powered platform, known as Pantera, leverages both the camera feed and satellite-based data to provide real-time alerts of forest fires within 3 minutes
- This state-of-the-art system covers more than 350 sq km of the tiger reserve.

2. WORLD'S FIRST AI DRESS" WITH ROBOTIC SNAKES, INTERNET REACTS

- A Google employee recently created the "world's first AI dress" and it has astonished many on the internet.
- Christina Ernst, a software engineer at the tech giant and the Founder of SheBuildsRobots.org, a platform which aims to educate girls on building robots, shared a clip of her creation which has robotic snakes attached to it to detect faces

3. CHINA LEADS GLOBAL GENAI PATENTS: U.N. DATA

- China is far ahead of other countries in generative AI inventions like chatbots , filing six times more patents than its closest rival the United States, U.N. data.
- South Korea, Japan and India were ranked third, fourth and fifth respectively, with India growing at the fastest rate.

What is Meta 3D Gen?

- A new technology called Meta 3D Gen, which was launched by Mark Zuckerberg's company Meta, lets you make 3D assets by following text prompts.
- This new technology is meant to save a lot of time and make it possible to make hyper-realistic video games, movie effects, and other things.
- Three-dimensional things can be seen in digital files called 3D assets.
- Models called AssetGen and TextureGen are used to build Meta 3D Gen.

4. OPENAI LAUNCHES SEARCHGPT

- OpenAI is venturing into a territory long dominated by Google with the selective launch of SearchGPT, an artificial intelligencepowered search engine with real-time access to information from the internet.
- The announcement came just a day after Microsoft rolled out its Bing generative search.
- SearchGPT is available in limited release, with access to a small group of users and publishers.

5. SEBI LAUNCHES SEVA CHATBOT FOR INVESTORS

- The capital market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has introduced SEBI's Virtual Assistant (SEVA) chatbot to help investors of the securities market.
- According to SEBI, the chatbot will have multiple features, such as citations, answering follow-up questions, and the ability to convert speech-to-text and text-to-speech.
- SEBI launched SCORES 2.0 on 1 April 2024 with advanced features.

Securities and Exchange Board of India - SEBI

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

Headquarters: Mumbai
Chairperson: Madhabi Puri Buch

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

 बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

Defence

July 2024

1. SEBEX 2, INDIA'S NEW EXPLOSIVE REVOLUTIONIZING MILITARY FIREPOWER

- India has taken a significant leap in military technology with the development of SEBEX 2, a powerful new explosive.
- Certified by the Indian Navy, SEBEX 2 is reported to be twice as lethal as the standard Trinitrotoluene (TNT), marking it as one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosives globally.
- This breakthrough is set to revolutionize artillery shells and warheads, enhancing their destructive capabilities without increasing their weight.
- The development of SEBEX 2 falls under the **Make in India** initiative



2. INS SHIVALIK PARTICIPATED IN 'RIMPAC EXERCISE- 2024' HELD IN HAWAII, USA

- Indian Navy's indigenous stealth frigate INS Shivalik, deployed in the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean, is participating in the **29th edition of the biennial Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC)** exercise being held in Hawaii, which is the **world's largest international maritime exercise**.
- The exercise is being conducted under the theme '**Partners: Integrate and Ready**'.

3. INDIA-MONGOLIA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE 'NOMADIC ELEPHANT 2024'

- **16th edition of Annual Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant'** between armies of India and Mongolia will be conducted in Meghalaya's Umroi
- **Nomadic Elephant I – 2004 - Mongolia**
- The 15th edition of the Exercise was conducted in Mongolia's Ulaanbaatar
- The exercise set to be conducted in Meghalaya aims to enhance interoperability between two armies in carrying out semi-conventional operations in semi-urban/mountainous terrain.

4. WEAPON SYSTEMS SCHOOL INAUGURATED BY THE CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF AT BEGUMPET, HYDERABAD

- A **Weapon Systems School**, was inaugurated in Hyderabad by IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari at Air Force Station Begumpet in Hyderabad.
- With the new training facility offering four specialised streams to cadets to prepare them to handle surface-to-air weapons, remotely piloted aircraft, surface-to-surface weapon systems and space-based intelligence

5. INDIA HAS SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED RUDRAM-1

- India has successfully test-fired its **first indigenous antiradiation missile**, the **Rudram-1**, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Rudram-1 is integrated with the **IAF's Sukhoi-30MKI** fighter jets, serving as the launch platform.
- The missile features **INS-GPS navigation** and a **Passive Homing Head** for final attack, allowing it to accurately hit radiationemitting targets.



6. INDIA REGISTERS HIGHEST EVER GROWTH IN VALUE OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION IN 2023-24

- The country recorded its highest-ever growth in **indigenous defence production in value terms** during Financial Year (FY) 2023-24,
- The value of defence production in FY 2022-23 was **₹1,08,684 crore**.
- Of the total value of production (VoP) in 2023-24, about 79.2% has been contributed by DPSUs/other PSUs and **20.8% by the private sector**
- **Defence exports** touched a record-high of **₹21,083 crore** in FY 202324, reflecting a growth of 32.5%



7. RAKSHA RAJYA MANTRI SANJAY SETH FLAGS IN SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION TEAM OF NCC GIRL AND BOY CADETS TO MOUNT KANG YATSE-II

- **Kang Yatze or Kang Yatse** (elevation 6,400 metres (21,000 ft)) is a mountain located at the end of the **Markha valley in the Himalayas in the Ladakh** region of northwest India.
- It is located in the **Hemis National Park**.

8. INDIA UNVEILS INDIGENOUS LIGHT TANK 'ZORAWAR'

- India has unveiled the '**Zorawar**' **light tank**, developed jointly by **DRDO and Larsen & Toubro**, aimed at bolstering military capabilities in high-altitude environments.
- **Named after General Zorawar Singh**, the tank is slated for extensive trials before potential deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.
- It integrates advanced systems like a **Remote-Controlled Weapon system (RCWS)** and is designed for amphibious operations, enhancing maneuverability across varied terrains.

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**

9. THE 'KNOW YOUR ARMY' PROGRAMME BEGAN IN LEH

- In Ladakh, in the run-up to a series of events of Kargil Vijay Diwas, a two-day-long motivational programme under the theme 'Know Your Army' has begun in Leh.
- **Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26** to commemorate the victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999.
- **This year marks the 25th anniversary or Rajat Jayanti of Kargil Vijay Diwas.**
- This programme is being organised to motivate local youth to join the army as well as familiarise the local population with the modern weapons technology, tactics, and battle-worthiness of the Indian army.

10. INDIAN AIR FORCE PARTICIPATION IN EXERCISE PITCH BLACK 2024

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has embarked on a significant international engagement by participating in **Exercise Pitch Black 2024**, hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** at their Base Darwin, Australia.
- This **biennial, multi-national exercise** represents a crucial platform for enhancing international military cooperation and showcasing air combat capabilities.

11. DRDO SEVEN NEW PROJECTS AWARDED TO INDUSTRIES UNDER TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND SCHEME

- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken a significant step towards **promoting self-reliance in the defense sector** by awarding seven new projects to industries under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme**.
- These projects aim to address various requirements of the Armed Forces and the aerospace & defense sectors, while simultaneously nurturing the growth of industries, particularly **MSMEs and start-ups**, in these domains.

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- Chairman of DRDO: **Dr Samir V Kamath**

12. GRSE ACCELERATED INNOVATION NURTURING SCHEME (GAINS 2024) LAUNCHED

- Minister of State for Defence **Sanjay Seth** launched the **"GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme (GAINS 2024)"** of Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata
- GAINS is aimed towards the **creation of fast-track innovative solutions** to help GRSE turn into a **future-ready shipyard**.
- The scheme seeks innovative solutions for **shipyard problems, promoting technology development** using Indian start-ups and MSMEs.
- The participants of GAINS-2024 will have to concentrate on the themes – **Artificial Intelligence (AI), Renewable/Green Energy & Energy Efficiency as well as Overall Efficiency Enhancement**

13. CENTRAL ARMED POLICE FORCES TO PROVIDE 10 % RESERVATION TO FORMER AGNIVEERS IN RECRUITMENTS

- Chiefs of Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Seema Suraksha Bal (SSB) issued individual statements that former Agniveers are welcome to join their respective forces.
- 10 per cent of jobs will be reserved for ex-Agniveers in **all future appointments of constables**.
- In **physical tests also**, they will be **given exemption** along with the **relaxation on the age**.
- In the **first year**, the age relaxation is **for five years** and in the subsequent year, the age relaxation will be **three years**
 - Director General, CISF, Nina Singh
 - Director General, Border Security Force, Nitin Agrawal
 - Director General, Railway Protection Force, Manoj Yadava
 - Director General, SSB Daljit Singh
 - Director General, CRPF Anish Dayal Singh
 - Director General, ITBP Rahul Rasgotra
- Agnipath scheme was announced in **June 2022**.
- Candidates between the ages of **17.5 years to 21 years** will be eligible for enrolling in the Agnipath scheme.

- Under the Agnipath scheme, soldiers known as Agniveers are recruited in the army, air force and navy for four years and are not entitled to gratuity and pension benefits.
- After the completion of four years of service, 75 per cent of them will be demobilised and the rest will be retained in the regular cadre, based on merit and organisational requirement.
- Before this scheme, a fit general-duty soldier had to serve 15-18 years.

14. INDIAN AND USA NAVIES CONDUCT JOINT MARITIME EXERCISE 'MPX' IN ARABIAN SEA

- Indian Naval ships INS Aditya and INS Visakhapatnam conducted 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' (MPX) with US Navy Carrier Strike Group consisting of US Navy ships USS Theodore Roosevelt and USS Daniel Inouye in the Arabian Sea.
- India and the US participate in the following joint exercises apart from Yudh Abhyas:
- Cope-India (Air Force), Vajra Prahar (Special Forces). Some of the multilateral exercises are Malabar, Red Flag and RIMPAC.

15. STEALTH FRIGATES FROM RUSSIA TO BE DELIVERED IN SEPTEMBER 2024, FEBRUARY 2025

- After a series of delays, two stealth frigates under construction in Russia for the Indian Navy are set to be delivered soon beginning September.
- "First ship Tushil is ready for acceptance by the Indian Navy and is scheduled to be delivered by September.
- "The second ship Tamal is expected to be delivered by February 2025."

16. INS TEG RESCUES EIGHT INDIANS FROM CAPSIZED OIL TANKER NEAR OMAN

- The Indian warship INS Teg has rescued nine sailors, including eight Indians and one Sri Lankan, who were on board the Comoros-flagged oil tanker, MT Falcon Prestige that had capsized recently off the Oman coast.
- INS Teg (F45) is the first of three guided missile frigates of the modified INS Talwar-class under Project-17 A (the other two are INS Tarkash and INS Trikand).

17. INDIA ARMY OFF TO MONGOLIA TO TAKE PART IN 21ST EX- KHAAN QUEST 2024

- A contingent of the Indian Army has departed for Mongolia to participate in the multinational military exercise KHAAN QUEST.
- The 21st multinational KHAAN QUEST exercise will be held in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

18. INDIGENOUSLY-BUILT TALWAR CLASS FRIGATE, 'TRIPUT', LAUNCHED BY GSL

- The first indigenously built Talwar Class frigate named 'Tripur' for the Indian Navy, constructed by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), was launched into waters.
- The ship is part of the two frigates India is building indigenously with the help of Russia
- In 2016, India and Russia signed an agreement to buy four stealth frigates of the Admiral Grigorovich class (also known as Project 1135.6 class)
- Russia is scheduled to deliver the first of the two ships, Tushil, in September 2024 and the other frigate, Tamal, by February 2025

Public Sector Defence Shipyards

- Four defence shipyards under the Union Ministry of Defence that construct ships and vessels for the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It constructs Scorpene Submarines, Missile Destroyers, and Stealth Frigates for the Indian Navy.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata: It builds ships for the Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard.
- Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, is capable of indigenously designing and building sophisticated, high-tech ships for the Indian Navy.
- Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam: It specialises in shipbuilding, ship repairs and refit of submarines.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi

19. INDIA'S WARSHIP INS TABAR PARTICIPATED IN RUSSIA'S 328 TH NAVY DAY PARADE



Sports Current Affairs

July
2024

1. **VIRAT KOHLI'S LIFE SIZE STATUE UNVEILED IN TIMES SQUARE, NEW YORK**



2. **ROHIT SHARMA JOINS VIRAT KOHLI IN T20I RETIREMENT AFTER WORLD CUP TRIUMPH**

3. **BRONNY AND LEBRON JAMES TO BECOME FIRST FATHER-SON DUO TO TEAM UP IN NBA HISTORY**

4. **SURYAKUMAR YADAV TAKES THE BEST FIELDER AWARD FROM JAY SHAH**

- Suryakumar Yadav received the coveted 'Best Fielder' award from the BCCI secretary Jay Shah for his magnificent catch to dismiss the dangerous David Miller which turned out to be the decisive moment in the final triumph.
- India fielding coach: T Dilip

5. **ALL-ROUNDER RAVINDRA JADEJA ANNOUNCED HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE T20 INTERNATIONALS**

6. **SHAFALI VERMA BECOMES FASTEST WOMAN DOUBLE CENTURION IN TEST CRICKET**

- Against South Africa.
- Shafali also became the second Indian after former skipper Mithali Raj to hit a double century in Test cricket.



7. **BANK OF BARODA ON BOARDS SUMIT NAGAL AS ITS BRAND ENDORSER**

- Bank of Baroda has signed tennis player, Sumit Nagal, as its brand endorser.
- Nagal, currently the highest-ranked Indian singles tennis player, achieved a career-high singles ranking of World No. 71 on 17th June 2024.
- In January 2024, he became the first Indian player in 35 years to defeat a seeded player in a Grand Slam men's singles match at the Australian Open 2024.

8. **FORMER WORLD CHESS CHAMPION V ANAND WINS LEON MASTERS FOR 10TH TIME**

- ❖ Vishwanathan Anand was the first recipient of India's highest sports award instituted by the government of India - Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna. He was conferred the award in 1991-92
- ❖ He is the first sports person to achieve the Padma Vibhushan award (2007).
- ❖ Anand became India's first chess Grand Master in 1988.
- Former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand of India has won the Leon Master chess championship for the 10th time.
- He defeated Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain in the final at Leon in Spain to win the 2024 Leon Masters.
- Apart from Viswanathan Anand, other players participating in the tournament were world number four ranked Arjun Erigaise of India, Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria and Jaime Santos Latasa of Spain.

9. **BCCI ANNOUNCES MASSIVE PRIZE MONEY OF 125 CRORE RUPEES FOR TEAM INDIA AFTER WINNING T20 WORLD CUP 2024**

10. **HARDIK, 1ST INDIAN ALL-ROUNDER TO BE RANKED NO.1 IN ICC T20I**

- Hardik Pandya was ranked No.1 along with Sri Lanka captain Wanindu Hasaranga.

11. **GEORGE RUSSELL TRIUMPHS IN DRAMATIC AUSTRIAN GRAND PRIX 2024**

12. **BPCL BECOMES IOA'S PRINCIPAL SPONSOR FOR PARIS 2024, LOS ANGELES 2028 OLYMPIC GAMES**

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a 'Maharatna' and Fortune Global 500 company has announced its partnership with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as the official principal partner for four years from Paris Olympics '24 to Los Angeles Olympics '28.
- Earlier Yes Bank announced itself as the banking partner for Indian Olympians in association with the Indian Olympic Association.

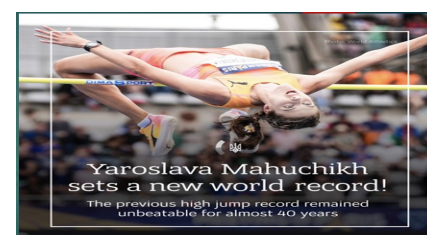


13. **INDIA FINISHES ON TOP AT U23 ASIAN WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP IN JORDAN**

- In wrestling, India finished on top at the Under 23 Asian Wrestling Championship 2024, in Amman, Jordan.
- Indian clinched a total of 8 medals in freestyle wrestling, including 4 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- Kazakhstan took second place while Kyrgyzstan won third.



14. **ROYAL CHALLENGERS BENGALURU ANNOUNCED THE RECENTLY RETIRED DINESH KARTHIK AS ITS BATTING COACH AND MENTOR**
15. **PUMA INDIA, ROPED RIYAN PARAG AND NITISH KUMAR REDDY AS AMBASSADORS**
16. **'MANOJ BAJPAYEE : THE DEFINITIVE BIOGRAPHY' AUTHORED BY PIYUSH PANDEY**
 - Manoj Bajpayee, the Definitive Biography has been translated into English by journalist Rohit Vats from Pandey's original Hindi book titled Kuch Paane Ki Zid.
 - In 2019, Manoj Bajpayee was awarded Padma Shri, for his contributions to art.
17. **BTS' JIN CHOSEN AS SOUTH KOREA'S TORCHBEARER AT PARIS OLYMPICS 2024**
 - His role in the Olympic torch relay aims to promote messages of "harmony" and "peace,
 - Originating at Olympia, Greece, the Olympic flame embarks on a journey through diverse nations before reaching the host city, a tradition inaugurated during the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics.
 - The Paris Summer Olympics will kick off on July 26.
18. **NEERAJ CHOPRA TO LEAD 28-MEMBER SQUAD IN PARIS OLYMPICS**
 - A 28-member Indian athletics team, led by men's javelin throw defending champion Neeraj Chopra, will compete at the Paris 2024 Olympics, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI).
 - Chopra made history three years ago by becoming the first Indian track and field athlete to win a medal at the Olympics, that too a gold
19. **KOLKATA, KOKRAJHAR, JAMSHEDPUR & SHILLONG TO HOST 133RD DURAND CUP**
 - The 133rd edition of the Durand Cup will kick off Asia's and India's oldest club-based football tournament will end on 31 August 2024, with the final being played at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium) in Kolkata, West Bengal.
 - The 133rd Durand Cup matches will be held in Kolkata, Kokrajhar (Assam), Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), and Shillong (Meghalaya). For the first time, Jamshedpur will host the Durand Cup matches.
20. **LEWIS HAMILTON WINS THE BRITISH GRAND PRIX 2024**
21. **DHRUV SITWALA WINS HIS THIRD ASIAN BILLIARDS TITLE AT RIYADH**
 - Dhruv Sitwala defeated Pankaj Advani to win the 2024 Asian Billiards Championship in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
 - The Asian Championship was organised by the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports (ACBS) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,
22. **ASIAN DOUBLES SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS: ABHAY SINGH WINS BOTH MEN'S DOUBLES AND MIXED DOUBLES TITLES**
 - The Indian team won the men's doubles and mixed doubles titles at the recently concluded Asian Squash Doubles Championship 2024 held at the Arena Emas in Johor, Malaysia.
 - Asian Games medallist Abhay won the men's doubles crown along with Velavan Senthilkumar.
23. **BADMINTON: INDIA'S TASNIM MIR & THARUN MANNEPALLI CLINCH SINGLES TITLES AT SAINT-DENIS REUNION OPEN 2024**
 - Men's singles- India's Tharun Mannepal
 - While in women's singles, World No. 75, India's Tasnim Mir
24. **INDIA'S AVINASH SABLE SETS NEW NATIONAL RECORD IN 3000M STEEPLECHASE AT PARIS DIAMOND LEAGUE IN FRANCE**
 - Sable finished sixth at the event with a timing of 8:09.91 (8 minutes, 9 seconds, and 91 hundredths of a second).
 - The race was won by Abrahm Sime of Ethiopia.
25. **GAGAN NARANG REPLACES MARY KOM TO BE INDIAN TEAM CHEF-DE MISSION IN PARIS OLYMPICS**
 - The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed 2012 London Olympics bronze medalist shooter Gagan Narang as the Chef-de-Mission of the Indian team for the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, replacing Mary Kom.
 - Ace Badminton player PV Sindhu was also appointed as the co-flag bearer along with table tennis player Sharath Kamal.
 - Four new sports have been introduced in the Paris Olympics 2024: Breaking, Surfing, Sport Climbing, and Skateboarding.
26. **JASPRIT BUMRAH, SMRITI MANDHANA NAMED ICC PLAYER OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE**
27. **YAROSLAVA MAHUCHIKH**
 - Yaroslava Mahuchikh of Ukraine broke the world record for the highest jump by a woman.
 - The old record of 2.09 meters had stood since 1987.
 - In the Paris Diamond League, she reached an amazing height of 2.10 meters.
28. **ADANI GROUP ANNOUNCED AS PRINCIPAL SPONSOR FOR INDIAN TEAM AT 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS**
 - Adani Group to sponsor Indian team for Paris Olympics 2024
 - Campaign launched with theme #DeshkaGeetAtOlympics
 - Focus on athletes' dedication and national pride



29. OLYMPIAN PV SINDHU JOINS WELLNESS BRAND HOOP AS INVESTOR, BRAND AMBASSADOR**30. PUMA PARTNERS WITH INDIAN OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION FOR PARIS OLYMPICS 2024**

- Sports brand **PUMA India** has announced a significant partnership with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**, becoming the **Official Footwear Partner** for the Indian contingent at the **Paris Olympics 2024**.
- This collaboration marks a major step in supporting Indian athletes on the global stage and **promoting sports excellence** in the country
- Campaign Launch: **"See the Game Like We Do"**.

31. PRESIDENT MURMU UNVEILS DURAND CUP TROPHY 2024

- It is **Asia's oldest and the world's third oldest football** tournament, in which top Indian football clubs from across the country participate.
- The **inaugural edition** took place in **Shimla in 1888**, when it started off as an Army Cup, open only to the British Indian Army troops in India.
- The tournament is named after its founder **Sir Henry Mortimer Durand**.
- The Durand Cup tournament is unique where in the winning team walks away with three trophies:
 - The **Durand Cup** (a rolling trophy and the original prize).
 - The **Shimla Trophy** (also a rolling trophy and first given by the residents of Shimla in 1904).
 - The **President's Cup** (for permanent keep and first presented by Dr. Rajendra Prasad, India's first President, in 1956).

**32. CARLOS ALCARAZ CROWNED WIMBLEDON 2024 CHAMPION, DEFEATS NOVAK DJOKOVIC TO SECURE 2ND CONSECUTIVE TITLE****33. ENGLAND LEGEND JIMMY ANDERSON RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET**

- James Anderson played **188 test matches** in his career, which lasted 21 years. He is the second-highest player to play test matches after **Sachin Tendulkar** of India, who appeared in 200 test matches
- In his 188 test matches, Anderson took 704 wickets. He is **the third-highest test wicket-taker** in the world after Muralithran of Sri Lanka (800 wickets in 113 matches) and Shane Warne of Australia (708 wickets in 145 matches)

34. BEN STOKES ACHIEVED HISTORIC DOUBLES IN TEST AND INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

- Ben Stokes became the third player and first England cricketer to achieve over 6,000 runs and 200 wickets in Test cricket, joining Garry Sobers and Jacques Kallis.

35. SOURAV GANGULY BOUGHT KOLKATA ROYAL TIGERS RACING TEAM

- Former Indian cricket captain **Sourav Ganguly** becomes the owner of the **Kolkata Royal Tigers Racing Team**.
- Indian Racing Festival (IRF) third season will feature **eight city-based teams** competing from August to November in the **Indian Racing League (IRL) and Formula 4 Indian Championship (F4IC)**.

36. WIMBLEDON 2024: BARBORA KREJČÍKOVÁ AND CARLOS ALCARAZ WINNERS

- **Barbora Krejčikova (Czech Republic)** defeated Jasmine Paolini (Italy) to win her maiden Wimbledon women's singles title in London.
- **Carlos Alcaraz (Spain)** defended his Wimbledon title as he defeated Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- **Roger Federer** has won most 8 Wimbledon titles.
- Grand Slam tournaments, also called majors, are the four most important annual tennis events.
- The Australian and United States tournaments are played on hard courts, the French on clay, and Wimbledon on grass.
- **Wimbledon is the oldest, founded in 1877, followed by the US in 1881, the French in 1891, and the Australian in 1905.**

The Grand Slam itinerary consists of:

1. **The Australian Open in mid-January,**
2. **The French Open in May - June,**
3. **Wimbledon in June-July**
4. **The US Open in August-September.**

37. ARGENTINA WINS ITS 16TH COPA AMERICA TITLE BEATING COLOMBIA IN FINAL

- **Argentina** won their **16th Copa America Football title** by defeating **Colombia 1-0** in the final of the **48th Copa America**, played at the **Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, the United States of America**,
- It was the second time in the 108 years of history that the Copa America football tournament was held outside South America.
- Both the times it was hosted by the United States of America in 2016 and 2024.
- **Lautaro Martinez** score the winning goal for **Argentina**

38. THOMAS MULLER RETIRES FROM INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

- **Thomas Müller**, the German football icon, has announced his retirement from international football following the conclusion of **Euro 2024**

39. INDIA CHAMPIONS DEFEATED PAKISTAN CHAMPIONS TO WIN THE TITLE OF 'WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF LEGENDS, 2024'

- **India Champions** defeated **Pakistan Champions** by **five wickets** in the final of the 2024 World Championship of Legends in Birmingham, UK.
- **India** achieved the target of **157 runs in 19.1 overs** under the leadership of **Yuvraj Singh**



40. THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) ANNOUNCED SAUDI ARABIA AS THE HOST OF THE FIRST OLYMPIC E-SPORTS GAMES 2025

- Saudi Arabia and IOC have announced a 12-year agreement to host the new esports Olympics in Saudi Arabia starting 2025.
- Though the Esports Games are an official Olympic event under IOC purview, they will have a separate organizational and financial model from the summer and Winter Games. They will be held regularly, but dates, video games to be played, and the qualifying process for players are yet to be finalised.
- The IOC launched its first esports pilot, the Olympic Virtual Series, in 2021

41. OLIVIER GIROUD ANNOUNCED INTERNATIONAL RETIREMENT AFTER EURO 2024

- France's all-time leading goal scorer, **Olivier Giroud**, announced his retirement from international football
- His international career includes winning the 2018 World Cup

42. SRI LANKA CRICKET SET TO HOST ICC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) is set to make history as it holds its Annual Conference in Sri Lanka from July 19th to 22nd, 2024.
- This marks the first time the prestigious event will be hosted in the Asian region
- The theme of this year's conference, "Capitalizing on the Olympic Opportunity"

International Cricket Council (ICC)

- Formation – 15 June 1909
- Headquarters – Dubai, UAE
- Chairman – Greg Barclay (New Zealand)
- Membership – 108 members

43. 9TH WOMEN'S CRICKET ASIA CUP TO KICKOFF IN SRI LANKA

- The 9th Women's Asia Cup will be held in the T-20 format. All the matches, including the final, will be played at the Rangiri Dambulla International Stadium in Dambulla

44. LATEST FIFA RANKINGS RELEASED, INDIA REMAINS 124TH

Top 10 FIFA Rankings Table

Rank	Country	Points
1	Argentina	1901.48
2	France	1854.91
3	Spain	1835.67
4	England	1812.26
5	Brazil	1785.61

Rank	Country	Points
6	Belgium	1772.44
7	Netherlands	1758.51
8	Portugal	1741.43
9	Colombia	1727.32
10	Italy	1714.29

45. KIRAN PAHAL WINS GOLD MEDAL IN WOMEN'S 200M AT SUMMER ATHLETICS COMPETITION 2024 IN WARSAW

46. THE AUSTRALIAN FORMULA 1 (F1) RACER OSCAR PIASTRI SECURED HIS FIRST-EVER F1 TITLE VICTORY AT THE HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX

47. GAMBHIR CONFIRMS NAYAR AND RYAN TEN DOESCHATE AS ASSISTANT COACHES

48. P.R. SREEJESH TO RETIRE AFTER PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES

- 18 years and 328 international games
- One of the highest-capped Indian players and the highest-capped current goalkeeper in the world.
- Sreejesh was awarded the Padma Shri in 2017, the Khel Ratna in 2021 and won back-to-back FIH Goalkeeper of the Year awards in 2021 and 2022.

49. SANIA MIRZA, MARY KOM AND RANVIJAY SINGHA JOIN PLAY SPORTS AS BRAND AMBASSADORS

- Play Sport's objective is to create a sustainable sports eco system in India by working with schools, developing sports, managing sports infrastructure, running academies and scouting talent from grassroots.



50. HARMANPREET KAUR SURPASSES SMRITI MANDHANA TO BECOME INDIA'S HIGHEST T20I RUN-GETTER

51. ATIQA MIR BECAME FIRST FEMALE RACER EVER TO WIN AT ROTAX CHALLENGE

- Atiq Mir, a nine-year-old racer from Srinagar, became the first female racer to win a race in the Rotax Challenge International Trophy, achieving this feat at the renowned Le Mans Kart International Circuit.
- Driving for Dan Holland Racing Team in the Micro Max category

52. SCOTLAND'S CHARLIE CASSELL SETS ODI RECORD; TAKES 7 WICKETS FOR 21 AGAINST OMAN

In the ICC Men's Cricket ODI World Cup League 2, Scotland fast bowler Charlie Cassell scripted history on his debut breaking an all-time ODI record by taking 7 wickets for 21 against Oman, in Dundee.

- Cassell broke the 2016 record of 6 for 16 of South African paceman Kagiso Rabada on his debut against Bangladesh.
- Apart from Rabada, West Indies pacer Fidel Edwards also had taken 6 for 22 on his ODI debut.

53. IOC ELECTS SALT LAKE CITY-UTAH 2034 AS OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC WINTER GAMES HOST

- Salt Lake City in Utah State of the USA will host the Winter Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2034. The decision was taken by the IOC Members during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris here on July 24.

- Salt Lake City hosted the Winter Olympics for the **first time in 2002**. Out of 89 valid votes, Salt Lake City-Utah 2034 received **83 'yes' votes from the IOC Members**. Six said 'no' while there were six abstentions,

54. NITA AMBANI UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED AS IOCM: PARIS OLYMPIC, 2024

55. FRANCE SET TO HOST 2030 WINTER OLYMPICS

- The International Olympic Committee named the **French Alps** as the host for the **2030 Winter Games** on July 24, though the decision is subject to certain conditions.
- While presenting the bid to IOC members in **Paris**, **French President Emmanuel Macron** assured the committee that the government formed after the 2024 **Summer Games** in Paris would handle all outstanding **organisational** and financial guarantees.



56. WOMEN'S ASIA CUP FINAL 2024: SRI LANKA BEAT INDIA FOR TITLE

57. HISTORIC BRONZE WIN FOR MANU BHAKER AND SARABJOT SINGH AT PARIS OLYMPICS

- **Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh** has secured a bronze medal in the **10m Air Pistol Mixed Team** event at the **Paris Olympics**.
- The Indian pair triumphed over **South Korea's Oh Ye Jin and Lee Wonho**, bringing home the second medal for India at these Games.

58. LEWIS HAMILTON WINS BELGIAN GRAND PRIX AFTER GEORGE RUSSELL DISQUALIFICATION

- **Lewis Hamilton** was promoted to first place at the Belgian Grand Prix after race officials disqualified his Mercedes teammate **George Russell** for driving an underweight car

59. NITA AMBANI INAUGURATES INDIA HOUSE, A FIRST FOR THE COUNTRY AT THE OLYMPICS

- India's first-ever country house at the Olympics has been established by the **Reliance Foundation** in partnership with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)**
- India House, situated at **Parc de la Villette** in the **Park of Nations**, will operate daily throughout the Olympics



60. ALL 5 INDIAN PARTICIPANTS BAG MEDALS AT 54TH INTERNATIONAL PHYSICS OLYMPIAD 2024

- 54th International Physics Olympiad 2024 held from July 21 to July 29 in **Isfahan, Iran**.
- All five Indian participants bagged medals, including 2 gold and 3 silver medals.
- **Rhythm Kedia** from **Chhattisgarh** and **Ved Lahoti** from **Madhya Pradesh** bagged gold medals
- India was placed in the fourth position, jointly with **Vietnam**.
- **China came at the top**

61. MEN'S CRICKET ASIA CUP: INDIA TO HOST 2025 AND BANGLADESH 2027 EDITION

- India will host the **2025 Asia Cup** in **T-20** format, as the **10th ICC Men's T-20 World Cup** is scheduled to be held in India and Sri Lanka in 2026. India is the current world champion in the T-20 format.
- The **2027 Asia Cup** will be held in **ODI** format in **Bangladesh** as the **14th ICC Men's ODI World Cup** will be held in **South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia** in 2027.
- The last 2023 Asia Cup hosted by Pakistan was held in a hybrid model as India refused to play in Pakistan. Indian matches were held in Sri Lanka and the final involving India was also held in Sri Lanka.
- **India won the final**, defeating Sri Lanka by 10 wickets to lift its **8th Asia Cup title**.

62. INDIAN TENNIS LEGEND ROHAN BOPANNA ANNOUNCES RETIRES AFTER PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

63. THE 'PHRYGE', THE MASCOT

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

64. SHOOTER SWAPNIL KUSALE WINS 3RD MEDAL FOR INDIA AT 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

- The Indian shooting contingent bagged the third medal for India at the 2024 Paris Olympics Games. Shooter **Swapnil Kusale** of **Maharashtra** won a bronze medal in the men's **50m rifle 3 Positions** final played at the National Shooting Center in **Châteauroux, Paris**,
- The gold medal was won by the world record holder **Liu Yukun** of **China** with 463.6 points, while the silver was won by **Ukraine's Serhiy Kulish** with 461.3 points.

3rd Olympic medal in Rifle events for India

- **Swapnil Kusale's** bronze medal was the 3rd medal for India in the Rifle event in Olympic history.
- **Abhinav Bindra** won the first medal for India in the rifle shooting event. He won a gold medal in the 10m air rifle at the **2008 Beijing Olympics**.
- **Gagan Narang** won a bronze in the 10m air rifle event at the **2012 London Olympics**.

- 65. MANIKA BATRA BECOMES FIRST INDIAN TABLE TENNIS PLAYER TO REACH ROUND OF 16 IN OLYMPICS SINGLES**
- Defeated higher-ranked Prithika Pavade of France.
 - The 29-year-old Manika, gold medallist at the 2018 Commonwealth Games.
- 66. INDIAN BADMINTON STAR ASHWINI PONNAPPA ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER PLAYING HER 'LAST OLYMPICS'**
- In 2011, Ashwini and Jwala made history by becoming the first Indian pair to win a medal – a bronze – at the World Championships.
- 67. NORMAN PRITCHARD: COLONISED INDIA'S FIRST ATHLETE TO WIN TWO MEDALS IN SAME OLYMPICS**
- On July 30, British-Indian Norman Pritchard was trending again when Manu Bhaker became the country's first athlete in the post-independence era to win two Games medals in a single edition.
 - Because Pritchard had done it pre-independence in the 1900 edition, which also took place in Paris, by winning silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles.
- 68. INDIA'S FIRST-EVER NIGHT STREET RACING EVENT TO BE HELD IN CHENNAI**
- Chennai will host India's first-ever night street racing event, the second round of the Indian Racing Festival.
- 69. USA'S KATIE LEDECKY WINS OLYMPIC 1500M FREESTYLE GOLD, CREATES HISTORY**
- She secured a record-equaling 8th gold medal in the sport.
 - Ledecy now shares the record for most Olympic gold medals in women's swimming with American Jenny Thompson
 - She has also become most decorated woman swimmer in history with 13th Olympic medals



Awards

July
2024

1. DR. USHA THAKUR RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS 12TH VISHWA HINDI SAMMAN

- Dr. Usha Thakur has been honoured with the 12th Vishwa Hindi Samman.
- This prestigious award recognizes her outstanding contributions to Hindi literature and her efforts in strengthening the bonds between Hindi and Nepali languages.

2. P. GEETHA WINS FIRST EVER K. SARASWATHI AMMA AWARD

- K. Saraswathi Amma Award is instituted by WINGS (Women's Integration and Growth through Sports) Kerala, for feminist studies.



3. SINGARENI CMD BALARAM RECEIVES "TREE MAN OF TELANGANA" AWARD

4. EDUCATION MINISTRY INVITES SELF-NOMINATIONS FROM ELIGIBLE TEACHERS FOR NATIONAL TEACHERS' AWARDS 2024

- The Ministry of Education has invited self-nominations from the eligible teachers for National Teachers' Awards 2024.
- A total of 50 teachers will be selected through the three-stage selection process at the District, State and National level this year.
- The award will be conferred by the President Droupadi Murmu on the occasion of Teacher Day on 5th September in New Delhi.

5. BANK OF INDIA RECEIVES ATAL PENSION YOJANA ANNUAL AWARD AND APY ULTIMATE CHAMPIONS CUP FROM PFRDA FOR FY2023-24

6. AGRI-ENTREPRENEUR SOPNA KALLINGAL SECURES SPICE AWARD 2024

- Sopna Kallingal of Kallingal Plantation, Thrissur, received Spice Award 2024, instituted by ICAR Indian Institute of Spices Research (Kozikode, Kerala).

7. PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU GIVES AWAY GALLANTRY AWARDS AT RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred 10 Kirti Chakras, including seven posthumously, to personnel of the Army and paramilitary forces for displaying indomitable courage and extraordinary valour in the line of duty.
- Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award.
- She also presented 26 Shaurya Chakras, including seven posthumously
- The Shaurya Chakra is India's third-highest peacetime gallantry award after the Ashok Chakra and Kirti Chakra



Kirti Chakra:	It is an Indian military decoration awarded for valour, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the field of battle.
Shaurya Chakra	It may be awarded to civilians as well as military personnel, including posthumous awards. It is the peacetime equivalent of the
Maha Vir Chakra	India's second largest military honor. This medal is given for extraordinary valor in the presence of the enemy. This honor can be given to soldiers and civilians. It can also be given posthumously. In order of preference it comes after the PVC

Gallantry Awards

- First Three gallantry awards : Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra and Vir Chakra u
- Instituted by and Instituted on Government of India 26th January, 1950, deemed in effect from 15th Aug, 1947.
- In 1952, other three gallantry awards: Ashoka Chakra Class-I, Ashoka Chakra Class-II and Ashoka Chakra Class-III — were instituted.
- Deemed in effect from 15th August, 1947.
- In January 1967, these awards were renamed as Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra respectively.

The awards are announced twice in a year :	✓ Republic Day
	✓ Independence Day

Order of precedence

The Param Vir Chakra	The Ashoka Chakra
The Mahavir Chakra	The Kirti Chakra
The Vir Chakra	The Shaurya Chakra

8. TAMIL WRITER SIVASHANKARI SELECTED FOR DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY NATIONAL LITERARY AWARD

9. ROSHNI NADAR OF HCL TECH HONOURED WITH FRANCE HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD

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

- Durga Charan Rakshit was the first Indian to receive the Legion of Honour award. He was conferred the award in 1896.
- Natarajan Chandrasekaran (2023), Sashi Tharoor (2022), Swati Pirmal (2022), Narendra Modi (2023).

10. AGRICULTURE LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2024: NAGALAND ADJUDGED AS BEST STATE IN HORTICULTURE

- Nagaland has been adjudged as the best state in Horticulture in the prestigious Agriculture Leadership Awards 2024 at the 15th Agriculture Leadership Conclave held in New Delhi.
- The award was given to the state for its outstanding work in introducing innovative programmes and policies for horticulture development, which has positively touched the lives of large number of farmers and the rural people in the State.
- The annual awards were instituted in 2008 for recognizing excellence and leadership roles played by individuals and organizations towards the development of Indian agriculture and bringing about rural prosperity.
- Nagaland has achieved G.I registration of three horticultural crops viz., Naga Mircha, Naga Tree Tomato and Naga Sweet Cucumber.

11. ANDHRA PRADESH'S NATURAL FARMING MODEL WINS GULBENKIAN PRIZE

- The Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF), a State government's initiative launched through RythuSadhikaraSamstha (RySS) seven years ago, has won the 2024 Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity.
- An award instituted by Portugal-based Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation (CGF) and presented annually to individuals and organisations contributing to global food security, climate resilience and ecosystem protection.

12. INDIAN CAPTAIN AVILASH RAWAT NOMINATED FOR IMO 'EXCEPTIONAL BRAVERY' AWARD FOR RED SEA RESCUE OPERATION

- Captain Avilash Rawat and the crew of his oil tanker have been named among the winners of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) 2024 Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea for their exceptional courage shown in the Red Sea rescue mission.



13. GRETA GERWIG RECEIVED 2024 PIONEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

- Greta Gerwig, filmmaker of 'Lady Bird', 'Little Women', and 'Barbie', was honoured with the 2024 Pioneer of the Year Award by the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation.
- Gerwig's 'Barbie' made history as the first solo female-directed film to surpass \$1 billion in global box office earnings.

14. BRITAIN'S PRINCE HARRY HONOURED WITH 'PAT TILLMAN AWARD'

- Britain's Prince Harry received the 'Pat Tillman Honour' for service at the in Sports Performance Yearly Awards (ESPY) in Los Angeles, USA. The Duke of Sussex received the award for the Invictus Games 2014.



15. TIM WALKER'S "THE PRISONER OF BHOPAL": A NOVEL COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1984 BHOPAL GAS TRAGEDY

16. SPACE SCIENTIST PRAHLAD AGRAWAL & ANIL BHARDWAJ HONOURED BY COSPAR

- Space scientists Prahlad Chandra Agrawal and Anil Bhardwaj were honoured by the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) at its biannual meeting in Busan, South Korea, for their contributions to space research.
- The 45th COSPAR scientific assembly is being held in Busan, South Korea
- Harrie Massey Award to Prahlad Chandra Agrawal
- Vikram Sarabhai Medal for Anil Bhardwaj

17. BSPTCL WINS SKOCH GOLD AWARD

- Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited (BSPTCL) has received the prestigious Skoch Gold Award
- For Successful implementation of the SAMAST (Scheduling, Accounting, Metering, and Settlement of Transactions) project
- Bihar is the first state to successfully implement all modules of the SAMAST project.
- SAMAST is a solution for seamless transaction of power from generating stations to distribution companies (discoms) with transparency and accuracy in settlement of transactions
- SKOTCH Award, instituted in 2003, is the highest civilian honour in the country conferred by an independent organisation.
- It recognizes people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.
- SKOTCH Award covers the best of efforts in the area of digital, financial and social inclusion.

18. NOBEL LAUREATE RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS GANDHI MANDELA AWARD 2020

- The first Gandhi Mandela Award for 2019 was conferred to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso in November 2022 for his outstanding contributions in spreading peace and harmony amongst world. Gandhi Mandela Award is world's one of the most expensive award includes a Gold Medal & Certificate

19. RRR STAR RAM CHARAN TO BE HONOURED AT INDIAN FILM FESTIVAL OF MELBOURNE 2024

20. IISR WINS BEST TECHNOLOGY AWARD

- The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) has received the best technology award for its pioneering work in the field of horticultural sciences.

- Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented the award during the 96th Foundation Day celebrations of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in New Delhi.
- 21. PRESIDENT MURMU PRESENTS 94 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS**
 - President Droupadi Murmu presented 94 Distinguished Service Awards to the serving and retired personnel of the Armed forces and Indian Coast Guard.
 - She conferred 31 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, 4 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, 2 Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals and 57 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals.
- 22. YUKI BHAMBRI BAGS THE 2024 SWISS OPEN GSTAAD TENNIS DOUBLES TITLE**
 - Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri, in partnership with Albano Olivetti of France, has won the 2024 Swiss Open Gstaad Men's Doubles title. The Swiss Open Gstaad 2024 was held in Gstaad city, Switzerland,.
 - defeated the French pair of Fabrice Martin and Ugo Humbert
 - This was the 56th edition of the Swiss Open Gstaad Tennis Tournament, which started in 1915.
- 23. BCCI TO PROVIDE RS 8.5 CRORE TO IOA FOR PARIS OLYMPICS**
 - The Board of Control for Cricket in India Secretary Jay Shah that the BCCI will provide Rs 8.5 crore to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) as a support for the Indian contingent.
 - This will be representing the country at the upcoming 2024 Paris Olympics.
- 24. KUSH MAINI SCORES MAIDEN F2 VICTORY AT HUNGARIAN GP**
 - Kush Maini achieved his first-ever Formula 2 win at the Hungarian Grand Prix after Richard Verschoor, the original sprint race winner, was disqualified due to a technical infringement.
 - This victory marks Maini's fifth podium of the season, placing him eighth in the championship standings, just three points behind Dennis Hauger.
- 25. MANOLO MARQUEZ APPOINTED HEAD COACH OF INDIAN MEN'S FOOTBALL TEAM**
 - Manolo Marquez was appointed as the new head coach of the Indian men's football team by the All India Football Federation (AIFF)
- 26. SHIKHAR DHAWAN BECOMES BRAND AMBASSADOR FOR MOTOGP INDIA**
- 27. AIFF AWARDS 2024, CHHANGTE, INDUMATHI WIN TOP MALE AND FEMALE AWARDS**
 - The All India Football Federation (AIFF) recently held its annual awards ceremony, recognizing outstanding achievements in Indian football for the 2023-24 seasons.
 - The top honours went to Lallianzuala Chhangte and Indumathi Kathiresan, who were named the male and female Players of the Year respectively.
- 28. ABHINAV BINDRA AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS OLYMPIC ORDER BY IOC**
 - The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has honored Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, with the prestigious Olympic Order.
 - This recognition will be formally presented during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on August 10, 2024, a day before the closing of the Paris Olympics.
 - The Olympic Order, the IOC's highest award, acknowledges distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement.
- 29. RAHAAB ALLANA HONORED WITH FRENCH ARTS AND LETTERS INSIGNIA**
 - Curator and author Rahaab Allana has been awarded the insignia of Officier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French government.
 - The prestigious honor recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to art, culture, and literature, or who have influenced the global arts landscape.
- 30. SHAH RUKH KHAN, FIRST INDIAN ACTOR, HONOURED WITH GOLD COINS**
 - Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan has been honoured with customised gold coins by the Grevin Museum in Paris.
 - Shah Rukh is the first Indian actor to have gold coins in his name at the museum.
- 31. V. VEDACHALAM WINS V VENKAYYA EPIGRAPHY AWARD 2024**
 - V. Vedachalam, an eminent Tamil epigrapher and historian, has been conferred the V Venkayya Epigraphy Award for 2024.
 - Dr. Vedachalam, has written and co-written more than 25 books on subjects such as epigraphy, numismatics, temple art, religion, and society,
 - The award named after V. Venkayya, the first Indian Chief Epigraphist to the government of India.
- 32. CWC WINS GEEF GLOBAL WATERTech AWARD 2024**
 - The Central Water Commission (CWC) has been honored with the GEEF Global WaterTech Award in the category 'Water Department of the Year' at the Global Water Tech Summit – 2024, held by the Global Energy and Environment Foundation (GEEF) in New Delhi.
- 33. IIT-KHARAGPUR BESTOWS PICHAI WITH DOCTOR OF SCIENCE, WIFE ANJALI DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD IN SAN FRANCISCO**
 - IIT-Kharagpur bestowed the honour on Pichai for his work towards "digital transformation, affordable technology, and pathbreaking innovations".
- 34. JITENDRA SINGH CONFERRED THE PRESTIGIOUS "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD"**
 - In a ceremony to mark the International Meet of leading medical celebrities, professionals and Medicos from all over the country and abroad, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was conferred the prestigious "Lifetime Achievement Award"



Cinema

Current Affairs

July
2024

1. SHAH RUKH KHAN TO RECEIVE CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT LOCARNO FILM FESTIVAL

- Shah Rukh Khan is set to receive the prestigious lifetime achievement award, the Pardo alla Carriera, or career leopard, at the 2024 Locarno Film Festival, Switzerland.
- He is also the first Indian personality to be honoured with the 'Pardo alla Carriere Ascona-Locarno Tourism'.
- He had Padma Shri from the Government of India (2005)



2. KABIR KHAN, IMTIAZ ALI, ONIR AND RIMA DAS' ANTHOLOGY FILM 'MY MELBOURNE' TO OPEN 2024 IFFM

- My Melbourne, an anthology featuring shorts by filmmakers Kabir Khan, Imtiaz Ali, Onir and Rima Das, will serve as the opening movie at the 15th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM).



Summits & conferences

July
2024

1. GLOBAL INDIAAI SUMMIT 2024 CONCLUDES IN NEW DELHI

- The 'Global IndiaAI Summit 2024' commences in New Delhi, hosted by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- This two-day event aims to position India as a global leader in AI innovation while promoting ethical and inclusive AI advancement
- Sessions will explore topics like 'IndiaAI: Large Language Models' and 'GPAI Convening on Global Health and AI.'
- The two-day 'Global IndiaAI Summit', organised by the government of India, successfully concluded at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- The 'Global IndiaAI Summit, was attended by over 2,000 global artificial intelligence (AI) experts, Policy makers, Artificial Intelligence (AI) practitioners, Industry/Startups, and Academia.
- Along with the Global IndiaAI Summit, India also organised the 6th Global Partnership in Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Ministerial Council meeting

2. INDIA TO HOST 1ST WORLD AUDIO VISUAL ENTERTAINMENT SUMMIT IN GOA

- The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting will organise the first edition of the World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from November 20-24, 2024.
- This global summit, held alongside the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), aims to create substantial job opportunities and will serve as a significant employment generator in the country.

3. GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON SPACE RESEARCH IN BUSAN, SOUTH KOREA

- A milestone event in space exploration, the 45th Scientific Assembly of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) commenced in Busan, South Korea.
- Hosted for the first time by South Korea, the conference gathered 3,000 scientists and industry leaders from 60 nations.

4. ALL-INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED 'SAUSHRUTAM 2024'

- The All-India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi successfully concluded its Second National Seminar SAUSHRUTAM Shalya Sangoshti, celebrating Sushruta Jayanti.
- The three-day event honored Sushruta, the father of surgery, with a series of live surgical demonstrations and expert discussions.



5. INDIA TO HOST 2ND ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AVIATION

- India is set to host the second Asia Pacific ministerial conference on civil aviation on September 11 and 12, with representatives from around 40 countries, including China and Pakistan.
- The Asia Pacific region is a significant contributor to global air traffic, and India the world's fastest-growing aviation market more than 33 per cent of the total global flight departures in 2023.
- The first Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation was held in Beijing in 2018

6. SECOND REGIONAL EVENT OF 'HAMARA SAMVIDHAN HAMARA SAMMAN' TO BE HELD IN PRAYAGRAJ, UTTAR PRADESH

- The second regional event of 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' campaign under the aegis of Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (Disha) at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh
- The DISHA initiative is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.
- The 'Hamara Samvaad Hamara Samman' campaign was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice President of India on 24th January 2024 at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.

7. DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY INAUGURATES 'ONE DAE ONE SUBSCRIPTION'

- 'One DAE One Subscription' (ODOS) took place on July 29, at Tata Memorial Hospital, in Mumbai.
- ODOS is a unique idea enabling Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) & all its units/subunits (about 60) together under one umbrella for read and publish access to national and international research papers as well as scientific journals.

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

- The 4th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Security Chiefs meeting was held in the capital city of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw

9. 32ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS IN NEW DELHI

- India will host the prestigious **International Conference of Agricultural Economists** after a **66-year** gap.
- India will host the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists at the Pusa Institute **New Delhi**
- "**Transformation towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems**" is the **theme** of the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists to be held in **New Delhi**.
- India hosted the **10th International Conference of Agricultural Economists** held in **Mysore** in India in **1958**.



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

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

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

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

12. 4TH RASHTRIYA HINDI VIGYAN SAMMELAN 2024 HELD IN BHOPAL

- The **4th edition of the Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024** was held in the **Madhya Pradesh capital, Bhopal**, .
- The theme of the 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was "**Upgradation of National Scientific Consciousness in Amrit Kaal.**"
- The 4th Rashtriya Hindi Vigyan Sammelan 2024 was organised by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (CSIR-AMPRI)**, **Bhopal**.

Reports & Indices

July
2024

1. VIENNA TOPS EIU'S 2024 GLOBAL LIVEABILITY INDEX

- Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) assessed 173 cities worldwide, revealing their findings in Global Liveability Index 2024.
- The index ranked the liveability across five key categories, including stability, healthcare, culture and environment, education and infrastructure.
- Vienna in Austria has been crowned the world's best city to live in.
- Damascus, Syria, is still at the bottom of the list.
- Pakistan's Karachi, and Bangladesh's capital Dhaka is amongst the least liveable cities in the world - in the bottom 10 of the list.



2. IMF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PREPAREDNESS INDEX 2024

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released a full Artificial Intelligence Preparedness Index (APII) Dashboard.
- This tool will sort and rank 174 countries around the world based on how ready they are to use AI.

There are three main groups of countries that the APII looks at:

1. Low- Income Countries (LIC)
2. Emerging Market Economies (EM)
3. Advanced Economies (AE)

- Singapore, Denmark, and the United States is at the top of the list of AE, with scores of 0.80, 0.78, and 0.77, respectively.
- India, which is an Emerging Market Economy, got a score of 0.49 and is now ranked 72nd in the world.
- Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and China, which are all close by, were ranked 113th, 92nd, and 31st, with scores of 0.38, 0.43, and 0.63, respectively.

3. TATA NAMED INDIA'S MOST VALUABLE BRAND

- The Tata Group has retained its position as India's most valuable brand in the latest rankings released by Brand Finance, with a valuation of US\$ 28.6 billion, a 9% increase from the previous year.

4. INDIA RANKS THIRD-MOST POLLUTED COUNTRY GLOBALLY: WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), air pollution causes approximately seven million premature deaths each year.
- As per the World Air Quality report - Most polluted country and region ranking 2023 based on annual average PM2.5 concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
- Africa and Central and South Asia –most severe air pollution, with population-weighted annual average PM2.5 concentrations reaching alarming levels.
- Oceania maintained its status as the world's cleanest region.



5. HONG KONG IS THE MOST EXPENSIVE CITY IN THE WORLD ACCORDING TO MERCER'S COST OF LIVING DATA REPORT

- According to Mercer's cost of living data report, Hong Kong, Singapore and Zurich are the most expensive cities for international workers in 2024, maintaining their positions from last year. The cities with the lowest cost of living are Islamabad, Lagos and Abuja.
- Mumbai is ranked 136th, moving up 11 spots from last year. This makes it the most expensive city in India for expatriates. The national capital Delhi is ranked 165th, moving up four spots.



6. VIETNAM CROWNED MOST AFFORDABLE COUNTRY FOR EXPATS IN 2024 STUDY

- In a comprehensive study conducted by InterNations in 2024, Vietnam has once again secured its position as the most affordable destination for expatriates.
- Vietnam has once again secured its position as the most affordable destination for expatriates.
- This marks the fourth consecutive year that the Southeast Asian nation has topped the list, solidifying its reputation as a prime location for those seeking an economical lifestyle abroad.

7. NITI AAYOG RELEASES SDG INDIA INDEX 2023-24

- The SDG India Index 2023-24 reveals significant national and subnational progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- India's composite score improved to 71, reflecting advancements across key sectors like **poverty eradication, economic growth, climate action, and biodiversity conservation.**
- **Goal 13 (Climate Action):** Score increased from 54 to 67, showcasing enhanced disaster preparedness and renewable energy adoption.
- **Goal 1 (No Poverty):** Improved from 60 to 72, driven by social welfare schemes like PMAY and Ayushman Bharat.

8. RBI LAUNCHES FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX, 2023-24

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said, "**The value of the index for March 2024 is 64.2**, as against 60.1 in March 2023. All sub-indices have witnessed an increase." It added that the improvement in the FIIndex is mainly due to the usage dimension, which reflects the deepening of financial inclusion.

RBI (RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)

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

9. WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL PASSPORTS 2024: SINGAPORE LEADS; INDIA AT 82ND

- Singapore has reclaimed its title as the **world's most powerful passport**, offering visa-free access to a record **195 global destinations** according to the Henley Passport Index.
- India ranks **82nd**, allowing **visa-free entry to 58 countries.**
- **82nd Spot:** India, tied with Senegal and Tajikistan, allows visa-free entry to 58 countries.
- **Least Open:** Afghanistan, North Korea, and Turkmenistan score zero.
- **Singapore:** Visa-free access to 195 destinations, ranking first.
- **Joint Second:** France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, each with visa-free access to 192 destinations.
- **Joint Third:** Austria, Finland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden, each with 191 destinations.
- **Fourth Place:** UK, Belgium, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland with 190 destinations.

10. GOOGLE, TATA MOTORS, AMAZON, JIO AND APPLE RANKED AS THE 'MOST INCLUSIVE' BRANDS IN INDIA : KANTAR STUDY

- Kantar's Brand Inclusion Index 2024 is a survey of more than 23,000 people in 18 countries; the India leg comprises 1,000-plus respondents with an inclusive demographic.
- The first edition of the India Brand Inclusion Index study explores skincare, banking, automotive and technology categories.
- The India index ranked Google, Tata Motors, Amazon, Jio and Apple as the top five 'most inclusive' brands.
- In the global Index of the world's most inclusive brands, Kantar ranked Google, Amazon, Nike, Dove and McDonald's in its global top five.

11. PARLE CONTINUES TO BE THE MOST-CHOSEN IN-HOME FMCG BRAND /

- Parle remains the top in-home biscuit brand for 12 years in a row, according to Kantar's Brand Footprint Report
- The report ranks brands based on Consumer Reach Points
- CRP considers the **actual purchase made by consumers** and the frequency at which these purchases are made in a calendar year.
- The report measures CRPS of 445 brands.
- Other brands in the top five rankings include Britannia, Amul, Clinic Plus and Tata Consumer Products.

Most chosen in-home brands – Rank 1st to 10th

1 7,880 CRP(m) +6%	2 7,837 CRP(m) +16%	3 6,137 CRP(m) +8%	4 4,144 CRP(m) -5%	5 3,035 CRP(m) +2%
6 2,784 CRP(m) +22%	7 2,715 CRP(m) +28%	8 2,492 CRP(m) +7%	9 2,333 CRP(m) +7%	10 2,211 CRP(m) 0%

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

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

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

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

Appointment

**July
2024**

1. VIKRAM MISRI APPOINTED AS THE 35TH FOREIGN SECRETARY OF INDIA

- The **Appointment Committee of the Cabinet** chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has approved the appointment of **Vikram Misri** as the new foreign secretary of India.
- He will succeed **Vinay Mohan Kwatra** and take charge on 15 July 2024.
- Vikram Misri will be the **35th foreign secretary of India**. **K.P.S Menon** was India's first foreign secretary,
- The **first female foreign secretary of India** was **Chokila Iyer**,



2. RAVI AGRAWAL APPOINTED NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES (CBDT)

- He succeeded **Nitin Gupta**
- **CBDT** is a **statutory authority functioning under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963**.
- It responsible for administering the direct tax laws in India. The CBDT was established in 1963

3. CS SETTY GETS FSIB APPROVAL TO HEAD SBI AS NEXT CHAIRMAN

- **Financial Services Institution Bureau (FSIB)** has selected **Challa Sreenivasulu Setty** as the **next chairman of State Bank of India (SBI)**.
- **Setty** will succeed the current chairman, **Dinesh Khara**



4. IAS OFFICER SUJATA SAUNIK BECOMES MAHARASHTRA'S FIRST FEMALE CHIEF SECRETARY

5. SBI GENERAL INSURANCE NAMES NAVEEN CHANDRA JHA AS NEW MD & CEO

6. EX-R&AW CHIEF RAJINDER KHANNA APPOINTED NEW ADDITIONAL NSA

- **Former Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) Chief Rajinder Khanna** has been promoted to **Additional National Security Adviser (NSA)**.
- **T V Ravichandran** and **Pavan Kapoor** has also been appointed as **Deputy NSAs**.

Meet Sujata Saunik, Maharashtra's First Woman Chief Secretary

The 1987 batch IAS Officer took charge of Chief Secretary of Maharashtra becoming the First Woman in the states' 64 year old history to hold the position.



7. JUSTICE SHEEL NAGU APPOINTED CHIEF JUSTICE OF PUNJAB AND HARYANA HIGH COURT SUCCEEDING ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE GS SANDHAWALIA

8. HEMANT SOREN SWORN IN AS THE CM OF JHARKHAND FOR THE THIRD TIME

9. DHIRENDRA OJHA APPOINTED PRINCIPAL SPOKESPERSON OF GOVERNMENT

10. JUSTICE BIDYUT RANJAN SARANGI TAKES OATH AS 15TH CHIEF JUSTICE OF JHARKHAND HIGH COURT

11. JUSTICE A. MUHAMED MUSTAQ APPOINTED ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE KERALA HIGH COURT

12. LIC CHAIRMAN SIDDHARTH MOHANTY WAS MADE MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CEO

13. DR. SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN APPOINTED AS PRINCIPAL ADVISER FOR NATIONAL TB ELIMINATION PROGRAMME

- **Prof. (Dr.) Soumya Swaminathan** has been appointed as the **Principal Adviser for the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme at the Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**.
- This high-profile appointment underscores the Indian government's commitment to eradicating tuberculosis as a public health threat.
- The appointment is on a **pro bono basis**, which means Dr. Swaminathan **will serve in this role without compensation**.



14. RAJAT SHARMA ELECTED AS NBDA PRESIDENT

- **Rajat Sharma**, the esteemed **Chairman and Editor-in-Chief** of **India TV**, has been unanimously elected as the **President of the News Broadcasters & Digital Association (NBDA)**.
- The NBDA stands as the **largest organization of news broadcasters in India**, representing a formidable coalition of the country's most influential news networks



15. 16TH FINANCE COMMISSION CONSTITUTES FIVE-MEMBER ADVISORY COUNCIL HEADED BY POONAM GUPTA

- The Sixteenth Finance Commission headed by Arvind Panagariya constituted a five-member Advisory Council with the aim of expanding the scope of the Commission's work.
- The panel will be headed by Poonam Gupta, who currently serves as the Director General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

16. GOVERNMENT APPOINTS ROBERT J RAVI AS NEW CMD OF BSNL**17. SUBHASH PRASAD GUPTA APPOINTED AS INDIA'S NEXT AMBASSADOR TO SURINAME****18. CSIR DG N KALAISELVI GETS TWO-YEAR EXTENSION**

- Nallathamby Kalaiselvi, the first woman Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- CSIR was established - September 1942

19. EX-FOREIGN SECRETARY VINAY KAWATRA APPOINTED INDIA'S AMBASSADOR TO USA**What are Ambassador /High Commissioners?**

- Ambassadors or High Commissioners are a country's highest-ranking diplomats who represent their country in a particular country or international organisation.
- The highest-ranking diplomat appointed by one Commonwealth member country to another Commonwealth country is called High Commissioner.
- The highest-ranking diplomat appointed to a non-Commonwealth country is called an Ambassador.

Some important Indian Ambassador /High Commissioner to**Remember**

- ✓ Ambassador to Russia -Vinay Kumar
- ✓ Ambassador to China-Pradeep Kumar Rawat
- ✓ Ambassador to France - Jawed Ashraf
- ✓ Ambassador to Germany -Parvathaneni Harish
- ✓ Permanent Representative to the United Nations- Arindam Bagchi
- ✓ High Commissioner to the United Kingdom: Vikram Doraiswami
- ✓ High Commissioner to Pakistan: Vacant since 2020
- ✓ High Commissioner to Sri Lanka : Santosh Jha
- ✓ High Commissioner to Bangladesh: Pranay Verma

**20. BIBHUTI BHUSAN NAYAK ELECTED NEW PRESIDENT OF ICAI FOR 2024-25****Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI)**

- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India was set up as a statutory body on 28 May 1959 under the provisions of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959.
- A statutory body is an institution set up under the provision of a law made by the Parliament or by a competent state legislature.
- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India comes under the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is the regulator of Cost and Accounting Management in India.
- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India is the second-largest Cost and Management Accounting body in the world and the largest in Asia.
- The headquarters of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India is in Kolkata, West Bengal.

21. SUHEL AJAZ KHAN CONCURRENTLY APPOINTED AS AMBASSADOR TO YEMEN

- Yemen is a sovereign state in West Asia.
- Located in the southern Arabian Peninsula, it borders Saudi Arabia to the north, Oman to the northeast, and the Indian Ocean to the south.

Capital: Sana'a
Currency: Yemeni Rial
Official language: Arabic

22. MRS. PREETI SUDAN, MEMBER UPSC, HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS A CHAIRPERSON UPSC**23. MANOJ MITTAL TAKES CHARGE AS SIDBI'S CMD AFTER APPOINTMENT**

- Manoj Mittal has taken charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- SIDBI was established on April 2, 1990, under an act of the Indian Parliament.
- Headquarters - Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

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

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

**25. LT GEN SADHNA SAXENA NAIR: FIRST WOMAN DG OF MEDICAL SERVICES (ARMY)**

- In a boost to women empowerment in the Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Sadhna Saxena Nair assumed the office of the Director General of Medical Services (Army).
- She is the first woman to hold this prestigious post in the Indian Army's Medical Services.

- Lt General Sadhna Saxena Nair is a third-generation member of a family which has served in the Indian Armed Forces in various capacities for the last seventy years

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

National Housing Bank

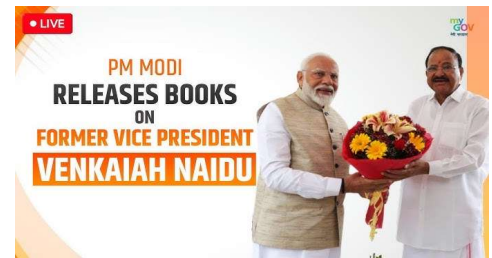
- The National Housing Bank (NHB) is a **statutory body** set up on 9 July 1988 under the provisions of the **National Housing Bank Act 1987**.
- It is the apex housing refinancing institution in India.
- It comes under the **Union Ministry of Finance**.
- **Headquarters of NHB: New Delhi**

Books & Authors

July
2024

1. PM MODI RELEASES 3 BOOKS ON LIFE, JOURNEY OF VENKAIAH NAIDU

- Biography of the former Vice President titled "Venkaiah Naidu: Life in Service" authored by Shri S Nagesh Kumar, former Resident Editor of The Hindu, Hyderabad edition
- "Celebrating Bharat: The Mission and Message of Shri M Venkaiah Naidu as 13th Vice-President of India", a Photo chronicle compiled by Dr I.V. Subba Rao, Former Secretary to Vice-President of India
- Pictorial biography in Telugu titled "Mahaneta: Life and Journey of Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu" authored by Shri Sanjay Kishore



2. ASHA BHOSLE'S BIOGRAPHY 'SWARSWAMINI ASHA' LAUNCHED IN MUMBAI

3. ARUNACHAL GOVERNOR RELEASED BOOK ON KARGIL WAR

- Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retd) K T Parnaik launched a book on Kargil War.
- The book, titled 'Kargil War: The Turning Point'
- Authored by Vir Chakra awardee, Colonel M B Ravindranath.

4. THE HINDU GROUP OF PUBLICATIONS HAS RELEASED A COFFEETABLE BOOK TITLED 'SAMAYAPURAM - THE SACRED SEAT OF SHAKTI'

- Authored by Vrinda Ramanan and J. Ramanan, it explores the history and cultural significance of the Samayapuram temple dedicated to Goddess Mariamman.
- The temple located in Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu is over 1,200 years old.
- Goddess Mariamman is believed to be an incarnation of Goddess Durga, Mahakali, Adi Shakti, or NishumbhaSudhini.

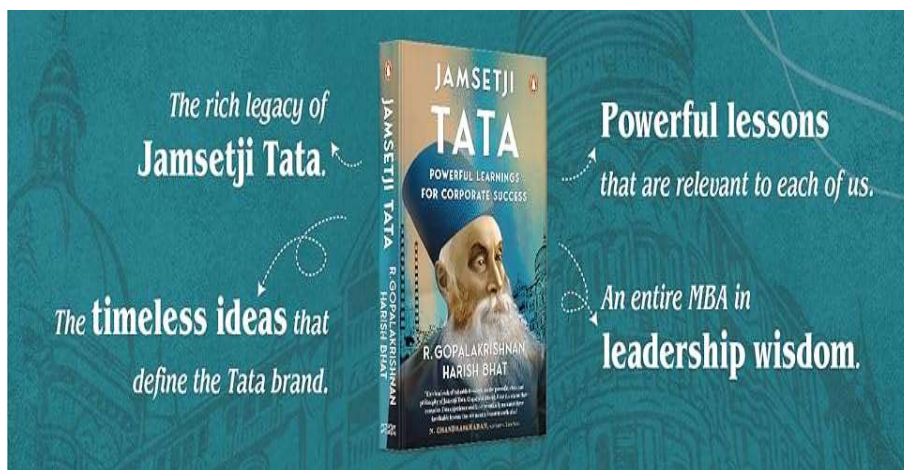
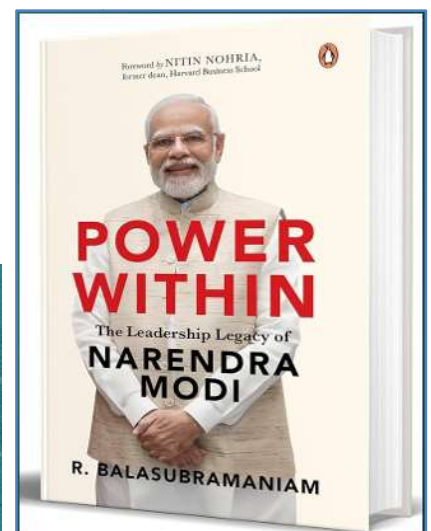
5. THE BOOK 'WINGS TO OUR HOPES, VOLUME I,' ON PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU'S 75 SIGNIFICANT SPEECHES

- The book "Wings to Our Hopes – Volume I," a compilation of selected speeches by President Droupadi Murmu, was launched at the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex in New Delhi
- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the e-book in English & Hindi
- Two other books titled "Kahani Rashtrapati Bhavan Ki" and "Rashtrapati Bhavan: Heritage Meets the Present" were also released

6. BOOK 'POWER WITHIN: THE LEADERSHIP LEGACY OF NARENDRA MODI BY DR. R BALASUBRAMANIAM' LAUNCHED

- The book explores PM Modi's leadership journey through Western and Indic perspectives.
- PM Modi signed a copy of the book
- The book provides a roadmap for aspiring public servants, blending leadership insights from different cultural lenses.

7. A BOOK TITLE JAMSETJI TATA: POWERFUL LEARNINGS FOR CORPORATE SUCCESS BY R. GOPALAKRISHNAN AND HARISH BHAT



Economics

Current Affairs

July
2024

1. SBI LAUNCHES MSME SAHAJ: 15-MINUTE ONLINE LOAN SOLUTION

- State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced "MSME Sahaj," a revolutionary online business loan solution tailored for MSMEs.
- This web-based platform allows MSMEs to obtain credit against their GST registered sales invoices swiftly and seamlessly.

2. PROJECT NEXUS

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the 'Project Nexus', a multilateral international initiative with the four ASEAN countries (Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand) to create a platform to facilitate instantaneous cross-border retail payments.

RBI (RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)

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

3. PAYTM LAUNCHES 'HEALTH SAATHI' PLAN AT ₹35 PER MONTH FOR MERCHANT PARTNERS

- One 97 Communications Limited, the parent company of Paytm, has introduced 'Paytm Health Saathi', an affordable healthcare and income protection plan tailored for its merchant partners.
- Available through the 'Paytm for Business' app, this initiative aims to support the well-being and business continuity of Paytm's extensive network of merchants.

4. ICICI BANK LAUNCHES SAPPHIRO FOREX CARD FOR STUDENTS STUDYING ABROAD

- ICICI Bank launched a pre-paid Sapphire Forex Card, crafted specifically for students who are going abroad for higher education.
- The card, powered by Visa, provides exclusive benefits and convenience to students and their parents to manage education-related expenses abroad like admission fees, course-related fees and other day-to-day expenses, including travel, dining and groceries, among others,

5. BHARAT BILL PAYMENT SYSTEM (BBPS)

- NEWS: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced that all credit card bill payments via third-party applications must now be routed through the Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS), effective from July 1
- This move impacts credit card holders from major banks who will no longer be able to use third-party applications like CRED, PhonePe, Amazon Pay, and Paytm for settling their bills.
- This change will impact users of those banks which have not yet integrated with the BBPS platform.
- Of the 34 authorised banks for credit cards in India, only 12 were active on the BBPS platform
- BBPS is a payment channel system conceptualized by the RBI and driven by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a subsidiary of RBI.

6. ICICI LOMBARD LAUNCHES AIPOWERED HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN 'ELEVATE'

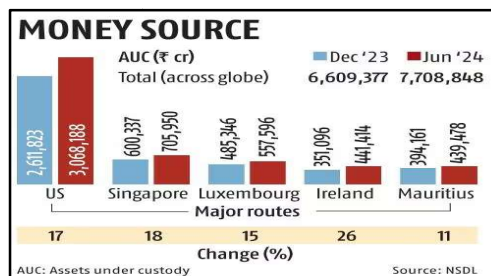
- It will offer personalized solutions for dynamic lifestyles, medical emergencies, and medical inflation.

7. TATA ASSET MANAGEMENT LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST 'TOURISM INDEX MUTUAL FUND

- Tata Asset Management Company on July 8 launched the country's first tourism index fund, which comprises a collection of companies that are part of the Nifty 500.
- Tata Nifty India Tourism Index Fund will track the Nifty India Tourism Index.

8. IRELAND SURPASSES MAURITIUS IN PREFERRED FPI DESTINATIONS

- Ireland has overtaken Mauritius to secure the fourth spot among preferred destinations for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) routing funds into India.
- Ireland boasts assets under custody (AUC) totaling Rs 4.41



trillion, slightly edging out Mauritius which recorded Rs 4.39 trillion.

- The shift highlights Ireland's appeal, with a 26% increase in AUC in the first half of the year compared to Mauritius' 11% uptick.

9. ICICI PRUDENTIAL LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST OIL & GAS ETF

- **ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund** has launched the **ICICI Prudential Nifty Oil & Gas ETF**, India's first exchange traded fund (ETF) in the oil and gas sector.
- ETFs or "exchange-traded funds" are exactly as the name implies: **funds that trade on exchanges**, generally tracking a specific index.

10. PNB LAUNCHES 'SAFETY RING' TO ENHANCE INTERNET AND MOBILE BANKING SECURITY

- This optional mechanism provides an additional layer of protection against unauthorized access, **aimed at minimizing potential financial losses** for users of its internet and mobile banking services.

11. JIO FINANCIAL SERVICES TO BECOME A CORE INVESTMENT COMPANY AFTER RBI APPROVAL

- **Jio Financial Services** has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to convert from a nonbanking financial company (NBFC) to a core investment company (CIC).
- Following this announcement, the company's shares saw a rise of over 2% on the NSE

12. MAHARASHTRA MULLS BAN ON ENERGY DRINKS AROUND SCHOOL PREMISES

- The Maharashtra government is likely to announce a ban on caffeinated beverages (energy drinks) within 500 metres of school premises.
- Excessive caffeine consumption can lead to intoxication and adversely affect the brain, kidneys, and the nervous system. It also poses risks of anxiety, insomnia, reproductive issues, high blood pressure, obesity, and irritability.

13. NABARD LAUNCHES 'INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME' IN KERALA

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on 8 July 2024 launched the Integrated Tribal Development Programme in Kulathupuzha Gram Panchayat.
- Environment organisation Thanal will be the implementing agency of the project, **which aims to transform the livelihoods of tribal families over the next five years**
- It is based on the 'Wadi' model of tribal development, developed with support from national and international development agencies. Projects under the programme are funded through the Tribal Development Fund

14. IMF RAISES INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST TO 7 % FOR 2024-2025

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, in its **World Economic Report** released on 16 July 2024, has raised its forecast for India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate in 2024-25 **by 20 basis points (bps) to 7 per cent**.
- The growth forecast for 2025-26 has remained unchanged at 6.5 per cent.
- The Indian economy grew by 8.2 per cent in 2023-24, making it the fastest-growing major economy in the world.
- The Reserve Bank of India expects the GDP to grow by 7.2 per cent in 2024-25.

PROJECTED INDIA'S GDP GROWTH RATE IN 2024-25/2025-26

Agency / Organisation	GDP forecast for 2024-25	GDP Forecast for 2025-26
Reserve Bank of India	7.2%	-
World Bank	6.6%	6.7%
International Monetary Fund	7 %	6.5%
Asian Development Bank	7%	7.2%
Moody's	6.8%	6.5 %
Morgan Stanley	6.8%	6.5%
S&P Global	6.8%	7%
United Nations	6.6 %(January to December 2025)	-
OECD	6.6 %	6.5%
Fitch Rating	7.2%	-
CRISIL	6.8%	-
Citi Bank	6.8%	
Standard Chartered Bank	7.0%	
India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra)	7.1%	
ICRA	6.5 %	
SBI	8.0 %	

International Monetary Fund

- The International Monetary Fund is a global multilateral development (MDB) bank established as a specialised agency of the United Nations on 27 December 1945. It formally started operating on 1 March 1947.
- The **Bretton Woods Conference**, also known as the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference
- **India is a founder member of the IMF**. India has the **eighth largest quota-2.75%** in the IMF. India has a voting share of 2.63% in the IMF.
- **Headquarters of the IMF**: Washington D.C, United States of America.
- **Accounting Unit of IMF**: Special Drawing Rights (SDR)
- **First MD of IMF**: Ivar Rooth of Sweden 1951-1956
- **Member countries**: 190

15. ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK RETAINS INDIA'S GROWTH FORECAST AT 7% FOR FY25

Asian Development Bank

- The Asian Development Bank is a regional multilateral institution with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region.
- The bank provides loans, grants, technical assistance and equity investments to the member countries and its partners to promote social and economic development.
- The Bank was founded on 19 December, 1966; India is one of the founding members.
- Currently, it has 68 members,
- Headquarters: Mandaluyong City, Philippines.
- President: Masatsugu Asakawa (Citizen of Japan).
- India is the fourth largest shareholder of the ADB.

The top five largest shareholders of the ADB are:
United States and Japan (each with 15.6% of total shares),
People's Republic of China (6.4%),
India (6.3%) and Australia (5.8%)

16. INDIA'S RETAIL DIGITAL PAYMENT LIKELY TO DOUBLE TO 7 TRILLION DOLLARS BY 2030: REPORT

- India's digital payments are likely to reach \$7 trillion, double as compared to current levels by 2030, according to Kerney and Amazon Pay joint study report named 'How Urban India Pays'.
- The digital transaction levels have seen a 138 % growth in the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) payments levels from the financial year 2018 to 2024.
- UPI is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). UPI transactions were introduced in India on April 11, 2016.
- India's digital payments for retail transactions have grown to \$3.6 trillion in the financial year 2023-24
- The report also states that India's e-commerce market is expected to grow 21 per cent by 2030.
- India's digital transactions alone clocked in 46 % of the entire world's digital payment volumes in 2022

17. UNIFORM IGST RATE OF 5% FOR AIRCRAFT PARTS EFFECTIVE FROM JULY 15

- 53rd GST council recommended a uniform 5% tax on imports of parts, components, testing equipment, tools and toolkits of aircraft, irrespective of their HSN code with the aim to reduce operational costs, resolve tax credit issues, and attract investment.
- "Previously, the varying GST rates of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% on aircraft components created challenges
- This new policy eliminates these disparities, simplifies the tax structure, and fosters growth in the Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) sector

18. NITI AAYOG : \$500 BILLION ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURING TARGET BY 2030

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog, in a report titled "Electronics: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains," has set an ambitious target of \$500 billion in electronic manufacturing in value terms for India to be achieved by 2030.
- This will help India achieve its ambition of becoming the world's third-largest economy.
- According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is the world's fifth-largest economy after the United States, China, Japan, and Germany.

19. OVL HIKES STAKE IN AZERBAIJANI OILFIELD WITH \$60 MILLION INVESTMENT

- The Navratna Company ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) has bought the Norwegian firm Equinor's stake in Azerbaijan's offshore Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field and an associated oil pipeline for \$60 million.
- OVL, an ONGC subsidiary, has increased its stake in the Azeri Chirag Gunashli oil field to 2.95 per cent.

ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL)

- The ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) was set up as a wholly-owned subsidiary of the public sector ONGC in 1965.
- It was set up to explore and develop petroleum and gas fields outside India.
- In terms of reserves and production, the OVL is the second largest petroleum company in India after ONGC.
- ONGC Videsh has a stake in 32 oil and gas projects in 15 Countries
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Arun Kumar Singh

20. GOVT. OF INDIA UPGRADES IRCTC TO 'SCHEDULE A' CPSE

- ❖ The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), a Mini-Ratna PSU under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved a notable milestone by advancing to the Scheduled 'A' category of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).
- ❖ This upgrade from 'Schedule B' was announced by the Ministry of Railways in an office memorandum

21. INDIA'S ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE AT 8.2 PERCENT IN FY24 AS PER ECONOMIC SURVEY 2023-24

- The Economic Survey states that India's economy has shown resilience to global and external challenges and real GDP grew by 8.2 percent in FY24, crossing the 8 percent mark in three out of four quarters of FY24, led by stable consumption demand and steadily improving investment demand

22. BBVA COLOMBIA AND IFC ISSUE WORLD'S FIRST BIODIVERSITY BOND

- BBVA Colombia and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, issued the first tranche of the world's first biodiversity bond worth US\$15 million, amounting to US\$50 million
- It aims to finance projects that address the key drivers of biodiversity loss, particularly focusing on reforestation, regeneration of natural forests on degraded lands, climate-smart and regenerative agriculture, restoration of wildlife habitats, etc.

23. INDUSIND BANK LAUNCHES 'WRESTLE FOR GLORY' CSR INITIATIVE

- **IndusInd Bank** has introduced the '**Wrestle for Glory**' program, a significant **CSR initiative** developed in partnership with the **Inspire Institute of Sport (IIS)**.
- This initiative aims to support 50 promising female wrestling athletes from across India by providing them with fully-funded scholarships for coaching at **IIS's premier facility in Vijayanagar, Bellary**.

24. INDIA'S ANTI-DUMPING AND TARIFF MEASURES IN 2023

- In 2023, India experienced a notable reduction in average tariffs while increasing the use of **non-tariff measures**. According to the **WTO report**, India's average tariffs **decreased to 17% from 18.1% in 2022**.
- Despite this, India remained one of the top countries in initiating and imposing anti-dumping duties, **second only to the US**.
- **The reduction in average tariffs contrasted with an increase in anti-dumping measures and the application of other trade defense tools.**

Environment

Current Affairs

July
2024

1. INDIA HAS PREPARED A CHECKLIST OF ITS ENTIRE FAUNA: BHUPENDRA YADAV

- Union minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, India has become **the first country in the world to prepare a checklist of its entire fauna population**. -covering 104,561 species.
- This makes **India the global leader in biodiversity documentation and conservations**
- He also formally launched the **Fauna of India Checklist Portal** maintained by the **Zoological Survey of India** which contains the check list of India's entire known -104,561 fauna species.
- The minister also inaugurated the **2nd Animal Taxonomy Summit-2024** organised by Zoological Survey of India at **Kolkata**.

2. RARE MOTH ENDEMIC TO WESTERN GHATS 'REDISCOVERED' IN NILGIRIS AFTER 132 YEARS

- **Chiretolpiserubescens**, a rare moth endemic to the Western Ghats recorded to have inhabited the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (NBR)**.
- The species, which was "rediscovered" after 132 years.
- It was first recorded by British entomologist **George Francis Hampton** in 1891.



3. SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENTISTS MAKE RHINO HORNS RADIOACTIVE UNDER 'RHIZOTOPE PROJECT'

- **South African** scientists injected radioactive material into the **horns of live rhinos** in the **Limpopo Rhino Reserve** under the **Rhizotope Project** to make them easily identifiable at border checkpoints, which aims to curb poaching.

4. ARUNACHAL PRADESH YIELDS NEW SPECIES OF HORNED FROG

- A team of researchers from the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)** has recorded a new species of forest-dwelling horned frog in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- The new-to-science **Xenophrysapatani**, recorded from the **Talle Wildlife Sanctuary** in the **Lower Subansiri district**, has been named after the **dominant Apatani community** in recognition of their ingenuity in the conservation of wild flora and fauna.

5. INTERNATIONAL TOY FAIR TO BEGIN ON JULY 6 WITH OVER 100 FOREIGN BUYERS

- More than 300 domestic companies and over 100 foreign buyers from the **US, Germany and other countries** are expected to participate in the four-day international toy fair beginning on July 6 in the national capital.
- More than 250 Indian brands will display their products during the fair, which is being **organised at Pragati Maidan Delhi**

6. 41,000-YEAR-OLD OSTRICH NEST FOUND IN PRAKASAM, ANDHRA PRADESH

- It is the **world's oldest known ostrich nest**, found while investigating the **Prakasam site for fossils**.
- The nest has a width of 9-10 feet, and was once home to 9-11 eggs, although it was capable of holding 30-40 eggs at a time,
- Gave crucial insights about the extinction of megafauna in India.
- **Megafauna** - describe animals weighing more than 50 kg
- **Ostriches are megaomnivores**, with an adult ostrich weighing between 90 and 140 kg, with height between 7-9 feet.

7. BORNEAN ELEPHANT CLASSIFIED AS ENDANGERED IN IUCN LIST

- The **smallest Asian elephant subspecies- Bornean elephant (Elephas maximus borneensis)** is now classified as 'endangered' on the **IUCN Red List** due to a dwindling population.
- **Habitat-** forests of **Borneo and Sumatra**
- With only around 1,000 individuals remaining, habitat loss from logging and oil palm plantations poses a severe threat.
- The elephants are distinguished by their small size, with males growing to some 2.5 m in height compared to 3 m on the mainland
- **Asian elephant (Elephas maximus)** has been classified as **Endangered** by the **IUCN** since 1986.

8. THE FOREST DEPARTMENT OF TAMIL NADU HAS CLEARED INVASIVE GROWTH OF SENNA SPECTABILIS IN SATHYAMANGALAM TIGER RESERVE (STR)

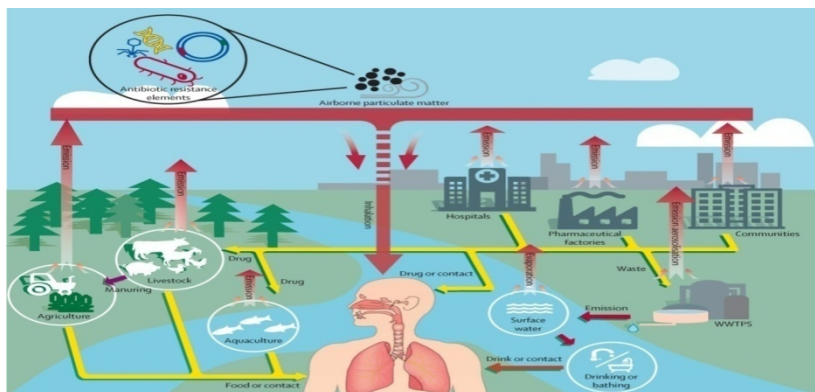
- A species of the **legume family**. Threat to native tree species
- It is a medium to big tree native to **South and Central America** and is grown as an **ornamental plant** as it has bright yellow flowers.
- It is a fast-growing species, particularly on **deep soils**, and is **fire- and termite-resistant** and tolerant of **strongly acidic soils**.
- It is classified as an **Invasive Alien Species (IAS)** in India.
- In India, it was introduced as shade trees for coffee and firewood
- It is classified as **Least Concern** under the **IUCN Red List**.

9. THE PEOPLE'S BIODIVERSITY REGISTER

- Thazhakara has become the first grama panchayat in Alappuzha and one of the first in Kerala to update and publish a comprehensive People's Biodiversity Register (PBR) with the involvement of local communities.
- Kerala had become the first state in the country to prepare Peoples Biodiversity Registers (PBR) for each local self government (LSG) body with the help of the local people
- It serves as a comprehensive record of various aspects of biodiversity, including the conservation of habitats, preservation of land races, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals, microorganisms, and the accumulation of knowledge related to the area's biological diversity.
- The Biological Diversity Act (2002) mandates development of Peoples' Biodiversity Registers (PBRs) at local level to document as well as safe guard bioresources and associated knowledge.
- As per the Biological Diversity Act 2002, Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are created by local bodies across the country.

10. FIRST MULTI-CITY STUDY EXAMINING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM AIR POLLUTION (PM2.5)

- Recently, Lancet has published a first multi-city study examining the relationship between short-term air pollution (PM2.5) exposure and mortality in 10 major cities of India between 2008 and 2019.
- Delhi Highest Mortality Burden: Delhi, exhibited the most severe air pollution, with a staggering 11.5% (12,000 deaths) of annual deaths linked to air pollution.
- Shimla Lowest Mortality: Shimla emerged as the city with the lowest mortality burden attributable to air pollution, with only 59 deaths (constituting 3.7% of total deaths) annually.



11. BSF ORGANISES "GROW WITH THE TREES" PLANTATION DRIVE IN SRINAGAR

- The Border Security Force (BSF), in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), organized the "Grow with the Trees" plantation drive at the BSF Headquarters in Srinagar.
- The initiative aimed to create a greener environment and promote the importance of tree plantation, involving BSF officials, jawans, SBI officials, and school children.

12. NEW JUMPING SPIDER DISCOVERED IN WESTERN GHATS NAMED AFTER 'MS SWAMINATHAN

- Researchers from Christ College, Irinjalakuda have discovered two new species of litter-dwelling jumping spiders from the evergreen forests of the southern Western Ghats.
- The newly discovered species, *Habrocestumswaminathan* and *Habrocestumbenjamin*,

13. ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA DISCOVERS NEW SPECIES OF DOGFISH SHARK SQUALUS HIMA IN ARABIAN SEA

- Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of deep-water dogfish shark *Squalus hima* off the Shakthikulangara fishing harbour in Kerala along the Arabian Sea.



14. 1ST ASIAN CEPI PRE-CLINICAL NETWORK FACILITY INAUGURATED IN FARIDABAD

- The Faridabad-based Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) – Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) or BRIC-THSTI is the first laboratory in Asia and 9th in the world to be accredited by the Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness Innovation.
- The CEPI labs are in Europe, Australia, and the United States of America.

15. NEW PLANT SPECIES DISCOVERED IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH SANCTUARY

- Researchers from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new plant species
- *PhlogacanthusSudhansusekharii*, the plant species recently discovered from the Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Papum Pare district
- The species is named to honour Dr Sudhansu Sekhar Dash, a scientist at the BSI

16. CHINA, AUSTRALIA AND INDIA MADE THE MOST GAINS IN FOREST AREA: FAO REPORT

- India gained 2,66,000 hectares of forest area annually from 2010 to 2020, securing the third spot among the top 10 countries with the most significant forest area gains during this period, according to a new report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- China led the world with the maximum forest area gain of 19,37,000 hectares, followed by Australia with 4,46,000 hectares, and India.
- Other countries in the top 10 include Chile, Vietnam, Turkey, the United States, France, Italy and Romania.

17. 21.71% OF COUNTRY'S AREA UNDER FOREST COVER: MOS KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH

- According to **Kirti Vardhan Singh**, the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **the country's total forest cover is 7,13,789 square kilometres or 21.71% of its geographical area**
- The India State of Forest Report is prepared **biennially** by the **Forest Survey of India**, which is based in **Dehradun, Uttarakhand**.
- The **Forest Survey of India** comes under the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change**
- The Minister gave this information by quoting the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2021**.
- The maximum forest area in the country was reported in **Madhya Pradesh**, with **77,493 square kilometres** of the state under forest cover. After Madhya Pradesh, the maximum area under forest was in **Arunachal Pradesh**, followed by Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- Among the states and Union Territories, **Chandigarh** had the **least area under forest cover**, a mere 23 square kilometres. After Chandigarh, **Lakshadweep** had 27 kilometres under forest cover, followed by Puducherry, 57 kilometres under forest cover.
- Among the states, **Haryana** had the least forest cover (1603 sq km), followed by **Punjab** (1847 sq km).
- The Total Forest and Tree cover is 24.62% of the geographical area of the country.
- The Total Forest cover is **7,13,789 sq km which is 21.71%** of the geographical area of the country.
- The **Tree cover is 2.91%** of the geographical area of the country.

The top five states in terms of increase in forest cover:

Andhra Pradesh>Telangana>Odisha>Karnataka>Jharkhand.

States showing loss in forest cover:

Arunachal Pradesh > Manipur > Nagaland > Mizoram > Meghalaya.

18. RESEARCHERS FOUND TINZAPARIN SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED DAMAGE TO HUMAN CELLS DUE TO SPITTING COBRA VENOM

- It is a drug used to treat serious blood clots (deep venous thrombosis), and can reduce damage to cells due to spitting cobra venom.

19. UK AND INDIA LAUNCH NEW TECHNOLOGY SECURITY INITIATIVE

- The Governments of India and the UK just started the Technology Security Initiative (TSI).
- It will improve their strategic relationship and encourage teams to work together to make progress in important technologies, **which will improve national security and the economy**.
- Under the TSI, a two-way system will be set up, with the National Security Advisors (NSAs) of both countries in charge. This system will handle trade problems involving important and new technologies, allowing for a full discussion on the most important areas for cooperation.
- The TSI will focus on making it easier for people to work together in several areas, including telecom, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, Quantum Technologies, Biotechnology and HealthTech, Critical Minerals

20. UNESCO ADDS 25 NEW SITES TO WORLD HERITAGE LIST DURING 46TH WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE SESSION

- 19 of these sites have been inducted as Cultural Heritage Sites, while 4 have been inducted under the Natural category and 2 under the "Mixed" category.
- India's Moidams of Assam was inducted as India's 43rd World Heritage Site.
- The Moidams has propelled the nation at the 6th position globally for the most number of World Heritage Properties.

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

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

22. HOTTER KALAHARI DESERT MAY STOP HORNBILL BREEDING BY 2027

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

Cultural

Current Affairs

July
2024

1. JHARKHAND CELEBRATES HUL DIWAS

- Hul Kranti Diwas is celebrated on June 30 every year to mark the independence movement of 1855 led by tribal heroes Sidho, Kanho, Chand, Bhairav, among others.
- More than 50,000 tribals from 400 villages of Jharkhand had revolted against British Rule.



2. BEHDINKHALAM UTSAV' ORGANIZED IN MEGHALAYA

- Behadinkhalem festival of Meghalaya is the most celebrated cultural festival among the Panar tribe.
- Behdienkhlam (chasing away the Demon of Cholera) is celebrated every year in July after sowing, it is the most important dance festival of the Jaintia tribes

3. WORLD'S OLDEST CAVE PAINTING IN INDONESIA SHOWS A PIG AND PEOPLE

- On the ceiling of a limestone cave on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, scientists have discovered artwork depicting three humanlike figures interacting with a wild pig in what they have determined is the world's oldest-known confidently dated cave painting - created at least 51,200 years ago.
- The scene is painted in a single shade of dark red pigment.

4. MINISTRY OF CULTURE INITIATES PROJECT PARI FOR THE 46TH WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

- "Project PARI (Public Art of India)", being executed by the Lalit Kala Akademi and the National Gallery of Modern Art, in Delhi, for the beautification of the public spaces for the upcoming event.
- The 46th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) is scheduled to be held in New Delhi between July 21-31 July
- The WHC decides on inscription of new sites into the UNESCO World Heritage List. India will be hosting the meeting for the first time.

5. WORLD-FAMOUS RATH YATRA IN PURI

- The Jagannath Rath Yatra is a yearly Hindu festival that commemorates the pilgrimage of Lord Jagannath, elder brother Lord Balabhadra and sister Devi Subhadra, as they embark on a nine-day annual sojourn to his birthplace.
- The Yatra is going to be a two-day affair after 53 years. Some celestial arrangements have made it a two-day event which was last held for two days in 1971.
- The Rath Yatra takes place on the second day of the Odia month of Ashadha Shukla Tithi (bright fortnight) every year to commemorate this journey.
- The idols are taken to the Gundicha Temple, where they stay till the 'Bahuda Yatra' (returning car festival).
- The wheels of the chariots of Jagannath Rath Yatra are made from phasi tree logs.
- The festival dates back to at least the 12th century CE, when the Jagannath temple was built by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva.

Jagannath Puri Temple – Odisha

- Also known as the "White Pagoda" and is a part of Char Dham pilgrimages (Badrinath, Dwaraka, Puri, Rameswaram).
- It is a splendid example of Kalinga architecture
- Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha' where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

6. UNION MINISTER GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT INAUGURATES PHOTO EXHIBITION "THAILAND-INDIA INTERWOVEN LEGACIES: STREAM OF FAITH IN BUDDHISM"

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - Union Minister of Culture and Tourism inaugurated the Photographic Exhibition at the National Museum in New Delhi



7. KHARCHI PUJA FESTIVAL IN TRIPURA

- It occurs during the month of 'Ashad' on the 'Shukla Ashtami' day.
- It is performed during the months of July-August on the eighth day of the new moon.
- Tripuri words "Khar" or Kharta meaning sin and "Chi" or si meaning cleaning. Hence it signifies the cleansing of our sins.

8. SRI LANKA CELEBRATES ANNUAL KATARAGAMA ESALA FESTIVAL

9. SAWAN BEGINS WITH HARELA FESTIVAL IN UTTARAKHAND 2024

- Harela is a significant Hindu festival observed in Uttarakhand and parts of Himachal Pradesh, particularly popular in the Kumaun region of Uttarakhand.

10. TOURISM MINISTER TO INAUGURATE MALABAR RIVER FESTIVAL

- 10th edition of the Malabar River Festival at Kerala from July 25-28
- As many as 13 international kayakers from 8 countries, apart from other States, are taking part in the competitions to be held in upland Kozhikode

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

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



MoU / Agreement

July 2024

1. MADHYA PRADESH AND RAJASTHAN SIGN AGREEMENT FOR PARVATI-KALISINDH CHAMBAL RIVER LINKING PROJECT

- The Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan governments signed an agreement for the implementation of the Rs 72,000 crore Parvati-Kalisindh Chambal river linking project
- The project aims to harvest surplus water available during rainy season in Chambal and its tributaries including Kunnu, Parvati, and Kalisindh in southern Rajasthan.



2. JIOCINEMA PARTNERS SHARECHAT TO PROVIDE SHORT-FORM CONTENT FOR OLYMPICS 2024



MP & Rajasthan signs MoU for River Interlinking (PKC-ERCP)

3. NATIONAL FILM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NFDC) AND NETFLIX INDIA LAUNCHED "THE VOICEBOX"

- NFDC, a public sector enterprise under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB), have joined hands with Netflix India to launch an upskilling program for voice-over artists in India called "The Voicebox".
- Languages - English, Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu and Gujarati
- Structured workshops will be conducted in seven major cities — New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kochi for the voice over artists
- At least 50 per cent of the participants in each batch will be women.

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	FACTS
29 June	National Statistics Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In recognition of the notable contributions made by Professor (late) Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics and economic planning, Government of India has designated June 29 every year, coinciding with his birth anniversary, as “Statistics Day” ➤ Since 2007, Statistics Day is celebrated every year ➤ Theme 2024 is "Use of data for decision-making". ➤ In 1931, he founded the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Calcutta. ➤ In 1955, he was appointed as a member of the Planning Commission of India by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. ➤ The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61), also known as Mahalanobis Plan based on his own mathematical model that emphasized heavy industries and capital goods. ➤ In 1968, he was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan.
1 July	Chartered Accountants Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To mark the establishment of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). ➤ ICAI was established on 1st July 1949 , for regulating the profession of Chartered Accountancy in the country. ➤ It is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament ➤ It functions under Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. ➤ Headquarters: New Delhi ➤ It is the second largest professional body of chartered accountants in the world. (CIMA, London is the largest)
1 July	GST Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To mark the anniversary of the implementation of GST in India in 2017. ➤ an indirect and comprehensive tax in India, is levied on the supply of goods and services in India (with the exceptions of petroleum, alcoholic beverages, and stamp duty) ➤ Facts about GST: ➤ France was the first nation to implement the GST system. ➤ Canadian GST system serves as the foundation for GST system in India. ➤ Atal Bihari Vajpayee is often known as the father of GST. ➤ Assam was the first state in India to pass the GST bill. ➤ Arun Jaitley was the first GST chairman.
4 July	USA Independence Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Fourth of July holiday, also known as Independence Day, celebrates the Second Continental Congress' unanimous adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, a document announcing the colonies' separation from Great Britain.
6 July	International Day of Cooperatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Celebrated since 1923 by International Cooperative Alliance (ICA). ➤ Theme - “Cooperatives Build a Better Future for All.” ➤ 6 July 2024 - 3rd Foundation Day of the Ministry of Cooperation (formed in 2021). ▪ Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah will address “Sahkar Se Samriddhi” conference on the occasion of 102nd ‘International Day of Cooperatives’ in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on 6th July 2024 ➤ Will launch scheme for 50% assistance on the purchase of nano-fertilizer by the farmers under AGR-2 Scheme of the Government for the FY 2024-25.
7 July	World Kiswahili Language Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its 41st session held in Paris, France, in 2021 proclaimed July 7 of each year as World Kiswahili Language Day, ➤ First African language to be recognized in such a manner by the UN
12 July	National Simplicity Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ National Simplicity Day is celebrated on July 12 annually to remind people to live a simple life without
12 July	Malala Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Every year on July 12th, the world celebrates Malala Day in honor of Nobel Peace Prize recipient Malala Yousafzai, extraordinary girl who spent her life fighting for the rights of children and women. /
15 July	World Youth Skills Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ World Youth Skills Day, which is observed every year on 15 July, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014. ➤ The day serves as a global platform to highlight the importance of

		<p>equipping youth with the necessary skills for employment, dignified work and entrepreneurship.</p> <p>➤ The theme for 2024 is “Youth Skills for Peace and Development”</p>
16 July	World Snake Day	<p>➤ World Snake Day celebrated every July 16 was created to help people learn about snakes and understand their role in our environment in hopes that people will help protect instead of destroy.</p>
17 July	World Day for International Justice	<p>➤ Also known as the Day of International Criminal Justice,</p> <p>➤ Observed since 2010</p> <p>➤ It marks the importance of fighting against impunity and bringing justice for the victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.</p> <p>➤ On the 17th of July, 1998, the Rome Statute was adopted, thus providing a platform for the formation of the International Criminal Court</p> <p>➤ HQ: Hague, Netherlands.</p> <p>➤ Unlike the International Court of Justice, which hears disputes between states, the ICC handles prosecutions of individuals.</p> <p>➤ ▪ India has neither signed nor ratified the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</p>
18 July	Nelson Mandela International Day	<p>➤ Nelson Mandela International Day is observed on July 18 every year to celebrate the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, the first black president of South Africa.</p> <p>➤ Mandela was elected South Africa's first democratically elected President on May 10, 1994. He is referred to as the 'Father of the Nation' in South Africa.</p>
22 July	National Flag Day	<p>➤ 1906: The first Indian National Flag is attributed to Pingali Venkayya, a freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh, who designed it in 1906.</p> <p>➤ It featured a horizontal tricolour of red, yellow, and green with a white crescent and star in the centre.</p> <p>➤ 1917: By 1917, the flag was modified to include saffron at the top, white in the middle, and green at the bottom, with the crescent and star moved to the top left corner.</p> <p>➤ Introduction of the Ashoka Chakra in National Flag</p> <p>➤ 1921: In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi proposed a new design that included a spinning wheel (charkha) to symbolize progress.</p> <p>➤ This design also had the tricolour of saffron, white, and green.</p> <p>➤ Subsequently, the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel representing the Wheel of Law in Buddhism, was introduced in the centre of the white stripe in 1921.</p> <p>➤ Adoption by Indian National Congress</p> <p>➤ 1931: The Indian National Congress formally adopted the tricolour flag in 1931 as its Official Flag Adoption as the National Flag</p> <p>➤ 1947: On July 22, 1947, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the current form of the National Flag.</p>
23 July	National Broadcasting Day	<p>➤ India's broadcasting journey began in June 1923 with the Radio Club of Bombay's first transmission.</p> <p>➤ The Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was established on July 23, 1927, marking the birth of organized radio broadcasting in the country. This date is now celebrated as National Broadcasting Day.</p> <p>➤ All India Radio (AIR) emerged in 1936, evolving from the Indian State Broadcasting Service. Post-independence, AIR expanded rapidly, adopting the name "Akashvani" in 1956.</p>
23 July	Chandra Shekhar Azad Birth Anniversary	<p>➤ Chandra Shekhar Tiwari was born on July 23, 1906, in the small city of Bhavra in Madhya Pradesh.</p> <p>➤ Deeply moved by the Jallianwala Bagh incident on April 13, 1919, Chandrashekar soon became a part of the Non-Cooperation Movement led by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920 and even got arrested at the young age of 15 for being a part of the movement</p> <p>➤ He was instrumental in reorganising the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) into the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) after the deaths and arrests of several key leaders, including Ram Prasad Bismil.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ He was involved in significant revolutionary activities, including the Kakori Train Robbery in 1925, which aimed to fund the HSRA's operations ➤ His commitment to the armed struggle was further demonstrated through his involvement in the assassination of British police officer John Saunders in 1928, an act of vengeance for the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. ➤ On February 27, 1931, Azad met his end in a fierce gunfight with the police at Alfred Park in Allahabad
26 July	Kargil Vijay Diwas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The nation observes 26 July as Kargil Vijay Diwas to honour the sacrifice of the brave heart of the Indian Army and the victory of the Indian Armed forces over Pakistan during the 1999 Kargil Conflict.(operation vijay) ➤ On the 25th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Drass sector in the Union Territory of Ladakh to pay homage to the martyrs at the Kargil War Memorial in Drass.
29 July	International Tiger Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raises global awareness about tiger conservation and the threats faced by these endangered animals. ➤ First established in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit ➤ World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has reported a drastic decline in tiger populations - approximately 100,000 tigers roamed the wild a century ago, while current estimates suggest there are only about 4,000 remaining today, and this number continues to decrease. ➤ PROJECT TIGER ➤ On April 1, 1973, Project Tiger was officially launched at the Corbett Tiger Reserve. ➤ There are 55 Tiger Reserves in India, Dholpur – Karauli Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan is the 55th Tiger Reserve In India. ➤ In 2022-23, several Indian tiger reserves received international accolades. The Pench Tiger Reserves in Madhya Pradesh, along with the Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, were jointly awarded the prestigious Tx2 award. ➤ During a commemorative program of 50 years of Project Tiger, PM Modi launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) in 2023 for the conservation of seven big cats: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma
28 July	World Hepatitis Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raises awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer. ➤ Theme : It's time for action ➤ There are 5 main strains of the hepatitis virus – A, B, C, D, and E. ➤ Together, hepatitis B and C are the most common infections and result in 1.3 million deaths and 2.2 million new infections per year.
29 July	World ORS Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To emphasise the essential role Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), plays in combating dehydration caused by diarrhoea, the second leading cause of death among children under the age of five. ➤ Theme is 'Create Awareness about the Magic Mixture'.
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ THEME 2024: "Leave No Child Behind in the Fight Against Human Trafficking" ➤ 1 in 3 victims of human trafficking globally is a child
31 July	Martyrdom Day of Shaheed Udham Singh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ On July 31, 1940, this great son of India was hanged in Pattonville Jail, London, and his body was buried in the jail itself. ➤ Due to the efforts of the then Chief Minister of Punjab Giani Zail Singh, on 31 July 1974 England handed over the remains of Udham Singh to India and the cremation was done at Sunam.
1 August	World Wide Web Day	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This day commemorates the birth of the World Wide Web and serves as a reminder of the transformative impact it has had on our lives. ➤ Tim Berners-Lee was employed for the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland in 1989, he developed the World Wide Web.

Important MCQs July Month

1. Recently, with which country has the Indian Air Force conducted the 'HOPEX exercise'?
(a) Egypt (b) Saudi Arabia
(c) UAE (d) France
2. ISRO's 'Spadex Mission', which was in the news recently, is related to what?
(a) Mercury (b) Mars
(c) Moon (d) Venus
3. Who has been recently selected for the PEN Pinter Prize for the year 2024?
(a) Jenny Erpenbeck (b) Arundhati Roy
(c) Mohammed Salem (d) Hansa Mehta
4. Who has been recently removed from the grey list by the Financial Action Task Force?
(a) Iran (b) Myanmar
(c) Israel (d) Turkey
5. Where has the first advanced AI system for detecting forest fires been launched recently?
(a) Bannerghatta Wildlife Sanctuary
(b) Kawal Tiger Reserve
(c) Pench Tiger Reserve
(d) Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve
6. When is "National Statistics Day" celebrated every year?
(a) 26 June (b) 27 June
(c) 28 June (d) 29 June
7. Recently, which app has been launched by the Railway Protection Force to provide information about three new criminal acts?
(a) Civigil App (b) Saksham App
(c) Sangyaan App (d) Pravah App
8. Recently, which military station has become the second one in the country to have a plastic waste road?
(a) Jaipur (b) Narangi
(c) Ambala (d) Shillong
9. Recently, who has approved the ordinance to prevent exam paper leaks which provides for life imprisonment and a fine of Rs 1 crore?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Bihar (d) Odisha
10. Recently, who has been appointed as the President of Professional Golf Tour of India?
(a) Aksha Mohit Kamboj (b) Kapil Dev
(c) NS Raja Subramaniam (d) Girija Subramaniam
11. Recently, which position has India got in the IMF's Artificial Intelligence Readiness Index?
(a) 70th (b) 71st
(c) 72nd (d) 73rd
12. Recently, the Indian Navy has participated in the 'RIMPAC Exercise' held in which country?
(a) France (b) USA
(c) Japan (d) Britain
13. Who has recently won the T20 World Cup, 2024 title?
(a) India (b) South Africa
(c) England (d) Afghanistan
14. Recently, who has got the top position in the EIU Glob Liveability Index 2024?
(a) Copenhagen (b) Vienna
(c) Melbourne (d) Zurich
15. Which law has the Central Government decided to implement on 1 July 2024?
(a) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)
(b) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)
(c) Bharatiya Sakshya Act (BSA)
(d) All of the above
16. With whose cooperation will the 'Yug Yugin Bharat Sangrahalaya', which was in the news, recently, be constructed?
(a) Russia (b) USA
(c) Japan (d) France
17. Who has been appointed as the next President of the European Council recently?
(a) Markroot (b) Antonio Costa
(c) Cyril Ramaphosa (d) Olegkononenko
18. Who has been appointed as the brand endorser by Bank of Baroda recently?
(a) Ranveer Singh (b) Rishabh Pant
(c) Sumit Nagal (d) R Vaishali
19. Where was the first International Dairy Federation Asia-Pacific Summit held recently?
(a) Dhaka (b) Kochi
(c) Kathmandu (d) Sumatra
20. Who has recently announced the launch of 'Witness Protection Scheme'?
(a) Odisha (b) Bihar
(c) Assam (d) Jharkhand
21. Who has recently been declared by Nepal as its tourism capital?
(a) Pokhara (b) Bharatpur
(c) Lalitpur (d) Kathmandu
22. Who has recently won the title of Women's Premier League-2024?
(a) Mumbai Indians (b) Delhi Capitals
(c) Royal Challengers Bangalore (d) Gujarat Giant
23. Where was the first national speed breeding crop facility, "DBT Speedy Seeds" inaugurated recently?
(a) Kanpur (b) Surat
(c) Mohali (d) Patna
24. Where has the country's first oil palm processing plant been started recently under Mission Palm Oil?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Assam
(c) Nagaland (d) Tripura
25. Where was the country's first LNG bus inaugurated recently?
(a) Kolkata (b) Chandigarh
(c) Mumbai (d) Bengaluru
26. Recently Naib Singh Saini has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of which state?
(a) Punjab (b) Rajasthan
(c) Bihar (d) Haryana

27. Who has recently been appointed to the post of Chairman of the National Scheduled Castes Commission?
(a) Kishore Makwana (b) AS Rajeev
(c) Devendra Jhajharia (d) Suman Kumari
28. Where has the world's first 3D printed mosque been constructed recently?
(a) Oman (b) United Arab Emirates
(c) Qatar (d) Saudi Arabia
29. Recently the Home Ministry has declared 17 September as whose Independence Day?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Junagadh
(c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Travancore
30. Who has recently organized the joint trilateral naval exercise "Maritime Security Belt-2024" in the Gulf of Oman?
(a) India-USA-Japan (b) China-Iran-Russia
(c) USA-Bangladesh-Malaysia
(d) India-Sri Lanka-Maldives
31. Which team has won the 42nd Ranji Trophy title in 2024?
(a) Vidarbha (b) Delhi
(c) Mumbai (d) Railways
32. In which of the following states did PM Modi inaugurate "Sudarshan Setu", the nation's longest cable-stayed bridge?
(a) Gujarat (b) Kerala
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) West Bengal
33. Who won the gold medal in the women's individual recurve category at the Archery Asia Cup 2024 in Baghdad, Iraq?
(a) Simranjeet Kaur (b) Deepika Kumari
(c) Tarundeep Rai (d) Dhiraj Bommadevara
34. Who has recently tested the laser weapon 'Dragonfire'?
(a) North Korea (b) China
(c) Britain (d) Israel
35. Who has been recently appointed as the Chairman of Prasar Bharati?
(a) Kishore Makwana (b) AS Rajeev
(c) Navneet Kumar Sehgal (d) Sanjay Kumar Singh
36. Which is the first Spanish-speaking country in the world to recently recognize Indian pharma standards?
(a) Nicaragua (b) Spain
(c) Argentina (d) Chile
37. Which is the first country in the world to recently make abortion a constitutional right?
(a) Britain (b) USA
(c) France (d) Japan
38. Who has been recently named the new President of Senegal?
(a) Bassirou Diomay (b) Simon Harris
(c) Mohammad Mustafa (d) Asif Ali Zardari
39. Who has recently become the 'first woman sniper' of BSF?
(a) Prerna Devstali (b) Suman Kumari
(c) Deepika Mishra (d) Shaliza Dhami
40. Recently, who has been announced by the US Golf Association to be honored with the 'Bob Jones Award'?
(a) Tiger Woods (b) Lionel Messi
(c) Cristiano Ronaldo (d) Roger Federer
41. Who has recently been elected as the new President of Hungary?
(a) Felice Teo (b) Tamas Suliok
(c) Kaitlin Novak (d) Victor Orban
42. Where has the country's first National Dolphin Research Center been inaugurated recently?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar
(c) Jharkhand (d) Odisha
43. Who has recently been selected for the 'Architecture Nobel' Pritzker Prize-2024?
(a) David Chipperfield (b) Riken Yamamoto
(c) Balkrishna Doshi (d) Kenzo Tange
44. Who has recently become the first fast bowler in the world to take 700 Test wickets?
(a) Mitchell Starc (b) Shaheen Afridi
(c) James Anderson (d) Mohammed Shami
45. Who has recently won the title of Miss World-2024?
(a) Krystyna Piskowa (b) Yasmina Zeitoon
(c) Ache Abraham (d) Sini Shetty
46. Who has recently been awarded the 'Erasmus Prize' of Netherlands?
(a) Amitav Ghosh (b) Krystyna Piskowa
(c) Yatin Bhaskar (d) Tiger Woods
47. Which company was recently conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in March 2024?
(a) Bharat Pumps & Compressors Limited
(b) National Film Development Corporation Limited
(c) Engineering Projects (India) Limited
(d) Grid Controller of India Limited
48. Who is the first non-Bhutanese person to be honored with Bhutan's 'Order of the Druk Gyalpo' award recently?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Ratan Tata
(c) Riken Yamamoto (d) Srinivasan Swamy
49. Recently, which operation has the Indian government started to evacuate its citizens from Haiti?
(a) Operation Indravati (b) Operation Ajay
(c) Operation Ganga (d) Operation Karuna
50. Where has the first Nuclear Energy Summit been held recently?
(a) Brussels (b) Montreal
(c) Washington DC (d) Vienna
51. Who was awarded the Abel Prize for 2024 by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters?
(a) Peter Scholze (b) Avi Wigderson
(c) Michel Talagrand (d) László Lovász
52. Who won the Miami Open Men's Doubles title in 2024?
(a) Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal
(b) Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden
(c) Ivan Dodig and Austin Krajicek
(d) Bob and Mike Bryan
53. Recently Judith Suminwa has been appointed the first female Prime Minister of which African country?
(a) Democratic Republic of Congo
(b) Morocco
(c) Algeria (d) Uganda
54. Who has recently been appointed to the post of President of ASSOCHAM?
(a) Sanjay Nair (b) JS Sidana
(c) Santosh Kumar Jha (d) Shefali Sharan
55. Which country recently declared the El Nino-induced drought a national disaster?
(a) Malawi (b) Zambia

- (c) Mozambique (d) Zimbabwe
56. Who made history as India's first female jury member at the Paris Olympics?
(a) Anjali Bhagwat (b) Karnam Malleswari
(c) PV Sindhu (d) Bilquis Mir
57. Who has got the top position in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Business Environment Ranking 2024?
(a) USA (b) Denmark
(c) Singapore (d) India
58. Which AI-based digital health promoter has recently been unveiled by WHO?
(a) Devika (b) Muhammad
(c) Devin (d) Sarah
59. Mobile World Congress 2024 is scheduled to begin on February 26 in _____.
(a) Barcelona (b) Jaipur
(c) Berlin (d) Oslo
60. Which state government has decided to observe 'bag less school' once a week for students of class 1 to 12 from the upcoming new academic session 2024-25?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Rajasthan (d) Maharashtra
61. Where has the 16th edition of the trilateral exercise 'Dosti' started recently?
(a) India (b) Maldives
(c) Sri Lanka (d) Bangladesh
62. Who has recently been elected to the post of PM of Pakistan?
(a) Imran Khan (b) Asif Ali Zardari
(c) Shahbaz Sharif (d) Bilawal Bhutto
63. Where has the Government of India recently sent the holy relics of Lord Buddha and his two disciples?
(a) Vietnam (b) Malaysia
(c) Thailand (d) Nepal
64. Who has recently won the world's highest Ladakh's Frozen Lake Marathon?
(a) Uttarakhand (b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Punjab
65. Which is the first Asian country to recently ratify the International Labor Organization's 'Violence and Harassment Convention at Workplace'?
(a) Indonesia (b) India
(c) Philippines (d) Japan
66. Who has been recently removed from the financial crime monitoring 'grey list' by FATF?
(a) United Arab Emirates (b) Uganda
(c) Barbados (d) All of the above
67. Where has the India-Japan joint exercise 'Dharma Guardian' started recently?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Gujarat
(c) Rajasthan (d) Haryana
68. Where was the Attukal Pongal festival held recently?
(a) Goa (b) Kerala
(c) Karnataka (d) Tamil Nadu
69. Where has India's largest defense equipment exhibition started recently?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Karnataka
(c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Goa
70. Which city is hosting the 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Feb 2024?
(a) Geneva, Switzerland (b) Abu Dhabi, UAE
(c) New York City, USA (d) Tokyo, Japan
71. When will the new criminal laws, replacing colonial-era codes, come into effect?
(a) July 1 (b) August 15
(c) October 2 (d) November 26
72. Which state will be getting its first railway station, Rangpo Station, with the foundation stone to be laid by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?
(a) Manipur (b) Nagaland
(c) Sikkim (d) Arunachal Pradesh
73. Who has been recently appointed as the Director General of Press Information Bureau, PIB?
(a) Rajinder Khanna (b) Dharendra Ojha
(c) Dr. B.N. Gangadhar (d) Ravi Agarwal
74. Who has been elected as the Prime Minister of Britain recently?
(a) Dick Skofe (b) Keir Starmer
(c) Simon Mack (d) Mark Rutte
75. Who has been made the 10th member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation recently?
(a) Belarus (b) Afghanistan
(c) Mongolia (d) UAE
76. Which country has recently given an order to Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers to build an 800-ton ocean-going tug?
(a) Vietnam (b) Indonesia
(c) Malaysia (d) Bangladesh
77. Recently, the Central Government has set a target to complete the Smart City Mission by which year?
(a) December 2024 (b) January 2025
(c) March 2025 (d) December 2025
78. Who has recently announced the inclusion of Bhagavad Gita in MA curriculum?
(a) JNU (b) BHU
(c) UGC (d) IGNOU
79. Who has recently launched the affordable healthcare service 'Health Sathi Yojana' for traders?
(a) PhonePe (b) Paytm
(c) Google Pay (d) Airtel Pay
80. When was Swami Vivekananda's death anniversary observed recently?
(a) 2 July (b) 3 July
(c) 4 July (d) 5 July
81. Recently, Masoud Pezeshkian has won the presidential election of which country?
(a) Iran (b) Britain
(c) Netherlands (d) Israel
82. According to Mercer's cost of living data report, which is the most expensive city in the world?
(a) Singapore (b) Hong Kong
(c) Mumbai (d) Dubai
83. Recently, the Indian Air Force has successfully tested which first indigenous anti-radiation missile?
(a) Smart-1 (b) Rudram-1
(c) Rudram-2 (d) Durga-2
84. Who has recently launched 'Project PARI'?
(a) Ministry of Home Affairs
(b) Ministry of Defence
(c) Ministry of Culture
(d) Ministry of Education
85. Where will the opening match of the 133rd Durand Cup, 2024 be held?
(a) Kolkata (b) Kokrajhar
(c) Jamshedpur (d) Shillong

86. Who has been awarded the Spice Award 2024 by the ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research?
 (a) Dr. Usha Thakur (b) P. Geeta
 (c) Sanjana Thakur (d) Sopna Kallingal
87. Who has recently launched the 'Jeevan Samarth' project?
 (a) LIC (b) SBI Life
 (c) HDFC Life (d) ICICI Prudential Life
88. Recently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has declared mica mines in which state as 'child labour free'?
 (a) Rajasthan (b) Jharkhand
 (c) Odisha (d) Bihar
89. Under whose chairmanship has an inquiry commission been constituted to investigate the recent Hathras stampede in Uttar Pradesh?
 (a) Biswanath Goldar (b) Dr. K. Radhakrishnan
 (c) Siddharth Mohanty (d) Brijesh Srivastava
90. Where has the Mahaprabhu Jagannath Rath Yatra started recently?
 (a) Manipur (b) Assam
 (c) Odisha (d) West Bengal
91. Where will the NATO Summit, 2024 begin?
 (a) Belgium (b) USA
 (c) Lithuania (d) Sweden
92. Who has topped the list of 10 cleanest countries in the world in the Environmental Performance Index 2024?
 (a) Germany (b) Luxembourg
 (c) Estonia (d) Finland
93. According to the World Intellectual Property Organization, which is the top country in the world to file generative AI patents recently?
 (a) USA (b) China
 (c) Japan (d) Republic of Korea
94. Who has recently taken over the chairmanship of the Financial Action Task Force?
 (a) Dick Skof (b) Keir Starmer
 (c) Masoud Pezeshkian (d) Elisa Madrazo
95. Recently, Tasnim Mir and Tharun Manneppalli won the singles titles at the Saint-Denis Reunion Badminton Open 2024 held in which country?
 (a) Italy (b) France
 (c) Netherlands (d) Norway
96. The military equipment 'Zoravaar', which was in the news recently, is related to what?
 (a) Bullet proof jacket (b) Suicide drone
 (c) Indigenous light tank (d) Armored vehicle
97. The 'InFLiMeN' network, recently launched by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, is related to what?
 (a) Fatty Liver Disease (b) Diabetes
 (c) Blood Cancer (d) Hepatitis C
98. The 'STREE Initiative', which was in the news recently, is related to what?
 (a) Ministry of Social and Empowerment
 (b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
 (c) Ministry of Rural Development
 (d) Ministry of Home Affairs
99. Who has been selected for the Best Agricultural State Award for the year 2024?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh
 (c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra
100. Dhruv Sitwala has recently won the title of Asian Billiards Championship held in which country?
 (a) Saudi Arabia (b) Nepal
 (c) Malaysia (d) Japan
101. Who has recently announced to launch the 'Polaris Dawn' mission?
 (a) Blue Origin (b) SpaceX
 (c) Skyroot Aerospace (d) Space Pioneer
102. Who has recently approved the use of 16 insects for human consumption?
 (a) Singapore (b) Cambodia
 (c) Laos (d) Malaysia
103. Who has recently announced to train two Gaganyaan astronauts of ISRO under the 'Axiom-4' mission?
 (a) European Space Agency (b) Roscosmos
 (c) JAXA (d) NASA
104. Recently Mount Etna and Stromboli volcanoes erupted in which country?
 (a) Ecuador (b) Italy
 (c) Japan (d) Philippines
105. Where was the 36th session of the International Coordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme held recently?
 (a) Belgium (b) Gambia
 (c) Morocco (d) Netherlands
106. Recently Prime Minister Modi was awarded the highest civilian honour 'Order of St. Andrew the Apostle the First Called' of which country?
 (a) USA (b) Russia
 (c) UAE (d) Japan
107. Where has Tata Power launched the 'Ghar Ghar Solar' scheme recently?
 (a) Bihar (b) Madhya Pradesh
 (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan
108. Who has recently launched an Al-powered health insurance product 'Elevate'?
 (a) Reliance Life (b) HDFC Life
 (c) SBI Life (d) ICICI Lombard
109. Which is the second state in the country to recently bring the Gig Workers Bill?
 (a) Rajasthan (b) Maharashtra
 (c) Gujarat (d) Karnataka
110. Where will the 10th BRICS Parliamentary Forum begin?
 (a) New Delhi (b) Shanghai
 (c) St. Petersburg (d) Tokyo
111. According to Lancet's first multicity study, where has the highest number of deaths occurred due to air pollution?
 (a) Ahmedabad (b) Delhi
 (c) Bengaluru (d) Chennai
112. Recently, the Supreme Court has held a Muslim woman entitled to maintenance from her husband under which section of the Criminal Procedure Code?
 (a) Section 125 (b) Section 126
 (c) Section 127 (d) Section 128
113. Who has been appointed as the Principal Advisor for the National Tuberculosis Eradication Programme?
 (a) Siddharth Mohanty (b) Sujata Saunik
 (c) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan (d) Dr. B.N. Gangadhar
114. Who has recently launched India's first tourism index mutual fund?
 (a) National Stock Exchange
 (b) Bombay Stock Exchange
 (c) Adani Capital

- (d) Tata Asset Management
115. Which will be the first state to adopt a 'Road Safety Action Plan' for 10 years?
 (a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat
 (c) Maharashtra (d) Madhya Pradesh
116. Who has recently been selected as the 'ICC Player of the Month' for June 2024?
 (a) Jasprit Bumrah and Smriti Mandhana
 (b) Gudakesh Moti and Chamari Athapathu
 (c) Mohammad Wasim and Hayley Matthews
 (d) Kamindu Mendis and Maia Bouchier
117. Who has recently announced the 'Mitra Van' scheme?
 (a) Odisha (b) Madhya Pradesh
 (c) Bihar (d) Uttar Pradesh
118. Recently, a new species discovered from the Western Ghats has been named 'Habrocestum Swaminathan' after MS Swaminathan, what is it related to?
 (a) Golden monkey (b) Flowering tree
 (c) Eel fish (d) Jumping spider
119. Recently Yaroslava Mahuchikh who set a new world record in women's high jump is related to which country?
 (a) Ukraine (b) Russia
 (c) France (d) Italy
120. Recently successfully launched 'Ariane 6' rocket is related to?
 (a) Roscosmos
 (b) European Space Agency
 (c) NASA (d) JAXA
121. Who has been chosen as the flag bearer of the Indian team in the recent Paris Olympics opening ceremony?
 (a) PV Sindhu (b) Sharat Kamal
 (c) Gagan Narang (d) Both a and b
122. Where was the 132nd session of the International Maritime Organization Council held recently?
 (a) Geneva (b) New Delhi
 (c) London (d) Washington
123. When was World Population Day 2024 celebrated recently?
 (a) 08 July (b) 09 July
 (c) 10 July (d) 11 July
124. Where has the "Birlestik-2024" joint military exercise started recently?
 (a) Kazakhstan (b) Azerbaijan
 (c) Kyrgyzstan (d) Tajikistan
125. Who has recently been included as the fifth member in the Colombo Security Conference?
 (a) Nepal (b) Bangladesh
 (c) Bhutan (d) Myanmar
126. Who has recently launched an online medical platform called 'MeDeviS'?
 (a) WEF (b) WWF
 (c) WTO (d) WHO
127. Who has recently received the 'Agriculture Leadership Award 2024' for the best state in the horticulture category?
 (a) Nagaland (b) Maharashtra
 (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Haryana
128. The recently launched Accelerated Innovation Nutrition Scheme (GAINS 2024) is related to?
 (a) Indian Space Research Organisation
 (b) Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited
 (c) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- (d) Goa Shipyard Limited
129. Who has recently been appointed as the President of News Broadcasters and Digital Association, NBDA?
 (a) Rajat Sharma
 (b) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
 (c) Sujata Saunik
 (d) Dr. B.N. Gangadhar
130. Recently, which country secured their second consecutive Copa America championship by defeating Colombia?
 (a) Argentina (b) Peru
 (c) Venezuela (d) Chile
131. Who won the men's single title at the 2024 Wimbledon Tennis Championships?
 (a) Roger Federer (b) Novak Djokovic
 (c) Carlos Alcaraz (d) Max Purcell
132. India will host the first World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in which state from November 20-24, 2024?
 (a) Kerala (b) Maharashtra
 (c) Gujarat (d) Goa
133. Project 2025, recently seen in the news, is related to which country?
 (a) Australia (b) Japan
 (c) USA (d) India
134. Recently, who won the Bronze medal in the Shotgun Junior World Cup in Italy? Recently, who won the Bronze medal in the Shotgun Junior World Cup in Italy?
 (a) Manu Bhaker (b) Anjali Bhagwat
 (c) Sabeera Haris (d) Nandita Das
135. Which state government has recently decided to ban the sale of high-caffeine energy drinks near schools?
 (a) Maharashtra (b) Uttar Pradesh
 (c) Rajasthan (d) Bihar
136. Thane-Borivali Tunnel project, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state? Thane-Borivali Tunnel project, recently seen in the news, is associated with which state?
 (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Kerala
 (c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat
137. Jimmy Anderson, who recently announced his retirement from international cricket, belongs to which country?
 (a) Australia (b) South Africa
 (c) England (d) Ireland
138. Recently, the Indian Navy has conducted a joint maritime exercise 'MPX' with whom in the Arabian Sea?
 (a) France (b) USA
 (c) Japan (d) Australia
139. Recently, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police has seized 108 kg gold on the China border under which operation?
 (a) Operation Jazba (b) Operation Ajay
 (c) Operation Dost (d) Operation Ganga
140. Recently, who has taken oath as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the fourth time?
 (a) Ramchandra Paudel (b) Prakash Man Singh
 (c) K.P. Sharma Oli (d) Bishnu Paudel
141. Recently, who has won the title of 'Copa America Championship, 2024'?
 (a) Colombia (b) Argentina
 (c) Spain (d) England

142. According to the World Population Prospects 2024 report of the United Nations, which country will be the most populous country in the world at the end of the 21st century?
 (a) Pakistan (b) USA
 (c) India (d) China
143. When was World Youth Skills Day 2024 celebrated recently?
 (a) 12 July (b) 13 July
 (c) 14 July (d) 15 July
144. Who has been nominated for the 'Exceptional Bravery' award by the International Maritime Organization for rescue operations in the Red Sea recently?
 (a) Vinod Ganatra (b) Avilash Rawat
 (c) K. Chokalingam (d) Subbaiah Nallamuthu
145. Where will the second regional event of 'Hamara Samvidhan Hamara Samman' be held?
 (a) Pune (b) Indore
 (c) Bikaner (d) Prayagraj
146. Recently, who has got approval from RBI to become a core investment company?
 (a) Bajaj Finance (b) Jio Finance
 (c) Paytm Finance (d) Muthoot Finance
147. Recently, who has won the title of 'World Championship of Legends, 2024'?
 (a) India Champions (b) Pakistan Champions
 (c) Australia Champions (d) England Champions
148. NASA's 'CHAPEA Project', which was in the news recently, is related to what?
 (a) Mercury (b) Moon
 (c) Mars (d) Saturn
149. 'Paul Kagame', who recently won the presidential elections for the fourth time, is related to which nation?
 (a) Uganda (b) Rwanda
 (c) Djibouti (d) Somalia
150. Where was the world's first vaccine for herpes virus administered to an Asian elephant recently?
 (a) USA (b) Malaysia
 (c) India (d) Thailand
151. Recently, USA has announced to deploy long-range missiles in which country from the year 2026?
 (a) Finland (b) Sweden
 (c) Germany (d) Poland
152. Where has the 45th Global Conference of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) started recently?
 (a) South Korea (b) Greece
 (c) Italy (d) France
153. Where has the testing of the world's first 3D printed electric abra started recently?
 (a) UAE (b) Saudi Arabia
 (c) Turkey (d) Oman
154. Recently, Paul Kagame has been elected for the fourth time as president of which country?
 (a) Rwanda (b) Kenya
 (c) Nigeria (d) Uganda
155. Recently, the Serum Institute of India and Oxford University have launched a 'high efficacy' malaria vaccine, R21/Matrix-M, in which country?
 (a) Mali (b) Ivory Coast
 (c) Ghana (d) Nigeria
156. What is the primary purpose of the 'NERACE' web portal, recently launched in Shillong?
 (a) To promote tourism in the Northeast
 (b) To connect the farming community and buyers in the Northeastern region
 (c) To provide educational resources for students
 (d) To support local art and crafts
157. Recently, the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar inaugurated "Maitree Udyan" as a symbol of friendship in which country?
 (a) Vietnam (b) Australia
 (c) Mauritius (d) Singapore
158. Recently, where was the Asia's first health research-related pre-clinical network facility inaugurated?
 (a) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
 (b) Faridabad, Haryana
 (c) Jaipur, Rajasthan
 (d) Indore, Madhya Pradesh
159. Recently, which research institute has been launched the 'One-Scientist-One Product' program?
 (a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
 (b) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)
 (c) National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG)
 (d) Institute of Economic Growth
160. Who has published a study that the Earth revolves around the barycenter and not around the Sun?
 (a) ISRO (b) NASA
 (c) JAXA (d) ROSCOSMOS
161. Where did External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar inaugurate India's first overseas 'Jan Aushadhi Kendra' recently?
 (a) Mauritius (b) Marshall Islands
 (c) Papua New Guinea (d) Singapore
162. Who has recently launched a visafree policy for 35 European countries?
 (a) Ukraine (b) Italy
 (c) Belarus (d) Norway
163. Which is the first African country to start vaccination of 'R21/Matrix-M' malaria vaccine recently?
 (a) Uganda (b) South Africa
 (c) Djibouti (d) Cote d'Ivoire
164. Recently, Malaysia has declared its national animal on the verge of extinction as its number is 150. Which is the national animal of Malaysia?
 (a) Tiger (b) Snake
 (c) Elephant (d) Rhinoceros
165. Who has been recently elected as the President of the European Commission?
 (a) Ursula von der Leyen (b) Roberta Metsola
 (c) Robert Gerard Ravi (d) N Kotiswar Singh
166. When was the World International Justice Day 2024 celebrated recently?
 (a) 15 July (b) 16 July
 (c) 17 July (d) 18 July
167. Where was Asia's first health research-related "pre-clinical network facility" inaugurated recently?
 (a) Haryana (b) Uttar Pradesh
 (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Punjab
168. Where was UNESCO's 'World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2024' organized recently?
 (a) Bengaluru (b) New Delhi
 (c) Kolkata (d) Chandigarh

169. Who has recently created a world record of planting 11 lakh trees in a single day?
(a) Udalguri (b) Indore
(c) Surat (d) Kochi
170. Who has launched the 'Aasmita Project' recently?
(a) Ministry of Health
(b) Ministry of Home Affairs
(c) Ministry of Education
(d) Ministry of Agriculture
171. The book 'Wings to Our Hopes – Volume 1', which was in news recently, is related to whom?
(a) Narendra Modi (b) Om Birla
(c) Jagdeep Dhankhar (d) Draupadi Murmu
172. Where have children died recently due to Chandipura virus infection?
(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala
(c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra
173. Where was the annual 'Kataragama Esala' festival held recently?
(a) Bhutan (b) Nepal
(c) Sri Lanka (d) Myanmar
174. Who has recently launched the National Narcotics Helpline 'Manas-1933'?
(a) Ministry of Agriculture (b) Ministry of Defence
(c) Ministry of Health
(d) Ministry of Home Affairs
175. Where are the Indian coal mines 'Gevra and Kusmunda', which were recently included in the list of top-5 coal mines of the world by World Atlas, located?
(a) Jharkhand (b) Odisha
(c) Chhattisgarh (d) West Bengal
176. Where has the annual conference of ICC started recently?
(a) Kathmandu (b) Mumbai
(c) Islamabad (d) Colombo
177. Recently, NASA has sent the hiphop song "The Rain" for the first time to which planet?
(a) Mercury (b) Venus
(c) Mars (d) Saturn
178. Recently, IFC has issued the world's first biodiversity bond in collaboration with whom?
(a) Colombia (b) Brazil
(c) Mexico (d) South Africa
179. Who has been awarded the 'Gandhi Mandela Award 2020' recently?
(a) Jukanti Jagannatham (b) Vinod Ganatra
(c) Rigoberta Menchu (d) Subbaiah Nallamuthu
180. Where will India's first medical institutional museum be established?
(a) Jammu and Kashmir (b) Chandigarh
(c) Ladakh (d) Lakshadweep
181. When was National Flag Day, 2024 celebrated recently?
(a) 19 July (b) 20 July
(c) 21 July (d) 22 July
182. Where has the Government of India inaugurated the National Landslide Forecasting Centre recently?
(a) Sikkim (b) West Bengal
(c) Uttarakhand (d) Ladakh
183. Who has recently won the men's singles title of Swedish Tennis Open, 2024?
(a) Carlos Alcaraz (b) Rafael Nadal
(c) Nuno Borges (d) Novak Djokovic
184. According to the recent Economic Survey, 2023-24, what is the growth in real GDP in FY 2024?
(a) 6.2 percent (b) 7.2 percent
(c) 8.2 percent (d) 9.2 percent
185. Who has recently been appointed as the head coach of the Indian men's football team?
(a) Gautam Gambhir (b) Manolo Marquez
(c) Harendra Singh (d) Dennis van de Pol
186. Who has recently become the first woman officer of the Army Air Defence Corps to be operationally deployed in Siachen Glacier?
(a) Bhavana Kant (b) Sadhana Saxena Nair
(c) Anamika B. Rajiv (d) Supreet C.T.
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- (c) Jagdeep Dhankhar (d) Draupadi Murmu
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- (a) Karnataka (b) Kerala
(c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra
200. Adam's Bridge, recently seen in the news, is separated by which two water bodies?
- (a) Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea
(b) Gulf of Mannar and Palk Strait
(c) Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
(d) Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea
201. Which country recently declared animal health emergency after Newcastle disease case?
- (a) Peru (b) Brazil
(c) Chile (d) Guyana
202. Pralay Missile, recently seen in the news, was developed by which organization?
- (a) DRDO (b) ISRO
(c) JAXA (d) CNSA
203. Recently, Union Minister of Coal and Mines inaugurated National Landslide Forecasting Centre in which city?
- (a) Jaipur (b) Bhopal
(c) Kolkata (d) Varanasi
204. Which state government recently launched the Rajiv Gandhi Civil Abhaya Hastham Scheme?
- (a) Telangana (b) Karnataka
(c) Maharashtra (d) Kerala
205. Recently, which former Indian players were inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, USA?
- (a) Vijay Amritraj and Leander Paes
(b) Ajay Ramaswami and Rohit Rajpal
(c) Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna
(d) Karan Rastogi and Jay Royappa
206. Which day is observed as 'International Tiger Day' every year?
- (a) 27 July (b) 28 July
(c) 29 July (d) 30 July
207. Which Southeast Asian country has recently released a special stamp set that includes a stamp on Lord Rama of Ayodhya?
- (a) Laos (b) Cambodia
(c) Thailand (d) Singapore
208. Recently, who became the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting with a bronze at Paris?
- (a) Vedika Sharma (b) Manu Bhaker
(c) Anjali Bhagwa (d) Manisha Keer
209. Recently, which country secured their first Women's Asia Cup title?
- (a) China (b) India
(c) Sri Lanka (d) Bangladesh
210. What is the main objective of Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), recently seen in news?
- (a) To provide free healthcare services
(b) To strengthen and maintain a decentralized laboratory-based IT-enabled disease surveillance system
(c) To promote vaccination programs
(d) To conduct medical research on rare diseases
211. Recently, which Indian became the youngest para swimmer in the world to cross the English Channel?
- (a) Niranjana Mukundan (b) Rimo Saha
- (c) Satyendra Singh (d) Jiya Rai
212. Recently, which Union Minister received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his contributions in diabetology?
- (a) Annpurna Devi (b) Jagat Prakash
(c) Jitendra Singh (d) Nirantar Kumar Singh
213. Which department has recently launched 'One DAE One Subscription' initiative for research access?
- (a) Department Of Commerce
(b) Department Of Atomic Energy
(c) Department Of Education
(d) Department Of Defense
214. Which ministry recently launched the 'Ideas4LiFE initiative' to promote environmental sustainability?
- (a) Ministry of Urban Development
(b) Ministry of Agriculture
(c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(d) Ministry of Defence
215. What is 'HAMAS', recently mentioned in the news?
- (a) Militant Palestinian Group
(b) Russian Militant Group
(c) Secret Agency of China
(d) Security Force of Ukraine
216. Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) recently?
- (a) Suman Sharma (b) Preeti Sudan
(c) Pradeep Kumar Joshi (d) Rajiv Nayan
217. Which country hosts 'International Conference of Agricultural Economists'?
- (a) Bhutan (b) Myanmar
(c) Nepal (d) India
218. Which ministry recently launched the 'National Apprenticeship and Training Scheme (NATS) 2.0 Portal'?
- (a) Ministry of Urban Development
(b) Ministry of Home Affairs
(c) Ministry of Education
(d) Ministry of Defence

Answer Key

1-a	2-c	3-b	4-d	5-c	6-d	7-c	8-a	9-b	10-b
11-c	12-b	13-a	14-a	15-d	16-d	17-b	18-c	19-b	20-c
21-a	22-c	23-c	24-a	25-c	26-d	27-a	28-d	29-a	30-b
31-c	32-a	33-b	34-c	35-c	36-a	37-c	38-a	39-b	40-a
41-b	42-b	43-b	44-c	45-a	46-a	47-d	48-a	49-a	50-a
51-c	52-b	53-a	54-a	55-d	56-d	57-c	58-d	59-a	60-a
61-b	62-c	63-c	64-c	65-c	66-d	67-c	68-b	69-a	70-b
71-a	72-c	73-b	74-b	75-a	76-d	77-c	78-d	79-b	80-c
81-a	82-b	83-b	84-c	85-a	86-d	87-a	88-b	89-d	90-c
91-b	92-c	93-b	94-d	95-b	96-c	97-a	98-c	99-d	100-a
101-b	102-a	103-d	104-b	105-c	106-b	107-c	108-d	109-d	110-c
111-b	112-a	113-c	114-d	115-a	116-a	117-d	118-d	119-a	120-b
121-d	122-c	123-d	124-a	125-b	126-d	127-a	128-b	129-a	130-a
131-c	132-d	133-c	134-c	135-a	136-c	137-c	138-b	139-a	140-c
141-b	142-c	143-d	144-b	145-d	146-b	147-a	148-c	149-b	150-a
151-c	152-a	153-a	154-a	155-b	156-b	157-c	158-b	159-a	160-b
161-a	162-c	163-c	164-a	165-a	166-c	167-a	168-b	169-b	170-c
171-d	172-c	173-c	174-d	175-c	176-d	177-b	178-a	179-c	180-b
181-d	182-b	183-c	184-c	185-b	186-d	187-b	188-a	189-c	190-d
191-a	192-a	193-c	194-a	195-b	196-b	197-c	198-d	199-c	200-b
201-b	202-a	203-c	204-a	205-a	206-c	207-a	208-b	209-c	210-b
211-d	212-c	213-b	214-c	215-a	216-b	217-d	218-c		